

BOOK REVIEWS

ALASKA, ITS MEANING TO THE WORLD, ITS RESOURCES, ITS OPPORTUNITIES. By Charles R. Tuttle. (Seattle. Franklin Shuey and Company, 1914. Pp. 318. \$2.50.)

This is a new addition to the literature pertaining to Alaska and is chiefly a compilation of statistics and quotations from reports of the government and other sources. The author does not claim to present new historical or statistical material. It is valuable as a collection of material in one volume which otherwise would require the searching of many separate records. He has drawn from the reports of the Geological Survey, the Agricultural Department bulletins, the reports of the Governor of Alaska, the Road Commission Reports and other publications, both public and private.

An optimistic view of the future of the transportation and commerce of the Pacific Northwest is followed by a valuation of past production, present output, and future possibilities of the mines, fisheries, forests, agriculture, etc., of Alaska. A large portion of the work is devoted to the history of the Government Railway legislation and the means by which it was brought about. A statement of the policy proposed by the Administration at Washington occupies much space.

The views advanced on the form of government adapted to the Territory are not those of one who has been a resident of Alaska and who expects to live there.

At times it is difficult to be sure whether the book is describing Alaskan matters, or is eulogising Seattle, its interest in Alaska, and its future prospects.

His conclusions, while giving a seemingly exaggerated estimate of the possibilities of the country in some lines, are generally very well justified and present a fairly good view of the value of the most northerly Territory of the United States.

C. L. ANDREWS

SEVEN YEARS ON THE PACIFIC SLOPE. By Mrs. Hugh Fraser and Hugh C. Fraser. (New York, Dodd, Mead & Co. 1914. Pp. 391. Illus. 16. \$3.00.)

"Seven Years on the Methow" would have been a more appropriate title for a book whose 400 odd pages are devoted to a description of life in a tiny frontier village situated on the Methow River a few miles

above its junction with the Columbia, in Okanogan County, Washington. Isolated by mountain ranges and reached only by difficult roads, remote valleys like the Methow have developed slowly and still retain picturesque aspects of frontier life. Of these the authors have made the most. The book is composed largely of anecdotes, some of them of a very trivial nature. A good idea is given of the life of the people, but it could have been done as well in half the space. Sidelights are thrown upon the development of the region during the years from 1905 to 1912.

The book has little of direct historical value. Its excellence consists in the vividness of its description and power to make the reader feel that he has lived in the Methow. CHRISTINA DENNY SMITH.

FREMONT AND '49. By Frederick S. Dellenbaugh. (New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1914. Pp. 547. \$4.50.)

John Charles Frémont has been a hazy and unwelcome figure in the history of the West. There have been many reasons for this. The rugged land of mountains, plains, mines and forests has stood for fair play above all else and yet most western men shrug their shoulders at the mention of Frémont's name. Probably every person who reads these words will at once conjure up one or more reasons for entertaining a feeling of resentment. The author of the present volume frankly acknowledges that he had similar notions when he began his studies. These he has overcome and not only that he has become convinced that Frémont is one of America's most interesting characters and a true gentleman through all the dramatic epochs of his life.

Frémont started to give his own account of his life, but for some unknown reason only one volume was published. In Mr. Dellenbaugh's large volume we have an ample biography and much more. The author was with Major Powell in the famous Grand Canyon expedition and has shown his familiarity with, and love for, the West by his former books. He has brought this experience to the present task and we have ample opportunity to discern the many bearings of Frémont's work.

The frank discussion of Frémont's faults, the tracing in sympathetic lines the young man's drifting toward his life work, the explanation of his candor toward Kit Carson and other real pathfinders, all these give us a more real and more honest character than we have known heretofore under the name of Frémont.

Mr. Dellenbaugh has done his work well. He has produced a valuable book of the keenest interest. It will undoubtedly have a far reach in its readjustment of Frémont's position in history.