

BOOK REVIEWS

A General History of Oregon. Vol. 1. By CHARLES H. CAREY.
(Portland, Oregon: The Metropolitan Press, 1935. Pp. 416.
\$3.50.)

Out of his strenuous life as corporation commissioner for the State of Oregon, not to mention multifarious other duties of a private and public nature, Charles H. Carey has found time, heaven knows how, to rewrite his *History of Oregon*. Volume I is now ready and the second and final installment will be released in the fall. From the standpoint of both the student and the casual reader, a mere reprint of the original work, long out of print, would have been most welcome. But Judge Carey has gone further—he has condensed, rephrased and modernized his earlier text to such an extent that his publishers are entirely justified in hailing it as “an original work.”

Although it will not be possible to inspect the extensive bibliography the author has utilized in the preparation of *A General History of Oregon* until the release of the second volume, it is quite obvious, both from the nature of that part of the text now available and from the illuminating notes included at the back, that much new material has been unearthed. Judge Carey has availed himself of the ever growing gold mine of information contained in the Historical Society Quarterlies of Washington and Oregon and he has pressed into useful service, also, such authentic and revealing works as Professor Frederick Merk's recently published *Journal of George Simpson*, Henry R. Wagner's two volumes on the early Spanish explorations in this section and Fred Wilbur Powell's *Hall J. Kelley on Oregon* among others. The author is to be congratulated upon his industry in searching out, from sources far more obscure than the obvious ones just mentioned, the wherewithal to make his present project the last word on the amazing story of Oregon.

From the point of view of style, this story is told in a frank, unbiased and straightforward manner and, in this respect, it differs widely, in the opinion of this reviewer, from the rank and file of historical treatises on the Pacific Northwest. It is not a popular study in the ordinarily accepted sense of that perhaps overworked term for it scrupulously avoids the customary pitfalls—glossing over controversial issues, over-dramatizing personalities and events and giving undue emphasis to any one phase. In a much finer way it makes

its bid for popularity by providing a concise but complete treatment, by maintaining a neatly balanced presentation of all the facts and, perhaps most important of all, by adhering steadfastly to an ordered and chronological advance through the kaleidoscopic maze of complex happenings.

Volume I carries the story of Oregon forward from the earliest explorations in this vicinity, through the periods of fur trading, missionary activity, settlement and early government, on up to the year 1846 which marked the retirement of Dr. John McLoughlin from the Hudson's Bay Company as well as the joint arrivals of Lieutenants Park and Peel on behalf of the British government and of Lieutenant Neil M. Howison on behalf of the United States. The second volume will carry on from this point and will bring the story of Oregon up to the year 1861, the time beyond which there scarcely exists, as yet, a need for formal history.

A General History of Oregon, Volume I, has been generously provided with some sixteen artistically reproduced illustrations, some of them from the author's earlier work and some of them new. The end papers reveal both the Oregon Trail and the route of Lewis and Clark superimposed upon a carefully constructed map of the early western country. A number of the illustrations are reproductions of interesting early western maps from Judge Carey's collection which is considered one of the most complete in existence. Typographically, the book is a splendid example of the printer's art—in that regard, the completed set will take its place among the most attractive volumes of Americana.

As a crowning achievement, rising from the exacting demands of a busy and useful life, *A General History of Oregon* will live, in my judgment, as a worthy monument to Charles H. Carey for many years to come. And, what is more, it will survive as a comprehensive document that combines accurate history with pleasing narration—an accomplishment long anticipated.

RICHARD G. MONTGOMERY

The Archaeology of Cook Inlet, Alaska. By FREDERICA DE LAGUNA, with a chapter on skeletal material by BRUNO OETTING. (5 text figures. The University Museum, Philadelphia, 1934. 263 pp., 72 plates. \$3.00.)

Dr. de Laguna's report is based on two seasons of intensive excavating in Kachemak Bay, Southwestern Cook Inlet, supplemented by a survey of the entire Inlet shoreline. Her material shows that