

enough from the invention of the bards of the woods to give his book some historical significance; but chiefly he has used these materials as his box of toys and has made from them a story that is intriguing indeed, but probably much more intriguing to book-buyers and patrons of circulating libraries than it would be to the bunkhouse cranks if it were recited to them at the camp on Onion River.

JOSEPH B. HARRISON.

The Trail Blazers.— By MARY H. WADE. (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1924. Pp. 276. \$1.65).

Canada's Great Highway. By J. H. E. SECRETAN. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head Ltd., 1924. Pp. 252. \$2.50).

Trail Life in the Canadian Rockies. By B. W. MITCHELL. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1924. \$3.00).

White Indian. By EDWIN L. SABIN. (Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs & Company, 1925. \$2.00).

An increasing interest in the annals of the Great American West has led to the publication of a variety of books. Among recent volumes are two that deal with the Oregon Trail, one a novel, "White Indian," and the other, "The Trail Blazers" a new rendering of the Lewis and Clark expedition for boys and girls from ten to fifteen. The background for the novel is found in the far west mountain country around 1835 and its theme is the regeneration of an Englishman through the help of his squaw and a white girl he had loved before he west West. The story is filled with Indian life and lore and with the romance of the mountain country.

In the second book, Miss Wade has succeeded in telling the more picturesque portions of the Lewis and Clark story with accuracy and enthusiasm. In employing a somewhat conversational style, she gives her account the flavor of deeds actually performed and dreams that once filled the hearts of adventurous men. The story of the Bird Woman is emphasized but on the whole it reads very much as if Miss Wade had made good use of the original material. The book deserves to be recommended for young readers.

From the canoe and the pack, we turn to the railroad. In Mr. Secretan's account of Canada's Great Highway, we have an informal narrative of the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway from 1871 to 1885 by an engineer who helped to build the road.

There is romance here, too, and adventure, when one thinks of all the work that was required to make possible the present methods of comfortable travel. The reader will meet some delightful folks—like the guide whom they called Robinson Crusoe and the cockney, Bill Noble—but best of all, he will meet the writer himself, who loved the mountain and the stream and the crackling camp-fire.

In the "White Indian", the writer asks, "Where is it now, the glory and the dream?" The answer is to be found in books like these, stories of explorers, engineers, and trail blazers of today and yesterday. The answer may also be found in the panorama that awaits the climber when he reaches his peak in the Rocky Mountains. First-hand accounts are always valuable in that they re-create for one the actual enterprise and the events connected with it.

It is in somewhat similar spirit of adventure and good anecdotes that Mr. Mitchell describes "Trail Life in the Canadian Rockies." This book would be tremendously useful to any group that intends to tramp in the Rocky Mountains near Field and Banff, because the writer gives detailed information about nine summers in this region. If the reader doesn't plan such mountaineering he will find the accounts of the trips thoroughly interesting. There is good humor in the book and sunset or dawn, with the world's edge in the distance, he can find both the glory and the dream.

EBBA DAHLIN.

Our Constitutions, National and State. By A. J. CLOUD, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools, San Francisco, California, and EDMOND S. MEANY, Professor of History in the State University of Washington. (Chicago, Atlanta, New York: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1925. Pp. 350. \$1.00).

This interesting little volume—an Elementary Text in Government and Citizenship, for use in the State of Washington—is designed to meet the requirements of schools that feel the need of inculcating in their pupils a truer appreciation of our system of government and an understanding of the duties of active citizenship. In some states the legislatures have required courses in citizenship and in the principles and provisions of the Federal and State Constitutions and this book will meet that need if such a law is passed in Washington. It may be questioned whether a study