

The War Trail of Big Bear. By WILLIAM BLEASDELL CAMERON.
(Toronto: The Ryerson Press. 1926. Pp. 356.)

Forty-one years ago occurred the North West Rebellion, which drew the eyes of Canada to the triangle at the confluence of the North and South Saskatchewan. The encounters at Duck Lake, Fish Creek, and Batoche rise at once in memory. They were, so to speak, on the eastern front. The western front brings before us the saddest event in all that needless tragedy: the destruction of the little frontier village of Frog Lake; and, as a result, General Strange's march from Calgary to Edmonton, thence down the North Saskatchewan, and into the hinterland, his pursuit of Big Bear, and the battle of Frenchman's Butte.

Mr. Cameron, the author, was the only male survivor of the massacre at Frog Lake. On that dread day in April, 1885, when savagery was blood-mad, his constant and understanding kindness to the Indians bore fruit: "Those women are starting for the camp. Go with them; and do not leave them. They will not shoot among the women." And from that moment until the release of the prisoners two months later he lived amongst them in their wanderings, an intelligent and sympathetic eye-witness of all that happened. This is the story Mr. Cameron has to tell. It is of especial value for its treatment of events on the little-known western front.

Mr. Cameron writes in a simple but gripping style. Everywhere he is fair to the Indians: apportioning the responsibility and placing the blame upon the proper persons, Wandering Spirit and Imasees. In the opening chapters, he sketches clearly, with the aid of a few examples, the disturbed condition in the Saskatchewan region—a condition which to all except the Government plainly forboded trouble. He shows the helplessness of Big Bear on that fatal day at Frog Lake; and he effectually disposes of the theory that it was Quinn's refusal to go to the Indian camp that caused the massacre. The Indians had heard of Duck Lake and the younger and more fiery were determined to act; had it not been that incident some other would have furnished an excuse.

Nine illustrations add interest to the text; amongst these, three stand out: the strong intelligent face of Big Bear; the group at Fort Pitt which includes Quinn the Indian Agent and Captain Francis Dickens; and Quinn's last note. Many readers striving to follow the shifting scenes will, doubtless, wish that a man had been added. Occasionally the language soars unjustifi-

ably, as, for instance, in describing the explosion of a nine-pounder gun as an "earth-rocking roar."

F. W. HOWAY.

The Glamour of British Columbia. By H. GLYNN-WARD. (New York: Century, 1926. Pp. 238. \$3.00.)

"Few people realize that, once they are over 'The Great Divide,' there is a whole empire between the Rockies and the Coast, which is British Columbia." The reader who has penetrated this province with H. Glynn-Ward in her *Glamour of British Columbia* becomes aware of the vastness, the wildness, the variety in mountain, lake and stream and is inspired if not always enthused.

The book is the account of an adventurous woman who dares to explore the Fraser River Valley, to hunt in the "Cariboo Region" and to climb in winter Mount Robson, the highest, the most beautiful, the most dangerous mountain in all the Rockies. Here are incorporated the tales of trapper George who takes the route of the Yukon Telegraph Trail, of McNeil the Irish rancher, of Cataline the Mexican pack-team driver. The sparse population of British Columbia is a strange conglomeration of races.

The country described here has a combination of climate and soil that yields amply to those who have sufficient grit and hardihood to test it. It is only the hardy pioneer who has dared to make the venture. As yet the resources of British Columbia have been scarcely touched. These fifteen sketches embody a challenge to conquer the province for its riches.

ELVA L. BATCHELLER.

The Rocks and Rivers of British Columbia. By WALTER MOBERLEY. (London, 1886. Pp. 104. Reprinted 1926, Pp. 102, by R. Douglas, Secretary, Geographic Board of Canada, Ottawa. Price \$2.00.)

In the roll of pioneers of British Columbia, the name of Walter Moberley stands high. From 1864 until 1874, he was exploring, almost continuously, in the Selkirks and the Rockies: in the former, for the colonial government; in the latter for the Dominion, as one of the earliest explorers for the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1885, he published the account of his explorations, under the title: *The Rocks and Rivers of British Columbia*. The book was especially valuable as the personal record of the first examination of the Gold and the Selkirk ranges, and the first after