

Provincial Society, 1690-1763. By JAMES TRUSLOW ADAMS. (Volume III. in the series. Pp. 374.)

The Rise of the Common Man, 1830-1850. By CARL RUSSELL FISH. (Volume VI in the series. Pp. 391.)

The Emergence of Modern America, 1865-1878. By ALLEN NEVINS. (Volume VIII. in the series. Pp. 446.)

The Macmillan Company is here launching a new series of twelve volumes as a descriptive and interpretative history under the general title of *A History of American Life*. The general editors are Arthur M. Schlesinger, Professor of History at Harvard University and Dixon Ryan Fox, Professor of History at Columbia University. Each of these is to be the author of one of the volumes in the series. The two consulting editors, who are not listed as authors of any of the volumes, are Ashley H. Thorndike, Professor of English at Columbia University and Carl Becker, Professor of History at Cornell University.

Of the four volumes now published three are written by professors. Mr. Wertenbaker is Edwards Professor of American History at Princeton University, Mr. Fish is Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin, and Mr. Nevins is Professor of American History at Cornell University. James Truslow Adams is listed in *Who's Who in America* as a writer. He is distinctly a university man, holding degrees from a number of prominent American institutions of learning. He is the author of a number of works on American history including the *Founding of New England*, which won for him in 1922 the Pulitzer prize of \$2000 as being that year's best work on the history of the United States.

It is not expected in works of national scope to find much space devoted to the Pacific Northwest or to the States formed from the Old Oregon Country. That condition will be improved when more of the eastern writers awaken to the growing importance of the new Pacific Era. However, two of these four books have references to the Northwest. The first two volumes, covering the period from 1607 to 1763 would have little or no occasion to mention the Pacific Coast. The other two, covering the periods from 1830 to 1850 and from 1865 to 1878, have several references to the Pacific Northwest. Professor Fish mentions the Oregon trail and the Oregon question in the administration of President Polk. These and other such references are brief but well placed in the sweep of this record of *The Rise of the Common Man*.

In commenting on the treaty affecting Oregon in 1818, he says (pages 292-293): "The territory was to be held in joint occupancy for ten years, neither nation within that time to acquire new rights. In 1828 [1827] this was renewed indefinitely with a mutual power of annulment on one year's notice. It was the general belief in the United States that, when we chose to bring the matter to a determination, we would be able to bring greater forces to the argument and that active American settlers, while not changing the legal status, would form a factor not negligible."

President John Quincy Adams discusses at length the renewal of that "Joint Occupancy" treaty in his third annual message dated December 4, 1827. It would have been more acceptable if the discussion had shown how interest in the Oregon question had been kept alive in diplomacy, especially by Adams, Clay and Gallatin, from the Treaty of Ghent. As for "active American settlers" at that particular time, there were none. The Americans (Astorians) had all, save two, departed after the sale of Astoria in 1813. One of them married an Indian wife and settled in the Willamette valley. When American missionaries arrived in 1834, followed by other Americans, the "factor not negligible" did appear. Up to that time American interests in Oregon were upheld in diplomatic negotiations led by the three statesmen mentioned.

Professor Nevins, in *The Emergence of Modern America*, 1865-1878, has an interesting chapter entitled; "The West at Work." On page 152 he says: "Farther north, in Oregon and Washington, there was growth also but without the varied social background that distinguished California. Most of the population was collected in a few fertile valleys: the beautiful Willamette Valley in southern Oregon, the Columbia Valley, the Walla Walla Valley in eastern Washington, and the Grand Ronde." He overlooked the wide-awake Puget Sound region which is difficult to understand. At the citation given he has a footnote about the scarcity of women. That idea dominated the author unduly as he mentions it again on pages 377-378 when speaking about the progress of Washington. The "Mercer Girls" do make an interesting episode but a serious work like this might have been improved if that scant space had been given to some such facts as that of the blue ribbon, or first prize, at the Centennial Exposition for the products of a single measured acre in America being won by Owen Bush whose Puget Sound farm was near Olympia.

Such fault finding may seem ungracious but the people of the Pacific Northwest hold their history in high esteem. It is a worthy and colorful history and in no sense merits dismissal with a slur or joke. It is hoped that when Mr. Fox writes his book in this series, covering the period of 1790 to 1830, he will show how the Pacific Northwest furnished one of the problems involved in the Monroe Doctrine.

EDMOND S. MEANY

The Geology of the San Juan Islands. By ROY DAVIDSON McLELLAN. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1927. Pp. 185. \$2.00.)

Historically the San Juan Islands constitute one of the most interesting areas of the Pacific Northwest. Although Mr. McLellan clings closely to the technology of his science, his work is valuable to the historian on account of its basic information and more especially because all of the islands are described and definitely named. The present reviewer is aware of much cooperation on the part of the United States Geographic Board to wipe out many duplications of names. The excellent geologic map accompanying this volume is undoubtedly the most perfect map yet published of the San Juan Islands.

The volume is thoroughly well illustrated with reproduced photographs and diagrams. There is included an extensive bibliography and a dependable index. The book is a thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University of Washington.

Oregon Geographic Names. By LEWIS A. McARTHUR. (Portland, Oregon: Privately published, 1928. Pp. i x-450. \$5.00 net.)

For many years Mr. McArthur has been gathering materials for his *Oregon Geographic Names*. He was simply tireless. The present reviewer encountered him at work on more than one occasion. No detail of information was to him trivial if it could add even a shade of meaning to an item within his quest. Beginning with December, 1925, part of the work appeared in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*. With those installments the author fairly begged for criticisms and corrections and now in his preface he acknowledges help received. If faithful, skilful and long continued effort may win success, then this large and handsome volume merits a generous approval.