

Canadian Books

The Cruellest Month. By ERNEST BUCKLER. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1963. Pp. 298. \$6.50.

In ten years of reviewing Canadian fiction, the most important single event for me was the appearance in 1952 of Ernest Buckler's *The Mountain and the Valley*. This was, above all, a novel in depth; not, as most Canadian novels tended to be, a skimming of the surface of life, or a journalistic report of events and people, or a sentimental pastiche; but rather a reflective, poetic exploration of the human mind and soul under duress. After such a long period, the appearance of a second novel is a major event. I am happy to report that it is an event in the widest possible significance of the word, for *The Cruellest Month* is, like the first novel, an important book and an addition to our literature.

One must begin by saying that *The Cruellest Month* will not have the immediate appeal that *The Mountain and the Valley* had. In a sense, Buckler's first book was the novel that every man is said to contain within himself. Although it was not autobiographical, it did not stray far from the experience that the writer had felt and proved on his pulses. Sophisticated in technique and delicate and subtle in style, it was about simple and uncomplicated human beings in a simple and uncomplicated society. It was a novel about a period not far removed from the present in years, and yet in tone and texture of another era. The era is thus beautifully described by one of the characters in *The Cruellest Month*:

That was a different time in every way. The whole settlement lived in a kind of eternal and unaging present then. The trees and the fields no less than the people. There were no specialized and worldly knowledges to put one man ahead of the other. There was no ghost from the outmoding future then, to cast its shadow on the present and corrode it like a machine. There was no consciousness in anyone or anything, not even in the rocks, of Time's outmoding its very self. All things lived on the plain of a replete and self-renewing now, which stayed as young to the adult as it did to the child.

This passage contains the reflections of the one character in the new novel whose links are most clearly with the society of *The Mountain and the Valley*. The other char-

acters, with the exception of one study in robust and healthy primitivism, come from outside the early society, and are, by comparison, intensely sophisticated. Three of them are Americans: a sardonic and embittered writer of worldly novels; a girl reared in the opulent gentility of the American East, but mercifully uncontaminated by her upbringing; her husband, of obscure lineage, with a physical grace unmarked by the slow stain of thought. There are three Canadians: a young man whose roots go deep into rural Nova Scotia society; an attractive spinster, the only daughter of a Dalhousie professor; and the central unifying character in the novel, a man who has breasted many experiences throughout the world, always emerging with a philosophic and humorous sense of acceptance.

A catalogue of the characters in the novel indicates the kind of complex problem that Buckler has set for himself, for most of the characters call for preliminary explanation and background material. They do not spring naturally into life, as did the characters in *The Mountain and the Valley*. But Buckler reduces the necessity for elaborate explanatory detail by bringing his characters together in an isolated Nova Scotian farmhouse situated, one suspects, not very far from the mountain and the valley of the first novel. The owner of the farmhouse is the philosophic adventurer who accepts only those guests who seek out his latter-day Walden. The main action of the book takes place during a period in April when awakening nature underlines awakening emotions. Each of the characters comes with a heavy burden: Paul, the owner, with a consciousness of the imminence of death; Kate, the spinster, with the memory of a beloved father's agonizing death-bed; Sheila, the socialite, and her wastrel husband, with a sense of the dwindling of their love; Morse, the novelist, with the conviction of failure and intellectual impotence; Bruce, the young farmer aspiring to be a doctor, with a corroding sense of guilt in the accident that has taken the life of his wife and child. In the permutations and combinations of emotion there are no startlingly overt events: Sheila and Bruce fall in love with each other and experience a brief, ecstatic passion; Paul returns from a check-up in Montreal more than ever conscious of the shadow of death; Rex, with a clumsy, infantile bravado, attempts suicide, fails dismally, and recovers the love of his estranged wife. In the final scene there is a literal ordeal by fire, which resolves doubts and despairs and brings the action to a calm and cleansing conclusion.

In one sense this is a study in the various kinds of love between men and women. Although there are passages descriptive of physical love, some of them rising to heights of erotic lyricism, this is not a novel about the sweet mysteries of the flesh. Buckler is not writing about love as a release, or a triumph, but about love as a stubborn fact of human existence, no less restricting and confining than any other experience, love as "the characterized face of stoicism". In *The Mountain and the Valley* Buckler was concerned with the binding effect of the family despite the external sense of divisiveness and tension. In a sense he has returned to this theme in his new novel, but in a more complex and involved fashion; for the family of *The Mountain and the Valley* was a biological unit,

bound together by ties of consanguinity and habit; the family of *The Cruellest Month* is one where the ties are those of suffering and understanding.

The theme, then, is an unusual and rich one, but it is not one calculated to arouse an instantaneous response from the reader, or to carry him along triumphantly in its wake. Moreover, the prose, which in the first novel could be at times tortuous and difficult, has become far more complex, intense, and involved. The pursuit of the microscopic detail has become an obsession, and often brings the flow of the narrative to a halt. It is, none the less, the kind of obsession that great writers have. Buckler expresses his own apologia in these words that he gives to Morse, the novelist:

Granted that with the microscope your tool you engraved no more than a single comma of infinity on the head of a pin, how much better did the telescope serve you? What good was a bloody relief map if half the truth was in a blade of grass? When every damn thing in the world was *sui generis*? What good was an *outline* of the heart if the infinite subdivisions of human feeling defied the microscope even?

One has the feeling that this is a novel written with the heart's blood, in constant fear that the vision may suddenly flee. The words of Buckler's fictional character become, one feels, the author's own *cri du coeur*:

Did she want to know what that was like . . . what it was like when a writer wasn't writing? The solid in you separated from the liquid, to form that paralytic guy sitting on your guts. And then you found they'd cut the cords on the little hammock that held your brain up and your brain had slipped down below your eyes. They'd cut your heel cords too and the hammock strings under your heart and they'd taken the balls out of your voice. The only thing they hadn't cut was the one nerve that smoulders when you watch yourself sitting helpless on your own guts. . . . You were like one of those *days* that have no talent—that you try to drink away or sleep away but keep awaking to, dead sober. You couldn't force yourself to write. You could prop the words up on the page, yes; but they wouldn't join hands. You knew the minute you put the paper away each letter in every word dropped down as dead as the spaces between them. That's what it was like when a writer wasn't writing.

