

BOOK REVIEWS

Jason Lee, Prophet of the New Oregon. By CORNELIUS J. BROSNAN, Professor of American History, University of Idaho. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1932. Pp. 348. \$3.00.)

The beginning of definite missionary activities among the Indians of the Pacific Northwest will come to its centennial in 1934. The advance guard of these churchmen came under the leadership of Jason Lee, sent out by the Methodist Episcopal Church. The trail into old Oregon went through southern Idaho. The author of this timely biography makes a sincere approach to his fascinating task.

Professor Brosnan is favorably known for his text "The History of Idaho." He here gives us the first text on the missionary work of Jason Lee from the standpoint of a schoolman not connected with the church that sponsored the original Flathead Mission. This slant of an outsider shows a freshness to be welcomed and adds a distinct contribution to Oregoniana.

Much documentary material hitherto accessible only in the original form or through the kind offices of historical journals is here brought forward in 348 pages of condensed study. Many federal records were traced, church and newspaper accounts were dug into, and many private letters give their secrets of the personal lives of the missionary colonizers. This text avoids the controversial tinge that marked the earlier books on Lee, Marcus Whitman and the Catholic fathers who joined in bettering the condition of the red tribes of the far-away Pacific Northwest.

In his Preface the author places himself under greatest obligation to the library material found in the University of California and Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, placing first the Bancroft Library, whose Director, Dr. Herbert E. Bolton, advised the thesis as most suitable to his seminar student. Doctor Brosnan confines himself to sorting out suitable passages for his readers to form their own conclusions, while he seems quite content to arrange the facts in a close-fitting volume on this too little known character.

The publishers are to be commended for producing an attractive volume, suitable for public libraries. There is a wealth of footnote information of value to students seeking the unfamiliar threads of this fascinating story of the beginnings in the Americanization of a distant and valuable section. Westward moving federal govern-

ment, the influx of settlers, and other romantic features are interwoven to bring into better light this prophet of the new Oregon.

Fourteen chapters tell the story of Jason Lee's ancestry, his youth, his call and his sacrificial labors; the Flathead deputation, Hudson's Bay activities, the rush of immigration and the struggle for protective government. A retrospect includes, "Lee's vision of Oregon's future was prophetic and reveals a statesman's grasp and foresight." Nine several Appendices provide side glimpses into some of the delicate situations of the period, on land disputes, federal inspections, secret service funds, Lee's will, his removal and his Stanstead home.

Now that the founding of American institutions in old Oregon is receiving larger attention this book will be sought for its fair and balanced record of the days of beginnings.

JOHN M. CANSE.

President Pacific Northwest Conference Historical Society, Methodist Episcopal Church.

Metternich. By ARTHUR HERMAN. (New York: Century Co., 1932. Pp. 370. \$5.00.)

Biographies in English of this great diplomatic genius of a century ago are not numerous. Mr. Herman has done a real service in writing this study of the man who did more than anyone else to dam up the flood of liberalism and democracy in Europe from 1815 to 1848. It is essentially a popular biography, but it is by no means unworthy of the attention of serious students. The usual prejudices of liberals are notably absent—in itself almost enough to recommend the book. Metternich has not fared well at the hands of liberals, and it is refreshing to find a biographer who has made a real attempt to understand and appreciate him, and who does not regard the idols of the democratic market-place as the only ones worthy of veneration.

C. E. QUAINTON.

Fort Hall On the Oregon Trail. By JENNIE BROUGHTON BROWN. (Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1932 Pp. 466. \$2.50.)

Fort Hall was established by Nathaniel J. Wyeth in 1834. The approaching centennial anniversary of the important outpost of civilization gives a peculiar timeliness to this book. It is dedicated: "To the Wyeth and Old Fort Hall Chapters of the Daughters of