

The Constitutions of the Northwest States. By JOHN D. HICKS. (Lincoln, Nebraska: 1923. Pp. 162.)

The printing of this double number in the "University Studies" of the University of Nebraska seems to have been delayed as it just arrived though bearing the date, January-April, 1923. The publication seems more delayed as the work substantially in its present form was submitted in 1916 as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of doctor of philosophy at the University of Wisconsin.

The scope of the work is best revealed by the chapter headings: "The Statehood Movement," "The Departments of Government," "Education and School Lands," "Corporations other than Municipal," "Labor and Social Legislation," "Taxation and Public Finance," "Miscellaneous," (such as Suffrage, Local Government, Irrigation and Water Rights), and "Admission."

The "Bibliography" includes a helpful collection of titles of Congressional and State documents, newspapers, periodicals, books and pamphlets.

It is clear that Doctor Hicks, in his thesis, has undertaken to cover an immense field. Restriction toward unity is evident in the emphasis placed on the so-called "Omnibus States"—North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Washington. By a clever welding of the masses of material he has made a valuable work on those States as a group, but by omitting an index he has left it a difficult matter to glean his conclusions about any single State. The two most outstanding conclusions are that there was a growing distrust for public officials and that too much legislation was injected into the constitutions. Toward the end of his study, in summing up his conclusions he declares: "Whether the West had swallowed the Nation or the Nation had swallowed the West would be a difficult question to decide." He asks and seeks to answer certain questions as to what should be really expected of a state and then ends his study with the following paragraph:

"The men who framed these constitutions did not consciously admit any lack of confidence in democratic government. Direct popular control was to their minds the paracea for all ills. Every effort was made to place public officials in such a position that they must respond to the desires of the people. The use of the referendum became more common. The length of the ballot increased. The great weakness of the system lay in this over-estimation of the capabilities of the people. Changes in the laws

which the constitution contained could be effected only by constitutional amendment, and although that process was usually made easy, intelligent decisions on the part of the electorate were likely to be difficult to obtain. The increase in the number of elective officers added a further burden. Regardless of the question as to who is best fitted to fill administrative and judicial offices, the fact remains that, voting on a large number of candidates at one time, popular interest is likely to be divided and popular judgment uncertain. Nevertheless, the trend towards direct participation by the people in the government had not yet reached its climax. The initiative, the more expanded use of the referendum, and the recall were yet to come. And even now, a third of a century later, it may well be doubted if any distinct reaction has set in."

Studies in Administrative Research. By FRED C. AYER. (Seattle: Board of Directors, 1924. Pp. 117. Sventy-five cents.)

Professor Ayer is Director of the Seattle Public Schools Department of Research. This book is Bulletin No. 1. The subdivisions are "Time Allotment," "The Curriculum," "Upper Grade Organization" and "Progress of Pupils." The work is of especial value to teachers and others having responsibility in the maintenance of our system of education.

Cowboys North and South. By WILL JAMES. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1924. Pp. 217. \$3.50.)

The publisher's announcement says: "Here is the cowboy's story at its best, written by one who was brought up a cowboy and has lived all his life as a cowboy, among cowboys, and knowing every tradition of the cattle country." The author himself says: "Me, never being to school and having to pick up what I know in grammar from old magazines and saddle catalogs scattered in cow camps would find plenty of territory for improvement in the literary range."

The language throughout the book has the same sound of galloping hoofs and swinging ropes. Anyone who loves the West will like these stories. The fifty-one illustrations, all by the author, comprise one of the most attractive features of the book. Will James is certainly a clever artist. There is no question but that this book will receive a cordial welcome among collectors and readers of the rapidly growing cowboy literature.