

the University of Pennsylvania, who was accepted as one of the greatest Americans working in the field of vertebrate paleontology, manifested keen interest in Condon's Oregon discoveries. He urged further investigations and more work of collecting. Similar enthusiasm and urgings were voiced by such high authorities as Professor O. C. Marsh of Yale; Joseph Henry and Spencer F. Baird, Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Edward D. Cope, Corresponding Secretary of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences; Arnold Hague, of the United States Geological Survey; J. S. Newberry, Professor of Geology of Columbia University. Professor Condon's replies to these and other correspondents show how earnestly he accepted such encouragements from eminent sources and, furthermore, they reveal how eager he was to credit soldiers, prospectors and other Oregonians who brought him fossils and specimens for study and classification. The editor has linked with these letters chapters drawn from family records and family memories. The whole is a fascinating and romantic story of an evolution from the slender beginnings in boyhood to the great achievements of ripened manhood in a field so fundamental to all other branches of knowledge. No one interested in the Pacific Northwest can afford to neglect this charming and useful book.

EDMOND S. MEANY

Homer in the Sagebrush. By JAMES STEVENS. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1928. Pp. 313. \$2.50).

James Stevens' new book, a collection of short stories that appeared separately in the *Adventure Magazine* and the *American Mercury*, will appeal to those who enjoyed *Brawnyman*. Ranch men from the sagebrush country, woodsmen and mill workers of the coast, miners, teamsters, fishermen of the days before motors replaced the sails on the Columbia, move again through the Northwest of thirty years ago.

Mr. Stevens understands the migratory worker, and portrays him with sympathy and with touches of satire and humor. Most of the stories are unmarred by sentimentality. One feels that the author really captures the viewpoint of the man in the mackinaw whose "calked boots scrunched the wet boards" carrying him to his Christmas celebration in Aberdeen; the Astoria fisherman so schooled by toil that he feels no adventurous thrill at his

escape from being swept out to death in the fog, over the bar of the great river; the young hobo plunged in dissatisfaction with himself and his times, by his discovery of what he styles the "grand and glorious" life of Cellini.

The story that gives the collection its name, is hardly the outstanding one. Rather does "Three Bartenders" deserve that distinction. They might have emerged from the pages of O. Henry.

OLIVE SWAIN

Valiant La Verendrye. By IRENE MOORE. (Quebec: L.S.-A. Proulx, King's Printer, 1927. Pp. 384).

During the last few years students of Western American history have observed a real and fascinating character emerging out of the gloom of contention and the maze of uncertainty. Probably the greatest stimulus in this process was furnished by the Great Northern Railway Company's Upper Missouri Historical Expedition of 1925. Monuments were reared and the accompanying ceremonies were heralded in the public press. A railway station was named Verendrye in North Dakota. More than these, translations of the Verendrye journals were published in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* for June, 1925, reprinted in a beautiful pamphlet by the Great Northern Railway Company and freely given to teachers and others interested. The first of these journals by the elder La Verendrye had been translated by Douglas Brymner, Archivist, and published as an appendix to the Report of the Minister of Agriculture, at Ottawa in 1889. The other journal, by Verendrye's sons, was translated from the French in the Margry Papers by Anne H. Blegen, of the Minnesota Historical Society. These journals were preceded by a charming story of the Verendrye explorations from the pen of Grace Flandreau. Another publication by the Great Northern Railway Company was a tiny pamphlet, about two by three inches, carrying on the covers a picture of the metal plate discovered in the ground near Pierre, South Dakota, on February 16, 1913. That tablet cleared up some of the mystery surrounding the supposed route of the Verendryes. Ambassador Jusser and translated it and commented on its real meaning. It was discussed in the *South Dakota Historical Collections*, Volume VII, pages 374-378, (1914).

La Verendrye was less neglected in Canada and especially