

BOOK REVIEWS

The Adventures of Paul Bunyan. By JAMES CLOYD BOWMAN.
(Boston: The Century Company, 1927. Pp. 286. \$2.00.)

James Cloyd Bowman in his *Adventures of Paul Bunyan* has presented to the readers of the younger generation a story of the huge Western lumber jack, which will delight the heart of any boy between the years of eight and eleven.

The author in a connected narrative form tells of the coming of Paul Bunyan and his equally large Blue Ox. He traces in a pleasing manner the establishment of Paul's lumber camp and its future development. Great indeed are the feats which Paul and his merry helpers accomplish. The book comes to a close by Paul disappearing on his Blue Ox Babe after the vast green forests have been subdued and conquered by human power.

The story intermingled with humor throughout is much exaggerated, but it would not be a Paul Bunyan tale unless it was. The author employs a great deal of conversation which his youthful readers will highly endorse. An added feature of the book is the black and white illustrations, each of which has a story to tell.

Mr. Bowman has been at a great advantage in that he has had an abundance of material from which he could depict the epic tale of this Western folk hero. In the acknowledgments following the preface is quoted "The present collection of Paul Bunyan stories has been taken from the vast storehouse of published and unpublished materials which are everywhere going to waste. The author has read most that has been written concerning this Hercules of the lumberjacks. He has visited with many men who were once woodsmen, and who still carry the care-free spirit of the days that have so speedily passed." From earlier sources Mr. Bowman has examined the tales of Paul Bunyan written by writers of the Pacific Northwest including the work of Esther Shephard, James Stevens and Ida Virginia Turney.

Every child whether a boy or girl loves to imagine in his or her own fancy a world manned either by very small people or giants. Mr. Bowman has made this possible in the tales of Paul Bunyan by presenting them in story form suitable for children.

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