

BOOK REVIEWS

A History of C. Brewer & Company, Limited, One Hundred Years in the Hawaiian Islands, 1826-1926. By JOSEPHINE SULLIVAN. (Honolulu: Privately, 1926. Pp. 193.)

Few, if any, firms in Western America or in American islands have had so long an existence. The pages of this book clearly shows the reason. From the days of its foundation partners to the present large board of officers and directors, the company has cherished its good name as its greatest asset. From the first it has been cooperative and constructive in its interesting community.

American missionaries settled in Honolulu in 1820. Before and since that date American traders, especially from Boston, have frequented the Islands. Old Massachusetts families and firms will welcome this book. So also, will many in the Pacific Northwest, where the pioneers once called Honolulu, the "Athens of the Pacific." They have had good schools in Hawaii since the Americans first began work there. The first printing press in the Pacific Northwest was brought as a gift from the missionaries in Honolulu to the missionaries in Oregon. It is still a prized relic in the Oregon Historical Society's Museum in Portland.

A valuable introduction to this book is from the pen of George R. Carter who was born in Honolulu on December 28, 1866. He graduated from Sheffield Scientific School, (Yale), in 1888 and then moved to Seattle. In a recent letter he says: "Those were the days of the 'wooden side-walk age', the formative period of Seattle and of my own character." On returning to Honolulu he entered upon a business career and spent a few years in public office. He was a member of the Hawaiian Senate from 1901 to 1903. From February to November in 1903 he was Secretary of Hawaii Territory and then served as Governor from 1903 to 1907. His name appears as a Director of C. Brewster & Company as early as 1896-1897 and almost continuously since then. His father, who was also born in Honolulu was an early partner and later a Director of the company. In fact, there seems to have been one or more Carters in the company for more than sixty years. George R. Carter is associated also with other companies and banks. From the beginning of the compilation of this volume he was deeply interested in it and

one of his most delightful experiences was a volunteer trip to Boston to gather material to be included in the book.

Readers will find here a wealth of information about the development of sandal-wood, sugar and other industries of Hawaii. It is a valuable addition to the growing historical literature of the Pacific Basin. The book is rather lavishly illustrated. The title-page and "Foreword" indicate that Miss Sullivan, the author, was assisted by Professor K. C. Leebrick of the University of Hawaii.

EDMOND S. MEANY.

The Constitutional Status and Government of Alaska. By GEORGE W. SPICER. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1927. Pp. 121. \$1.25.)

Im Wunderland Alaska. By AUGUSTA ENDERS-SCHICHANOWSKY. (Leipzig: Dieter ' ische Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1926, Pp. 208. Rm 6.)

Rowdy. By ROBERT J. DIVEN. (New York: The Century Company, Pp. 220. \$1.75.)

Dr. Spicer has furnished a new study of Alaska from the administrative point of view. He aims to show how government and law in that Territory have been and are now being administered. He shows that the present agencies for the enforcement of law in Alaska are diffused among various departments and suggests that all of these agencies should be consolidated under the Department of Justice. The welfare of Alaska, in his judgment, would be enhanced by the extension of wider power to the Territorial Legislature. The first chapter entitled "The Acquisition of Alaska" is historical in character and makes acknowledgment of the use of articles by Dr. F. A. Golder in the *American Historical Review* and Mr. Victor J. Farrar in the *Washington Historical Quarterly*.

Im Wunderland Alaska is the account of travel and residence in Alaska by a German woman, an artist. The book contains a description of the country with some observations upon the people and a narrative of the author's experiences. Eight plates of views and a map add to the interest of the work.

A third book recently received is a story pure and simple of *Rowdy*, an Alaskan dog. The author has long lived in the North and knows both dogs and men. The book may prove of interest to collectors of books on Alaska but is not intended for historical students.

CHARLES W. SMITH