

surely. The statement on page 141 that at "each halting place" Thompson posted a notice claiming the territory for the King is scarcely in accordance with the fact.

The book is of convenient size and well printed. It contains a short bibliography but has no index.

F. W. HOWAY.

The Columbia Unveiled. By M. J. LORRAINE. (Los Angeles: Times-Mirror Company, 1924. Pp. 435+7. \$3.50).

This book is the narrative of a rather remarkable feat performed in the summer and fall of 1921 by the author, who is a civil engineer by profession, and who, for the pure love of adventure and scientific knowledge, navigated in a dory or skiff of his own making the entire length of the Columbia river from source to Astoria, which is practically its mouth. He carried his own outfit and lived and maneuvered his boat alone except where other assistance was positively needed for patent reasons and himself took many of the pictures with which the volume is illustrated. His book is well printed and bound and is a distinct addition to the literature pertaining to the Columbia river. In the information contained it is to be preferred to another of the previous year by Lewis R. Freeman, who made a similar journey but as a journalist with much assistance, but who traveled beside the river and not upon it for many miles. The trip by Mr. Lorraine is, as far as known to the writer, the first travel of a white man over the entire length of the river recorded in the history of the river since David Thompson accomplished his voyage of discovery in the year 1811. Although not a writer Mr. Lorraine tells the story in a simple manner and without too much personal reference, and the illustrations add much to our knowledge of the river and its tributary streams. Unfortunately the historical references and statements are based upon insufficient or erroneous information, and in a great many instances must be disregarded. Had this story been tied up to that of David Thompson by use of the daily journal kept by that wonderful man this book might have been a real addition to the history as well as the literature of the river.

T. C. ELLIOTT.

Paul Bunyan. By ESTHER SHEPHARD. (Seattle: The McNeil Press, 1924. Pp. 235. \$2.50).

It begins to look as though those who have deprecatingly in-

sisted that these United States have encouraged the flourishing of absolutely no folk-lore save that of dispossessed aborigines and the descendants of slaves would have to revise their opinion. The evidence that should compel such an alteration in a rather general belief has been multiplying with interesting rapidity of late. Within the past year there have appeared, for instance, Percy MacKaye's "A Mountain Munchausen," tales from the Kentucky mountains, and his two plays derived from the apparently inexhaustible sources of the same section of the country. Professor Rowland P. Grey's "Songs and Ballads of the Maine Lumberjacks," Miss Joanna Colcord's notable collection of American sailor-songs, "Roll and Go," and J. Frank Dobie's recent "Legends of Texas." And within the same short period magazine articles have been published on so diverse a group of regional heroes as Pecos Bill, Tony Beaver, and the mythical Davy Crockett. The latest proof that the creation of legendary figures and their adventures has been steadily going in the very midst of our super-industrialized civilization, *Paul Bunyan* by Esther Shephard, has just been issued from the press. It is a scholarly and artistic production in which any westerner at all concerned in the recording of western culture may well take a peculiar and commendable local pride. Not because the book is the work of a western woman, or a study of a western folk-hero, or a by-product of a course of training in a western university, or the offering of a western publishing firm, though it is all of these things, but because it is a piece of decidedly excellent craftsmanship.

Originating in an incidental bit of investigation, undertaken as a mere appendage to the task of completing a master's thesis on frontier literature submitted and accepted at the University of Washington in 1921, Mrs. Shephard's interest in the subject of the mightiest of lumberjacks and his marvelous feats has led her to the acquisition of what, there can be little doubt, is the most complete collection of Paul Bunyan yarns extant, and to a knowledge of their relationship and development that corresponds. From this collection, and with this knowledge, Mrs. Shephard has chosen for publication a selection of typical tales, so presented and of such number as to give her reader an accurate conception of who and what Paul Bunyan is, and of how and why he has played, and still plays, a noteworthy part in the alleviation, by means of the diversions of humor, of the rigors of frontier existence; and she has prefaced her work with a tactfully humble, yet adequately informative, brief introduction.