The Cruellest Month represents an inevitable stage in the development of an artist. The first novel had the fluidity and lyric grace of autobiography. The structure was determined by the simple flow of events, and a strong emotional appeal was gained by a deep immersion in the consciousness of a central figure. The new novel is carefully, elaborately, and a bit stiffly constructed. The centre of interest shifts rapidly from one character to another, and there is no strong centre. Something of the spirit of the novel is perhaps unconsciously revealed by the frequent use of mathematical metaphors to record the movement of emotions. All this, however, is the price that the artist pays for his attempt to escape from the terrible fluidity of confession. One feels that the poetry

and the vision so beautifully captured in the first novel have not been completely captured in the second. But they are always hard by, waiting to surrender utterly to the subtlest sensibility of contemporary Canadian prose fiction.

University of Toronto

CLAUDE BISSELL

New Brunswick: A History, 1784-1867. By W. S. MACNUTT. Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1963. Pp. xv, 496. \$8.50.

After twelve years of research and writing, Professor MacNutt has produced the first comprehensive history of New Brunswick to be published since 1909, and the first to be based upon thorough research both in Britain and in Canada.

Every reader will be fascinated by the amazing collection of individuals—governors, public officers, ecclesiastics, merchants, and political figures—who flitted across the New Brunswick stage between 1783 and 1867. In the early history of the province there was the clever and aggressive Scot, James Glenie, who had taken out a contract to supply masts for the navy, who felt that the Carleton family would be the ruin of British America, and who, in his capacity as public tribune, would “accept as an ally any man who carried a grievance.” In the 1820’s there came as Commissioner of Crown Lands, Thomas Baillie, who, because of his connexions in Britain, was reported to have more say about New Brunswick at the Colonial Office than even the Colonial Secretary himself, who was to be “New Brunswick’s *enfant terrible*, the most hated and most powerful figure in the politics of the province,” and who, because he could introduce policies affecting the commercial well-being of the province without reference to any provincial authority, “over-shadowed even the lieutenant-governor in capacity for good and evil.” In 1829 there appeared as the vice-president and first principal of newly-established King’s College, Dr. Edwin Jacob, who brought from Oxford “the clear conviction that classical literature and moral philosophy were essential subjects of study in new countries”, who declined to recognize in any way the political changes of the next three decades, and who, after King’s College had become the University of New Brunswick by provincial statute, was evicted from the premises he occupied by the use of skeleton keys. These are but a sample of the “characters” who influenced provincial development for better or worse.

As the Preface indicates, the theme of the book is largely political, but at the same time it elaborates in detail the relation between the political history of the province on the one hand, and its economic, social, and religious history on the other. In particular it shows the intimate connexion between conditions in the timber trade and provincial prosperity. Professor MacNutt also succeeds in his second aim of bringing New Brunswick “more notably into the broader stream of Canadian history.” As a result, his work will be especially welcomed by anyone interested in a comparative study of the evolution of political institutions in the pre-Confederation provinces. Most readers will be surprised that even

after the British government was prepared to concede the principles of responsible government, the New Brunswick Assemblymen were uncertain whether to endorse them. Professor MacNutt reports that the debate of February 24, 1848, on a resolution to approve responsible government was "a blithe affair, and only a die-hard group of eleven 'country' members voted against it, provoking merriment rather than serious concern." But acceptance of the resolution had little practical meaning because of the New Brunswick brand of particularism, which was far more pronounced than that found in the adjoining provinces. It had led to complete indiscipline on the part of the Assemblymen, and in 1848 New Brunswick possessed nothing remotely resembling genuine political parties.

Not only were the institutions needed to work responsible government lacking; any strongly felt need for its adoption was also missing. The New Brunswick citizenry measured the goodness of government by the appropriations which were devoted to local public works, particularly roads and bridges, and for many years the general revenues of the province had been under the complete control of the elected House. The Assembly first appointed a committee of appropriation consisting of one member from each county to divide the available monies among the constituencies; then the members for each county apportioned their allotment to specific projects, jobs, and individuals. "The member of the house of assembly thus became a miniature prime minister or chancellor of the exchequer for his own constituency or particular section of it." Under these circumstances neither the Assemblyman nor his constituents were anxious to introduce an innovation which might disturb a favourable *status quo*. It required altogether extraordinary circumstances before the first real parties made their appearance in 1854, and another two years before the Assembly reluctantly agreed to transfer the initiative in money votes to the executive.

The reviewer noted several factual errors in the treatment of Nova Scotian affairs. Nova Scotia was at no time blessed with an elective legislative council (p. 363); Joseph Howe did not participate in the Portland Convention which approved the idea of the European and North American railway (p. 335). Several references to Howe's break with his Catholic supporters (especially p. 378) indicate that the author is not aware of the background of the religious strife which occurred in Nova Scotia after 1857.

Now that Professor MacNutt has given us an authoritative and probably the definitive account of New Brunswick before 1867, is it to be hoped, despite the difficulties he sets forth in his Preface, that he will become the historian of post-Confederation New Brunswick.

The Pioneer Farmer and Backwoodsman. By EDWIN C. GUILLET. Toronto: The University of Toronto Press and The Ontario Publishing Co. Ltd., 1963. 2 vols. Pp. xxvii, 343; xiii, 390. \$20.00.

Probably more than any other Canadian historian, Edwin Guillet has devoted his efforts to writing local history. For over thirty years he has explored archives, read old newspapers, examined county records, and gathered photographs and illustrations of pioneer life, seeking information about the people who built the province in which he was born. Probably only J. G. MacGregor in Alberta approaches, not equals, Dr. Guillet in his industry and in the number of his published works.

Dr. Guillet's field of historical endeavour has been Upper Canada. When he published his first book, *Early Life in Upper Canada*, he produced something unique in Canada, in terms of the material covered and the thoroughness with which the author dealt with his subject. *The Canadian Historical Review* remarked at the time that the author had displayed "a degree of enthusiastic and unremitting research attained by no previous writer on these subjects". The same remark could be made again, with truth, by any reviewer writing about Dr. Guillet's latest effort, *The Pioneer Farmer and Backwoodsman*. These two volumes, handsomely attired and boxed by the University of Toronto Press, are marked by the same qualities of diligence, industry, generous quotations, and numerous illustrations evident in Dr. Guillet's earlier books.

If there is one thing to which this reviewer would seriously object about *The Pioneer Farmer and Backwoodsman*, it is the title. It is far too inclusive. This book could, without detracting from its many admirable features, be more fittingly called *The Pioneer Farmer in Upper Canada*. Such a title would, it is true, bear a close resemblance to that of Dr. Guillet's first book; but it would be more accurate description, nonetheless. The author does not reach into the *Ancien Régime*, nor does he extend the sweep of his research to the provinces outside Ontario.

