

The Northwest Fur Trade, 1763-1800. By WAYNE EDSON STEVENS. (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1928. Pp. 204.)

The Fur Trade of Canada. By H. A. INNES. (Toronto: University of Toronto Library, 1927. Pp. 172.)

The first of these two books, written by Wayne Edson Stevens as the required thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Illinois, is an attempt to extend the scope of study regarding the northwest fur trade beyond the restrictions of picturesque activities and to consider this subject in its economic and diplomatic aspects. Geographically, Mr. Stevens deals with that historically wealthy territory drained by the Great Lakes and the upper Mississippi. Admitting the impossibility to place definite chronological limits on any study of the fur trade, the author confines himself but loosely to the period between 1763 and 1800.

The author makes an effort to show the influence of "big business" and monopolistic competition during this particular period, as shown by such chapter headings as "The Period of Transition," "The Revolution and the Fur Trade," "Big Business and the Treaty of 1783," "Expansion and Monopoly, 1783-1800;" "The Organization of the Fur Trade," and "The Diplomatic Settlement." The work is a scholarly discourse involving considerable research among original and published sources. The bibliography lists some 134 titles.

Of an entirely different nature is the second of these books. Dr. Innes' work is the result of an experiment undertaken to meet the needs of a newly organized course in commerce at the University of Toronto. It is the first part of a complete study of the fur trade, and is largely descriptive of the modern trade. Amply supplemented with charts and statistics, the work discusses current problems of fur production, prices and marketing,—undoubtedly of great help to those economically concerned.

We await with interest the forthcoming publication of the history of the fur trade, by this same authority, Dr. Innes.

EDMOND S. MEANY, JR.

A History of American Life. Edited by ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER and DIXON RYAN FOX. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1927. Four volumes now published, \$4.00 each.)

The First Americans, 1607-1690. By THOMAS JEFFERSON WERTENBAKER. (Volume II. in the series. Pp. 358.)