

*Henry Villard and the Railways of the Northwest.* By JAMES BLAINE HEDGES. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1930. Pp. 224. \$3.00.)

The author is Professor of American History in Clark University. While he was a graduate student at Harvard, the Widener Library had received the Henry Villard papers from the family. An opportunity was thus opened for researches that would add a fine chapter to the history of railroading and, indirectly, of the Pacific Northwest. The present book shows that Professor Hedges has taken advantage of the opportunity with both topics.

In addition to an historical introduction there are eight chapters with the following headings: Railway Beginnings in the Oregon Country, The Fight for a Transcontinental, The Blind Pool, The Ascendancy of Villard, Promoting Settlement, Building the Cascade Branch, Joint Lease and Controversy, Controversy and Agreement.

Those titles comprise a syllabus of the entire book. The Bibliographical Note and more especially the footnotes reveal the wide range of the study in newspapers, magazines and secondary authorities. The choice primary sources are the telegrams and letters found in the Villard papers, cited carefully in the footnotes and treated as a collection in the Bibliographical Note.

As to the Pacific Northwest, Oregon receives by far the greatest amount of attention but the author has not neglected Washington. The early railroad struggles are discussed relating to Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, Walla Walla and the Inland Empire. One illuminating section (pages 151 to 154) treats of the so-called "Orphan Road" between Tacoma and Seattle, where he quotes from telegrams and letters from Seattle's Mayor Thomas T. Minor and Charles H. Kittinger, Secretary of the Seattle Board of Trade on the occasion of Mr. Villard's return to a control of the Northern Pacific Railway in September, 1887. Mayor Minor's telegram was as follows: "Four years ago today the citizens of Seattle had the pleasure of receiving you and your friends. Our confidence and faith in you have never faltered and tonight, with illuminations, cannon and universal rejoicing we are celebrating your return to the Directorate of the Northern Pacific." When answering, Mr. Villard promised fair treatment and asked Seattle "to have faith and be patient."

The book abounds in such intimate references to the railroad history of that time.