This is not to suggest that the present book is just a working-over of the earlier book. Admittedly it covers much the same period in time (the final chapter on "the modern farmer" could, I believe, have been omitted without serious loss to the book); but the emphasis is different, the details are different, and the illustrations are different. In these fact-packed volumes the reader will find chapters on the transatlantic emigration; the wigwam, shanty and log house; food and clothing, implements and tools, diseases and remedies, inns and taverns, bees, courting and "sparking", sports, pioneer societies, schools, churches, fences, farm buildings; what and how to sow, plant and harvest; how to raise stock, make things for the household out of wood, hides, and wool; early recipes, and what have you during those years between the arrival of the Loyalists and the coming of Confederation. The reader is not likely to sit down and read this book as he would a novel or narrative history. It is too full of information for that. But for any person with more than a casual interest in pioneer social history in Canada, Dr. Guillet's work is indispensable.

Not everybody will like *The Pioneer Farmer and Backwoodsman*. There will be some who will resent the author's remarks about the Loyalists (remarks more applicable to the Loyalists who went to Upper Canada than to those who came to the Maritimes); there will be others who will feel that Dr. Guillet likes neither the Anglicans nor the Scots (Dr. Guillet, the Raeburn painting is *not* a portrait of Archibald Macnab of Arnprior, but of "The Macnab", his uncle, Francis Macnab, 16th chief of the clan). There will also be those who will be offended by the home truths about the realities of pioneer life. There is no point in glossing over the ignorance, rowdyism, drudgery, and dirt of the early days. And if Dr. Guillet deplores the crudities of pioneer life and the back-breaking toil of the first settlers, he does, at the same time, admire their devotion, courage, and adaptability. History, after all, is not merely romance.

A few words about the illustrations. There are some 450 of them in the two volumes. Many have not been reproduced before. For some years Dr. Guillet was employed gathering early photographs for the Ontario Archives. He visited museums and libraries, examined family albums and private collections. A number of the illustrations in this book are the fruits of these labours. They include photographs, prints, paintings, drawings, and lithographs. Some readers may cavil at the fact that the illustrations are not always related to the chapters in which they are found; others may wonder why pictures of Rochester, Quebec, and Stanley, N.B. are included in a book dealing only with Upper Canada. But these are minor criticisms. Readers generally will be grateful for the illustrations. Some of them are amusing; some have archival interest; some reveal unexpected talents on the part of little known artists. The present reviewer, for one, was entirely unfamiliar with the work of Sarah Ann Carter.

Dr. Guillet's book is and will remain an invaluable source of information and pleasure to the reader.

Royal Military College

GEORGE F. G. STANLEY

Soldiers and Politicians: the Memoirs of Lt.-Gen. Maurice A. Pope, C.B., M.C. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1962. Pp. 462. \$7.50.

Canadian generals, unlike their British, American, and German counterparts, have not rushed to their publishers at the end of every war with great bundles of manuscript under their arms, anxious to tell their own side of the story before some ally reveals a different version. There are advantages to this restraint, for silence has undoubtedly preserved more military reputations than memoirs have augmented. In fact, the printed reminiscences of several prominent generals can be satisfactorily explained only on the assumption that the authors had no candid friends. However, there have been happy exceptions to this rule. Certainly one such exception is General Pope's *Soldiers and*

Politicians, a book which makes a real contribution to our knowledge of Canadian military affairs.

Probably the most valuable portion of General Pope's book is that which deals with his work on the Permanent Joint Board of Defence and the Canadian Joint Staff Mission in Washington. Canada was undoubtedly fortunate to have so shrewd and so suave a military representative in the United States during the Second World War. The British and American governments, no less than their military leaders, were determined—probably rightly—to keep the direction of strategy entirely in their own hands. To have allowed other allied nations a voice in global decisions would almost certainly have resulted in delay, difficulty, compromise, and second-rate planning. Nevertheless, although Canada recognized this and accepted it, the secrecy which surrounded higher Allied policy was occasionally irksome and the principle of two-power control, which was essential in strategic matters, was less obviously desirable in such fields as the allocation of munitions and foodstuffs. General Pope gives a revealing account of the inevitable frustrations of a Middle Power cooperating with two great Allies. It is apparent, too, that his own good sense and good-nature did much to ameliorate a difficult assignment.

Memoirs, of course, can scarcely help but be revealing. This is exactly what so many other high-ranking officers have found to their cost. In General Pope's case, however, the revelations are almost all pleasant. The son of a French-speaking mother and an English-speaking father, General Pope has managed to retain the best from both Canadian racial traditions. He could well serve, indeed, as an example of what the cultured Canadian gentleman might commonly be if this country is ever fortunate enough to have a generation or two free from racial bigotry and prejudice.

The portions of the book which deal with the First World War and with General Pope's diplomatic activities after the Second World War, while interesting, are of less historical value. The section describing his life as a Canadian staff officer during the long armistice between 1918 and 1939 does little more than support what we already know of this unhappy period, but the sidelights he gives us on various British and Canadian soldiers who later rose to high rank are most informative.

The description of personalities, in fact, does much to lighten and improve the book throughout. We meet a great many important people on the pages of *Soldiers and Politicians*, and in general we learn something about each of them. General Pope's judgments are almost invariably charitable—he obviously had a great capacity for liking people—but if this tends to deprive his book of a certain "bite" it might otherwise have had, it is certainly a pleasant change from the caustic and egocentric tone of certain other war memoirs.

Soldiers and Politicians should be read for what it has to tell us of Canadian military and political affairs during the last four decades, but it should also be read because it is a pleasant book written by a very pleasant gentleman.

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The Government of Manitoba. By M. S. DONNELLY. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1963. Pp. 185. \$6.00.

Professor Donnelly's book is the third full-scale treatment of the government of a province in the Canadian Government Series and the first volume in that series to appear under its new general editor, Professor C. B. Macpherson. By necessity the treatment of Manitoba differs from that accorded Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, for whereas the latter provinces had enjoyed a considerable period of self-government before they became Canadian provinces, the 11,000 residents of Manitoba had no experience even with local government when they were admitted into Confederation in 1870.

The book amply demonstrates that the early conferment of provincial status on Manitoba was "unwise and premature." It is astonishing, as Professor Donnelly intimates, that "responsible government worked at all", and it was only natural that some of the political institutions, like the parties, did not assume their normal form until after the turn of the century.

