

BOOK REVIEWS

History of the State Normal School at Cheney, Washington. By J. ORIN OLIPHANT. (Spokane: Inland-American Printing Company, 1924. Pp. 175.)

The appearance of this volume is the realization of a long-time ambition of Professor C. S. Kingston, head of the History Department, at the Cheney State Normal School, to see put into permanent form the record of dramatic and stirring events through which the Cheney State Normal School has developed. The author is a former student of Professor Kingston and has had the benefit of sympathetic and critical advice in the preparation of the manuscript. It is evident that the author, as a graduate of the institution and its executive secretary, has performed a labor of love as he has traced the story of the location of the town of Cheney, its losing fight with Spokane, the coming of the Cheney Academy, the fight for the establishment of the first State Normal School, the political disasters, the fire, the periods of prosperity and fair skies, the intervals of tragic uncertainty, and the final triumph and permanent development of this outstanding teacher-training institution.

Mr. Oliphant has followed a convenient scheme of organization, giving one chapter to the early history of the community of Cheney, then developing the history of the Normal School through nine significant chapters, and closing with very complete statistical addenda, bibliography, and index. He has been critical, fair and accurate. This book is an example of excellent historical work, aided by good educational guidance and judgment.

Mr. Oliphant has told the story of the pioneer—settler, railroad, community, institution. The Benjamin P. Cheney Academy was built in 1881, it served a needed educational purpose for several years, during which it flourished; with the coming of the public school it languished and died, but afforded a convenient center when the agitation for a State Normal School made possible such an institution for eastern Washington. In 1890, the State Normal School was located in the old Academy building. Then follows the story of the "ups and downs" when the little institution was struggling to secure a permanent foothold. It became at once the victim of political log-rolling, the football of politics;

it suffered the vetoes of its appropriations by unfriendly governors, the loss of the main building by fire, and the results of disastrous bickering and quarreling by the people of the community.

Devotion and courageous fighting spirit have characterized the friends of the school, and the dedication of this volume to Senator W. J. Sutton is a tribute worthily bestowed—a recognition of the optimism, courage, sacrifice which have stood the school in good stead in its troublous days. The later chapters detail the struggle for the new buildings, the development of the campus and building plans, the construction of the curriculum, and the recent effort to secure the right to bestow the baccalaureate degree.

The careful development of numerous biographical, historical, and legislative notes and comments constitutes a valuable part of the material, and has called into play the historical training of the writer.

A word of commendation is due the mechanical makeup of the volume, for the cover, paper, printing, type, and editorial work are unusually good.

ALEXANDER C. ROBERTS.

Indian Days in the Canadian Rockies. By MARIUS BARBEAU. Illustrations by W. Langdon Kihn. (Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada, 1923. Pp. 208. 15 illustrations.)

The title of this book conveys an accurate idea of the contents of the book. "We have tried in the following chapters to visualize the advent of the white man into the northwest from the Indian standpoint," writes the author in the introduction. . . . "To the reader some of the following chapters—*An Indian Seer*, and *Tchatka*, for instance—may seem pure fiction or Indian fairy tales. Yet they are not. They are true narratvies of Indian lives substantially as reported from native sources. Beeny, the seer, was perhaps the first Indian of the uplands who foretold the coming of Europeans and obtained vague notions of the Christian faith. In his quality of juggler, he was only too anxious to show his power, to predict the future, and to accomplish marvels that would astonish his people; and his theme was the white man—the 'Sky being' as he termed him. He was imposing on the popular credulity and unconsciously at the same time on his own."

Writers there have been sufficient to recount the glorious march of Europeans across the continent of North America. They have told us how the frontier has shaped the course of American