

Paul Bunyan has lived and could have lived only in the bob-tailed narrative forms that have been utilized to present him. He is much too coarse and earthy a creation to be transferred to poetry. He is too grotesque to be embodied in any of the various species of drama. There is nothing about him to suggest the motif for a theme in music. Draw a picture of him, and every vestige of the marvellous vanishes from him instantly. Even the movies with all their resources rendering plausible the absurdly unbelievable would utterly fail to delineate him. The cycle of stories connected with him was evolved solely from within itself, largely by repetition of itself. Unfortunately there are signs that the creative process whereby this evolution was previously assured is coming pretty definitely to a full stop. Without the disinterested zeal of the tireless collector the danger of the well-nigh complete disappearance of this unique figure from American folklore has been growing increasingly imminent. It is a danger that Mrs. Shephard's work happily averts for all time. She is to be congratulated upon the service of literary preservation she has so acceptably performed. And her readers are to be congratulated also on the certain entertainment of a robust frontier quality which her book provides for them.

V. L. O. CHITTICK.

The United States of America: Volume II. From the Civil War.
By DAVID SAVILLE MUZZEY, Ph.D., Professor of History,
Columbia University. (New York, Ginn and Company.
803 pp., XLIV. \$3.50).

This is the second in a two-volume set designed by Dr. Muzzezy to supply the need for a suitable college text in United States history. The first volume appeared about two years ago and traced the story of the American people in conquering a continent and developing the political and constitutional foundations of their national power. The first volume ended with the close of the Civil War, and this one continues the narrative from that point to the present time. New problems in the later period have called for a new emphasis. Sectional cleavage between North and South has given place to economic sectionalism between East and West. Non-interference with business has been slowly supplanted by a growing consciousness of the necessity for Federal control, and the old traditional detachment from the rivalries of the Old World became suddenly transformed when we became a World Power

charged with the administration of distant colonies of alien peoples. To present this story in the light of a continuously developing movement has been the aim of the author and in this he has succeeded very well.

It is comparatively easy for a writer having unlimited space to set down all the facts of an episode in chronological order. That requires little skill. But to condense a volume into a chapter, or a chapter into a paragraph and leave out nothing of importance requires a different kind of ability and of higher order. The salient facts must be selected from the mass, and they must then be organized into an interesting and telling story that will give the correct impression to the reader. Here Dr. Muzzey has been singularly successful. There are many single sentences and a few paragraphs in the volume which if taken by themselves give an erroneous impression. These will no doubt be cited by the hostile critic. But when they are read in connection with the context the meaning is usually very clear. Here and there one instinctively calls out for an additional paragraph or page to clear up a discussion but it is only to realize that these additions mean many more pages or even an additional volume. This is but another way of saying that the reviewer does not everywhere agree with Dr. Muzzey either in the selection of his facts, or in their presentation. But it is very evident throughout the book that the author has been very careful in the selection of his material, that he knows the literature of the field thoroughly and that there is clearly manifest a strong desire to be entirely fair to both sides in every controversy. To say that another would select for emphasis a different group of facts is no criticism of Dr. Muzzey, and certainly no one could exceed him in the spirit of fairness.

The books should find a welcome place in college courses and the general reader will find the story stimulating and enlightening. Both may make use of the excellent bibliographies at the end of the volumes.

EDWARD McMAHON.

"Brother Mack," the Frontier Preacher. By A. J. McNEMEE.
(Portland, Oregon: 1924. Pp. 80.)

Here is a little book that deserves to be classed as a "human document" in the literature of the Northwest. It is sure to take its place among the rare items of Northwest Americana. To a request for information as to the selling price of the book the ven-