

Mackenzie of Canada. By M. S. WADE, M.D. (Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood & Sons, Ltd., 1927. Pp. 332. 15 shillings net. The American distributor, The Ryerson Press, Queen and John Streets, Toronto, Canada, and American price, postpaid, \$4.25.)

The author, Doctor M. S. Wade of Kamloops, British Columbia, outlines briefly the purpose of his work in the first paragraph of his Foreword as follows:

"Notwithstanding the romantic story of his life, and the tremendous importance of his achievements as a discoverer and explorer, to say nothing of his generosity and philanthropy as the Laird of Avoch, it is remarkable that no book has hitherto been published giving an account of the life and work of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. That omission this volume is intended to supply. From time to time accounts have been published of his activities, but most of these have been grossly inaccurate, more especially in respect to the early years of his life, while of his closing years practically nothing has been said."

As to his efforts to humanize the knowledge extant of the great explorer, Dr. Wade acknowledges the courtesy of Sir Alexander's descendants in their willingness to make available family records. While the author demonstrates the truth of his thesis as to the apparent neglect of the explorer's record in both the early and late periods of his life, he does not and could not demonstrate any lack of appreciation of Mackenzie's great work as revealed in his own famous book. *The Checklist of Pacific Northwest Americana* shows that, of the sixteen participating libraries, eight report copies of the 1801 edition of Mackenzie's book. These libraries are Library of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, Victoria; University of Oregon Library, Eugene; Library of the Oregon Historical Society, Portland; Library Association of Portland, Oregon; Seattle Public Library, Seattle; Tacoma Public Library, Tacoma; Washington State Library, Olympia; University of Washington Library, Seattle. Three of these libraries, as well as University of Montana Library, Missoula, have copies of the 1902 edition of the same book. A German and a French edition are also reported. A number of private collectors in the Pacific Northwest are also known to have copies of that highly prized volume.

In this case the greater measure of appreciation must be given for the newer or less known materials. These will be found in the first two and last two chapters and in the extended Notes

beginning at page 289. They do indeed extend our knowledge of Mackenzie the man. In accepting this statement it ought not to be inferred that the rest of Dr. Wade's volume is without use or merit. He has again produced the records of Mackenzie's discoveries and explorations. This he has done in a straightforward, easily followed style and with apparent effort toward complete accuracy. The volume will undoubtedly be warmly welcomed by collectors as a companion for Mackenzie's own book and even more should it be welcomed by those who do not own the original. Alexander Mackenzie was certainly one of the great explorers in North American history and Dr. Wade's volume is a worthy monument to his memory.

The Development of the Northwest. By MANSON F. BACKUS. (Seattle: Privately printed, 1927. Pp. 12.)

Mr. Backus surprised many of his friends by the evidence of wide reading revealed in this pamphlet. It comprises the text of an address delivered before the Sixteenth Annual Convention of the Investment Bankers' Association of America, in Seattle, September, 1927. The author was a Bank Cashier for eleven years and a Bank President for twenty-seven years, all in the City of Seattle. He came in the year that Washington attained statehood. In this address he gives historic background, a wealth of statistics and business facts, gracing the pages with apt poetical quotations. Mr. Backus ought not to rest content with this one effort in the realm of authorship.

The Hudson's Bay Company. By W. D. VINCENT. (Pullman: The State College of Washington, 1927. Pp. 34.)

"Contributions to the History of the Pacific Northwest," "Spokane Study Club, Series A." These items on the title-page indicate the birth of a new plan at the State College of Washington to stimulate the study and appreciation of local history. Mr. E. A. Bryan, former President and now Research Professor in Economics and Economic Science and History at the State College of Washington, in a prefatory statement, says that this paper on the Hudson's Bay Company is one of five such papers that will be published in Series A.

Mr. Vincent, a prominent banker in Spokane, has given much study to the long years of activity experienced by the "Great Company." He had evidently consulted many of the works on the subject and naturally was drawn toward the finances involved