

American industrial knowledge and business acumen. Canada was thus locked into a double colonial dependency, and the economy never fully made the transition from commercialism to industrialism. This dependent condition was highly addictive, so much so that we never kicked the habit. No wonder Eric Kierans penned the forward to volume one!

Material for the work was drawn from an impressive array of scholarly articles, monographs, newspapers and government publications. The text suggests that not all of these sources have been utilized, and footnotes reveal a high reliance upon newspapers, particularly the *Monetary Times*. Since the press is often highly subjective, both in content and tone, the problem of interpretation arises. Critical analysis by the author was required to ensure that journalistic bias did not colour his work, but on occasion it seems that this scrutiny was not undertaken. Use of primary sources would have aided in the verification process, at the same time enriching Naylor's view and adding weight to his conclusions. The considerable selection of excellent archival collections relevant to these volumes has, lamentably, been neglected.

The book is highly critical of the banking and commercial elite and their political collaborators. One expects to see Naylor tear into his subject with a Marxist bulldozer, but while he deviates from that approach enough to incur the displeasure of the more orthodox, he does not go far enough to make the less doctrinaire feel at ease. His wanton sniping at the economic establishment at times appears awkward and silly, and a propensity for overstatement leads occasionally to such absurdities as the claim that Confederation was little more than an exercise in public finance.

Other weaknesses require comment. The author seems to approach his study with a preconception requiring substantiation, but unfortunately he often jumps to conclusions which are neither preceded by thorough analysis of his material nor justified by its content. There is also a problem of balance. Some aspects are covered too intensively while others, including management techniques, the role of technology and even the *dramatis personae*, receive scant attention. In reality, Naylor has produced a study of the functioning of a segment of Canada's post-Confederation economy rather than a complete history of business. Finally, closer editing would have reduced the number of typographical errors and may even have avoided the embarrassment of a thirty-line paragraph appearing in the second volume on pages 193-94 and again on page 280.

Although one can pick away at the salient faults of *The History of Canadian Business*, one cannot criticize Tom Naylor's bravery. He launches an assault on some of our most entrenched historical assumptions and interpretations. He may not have been completely successful in his attempt, but he has presented much useful new evidence and has kindled a controversy which should continue to burn for some time.

Peter E. Rider
Public Archives of Canada

The Fur Trade in Minnesota: An Introductory Guide to Manuscript Sources.

Compiled by BRUCE M. WHITE. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1977. 61 p. ill. map. (Publications of the Minnesota Historical Society) ISBN 0 87351 121 2 \$4.50.

For 129 years the Minnesota Historical Society has had a penetrating interest in the fur trade, an interest confirmed with the publication of an introductory guide to its fur trade holdings. There are 104 alphabetical entries, dating from 1780 to 1840, but only about one-quarter of these belong to the Society; the remainder are copies from other

institutions in North America and the United Kingdom. The appendixes contain a list of twelve repositories in present-day Minnesota which have documents relating to the fur trade, and also a roster of approximately 775 people who were employed in the Minnesota area between 1795 and 1822. Since definitive research on most of the men has not been undertaken, the entries, ranging from two to nineteen lines, will serve primarily as a starting point for genealogists. The guide will enable researchers to quickly track down the papers relating to the various fur trading Companies, such as the American Fur Trading Company, whose records are found in repositories in Detroit, St. Louis, New York, and Ottawa.

Canadian archivists will undoubtedly be surprised to note that Bruce White has translated into English such terms as *Fond du Lac* and *bout*, but then the United States is not a bilingual country. This reviewer was particularly surprised to read that the Public Archives of Canada holds the only microfilm copy of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives since a copy of the records from 1670 to 1870 was deposited in the Public Record Office, London, in 1974.

Despite these quibbles, it is gratifying that a start has been made in compiling fur trade manuscript sources. One can only hope that additional work will be undertaken by Canadian archivists. The fur trade, after all, has more than a romantic connotation. It was a transcontinental business, which coped with many of the geographical and economic problems that still plague business and political leaders today.

Shirlee Anne Smith
Hudson's Bay Company Archives
Provincial Archives of Manitoba

Manuscripts Collection of the Minnesota Historical Society: Guide Number 3.

Compiled by LYDIA A. LUCAS. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, ©1977. ix, 189 p. (Publications of the Minnesota Historical Society) ISBN 0 87351 120 4 \$7.00.

Guide No. 3, which lists accessions received by the Minnesota Historical Society since 1955, is a model of craftsmanship, free of typographical and grammatical errors. The collections are alphabetically listed, adequately described, and their publication, where appropriate, is noted. Particular care has been given to the index although cross-references are sparse. It took a few moments to find military listings; a cross-reference would have guided the reader to "United States—Army." One from negroes to Afro-Americans would also have been helpful.

Since the 1950s, the Minnesota Historical Society, which houses the State Archives, has concentrated on augmenting its collections in the fields of commercial enterprise (especially lumbering, mining and railroads), conservation, politics and government, labour unions, and women's organizations. By Canadian standards the Minnesota Historical Society is lavishly staffed and funded, yet it is impressive to read in the compiler's preface that "inventories analyzing and describing the materials in greater detail have been prepared for all of the [1,194] collections in this guide."

Understandably, most of the collections relate to the people and institutions of Minnesota. However, the surprises include an 1802 cargo list of a Spanish brigantine sailing from Cuba to Honduras, the Bagot collection which contains letters written by Sir William Bagot and his brothers as well as a letter written by T. Townson in 1769 describing a trip to Italy and the election of Pope Clement XIV. Records of the Winton Lumber Company, Northern Pacific Railway, Great Northern Railway, and the Quetico-Superior Council relate specifically to Canada.