Previous Paul Bunyan authorities have declared that the proper logging industry flavor is impossible of capture and retention in stories told of him between the covers of a book, owing to the difficulties of reproducing there the special nuances of the timber workers' dialect. Readers of Mrs. Shephard's book will be glad that she has accepted the challenge implied in such a declaration, and will feel reasonably assured that she has made good her temerity. At any rate she has probably come as near to catching the precise accent of the timber worker as any mere tenderfoot maker of books is ever likely to come. Recent attempts of lumberjack authors themselves certainly have not been appreciably more successful. Here then for the first time we have in action on the printed page the real Paul Bunyan, "as big as life an' bigger." His story may not be quite what the writer of the publisher's "blurb" claims for it, "the one epic of the American frontier"—a statement well within a blurb writer's license, however—but there can be no question that Paul Bunyan himself is of truly epic proportions, and his deeds of the stuff from which primitive epics have been made before repeatedly. More important still, he is of the actual folk, pure homespun. And he is thoroughly American. The exaggerated "tall" aspect of his tales show him to be that, indubitably. Further, he is a genuine "culture-hero," the seemingly inevitable product of the communal needs of a group of people differentiated from their fellows by the distinctive characteristics of their occupational environment. Like all other "culture-heroes" he was summoned into existence partly because he served, through the attribution to him of supernatural powers, to explain away the mysteries of wholly natural phenomena. If the superstitious features of the stories about him were contributed by narrators with their tongues in their cheeks, and swallowed by auditors disclosing a conscious and painful effort to keep their faces straight, the element of superstition that went into his making is none the less evident. The folk of today are almost as powerfully moved by the marvels and beauties of nature as the folk of earlier times, even though they are only moved to make jokes about them. They are up-to-date chiefly by virtue of being able to reserve a smile where their predecessors were unable to repress a shudder. In so far as Paul Bunyan is the result of this modern tendency to turn into game what cannot be altered otherwise he is all the more invaluable symptomatic of the age that produced him.

Paul Bunyan has lived and could have lived only in the bob-tailed narrative forms that have been utilized to present him. He is much too coarse and earthy a creation to be transferred to poetry. He is too grotesque to be embodied in any of the various species of drama. There is nothing about him to suggest the motif for a theme in music. Draw a picture of him, and every vestige of the marvellous vanishes from him instantly. Even the movies with all their resources rendering plausible the absurdly unbelievable would utterly fail to delineate him. The cycle of stories connected with him was evolved solely from within itself, largely by repetition of itself. Unfortunately there are signs that the creative process whereby this evolution was previously assured is coming pretty definitely to a full stop. Without the disinterested zeal of the tireless collector the danger of the well-nigh complete disappearance of this unique figure from American folklore has been growing increasingly imminent. It is a danger that Mrs. Shephard's work happily averts for all time. She is to be congratulated upon the service of literary preservation she has so acceptably performed. And her readers are to be congratulated also on the certain entertainment of a robust frontier quality which her book provides for them.

V. L. O. CHITTICK.

The United States of America: Volume II. From the Civil War.

By DAVID SAVILLE MUZZEY, Ph.D., Professor of History, Columbia University. (New York, Ginn and Company. 803 pp., XLIV. \$3.50).

This is the second in a two-volume set designed by Dr. MuzzeY to supply the need for a suitable college text in United States history. The first volume appeared about two years ago and traced the story of the American people in conquering a continent and developing the political and constitutional foundations of their national power. The first volume ended with the close of the Civil War, and this one continues the narrative from that point to the present time. New problems in the later period have called for a new emphasis. Sectional cleavage between North and South has given place to economic sectionalism between East and West. Non-interference with business has been slowly supplanted by a growing consciousness of the necessity for Federal control, and the old traditional detachment from the rivalries of the Old World became suddenly transformed when we became a World Power