

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

the Athabaskan Indians are recent immigrants to this region, and that the earlier inhabitants possessed the Eskimo dog and an Eskimo-like culture. Implements from the earliest or First period are of a simple, generalized Eskimo type; they show the greatest resemblance to the oldest stage of the "Thule Culture," the prehistoric culture of the East Canadian Arctic classified by the Danish archaeologist Mathiassen.

During the Second and Third periods the Kachemak Bay culture becomes more complex and more specialized, partly due to local development, partly because of Indian and Asiatic contacts. Sawing and polishing replace chipping as the predominant stone-working technique; the semi-subterranean house of stone and whalebone gives way to a semi-subterranean structure of wood; art undergoes a rich development, especially in the portrayal of human features; the Eskimo dog declines in numbers and the Plains Indian type of dog, closely related to the coyote, makes its appearance. Native copper objects and fragments of pottery are found at the end of the Third period. Overlaying this are the cultural remains of the modern Athabaskans.

An interesting fact disclosed by analysis of ash from hidden hearths is that the ancient inhabitants burned lignite from nearby deposits. Together with the Aleuts of the Alaskan peninsula they were the only prehistoric Americans we know of who used coal.

The author finds many elements from the Third period paralleled in the culture of the Salish Indians of Washington and British Columbia, although they are unknown to the intervening tribes. This would seem to indicate that the peculiar civilization of the modern natives of Southeastern Alaska and Northern British Columbia is a recent development. A simpler culture must once have existed in this area, one much like the cultures still existing to the north and south. There are also some parallels between Kachemak Bay and Kamchatka, and even more between the Aleut and Kamchatka. Whether these are due to direct contact between Asia and the Aleutians, as Dr. de Laguna believes, cannot be stated positively without more field work.

Both the author and the University Museum are to be congratulated on this work which is well presented and splendidly illustrated. It definitely upsets an old idea of many American anthropologists—the idea that archaeological work in the humid North Pacific area can give but meager results.

NORMAN REYNOLDS