

The American Fur Trade of the Far West. With introduction and notes by Stallo Vinton and sketch of the author by Edmond S. Meany. By HIRAM MARTIN CHITTENDEN. (New York: The Press of the Pioneers, Inc. 1935. 2 vols. Pp. 1014. \$15.00.)

The publication of a new edition of General Chittenden's *American Fur Trade* will undoubtedly give added importance to a work that has been accepted for over thirty years as an authority on the subject of which it treats. Mr. Stallo Vinton, as editor, is to be congratulated on the painstaking care he has shown in adding new notes to the text and also to the original notes of the author. Varying in length from a line or two to several pages, these editorial notes throw new light on various topics and correct errors that have been revealed since the publication of the first edition in 1902.

The chapter on Captain Bonneville is supplemented by five pages of author's notes and four by Mr. Vinton. A number of excerpts from various authoritative works have been included throughout the text as editorial notes, for example the following: pp. 65-66, description of a typical solitary trapper from George F. Ruxton's *Life in the Far West*, pp. 50-52; description of Bent's Fort from Thomas J. Farnham's *Travels in the Great Western Prairies*, pp. 43-44; description of a rendezvous from Washington Irving's *Adventures of Captain Bonneville*.

A concise article on the fur trade of the south west has been added to the appendix. General Chittenden gave this subject only casual treatment in the original work. A bibliography divided according to "Maps," "Astoria," "Early Fur Trade," "Period of Great Activity," and "Santa Fé and Southwest," is included in the 1935 edition. Other new features are a brief introduction by Mr. Vinton and a sketch of the life of General Chittenden by the late Edmond S. Meany in which he says of the author: "His fine personal qualities and his fair treatment of the men under him as well as of the public he served won for him the respect and admiration of everyone particularly in the Northwest where he spent his latter years."

The Press of the Pioneers has again given careful attention to format and the compact two-volume edition is more convenient to use than the original three volume set consisting of two volumes of text and one of appendix and index material. Sixteen new illustrations, of men prominent in the development of the Northwest, replace the ten plates of the first edition.

RONALD TODD