

BOOK REVIEWS

Where Rolls the Oregon; Prophet and Pessimist Look Northwest.

Edited by ARCHER BUTLER HULBERT. (Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Stewart Commission of Colorado College and the Denver Public Library, 1933. Pp. 224. \$5.00.)

This is the third volume in the *Overland to the Pacific* series, a narrative-documentary history of the great epochs of the Far West. The series, which is to be completed in 1936, will comprise eight volumes, in two parts. Part One. The Couriers—four volumes. Part Two. The Crusaders—four volumes. The first volume presents Captain Zebulon Pike as the "Courier" who marches straight west across the Plains to the Rockies in 1806. The second volume deals with the "Couriers" on the Santa Fe Trail, 1822-1830.

The present volume relates to expansion towards the Northwest—the beginning of the Oregon Trail story.

In Chapter I, the bibliographical story of this movement is brought up to date, from 1825-1830. In this resume one of the documents to which much space has been allotted for reproduction and interpretation is Francis Baylies' report, 1826, on the expediency of establishing a Military Post on the Columbia River, and of authorizing by law an examination and survey of the Northwest Coast.

In Chapter II, is reproduced Dr. John Floyd's Oregon Bill, followed by the Tucker, Tracy and Silas Wood discussions opposing occupation of the Oregon Country; a strong letter from U. S. Quartermaster General Jessup favorable to occupying the mouth of the Columbia and fortifying the Missouri River route thither; Senator Dickerson on the abandonment of the West, and Senator Benton on the future of Oregon.

Three significant documents, giving the trapper's and trader's viewpoint, in contrast to the legislator's, comprise the major portion of the third chapter—the letter by Jedediah Smith written near Laketown, Utah, on Bear Lake, July 17, 1827, to Captain William Clark, recounting his California tour; General Ashley's letter of March, 1829, on the protection of the fur trade, and Joshua Pilcher's letter on the geography and trade of the West.

In the concluding chapters are given selected passages from Osborne Russel's *Journal of a Trapper, or Nine Years in the Rocky Mountains, 1834-1843*, drawing intimate pictures of a trapper's life in the wilderness.

The two tabulated statements of the Fur Trade on the Missouri and its waters, including the Rocky Mountains, 1815-1830, relative to amount of capital employed, amount of proceeds in furs, and numbers of American citizens killed or robbed in the trade, together with the letter of transmittal by Major Dougherty, Indian Agent at Fort Leavenworth, to General William Clark, dated October 25, 1831, comprise the Appendix. There is also a 12-page Index.

The book is beautifully printed, with a most appropriate frontispiece, a view of the Columbia from Saint Peter's Dome, with the inscription "Where Rolls the Oregon." There are three maps, A. Finley's Map of the West, 1826, and two maps of the Oregon Trail.

Many students of Northwestern history will be grateful for this volume, with its reprinted documents and the resume of materials which have a special bearing on this period, brought together in this convenient form.

MARGARET SMITH

Here Are My People. By ARTHUR J. BURKS. (New York: Funk and Wagnalls Company. 1934. Pp. 314. \$2.50)

Here are my people: under this consonant title, Arthur J. Burks, of the fourth generation, records the lives of his kinsmen. Their history is given largely in their own vernacular and with a rugged honesty that gives depth to the picture. Their country, too, the Big Bend country, high above the Columbia River in Eastern Washington, is etched in clear-cut lines.

The Tolers, Milner Milenius and Becky, and the Ogles, Josephus and Lila Jane, were the ancestors who established their homesteads in the early days of settlement. Their labors in transforming desert land into wheat fields and orchards were rewarded by an early and comfortable retirement in the near-by town of Waterville. The patterns of their lives were repeated in those of their children during the next two generations. Not all were as prosperous as the original settlers, however, for the best land, the land on which the springs were near the surface, was taken first and in time only the rocky sections were left for homesteading. So there are wide contrasts in the story. Particularly heart-breaking were the experiences of the author's mother who filed her claim on a "rock patch" and "proved" it while trying to farm single-handed. "And so the family of the Ogles and Tolers seemed to breathe—a kind of breathing that was a departing from the home nest, and a returning, and they kept