In the modern period the reviewer found particularly interesting the account of the shaping of specific institutions by forces peculiar to Manitoba. An extended tenure of office by the Progressives, who had strong anti-party feelings, and a subsequent period of coalition and non-partisan government which lasted up to 1950 seriously harmed some of the vital political apparatus. In fact, "debate in the legislature almost ceased and the cabinet became a kind of regulatory board, a shadow of what such a body ought to be." Professor Donnelly's judgment is severe, but convincing: "The theory, held so strongly by Bracken, Garson, Campbell, and Willis, that political parties were unnecessary, shows how little they understood the parliamentary system, which, of course, is based on party government. Instead, they very nearly succeeded in destroying it."

Other institutions receive the same competent treatment. Furthermore, the writing is often enlivened with pithy statements and with wit. We are told (p. 47) that the present government of Manitoba, "although more liberal than the Liberals and more progressive than the Progressives, calls itself Conservative", and (p. 85) that an experienced municipal officer, if elected to the Legislature, may bring with him "a set of rather narrow, petty, but firm attitudes. It is quite possible that he will peer at provincial affairs through the end of a municipal drain-pipe."

The slenderness of the volume comes as something of a surprise. It is true that the treatment of Manitoba's pre-Confederation political institutions must, of necessity, be skimpy. But compression ceases to be a virtue when it skims too thin. Surely some modern developments which are unique to Manitoba or nearly so deserve much fuller treatment. One case in point is the adoption of the Hare system of proportional representation and preferential voting in 1924, and their abandonment in 1955. Another is the setting up of an independent commission to redistribute seats in the Legislature in 1955. Why was an "unprogressive" government in Manitoba the first of all the Canadian govern-

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ments to agree to such an innovation? Yet despite this reservation *The Government of Manitoba* is an extremely readable and useful book.

Dalhousie University

J. M. BECK

After Tippecanoe: Some Aspects of the War of 1812. Ed. PHILIP P. MASON. East Lansing: The Michigan State University Press [Toronto: Ryerson Press], 1963. Pp. 106. \$4.00.

The War of 1812 broke out just over 150 years ago, and the anniversary is being marked both in the United States and Canada by the publication of numerous historical and biographical studies. It was a strange war, fought without much distinction on either side, and it ended without any clear-cut victory. Nevertheless, although militarily inconclusive, the War of 1812 and the Treaty of Ghent which brought it to a close determined the political configuration of much of the North American continent. For this reason, and because it was the last time Canada and the United States clashed in battle, the War of 1812 continues to stimulate the interest of historians.

One of the first books to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the conflict is *After Tippecanoe*, a small volume composed of six scholarly essays on various aspects of the war, written by three American and three Canadian historians. It is to be hoped that later publications will equal the high standard set in this little book. *After Tippecanoe* is not by any means a definite account of the War of 1812, but it does give some excellent insights into various phases of the struggle.

William T. Utter, in an essay entitled "The Coming of the War", discusses the complex question of what caused the conflict, concluding that the maritime causes rather than the Indian question or the land hunger of the American annexationists were at the root of the matter. The argument is an old one, and not particularly convincing, but Professor Utter writes with scholarship and grace. Dr. Kaye Lamb, the Dominion Archivist, contributes an essay on Sir Isaac Brock, who was one of the few outstanding soldiers on either side. Dr. Lamb touches, with scrupulous fairness, on the controversial question of Brock's relationship with Sir George Prevost and concludes, most reasonably, that Prevost was a weak and vacillating commander-in-chief.

Professor George Stanley, of the Royal Military College, in a rather longer essay than most, analyzes the contribution of the Canadian militia during the war. His conclusion is that the British regulars and Canadian militia complemented each other and that "Neither without the other could have functioned as an effective or efficient military force."

One of the best essays in the book is Colonel C. P. Stacey's on "Naval Power on the Lakes, 1812-1814." Too modestly claiming that his essay is not much more than a gloss on Admiral Mahan's famous *Sea Power in its Relation to the War of 1812*, Colonel Stacey

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gives a clear outline of the strategic factors which influenced the war, relates these to the actual operations, and demonstrates conclusively that naval superiority on the lakes was the essential requisite of victory.

Professor Reginald Horsman, of the University of Wisconsin, contributes a fine essay on "The Role of the Indian in the War." In his opinion the importance of Britain's Indian allies can easily be exaggerated, but he admits that the inefficiency of the American offensive allowed the Indians to play a significant part in the British defence. Nevertheless, if the Indians helped save Canada, they also lost the Old Northwest.

The final essay is Professor Thomas Clark's on "Kentucky in the Northwest Campaign", a subject which is not perhaps quite as central to the war as the other topics chosen. However, Professor Clark's treatment is deep (he is Chairman of the Department of History in the University of Kentucky) and ably illustrates both the influence of that state in the war and how the conflict affected Kentucky.

The notes at the end of each essay, as is only to be expected from such prominent scholars, are almost as interesting as the text itself. All in all, *After Tippecanoe*, although not a book for the newcomer to the subject, is excellent value.

Canadian Army Headquarters

D. J. GOODSPEED

The Politics of John W. Dafoe and the Free Press. By RAMSAY COOK. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1963. Pp. xii, 305. \$5.95.

Today the editorial page of Canadian newspapers exercises little influence upon public opinion. In consequence, the press has sometimes sought to mould its readers to its point of view by editorializing in its news columns. John Wesley Dafoe would have regarded such practices as a prostitution of the functions of newspapers. He accepted without reservation the dictum of C. P. Scott of the *Manchester Guardian*: "Comment is free; facts are sacred." Yet over the years he managed to establish a complete *rapprochement* with that section of the Canadian community which he considered the most important, the western agrarians. As a result many of the latter came to treat the editorial opinions of the *Free Press* with the same respect as they did the Bible.

While Professor Cook's book is not intended to be biography, one gets to know its subject almost as well as if it were. And the picture of Dafoe which emerges is not entirely attractive. Among other things, there were his almost paranoiac obsession with the idea that beneath the surface every British politician was harbouring a plan for the centralization of the Empire or Commonwealth; his complete blind spot for French Canada and French-Canadian interests, until his contact with Dr. Sirois while a member of the Royal Commission on Dominion-provincial relations broadened his perspective; his carrying an utter devotion to free-trade principles so far as to be outrageously unfair to the "protectionist" Meighen in the King-Byng constitutional crisis of 1926; his inability



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to abandon his nineteenth-century liberalism and to accept a limited collectivism even by the 1930's.

