

repeatedly disappointed their Ontario brethren. With some notable exceptions in the Montreal Ministerial Association and in the Eastern Townships, those whose situation had sparked the uproar and whose fate was most at stake, were tempered by Premier Honoré Mercier's skillful maneuvering and the realities of their own situation.

In the person and career of D'Alton McCarthy, the classic tension between movement and party was dramatically illustrated. Miller describes the Barrie M.P.'s desire to remain in Macdonald's good graces, and the Prime Minister's attempts to keep him in the Conservative fold. But the growing abrasiveness of McCarthy's anti-French statements made reconciliation increasingly difficult. On the whole, Miller does important new work on McCarthy, although, in this reviewer's opinion, he underestimates the significance of that gentleman's role in sparking the schools' question in Manitoba.

At all events, the book is much more than an account of political skills and fortunes. In a conclusion entitled 'The Agitation in Context', Miller goes a long way to fulfill that promise. Despite its relatively brief prominence, the Equal Rights movement is shown in its strong overtones of middle class urbanization, as well as in its disillusion with 'the way Canada was going'. The reader could wish for an even wider analysis of the underlying social implications of the Jesuit bill and the Equal Rights' movement. But Miller clearly points to these factors, and, as he set out to do, "fills a gap in historical literature".

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The Upper Canada Trade, 1834-1872: A Study of Buchanans' business.

DOUGLAS McCALLA. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1979. 231 p. ISBN 0 8020 5442 0 \$15.00.

The Upper Canada Trade is the story of a wholesale business based in Glasgow and Toronto which grew between 1834 and 1856 to be one of the largest businesses in Canada. Ultimately, it had seven partners and six branches, annual sales of up to \$2,000,000 and a capital of almost \$1,500,000. Yet, in spite of this remarkable success in a short period of 22 years the business suffered in the financial crisis of 1857. It went bankrupt in 1867, and though refloated, it failed again in 1872.

Douglas McCalla's book, a revised and condensed version of the author's doctoral dissertation submitted to Oxford in 1972, seeks to trace the circumstances in which the business developed and to explain its growth and ultimate collapse. To this end a variety of documentary sources are used. These include the Journals of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, various contemporary newspapers and magazines in Britain and Canada, personal papers located in the Public Archives of Canada, the Public Archives of Ontario and the Hamilton Public Library, the city directories for Glasgow, Hamilton, Toronto and Montreal (found in part in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow), the Minute Books of the Court of Session and the records of Sequestration located in the Scottish Court Office, Edinburgh. As befits a study which stresses international links and a subject matter which calls for consideration of economic, business and political factors, the source materials are broad and have been culled from widely scattered geographical locations. However, the major source material is the (as yet) little used, Buchanan Papers, housed in the Public Archives of Canada. These papers contain few formal business records but they do cover the partners' decision-making process and provide the data on which Professor McCalla has erected a detailed account of the business's development.

Yet the work is conceived not just as the history of a particular business, but rather as a case study which can provide insights to the Anglo-Canadian business world of the mid-

nineteenth century. This is a difficult task to accomplish because, of course, the author must balance the unique personal qualities of Peter and Isaac Buchanan with more general considerations. In the final analysis, the Buchanans' business must also be viewed in the context of the North Atlantic economic system in which it was conducted. Indeed, the study stresses the importance of links to British metropolitan centres and British long range credit is seen as the mechanism by which British goods, influence and values were transferred to Upper Canada.

There are ten short chapters. Each is clearly and succinctly written in an exciting style. None is more than 21 pages long. Excluding the first and last chapters, in which Professor McCalla respectively sets the study in context, discusses its underlying philosophy and summarizes the results, the treatment of the remaining eight is chronological. Chapter 2 is entitled "Founding the Business", Chapter 3 "Success in Toronto 1835-1839", Chapter 4 "General Wholesalers at Hamilton 1840-1845", Chapter 5 is called "Independence 1846-1851", Chapter 6 "The Firm Splits 1852-1856", Chapter 7 "Depression and Reorganization 1857-1860", Chapter 8 "Isaac Alone 1860-1867", and Chapter 9 the "Final Failures". As noted, each chapter is a blend of the unique qualities of the actors and the broad elements of the political, economic and technological circumstances in which they performed. In Chapter 3, for example, McCalla discusses the differences in the personal qualities of the two brothers, contrasting their strategic insights and capacity for hard work, their rise in Toronto's society, their social differences with the city's family compact elite, and their strategies in choosing potential customers. However, he also traces the development of the business in terms of the falling price of wheat in Upper Canada, crop failures in competing areas, the economic depression in 1837, the rebellion of that year and the danger of war with the United States. Again, in Chapter 5, McCalla creates the setting in which the Buchanans' operated. In a series of interrelated, short paragraphs he sketches the supremacy of Liverpool over Glasgow in the Atlantic trade, the changing demography of Hamilton (now the centre of Buchanan business in Canada), the movement of the agricultural frontier north and westward of the city, the battle between Hamilton, Toronto and Montreal for control of trade, economic conditions in Europe and difficulties in achieving a renewed agreement of partnership for the members of the firm. McCalla's ability to keep the two parts, the business and business circumstances, in harmony is remarkable. So is his capacity to portray in so very few words, the dynamic interaction of a variety of economic, political and technological forces operating over a very wide area. In all, this is a very great achievement.

"The Upper Canada Trade" stresses the importance of the long-credit system, the reciprocal relationship of mutual dependence between merchant and customer, the role of the merchant as both importer and exporter, his importance in the process of capital creation and accumulation in Upper Canada and in the development of secondary manufacturing, the changes required in his strategy as a result of technological innovation and, most important of all, the international trade cycle which was ultimately to have dire effects upon the Buchanan business. The book lives up to its claim of demonstrating that there is much to be learned from the history of a business. Professor McCalla is to be congratulated not only for the substantive material presented here, but also for the readable manner in which this is done. Historical geographers, economic historians and social historians will be grateful for his efforts.

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