

*Sketches of Butte, from Vigilante Days to Prohibition.* By GEORGE WESLEY DAVIS. (Boston: The Cornhill Company, 1921. Pp. 179. \$1.75.)

Mr. Davis is a much travelled man and has lived in many cities. Yet his life interests have centered in Butte. He is an artist in many lines, a painter, and a musician. Others of equal knowledge might have written chapters like these. He is the only competent one that we feel would have done so. The book is true, but not all the truth. Many of the shady colors are sketched. The brighter tints are not depicted in proportion.

We are not finding fault with Mr. Davis on account of these limitations. We wish that the book were three times as long and that he had added the remaining part of the spectrum. But this was not Mr. Davis' thought. As we have said he is an artist and criticism should be from the art standpoint. The book is not description. It is not analysis. It is not economic. It sketches. It is an impressionistic presentation of certain incidents, certain characteristics presented as a picture not delineated as a narrative. It is an artist's book.

JOHN F. DAVIES.

---

*The Fur Trade of America.* By AGNES LAUT. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1921. Pp. 341. \$6.00.)

*Kings of the Missouri.* By HUGH PENDEXTER. (Indianapolis. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1921, Pp. 360. \$1.75.)

The literature of the fur trade is growing apace. Since the publication of H. M. Chittenden's *The American Fur Trade of the Far West*, however, no similar work has been attempted. That work remains the most substantial and trustworthy history of the fur trade period of 1803 to 1847. The new literature treats for the most part of various detached events and limited periods.

The volumes under review make no pretention of adding to the historial knowledge of the fur trade period. Miss Agnes Laut, in *The Fur Trade of America*, has confined herself, in fact, almost wholly to the present day fur industry. She has compiled from many sources a manual of the fur business. The book is well written and furnishes many facts for all who buy, sell, or wear furs. Some of the leading topics are: Transfer of the fur markets of the world to America; false furs and fake trade names;

fur farming; the dyeing and dressing of furs; fur sales; laws for the protection of fur game animals. The amount of information supplied by this volume is so great that it is hard to understand why an index was not supplied. Many will be surprised to learn from this book that the supply of dressed furs is not decreasing, but actually increasing from year to year.

*The Kings of the Missouri* is a novel of the fur trade, opening in the year 1831. Real and fictitious characters mix in a grand melee of traffic, love, and breathless adventure. The volume has merit, doubtless, as a vivid picture of the fur trade days.

CHARLES W. SMITH.

---

*Paul Bunyan Comes West.* By IDA VIRGINIA TURNER. (Eugene Oregon: University of Oregon Press, 1920, Pp. 34. \$1.00.)

This interesting pamphlet is purely a local product. It is made up of Paul Bunyan stories, collected by students in English at the University of Oregon, and illustrated by the students in design at the same institution. The stories might be termed a Puget Sound cycle, since most of the exploits narrated center about this region. Paul Bunyan is the hero, demi-god, and super-jack of the lumber camp. He has come west with the lumber industry, growing in stature and power and skill. It is doubtful if the limit to his marvellous powers will be reached until the lumber jacks have cut down the last stick of timber in the Western forests. Long life to this master woodsman and suitable recognition in the literature of the frontier!

---

*Trailmakers of the Northwest.* By PAUL LELAND HAWORTH. (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1921, Pp. 277. \$2.50 net.)

The author dates his preface from "Eastover West Newton, Indiana." He has previously published such books as *On the Headwaters of Peace River, George Washington: Farmer, The United States in Our Own Times, 1865-1920*. Most of the present volume is devoted to the Canadian Northwest and the fur trade.

His first chapter is headed: "The Beaver and His Wonderful Works and How the Demand for His Fur Led to Great Discoveries." Chapter XIV., tells "How Amundsen Made the Northwest Passage."

It has a peculiar present interest in Seattle since the great