Yet through it all the rugged independence of Dafoe stands out, and it is altogether admirable. It enabled him to work for the Liberal, although illiberal, Clifford Sifton and still retain his integrity. Almost before everyone else, he pictured in his own mind the modern decentralized Commonwealth, and he left no stone unturned to hasten its evolution, even though it meant pushing the all-too-cautious Mackenzie King into courses of action which the Prime Minister approached with trepidation. When Liberal politicians acted, or failed to act, as Dafoe thought they should, the *Free Press* told them so, and in some cases it went so far as to withdraw its support. Yet in one respect at least Dafoe was the typical Canadian: after having grave doubts about the quality of Mackenzie King's leadership over an extended period, he ended up by accepting him as the least bad of several alternatives.

All this and much more emerges from Professor Cook's excellent book. The author has dexterously separated the essential from the non-essential, and he presents the essence of Dafoe with a directness of style and an economy of language which cannot be commended too highly. Other students will write complete biographies of Dafoe, but none will add much more that is significant to an understanding of his basic stock of ideas.

Dalhousie University

J. M. BECK

The Policy Question: A Critical Appraisal of Canada's Role in World Affairs. By PEYTON V. LYON. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1963. Pp. 128. \$3.95.

For those who are looking for signs of increasing intellectual maturity in Canada, this meaty little volume will be a welcome portent. Its author is a former Canadian diplomat now teaching Political Science at the University of Western Ontario. Freed from the inevitable inhibitions of officialdom and possessing the pen of a ready writer, Dr. Lyon set himself the task of sketching the contemporary scene in international politics and assessing the assets and liabilities which Canada possesses as a middle power. With firmness and cogency the author rejects the possibility, recently enjoying considerable domestic popularity, of her leading the unaligned powers. As he tartly demonstrates, even if Canada wanted to do so, "the neutral group of nations is scarcely deficient in self-appointed leadership". He is convinced that NATO still remains our best line of defence, no matter how much "our hearts and long-run hopes are with the United Nations". As negotiators rather than pace-setters in both the U.N. and NATO, Canadians, during their period of greatest success between 1945 and 1956, were not so much concerned with prestige and power as with increasing security and easing international tension. As a consequence, they acquired an image of "objectivity, approachability and level-headedness". For a

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time, just after World War Two, Canada also rated high—possibly fourth—in terms of power, but this was a wasting asset in a world where Western Europe staged its comeback, the Communist countries forged ahead, and the non-European world made its votes felt in the United Nations. Unfortunately, the change in the shifting balance of power was not appreciated by the Diefenbaker regime, which conducted foreign policy with an eye to its domestic impact, as was illustrated by its anti-Communist crusades—designed in part to appeal to ethnic groups—and by its efforts to claim Canadian leadership in securing disarmament. The author dismisses as “singularly unconvincing” “our pose of ‘nuclear virginity’” and views with more sorrow than sarcasm the well-intentioned efforts of Mr. Howard Green. What he hopes will now happen is that Canadians will be content with having their government pursue diplomacy “designed to achieve solid results rather than the striking of spectacular poses which do more for the Canadian inferiority complex than for the peace of the world”.

Mr. Lyon’s argument is forceful and sensible. At times, it has an appearance of omniscience which was probably not intended. Like Alastair Taylor in his recent pamphlet *Both Swords and Ploughshares*, the author is proud of his country and anxious to see it play the role for which it is best suited. It is to be hoped that his analysis receives the serious consideration to which it is entitled. Now that Canada has moved on from status to function, to adapt Lord Balfour’s phrase, such analyses as this are essential to help clarify our thinking.

University of British Columbia

F. H. SOWARD

The Structure of Aesthetics. By F. E. SPARSHOTT. Toronto: University of Toronto Press [London: Routledge & Kegan Paul], 1963. Pp. xiii, 471. \$7.50.

In his Preface, Professor Sparshott writes that no such book existed before this; he needed such a book and was sure that other people needed one also. It is embarrassing to have someone point out a gap to us that we should have been aware of all along, but the more so when the person doing the pointing seems to be telling us so ingenuously that he has saved the day and filled the gap.

It can be said at once that there really was such a gap, and that one of many things to recommend *The Structure of Aesthetics* is its success in filling it. It is difficult to see how the job could have been better done.

The title does not make clear just what the book attempts to do, but in Chapter I we read: “My book is designed not to solve any of the problems with which aesthetics deals, but to say what the problems are, how they are related to each other, what kinds of answers to them have been proposed by others, and how these answers are related. . . . my chief purpose is . . . to help the reader to understand any aesthetical theory with which he may find himself confronted.”

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The arrangement and articulation of "the problems with which aesthetics deals" omit nothing of importance that I could notice, and provide a clearly marked course through the fog and complexities of the literature on aesthetics. When he talks about the answers to aesthetical problems that have been proposed by others, the author does so with accuracy and perception. This part of his work is so well done that one might suggest that the book could be used as a textbook in aesthetics for honours and graduate students. His brief statements of the standard aesthetical doctrines are clear and authoritative, and are perhaps among the best things of their kind in print.

But even more valuable are his comments on these same doctrines, his discriminations of the categories into which various arguments may fall, his analyses of their strengths and their weaknesses. While the general mood of his critical appraisals is liberal and permissive, nobody is safe from Sparshott's nose for elegant but unintelligible formulas. On page after page I found (to my discomfort) arguments upon which I had in the past set store being shredded to reveal that there was nothing of substance beneath. Even the Principal of Sparshott's present college, Northrop Frye, is shown up to some disadvantage in spite of Sparshott's obvious admiration for him. Of the book's thirty-one references to Frye, eight are neutral, nine are in some kind of agreement, and fourteen are startling dissections. (That there are so many references to Northrop Frye ought not to be taken as indication of parochialism on the author's part, but rather as indicating the book's wide range, Sparshott's diligence, and Frye's importance.)

The book calls for a serious effort on the reader's part, but this is made pleasant by the many unexpected and amusing private recollections that identify Sparshott's writing. We North American academics are often annoyed by an artificial air of casualness put on by the younger Oxbridgeans who come to teach in our universities. In this they seem to be consciously trying to display the manner if not the matter of their elders and betters. Francis Sparshott has many more elders than he has betters back in Oxbridge, and it is by now evident that his literary style is entirely his own. He owes it mostly to his personal experience in seeking after clarity in the expression of complex ideas and complex relations between ideas. Moreover, he is a poet of considerable merit. So let him talk about "doing" aesthetics, and about "o.k. words", if this gives writer and reader some rest from sustained effort.

