

*When the West Is Gone.* By FREDERIC L. PAXSON. (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1930. Pp. 137. \$2.00.)

*Westward; The Romance of the American Frontier.* By E. DOUGLAS BRANCH. (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1930. Pp. 627. \$5.00.)

*The Overland Trail; The Epic Path of the Pioneers to Oregon.* By AGNES C. LAUT. (New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company, 1929. Pp. 358. \$3.50.)

The literature of the West is growing in variety as well as in amount. The titles grouped above serve to show variety in the publications of the past year.

Professor Paxson disclaims a wish to prophesy the future of the United States yet he ventures to peer around the curtain to see what may be in store for a country where the old formative conditions have gone. Until now the mainsprings of our action has been a safe remoteness and the open frontier. With the closed frontier, a new set of conditions have arrived. Viewing these new conditions, Professor Paxson says: "Shall we fall in step with Europe, and develop a proletariat insistent upon control, or are we to continue with that openness of interest and chance that makes citizenship superior to class?" *When the West is Gone* gives a philosophic consideration to this question and arrives at a hopeful conclusion.

Mr. Branch has relegated to the rear those problems which concern the philosopher or the scientific historian. His story is a popular comprehensive account of the Westward march across the continent. His concern is chiefly with men and women, not with policies or principles. He has written a swift moving narrative picturing every phase of life on the frontier. Although written in popular style, the work appears to be accurate and based upon reputable authorities as shown in his concluding "Notes on Materials." The volume is supplied with illustrations and maps and certainly merits a place in every library of Western history.

*The Overland Trail* by Agnes Laut is a glorified guide book suitable for reading by tourists on the train. It has been produced by throwing together incident, fact and fancy. The historical fact basis is greatly diluted and the style is feverish. Apparently the author has attempted to stimulate jaded appetites of tired travellers. The book appears to have been written primarily from the commercial standpoint.