

The Passes of the Rocky Mountains Along the Alberta Boundary.
By J. N. WALLACE. (Calgary: The Historical Society, 1927.
Pp. 8.)

Students of the advance by land to the Pacific coast have found great difficulty in identifying the route across the Rocky Mountains taken by any explorer or trader. To them this little pamphlet will be a vade-mecum. The author, a highly qualified topographical engineer, was for two years one of the commissioners for determining the Alberta-British Columbia boundary. He is thus enabled from personal experience and observation to work out the line followed by the early travellers. Most readers will be surprised to learn that there are sixty passes, good, bad, and indifferent, across the Rockies on the Alberta border. Of these, however, only eight or nine were ever used by white or red man. And amongst them two stand out, pre-eminent, the Howse Pass and the Athabaska Pass, both, forever, associated with the name of David Thompson—the one giving the first line of entry into the Columbian country and the other the regular route of travel, for over fifty years, to and from that region. Mr. Wallace has collected and collated the scattered information concerning these different passes. In dealing with the travellers he has indicated the general line of their routes and the passes by which they crossed. With the aid of this pamphlet anyone can follow intelligently the voyage of the Great Governor of the Great Company. Mr. Wallace believes that both the immigrants of 1841 and Warre and Vavasour crossed by way of Whiteman pass. Those British officers merely say that they passed through a defile in the Rocky Mountains in about 50° 30' north latitude. Father De Smet used, says Wallace, the same pass. The author seems to think that there was something suspicious in the Jesuit's journey across the mountains at that time. Every one must have been struck with the knowledge which the father had of the purpose of the visit of these officers: see *Missions de l'Oregon*, Cand, 1848, p. 73. On the first page occur two strange slips of the pen: the name "Skeena" appears twice; on the first occasion the name should be "Nass" and on the second it should be "Stikine."

F. W. HOWAY.

The Romance of British Columbia. By ARTHUR ANSTEY. (Toronto: W. J. Gage & Co., 1927. Pp. 216.)

This little volume is not, and does not pretend to be, a com-

plete history of British Columbia. The author has seized upon the romantic and picturesque in the story; the days of discovery and exploration; the adventurous and romantic life of the fur-trader in his posts and with the brigades as they sweep along the swift-flowing rivers towards the place of the "regale." He has succeeded in making the men whose names are written large in the record stand out as real living men; Cook and Vancouver, Mackenzie, Fraser, and Thompson are not names to the boy—for whom the book is primarily written; they are co-adventurers with whom it is pleasure to meet and overcome difficulties and dangers. Passing from the days of the fur-traders the author jumps over the arid region of political discussion and international dispute known as the Oregon question and alights on another period of adventure: the great gold excitements of the Fraser River and of Cariboo and the colorful life upon the Cariboo road. What is still left of romance he gathers up in the chapters upon the cities of Vancouver, Victoria, and New Westminster. The political changes and legislation are given some ten pages. The object is to make the reader feel the lure of the days of adventure—"th days of old, the days of gold"—to make the actors live and move, and have their being once more; and by an account, thrilling in its plainness, of the dangers they faced and overcame in the exploration and development to arouse deep and abiding interest in the story of the land. In this he has succeeded. The charming simplicity—with the exception of the first chapter—adds to the inherent attraction of the incidents recounted. The description of the brigades and the fort life are particularly well done; they have an atmosphere as real as that of Ballantyne. The book is wonderfully free of errors. A careful examination discloses none of any moment. It is tastefully and discriminately illustrated.

F. W. HOWAY.

The Cowboy and His Interpreters. By DOUGLAS BRANCH. (New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1926. Pp. 278. \$2.50.)

Douglas Branch in his book "The Cowboy and His Interpreters" presents to his readers the life of a cowboy as it actually existed. His work has been preceded by two quite well known books, Emerson Hough's "Story of the Cowboy," and Philip Ash-ton Rollins' "Cowboy." All three authors have attempted to make the American public see that the cowboy is something besides the type portrayed in the latest "thriller"; that the herding,