In any large book a reviewer can triumphantly discover errors and inconsistencies; the more ambitious the book, the better the hunting. On page 169, for example, Sparshott says that wit in "pure" music can scarcely exist except as self-mockery or parody." But there are many formal devices in music that are witty without being self-mockery or parody; recollection of several finale movements from the symphonic and chamber works of Joseph Haydn will make this clear. On page 387, Sparshott says that Plato is merely the "putative ancestor" of the idea that "the artist had a vision of, and imitated, the Form itself". A. E. Taylor speaks of the *Ion* as a "slight dialogue," but unless I misread it altogether, it exhibits Plato as the actual originator of that idea.

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In a number of places the author is too hard on aesthetical theories based upon mathematical analysis. A few decades ago, numerical and proportional analyses were the big thing in aesthetics, but this was eventually seen to be just a vigorous death-rattle of the *a priori*. There remain several valid and useful applications of these procedures; particularly in recent developments of electronic music they are indispensable.

Surprisingly, towards the end of the book the author takes sides with the later views of Susanne K. Langer. At least, he makes it clear that if there can be such a thing as an acceptable philosophical theory of the arts, Langer's is the nearest to it. This position Sparshott takes up with due reservations concerning Mrs. Langer's bulldozer methods of expanding a particular theory into a general one.

Sparshott denies that his book offers "solutions to problems, or doctrines to be accepted or rejected." But there is a conclusion arrived at if not a thesis argued: that aesthetics is one of the main branches of philosophy, because it, like ethics, deals with "what man makes of himself, of his world and of his relations with his fellows." Most people who will make the effort to read his book are already convinced of this, or of something like it. But this point of view has until now lacked the impressive support that all of Sparshott's book gives it.

University of Toronto

GEOFFREY PAYZANT

Labour Policy and Labour Economics in Canada. By H. D. WOODS AND SYLVIA OSTRY.
Toronto: The Macmillan Co. of Canada, 1962. Pp. 534. \$7.75.

To be "timely" and "timeless" in the compilation of material is a difficult task for any writer. Woods and Ostry have accomplished this to an exceptional degree. This publication, with its formidable appearance and its wealth of material, is organized and written in such a way that an intelligent and disciplined approach by the reader, be he interested in research, practice, or general information in the field, will be rewarded.

The most important factor of the book is its Canadian content. New information on the Canadian scene, together with comparisons of regional developments in labour legislation, provides a spectrum against which most of the major issues of this decade in labour policy can be viewed. A further comparison is possible between the development of labour policy in Canada and the United States, revealing especially the marked difference in emphasis in the two countries. Whereas the major concern below the border has been upon the collective bargaining unit, in Canada it has been to emphasize conciliation and thus deter conflict through the restriction of strikes and lockouts. The uniqueness of the Canadian system of labour legislation reflected in "compulsory conciliation" in various degrees is pointed up very clearly.

Part I of the book, which is written by Professor Woods and deals with labour policy, is an adroit integration of historical material with an analysis of present cir-

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cumstances. In the author's words, "The study is limited to an examination of the area left to private determination and the type and degree of control of the function of private bargaining and administration imposed by the state", but one is left with the feeling that any implied restriction has led to clarity rather than confinement.

Part II of the book deals with labour economics, and once again the Canadian aspect of the material makes it of special value. Topics of current interest such as unemployment, the effect of immigration on the labour force, and the sharp increase in women at work are discussed smoothly but without departure from academic integrity. Professor Ostry has succeeded, for the most part, in making data which would be normal fare for the statistician or economist palatable to the layman. It could hardly be said, however, that any part of this volume constitutes light or casual reading. The many charts and tables offered by Professor Ostry relating to labour supply, unemployment, and wages across Canada represent, to my mind, a monumental contribution to the field.

Both authors are, in true academic tradition, very modest about their accomplishments in this work. Certainly there are many aspects of labour policy and labour economics that are not directly explored, but the reader will feel satisfied that his knowledge in many important areas has been sharpened, organized, and increased extensively. There is a point, I think, at which the author of such a work must leave the reader with the feeling that he has become reasonably well equipped to participate intelligently in the field of knowledge under discussion, regardless of the research still to be undertaken. Woods and Ostry take the serious reader to this point.

Many uses will be found for this basic Canadian material. Students, teachers, lawyers, employers, labour leaders, politicians, consultants, and specialists in labour relations will find the book of special interest. There is little doubt that it will become a reference text in future and it will be quoted, not only in halls of learning and in legislatures, but also at the bargaining table.

Dalhousie University

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The Unreformed Senate of Canada. By R. A. MACKAY. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1963. Pp. viii, 216. \$2.35.

The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents: A Selection. Edited by S. R. MEALING. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1963. Pp. xii, 157. \$1.95.

Lord Durham's Mission To Canada. By CHESTER NEW. Introduction by H. W. MCCREADY. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1963. Pp. xiv, 233. \$2.35.

The Reciprocity Treaty Of 1854. By DONALD C. MASTERS. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1963. Pp. ix, 190. \$2.35.

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Political Unrest in Upper Canada, 1815-1836. By AILEEN DUNHAM. Preface by A. L. BURT. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1963. Pp. xiv, 204. \$2.35.

These five most welcome paperbacks have been recently published by McClelland and Stewart in their Carleton Library Series. R. A. MacKay's revised edition of his monumental study of the Canadian Senate is of considerable contemporary importance. His four guideposts for possible reform are especially noteworthy: (1) The Senate's membership should reflect better than it does the main currents of political opinion in the nation; (2) the Senate should be endowed with some representative character if it is to have the moral authority necessary to command attention and respect throughout the nation; (3) the independence of the Senate should be preserved and if possible, strengthened; (4) reform should not be so radical as to impair the effective working of parliamentary government as it has developed in Canada.

In one slender volume, S. R. Mealing has collected an adequate selection from the voluminous *Jesuit Relations*. He has captured some of the amazing vitality of these most significant documents; his introduction, however, is unfortunately somewhat superficial. D. C. Masters' seminal work on the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 and Aileen Dunham's volume concerning political unrest in Upper Canada in the period before the "Rebellion of 1837" have been re-published in their entirety. However, only those sections dealing with Lord Durham's mission to Canada have been republished from Chester New's long out-of-print *Lord Durham: a Biography of John George Lambton, First Earl of Durham*. It is a pity that the entire biography was not republished.

