

## BOOK REVIEWS

*America in the Pacific.* By FOSTER RHEA DULLES. (Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1932. Pp. xiii+299. \$3.50.)

The latest contribution of Mr. Dulles to the story of American activities in the Pacific may be considered as a continuation of his previous work in the field represented by *The Old China Trade* and *Eastward Ho*. Some readers will find the title misleading, for this is far from a complete account of American interests in the Pacific area. In this book, Dulles is primarily concerned with factors and events which culminated in the acquisition by the United States of territory bordering upon or surrounded by the Pacific Ocean. The extension of American control to Oregon, California, Alaska, Samoa, Hawaii, and the Philippines is discussed, and one chapter entitled "Perry Forecasts the Future" outlines the imperial aspirations of Commodore Perry and Commissioner Peter Parker.

Dulles views our territorial expansion to the Pacific in the middle of the century and across that ocean fifty years later as an answer to a national desire for some tangible expression of our manifest destiny as a continental and later as a world power. Little mention is made of American economic or cultural contacts with the Far East. Dulles is not unaware of the significance of economic factors or the movement of population, but a somewhat doubtful proportioning of space has permitted less emphasis upon traders, missionaries, and settlers than upon such early prophets of expansion as Benton, Floyd, and Baylies, or Seward, Perry, and Parker. A similar disparity occurs when the author, after recognizing the great importance of "the increasing emigration to the coast" in the early forties (p. 44), dismisses that migration in a page but devotes an entire chapter to the negotiations of 1846 with Great Britain and the War with Mexico. There is no suggestion that the conciliatory attitude of the British government in 1846 was prompted by the growing American population in Oregon.

Despite the occasional use of a questionable expression (e.g., "died a-borning," p. 44; "the Massachusetts Solon," p. 89), the style is pleasing and the story moves rapidly without sacrificing clarity. There are numerous judgments upon issues and events, not all of which will pass unchallenged. It is of doubtful accuracy

to say that "from 1820 to 1848 we hear again and again" of Oregon in Congressional debates (p. 3); some critics will be surprised to read that public interest in the control of the Pacific was responsible for popular support of the westward movement (p. 38); the characterization of Manley Hopkins as the "least prejudiced" commentator upon Hawaiian development (p. 144) is open to question; and it is scarcely apparent that during Grant's administration Samoa "had a magnetic influence upon Washington" (p. 106). Other equally confident statements will be questioned by the critical reader. It is generally free from serious misstatement of fact, but the assertion that Americans constituted "a large majority in the popular legislature" of Hawaii in 1851 (p. 155) is an unfortunate error. The quotation from Warriner (p. 146, n. 24) is so taken from its context as to give a meaning not justified by a reading of the original text. A few words are misspelled, including Merck for Merk and Lew Chew for the more familiar Loo Choo. Professor Ralph S. Kuykendall is most certainly not "a native historian" (p. 169) of Hawaii.

Mr. Dulles has drawn upon nearly all of the important secondary works which would be useful for this study, but in some instances his familiarity with his sources is uncertain because of his habit of citing references as quoted from other printed works (e.g., ch. 1, note 7; ch. 12, n. 1; ch. 14, n. 22). He has also made good use of the most important printed Congressional documents dealing with the subjects considered in this book, but there is no evidence that he has consulted any unpublished material.

Mr. Dulles has given us a survey of American expansion for which there is at present no comparable study. It is readable and generally accurate. Its judgments are more numerous than profound and the proportioning of space will appear to many readers as difficult of justification, but it is a valuable contribution to a phase of our history which for too long has been largely neglected.

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- The Eagle's Gift; Alaska Eskimo Tales.* By KNUD RASMUSSEN. (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Doran, 1932. Pp. 235. \$2.50.)
- Totem Tales.* By WARREN E. CRANE. (New York: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1932. Pp. 95. \$1.00.)
- Redskin and Pioneer; Brave Tales of the Great Northwest.* By J. NEILSON BARRY and HY MAX BARR. (New York: Rand, McNally, 1932. Pp. 244. \$1.00.)