

two years to the actual task of compiling the manuscript. Associated with the compiler, have been several specialists including such capable men as Mr. Hugh A. Morrison of the Library of Congress and Mr. Richard H. Geoghegan of Fairbanks, an expert Russian linguist.

The scope of the bibliography is indicated by the following statement drawn from the preface: "Every reasonable effort has been made to secure every title of printed books or magazine articles relating to Alaska, and of every book or newspaper printed in the Territory." Many of the references, more than three thousand items, refer to United States government publications. Librarians will especially appreciate the fullness of the citations to these federal documents, including as they do complete congressional designations together with serial numbers printed in black-face type.

The arrangement is alphabetical under subjects, such as: adventure, aeronautics, agriculture, biography, birds, boundary, description, education, explorations, fiction, fur trade, history, etc. Under each subject the entries are alphabetized by author. Each entry is numbered in order, there being a total of 10,380 numbers. A voluminous general index makes reference to the particular number of each item or title.

A survey of the entire literature of any subject is most useful to all who make use of printed materials relating to it. Such bibliographies add range and effectiveness to research and greatly economize the labor of all workers in the field. The importance of this new publication is much greater therefore than that of an ordinary book since it will multiply the usefulness of all existing books relating to Alaska.

The volume is strictly an Alaskan production. It has been published under provision of the Session Laws of Alaska, 1927. The printing was done in Cordova, and the distribution is under the direction of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, Fairbanks (College Post Office) Alaska.

Charles W. Smith.

In the Quest of the Western Ocean. By NELLIS M. CROUSE.
(New York: William Morrow & Company, 1928. Pp. 494.
\$6.50.)

Dr. Crouse is credited with using for his *In the Quest of the Western Ocean* sources not available to the general public,

deriving them from more than one hundred biographers and historians. The book is illustrated with eight maps in line and four old maps in facsimile.

The work is more than re-telling of the search for a Northwest Passage. The Introduction deals with "The Lure of the Far East." This is followed by nine chapters with the following heads: "Early Attempts of the English, French and Portuguese," "The English Sail for the Northwest Passage," "The Search for the Passage Through Hudson Bay," "The Route to the Western Ocean Through Virginia," "The French Strike Across the Continent," "The English Cross the Appalachian Barrier," "Efforts of the French to Solve the Mystery of the Trans-Mississippi Region," "Westward from Lake Superior," and "The Final Dash Through Hudson Bay."

The scope of the work thus outlined makes it apparent that the book does not deal directly with the Oregon Country. The record is brought down, however, to the very time of much activity in exploration of the Pacific Northwest coasts. On page 452, the author says: "Hearne had disproved the existence of the passage, at least in the accessible position where eager geographers had placed it, and he had done nothing more. After the publication of his journal in 1795 the straits of de Fonte and Juan de Fuca disappear from maps of North America." How the Strait of Juan de Fuca was put back on the map is quite another story.

One piece of indirect evidence is of interest and value as revealing one probable reason why Bancroft and other historians so frequently refer to the Hudson's Bay Company's chief rival as the Northwest Company of Montreal. In using that title, Bancroft (*Northwest Coast Volume I.*, page 551.) in a footnote says: "Sometimes called the Canada Company, because it was organized in Canada, in contradistinction to the Hudson's Bay Company chartered in England." The angle now contributed by Dr. Crouse is his stressing the fact that there was another "Northwest Company" chartered in England more than half a century ahead of the Hudson's Bay Company. The backers of Henry Hudson, stirred by the fate of that unfortunate navigator applied to the King for a charter and King James granted it on July 26, 1612. The new company, placed under the patronage of Henry, Prince of Wales, bore the name "Governor and Company of the Merchants of London, Discoverers of the Northwest Passage." Dr.

Crouse says (page 173) that for the sake of brevity he would call it the Northwest Company, which was undoubtedly done also by contemporaries of the earlier company. The Hudson's Bay Company was chartered by King Charles II., on May 2, 1670. The Northwest Company of Montreal was organized in the winter of 1783-84.

Dr. Crouse has a direct and attractive style. His industry and judgment have brought together a vast amount of valuable information. His book will undoubtedly receive a cordial welcome. If the author should issue another edition of his book he will wish to add to his bibliography and possibly to the content of his work material from the *Journal of Henry Kelsey*, published last May and reviewed in this issue of the *Washington Historical Quarterly* by Dr. M. S. Wade of Kamloops, British Columbia.

British Columbia, Report of the Provincial Museum of Natural History. By FRANCIS KERMODE. (Victoria: Legislative Assembly, 1928. Pp. 22.)

The annual report for 1927 shows the additions and studies made of the natural history collections. Valuable illustrations accompany the text.

The Eastern Valleys of the Purcell Range, British Columbia. By CONRAD KAIN. (New York: American Alpine Club, 1928. Pp. 10.)

This interesting and beautiful illustrated paper is a reprint from *The Bulletin of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia*, Volume XXVI., No. 2, April, 1928.

OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED

AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION. *Papers and Proceedings of the Fortieth Annual Meeting, December, 1927.* (Menasha: The American Economic Review, 1928. Pp. 305. Paper, \$1.25.)

COWAN, HELEN I. *British Emigration to British North America, 1783-1837.* (Toronto: The University Library, 1928. Pp. 275.)

CUSHMAN, ESTHER COWLES. *The McLellan Lincoln Collection at Brown University.* (Providence: University Library, 1928. Pp. 21.)