Dalhousie University

G. A. RAWLYK

Battle Royal: A History of the Royal Regiment of Canada, 1862-1962. By MAJOR D. J. GOODSPEED, CD. Toronto: Royal Regiment of Canada Association, 1962. Pp. ix, 703. \$8.00.

On a tiny beach near Dieppe there is a monument. For Canadians it has a deep significance. For there, at Puy on August 19, 1942, two hundred and nine officers and men of the Royal Regiment of Canada were killed, and two hundred and sixty-two were taken prisoner, the most serious casualties suffered by any unit in the disastrous Dieppe raid. The cairn at Puy, moving though it is, can be no greater memorial to those who died than can this new centennial regimental history in which their saga, and those of their fellows in many another battle and many another campaign, are told with consummate skill.

Major Goodspeed, the most prolific writer in military history today, has produced a volume that is monumental in more senses than one, but which has a freshness and verve that makes its hundreds of pages fascinating to read. He writes without that resort to



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melodrama which has marred at least one recent venture in this field. *Battle Royal* shows that the stark facts, related without harsh colouring and wild exaggeration, produce by themselves a gripping narrative. But the reason is that the author is both an artist with the pen and also a professional historian trained in the severe school of the Canadian Army Historical Section. This book carries authenticity in every line.

It is a history of two units rather than one. The 10th Royals were first formed in Toronto in 1862 because of the fear that the American Civil War might engulf British North America. The Toronto Regiment came to life in 1914 as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. On the eve of the Second World War, these two militia units, each of which had by that time established its own peculiar traditions and had made its own history, were amalgamated. The present Royal Regiment of Canada is the result.

Most of the book is taken up with the First World War, when the "perpetuated battalions" were in action, and with the Second World War, when the Royal Regiment itself fills the stage. The story of the 10th Royals in the Fenian raids, and of the 10th Royal Grenadiers (as the unit had been re-named) in the North-West rebellion, is a brief but important curtain-raiser.

Nevertheless, the old 10th Royals established several interesting traditions of value for the future. This was the first Canadian militia to don the scarlet tunic, the proud garb of British infantry on the field of battle for two hundred years. It was also the first Canadian grenadier unit; in fact, when it was so re-named the only other grenadiers in the British Army were the famous Grenadier Guards from whom this fledgling Toronto regiment received much inspiration. By the mid-nineteenth century grenadiers had no real military function to differentiate them from other infantry. But there are important things in war beside weapons. Tradition and morale can win battles.

The military engagements of the Grenadiers were few in that first generation. But the spirit of the battalion, and of the people who supported it, is strangely reminiscent of the atmosphere to be found during the greater struggles that lay in the future. The enthusiasm and patriotism of these men laid foundations that were to support a great edifice when, in the twentieth century, Canada involuntarily became a military power in its own right. In the history of the militia regiment, the wives' committees, the regimental associations, and other forms of extra-curricular activity, have an important place. They are all here; and they are neatly dove-tailed into the history of the regiment itself.

But the greater part of this book is campaign history. Major Goodspeed shows an astonishing ability to keep his narrative in focus even though he tells at the same time about the units in which he is interested and also the story of the wider campaigns. His grasp of two world wars is impressive. Yet he moves with ease from overall plans and campaigns to the heroism of the single private soldier. Furthermore, in the accounts of both wars this regimental history throws much light on the war as a whole by its illustrative detail of the actions of small groups. The difference between the trench fighting of 1914-1918 and the war of movement of 1944-45 is well demonstrated. Above all, Major

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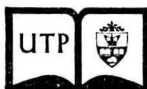
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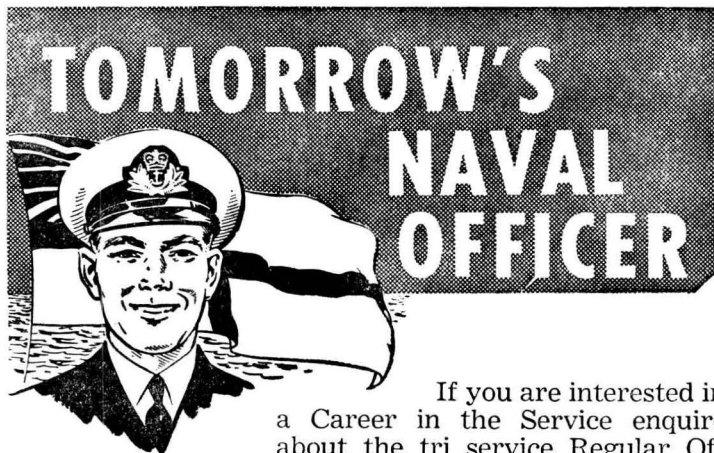
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These Letters, which will form Vols. XII and XIII of the Collected Works of John Stuart Mill, now in preparation, are the first to be issued in the Series.

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Goodspeed writes with the familiarity of the soldier who has seen active service. He describes what he himself has experienced, and the reader feels with him.

For the soldier, the clear detailed narrative and the excellent maps have great value. War never stays the same. But the wars of yesterday have much to teach us, even in these days of revolutionary advance, especially if accounts like this are read with the full understanding that the men whose fighting is described were themselves struggling under conditions that had not been foreseen.

Much of Canada's military history is wrapped up in this one book; the assault at Batoche, Vimy Ridge, Dieppe, the Falaise cauldron, and the drive into Hitler's Germany. It is amply furnished with photographs which almost tell the story by themselves. Of the many regimental histories that have appeared in Canada recently, this is one of the best.

The Royal Military College of Canada

RICHARD A. PRESTON

Books in Brief

Turvey. By EARLE BIRNEY. Intro. George Woodcock. Pp. xv, 286. \$1.50 *Nonsense Novels*. By STEPHEN LEACOCK. Intro. S. Ross Beharriell. Pp. xiii, 155. \$1.25. *Grain*. By R. J. C. STEAD. Intro. Thomas Saunders. Pp. xiii, 207. \$1.50. *Last of the Curlews*. By FRED BODSWORTH. Intro. John Stevens. Illus. T. M. Shortt. Pp. xvii, 127. \$1.25. *The Nymph and the Lamp*. By THOMAS H. RADDALL. Intro. John Matthews. Pp. ix, 333. \$1.50.

