

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Fifty Years on the Old Frontier, as Cowboy, Hunter, Guide, Scout, and Ranchman.* By JAMES H. COOK. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1923. Pp. 291. \$4.00.)

Of all that has been written of the cowboy and the life of the cattle range, very little has been written by the principal actors themselves. The same is equally true of the famous government scouts, mail riders and other adventurous figures, who were men of deeds rather than words. Not many possessed, like David Crockett and W. F. Cody, the power to dramatize themselves.

The author of *Fifty Years on the Old Frontier* was, however, a genuine cowboy, and he is able to recount in a most readable way his adventures over half a century. During the Seventies and part of the Eighties he rode the ranges in Texas and New Mexico. A vivid account is to be found in the first part of the book of the life of the cattlemen in the Southwest, including such details as rounding up entirely wild cattle and horses, and the conveying of droves of animals hundreds of miles through extremely rough, Indian-infested territory. Those who desire thrills can find them here.

The author served as government scout in the campaign against Geronimo in 1885, and saw later, in the North, much of the unfortunate troubles with the Sioux and the Cheyennes, whom he shows to have been shamefully misused by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Much space is given to the Sioux chief, Red Cloud, of whom Cook was a champion and faithful friend.

Not the least entertaining parts of the book are the narratives of hunts after big game in the Rockies, during the years when Cook was one of the foremost guides and hunters of the regions bordering the one transcontinental railway.

There is at times a lack of continuity in the narrative, and considerable variation in the style between the different portions of the book. This is not sufficient, however, to mar its value to the collector of material about the Old West.

CHRISTINA D. SMITH.

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*Alexander Ross's Adventures of the First Settlers on the Oregon or Columbia River.* Edited with historical introduction and notes by MILO MILTON QUARFEE. (The Lakeside Press, Chi-

ago, R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company, 1923. Pp. 338, map).

"Our editor this year has turned us away from the wilds of the north woods and faced us toward the Great West and the early history of its development. Had its size permitted, we would have started with a reprint of the Journals of Lewis and Clark, but this has been republished so often that it is easily within reach of anybody who is interested in the story of that wonderful expedition. Also Washington Irving's *Astoria* is so well known that its reprinting would lose the character of novelty which the publishers of the *Classics* have tried to maintain. Ross's story of the same expedition, approached from an entirely different angle, is far less familiar, and the publishers believe it will be a new and interesting book to most of the recipients of the volume. It certainly is filled with episodes of adventure, and the producers of moving pictures have apparently overlooked its possibilities as another 'thriller'."

In the foregoing words the publishers of the *Lakeside Classics* introduce the reading public to their annual volume, a work which will be welcomed by students of Northwest history as well as by lay readers. This volume is a reprint of the London edition of 1849, and the title page of that edition and the original preface, dated August 1, 1846, have been reproduced. This work was also reprinted as volume vii of R. G. Thwaites's *Early Western Travels* (Cleveland, Clark, 1904.) Although the Thwaites edition is available to those who have access to the larger libraries, the publishers of the present volume have given a real service in offering to the public in convenient form one of the sources of Northwest history. The approaching centenary of the founding of Vancouver will draw attention once more to the Columbia River country and to the activities of the early fur traders. The present volume may be the first of a series of new books or reprints of earlier works treating of the fur trade in the Pacific Northwest.

The annotations have been made by the editor with considerable care, and he has cited some books which had not been published when the Thwaites edition appeared in 1904.

Students who have been delighted with Washington Irving's *Astoria*, and who have felt that the strictures of H. H. Bancroft upon that work were not altogether warranted, will be pleased to read in the *Historical Introduction* to the present edition that the editor agrees with Chittenden (*American Fur Trade of the Far West*, New York, 1902) that Bancroft's "bias of judgment and bitter prejudice" are not warranted by the facts. "Speaking

for myself," writes Mr. Quaife, "I have undertaken no thorough-going study of this controversy, but so far as I have gone into the matter my impressions coincide with the conclusions of Chittenden, and until a new and abler critic of *Astoria* shall appear I am content to accept his seasoned judgment in the premises."

The latest addition to the *Lakeside Classics* will be appreciated for its readability and for its convenience. This book will fit into one's coat pocket and will make an agreeable companion for a week-end trip, or will afford more than one evening of real entertainment at home.

J. ORIN OLIPHANT

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"*A Scrap of Paper.*" By W. T. DOVELL. (Seattle: Privately Published, 1924. Pp. 19.)

Not long before his death, Mr. Dovell read a paper before his associates of The Monday Club giving his recollections of the treaty broken with the Nez Perces and the remarkable leadership of Chief Joseph in the war that followed in 1877. Mr. Dovell's boyhood was spent in Walla Walla, not far from the beginning place of that war. He says that he and his boy friends were easily terrified by mention of Chief Joseph's name. How the judgment of manhood looked upon that broken treaty may be felt from this paragraph:

"We have called it the 'Nez Perces War'—perhaps because the conquerors chose to dignify the mighty effort it cost them by that name. It was not a war; it was a single flight; and in all history no hegira swifter, bolder, or, in one view, more pathetic."

The author carefully assembled dates and facts from documents to fortify those held so vividly in his memory.

After the author's death, one of his law partners, Mr. Otto B. Rupp, had this beautiful pamphlet published as a tribute to the one "who had gone on before."

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*To Oregon by Ox-Team in '47.* By FRED LOCKLEY. (Portland, Oregon: The Author, 1243 East Stark Street, 1924. Pp. 16.)

Mr. Lockley is a newspaper man. He starts his booklet with an interview with Jephtha T. Hunt, County Commissioner of Marion County, Oregon, whose father, G. W. Hunt, crossed the plains in 1847 and who went from Oregon to California in 1848 to participate in the gold mining rush. Jephtha T. Hunt asked the newspaper man to condense the story in his own words. The last two-thirds of the work is a compact story well worth saving