Nos. 34-38 in the New Canadian Library Series. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1963. General editor: Malcolm Ross.

No two readers are likely to agree on the excellence of choice observed in these latest additions to the well-established Canadian series. Probably it is only personal prejudice that places the Stead and the Leacock volumes well below the other three. They are ably defended by their editors. It is rather surprising, however, to read in the introduction to *Nonsense Novels* that it has "over the years, proved to be Leacock's most popular book, particularly abroad"; one would have thought that *Sunshine Sketches* or *Literary Lapses* would have that honour. As for *Grain*, the reader who is not bound by emotional ties to the prairies may simply find the novel dull, though he will admit that it may be valuable "as a record of pioneering life".

Turvey is still delightful, even after one has read it several times over more than a decade. Its humour, accurately described in the introduction as "stringent, intelligent, irreverent, and a little irascible", never embarrasses the reader with the joke that falls flat;

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Birney's grasp of the ridiculous is sure. *The Nymph and the Lamp*, one of Thomas Raddall's few departures from the historical romance, also will reward the reader who goes to it a second time. Its flaws are still there, but its power becomes more evident on closer reading. Finally, *Last of the Curlews* is a poignant story of the last of a species destroyed by man's "killing for the joy of killing". Its great merit lies in its subtle handling of its non-human characters: they are not sentimentalized, not portrayed with ill-fitting human attributes, but presented in all their natural beauty and passion in a terse, taut prose that intensifies the tragedy. This is a book that should be better known than one suspects it is.

The Macmillan Dictionary of Canadian Biography, 3rd ed. By W. STEWART WALLACE. Toronto: Macmillan Company of Canada, 1963. Pp. [iv], 822. \$12.50.

This is a revision of the two-volume *Dictionary* published in 1945 and now out of print. Dr. Wallace has added 600 new entries and has brought the bibliographical references up to date. Until the multi-volume dictionary of Canadian biography now being prepared is published, this more modest collection will remain indispensable. "All those Canadians deemed suitable for inclusion who died before 1961" are recorded, and also notable Newfoundlanders "who died both before Newfoundland became a province of Canada in 1950 and afterwards".

The Canadian Oxford Desk Atlas of the World, 2nd ed. Advisory editor, E. G. PLEVA. Assisted by Spencer Inch. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1963. Pp. viii, 155. \$3.95.

An attractive desk atlas which has 29 out of its 123 pages of maps devoted to Canada. Although the emphasis is on Canada, the rest of the world is well depicted in colourful maps. Special features are a table showing the population, area, and land use of the countries of the world; a 12-page gazetteer of Canada; and a 20-page world gazetteer.

Roger Ascham. By LAWRENCE V. RYAN. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1963. Pp. viii, 352. \$7.50.

Roger Ascham (1515-1568), the author of *Toxophilus* and *The Scholemaster*, is probably well known only to students of sixteenth-century English literature and history. Although many short studies have been made of his educational principles, his literary opinions, and his humanism, this is the first book-length study of Ascham to appear in English. While it is primarily a biographical study, the author also discusses Ascham's works in the context of Renaissance humanism.

Canadian University Books

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The Country Wife — The Way of the World — The Rehearsal. Edited by G. G. Falle, University of Toronto. Paperback. About \$1.75.

This volume of three plays is the first in Macmillan's new Canadian-edited paperback series, COLLEGE CLASSICS IN ENGLISH. The general editor is Professor Northrop Frye. In preparation—Dickens: GREAT EXPECTATIONS, edited by R. D. McMaster, University of Alberta; a Swift selection, edited by P. Pincus, University of British Columbia; a Spenser selection, edited by I. Sowton, University of Alberta; a Bacon selection, edited by S. Warhaft, University of Manitoba.

CANADA: AN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

P. Camu Z. W. Sametz E. P. Weeks. About \$10.00.

A presentation of Canada as a living organism. The method is functional and realistic, yet imaginative. Against the background of history and the physical setting, the authors show how man has applied to the natural resources of the country his own talents and the capital and energy resources available, and has produced the complex of primary, secondary, and tertiary industries that are the framework of the dynamic society in which we live. They use a regional approach, and provide a detailed index of economic regions, zones and localities, which will be invaluable for business purposes. The book is profusely illustrated by maps, diagrams and photographs. There are many fact-filled tables, as well as a bibliography and a useful index.

Pierre Camu is Vice-President, the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority.

Zenon W. Sametz is Director of Economic and Social Research Division, Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

Ernest P. Weeks is Executive Director, the Atlantic Development Council.

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Art Treasures in the Royal Ontario Museum. Ed. THEODORE ALLEN HEINRICH. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1963. Pp. viii, 200. 41 colour plates; 163 illustrations. \$15.00.

This is a strikingly handsome volume depicting a selection of the art treasures in the largest university museum in the world. An introduction sketches the history of the Museum and describes the task of choosing the objects to be photographed. These are grouped under the general headings of Prehistory, The Near East, The Far East, Greece and Rome, Europe, Ethnology, and Canadiana. Excellent photography and fine printing distinguish this commemorative volume of the Museum's silver jubilee.

Earth, Moon, and Planets, revised ed. By FRED L. WHIPPLE. Cambridge: Harvard University Press [Toronto: S. J. Reginald Saunders], 1963. Pp. viii, 278. \$6.50.

The current interest in astronomy among laymen will be well served by this revision of a book first published in 1941. It is authoritative, the author being Director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and Professor of Astronomy at Harvard University. It is written expressly for laymen, such abstruse subjects as Newton's law of gravitation being explained in non-mathematical terms. The author has made use of the latest research, such as the Russian photographs of the moon's far side and the information obtained by Mariner II on its flight to Venus. Many photographs, line-drawings, and figures accompany the text.

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OF EXPANDING SERVICE

To more than 1,000 workers who have assisted in the Dalhousie Campaign for funds I send the warmest of wishes and an expression of appreciation on behalf of the University for the work that has been done. The results of the campaign are proving to be satisfactory, but to succeed in an effort as large as is being put forward, the drive for funds will have to take place over a number of years. The needs of Dalhousie are enormous. The present student population is almost 3,000 and it is expected that in several years the student body will be in the vicinity of 5,000 unless steps are taken to curtail registration. Indeed, if the facilities and teaching staff are not available for all those seeking to enter Dalhousie, then something of this nature must be done.

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