

beaches by a shot of the Bowness Park swimming pool, August 1930. An example of athletic facilities is the Calgary ski jump, erected on the Exhibition grounds, 1920, and a touching illustration of social welfare agencies is a photograph of a Victorian Order of Nurses baby clinic, ca. 1912. In the early years there are several pictures of Calgary as a frontier town; in recent times there are several of oil derricks and a skyline stubbed by highrises. The natural beauty of Calgary is shown in the Bow River valley and the distant mountains. Cavell, in his note on photographers, pays tribute to W.H. Boorne, one of the first photographers in Calgary (in the 1880s and 1890s), and the early twentieth century photographers W.J. Oliver and Harry Pollard. Unfortunately most of the illustrations do not indicate who the photographer was.

Patricia Roy's history of Vancouver traces the early days on the Pacific coast to the incorporation of Vancouver in 1886 and through to World War I, including a discussion of race relations and the *Komagatu Maru*. The career of Vancouver's famous mayor G.G. McGeer is recounted in detail. There is mention of Charles Lindbergh's refusal to visit Vancouver in 1928 because the landing facilities were not adequate, and the impetus thus given to the construction of a new airport on Sea Island. During the Depression, Vancouver became the "Mecca of the unemployed"; the problems and challenges of this situation are discussed. The expulsion of the Japanese from the coastal area during World War II is briefly noted. The story continues to the 1970s, where cultural life is well represented. Anne Carscallen assisted with the photographic research and wrote the note on photographers, which pays special tribute to Philip Timms and Leonard Frank. As an example of their work, there is a beautiful photograph of Frank in the Rockies, ca. 1924. One wishes there had been a similar photograph of him or a colleague in Vancouver. Notable illustrations of Vancouver include one of B.T. Rogers' home, including in the driveway a large horse being ridden by a relatively tiny child in typical turn-of-the-century clothing. The Indian poetess Pauline Johnson and several others are shown in front of the "Hollow Tree" in Stanley Park. Another photograph shows the Lion's Gate Bridge under construction. There are also many pictures showing the natural beauty of Vancouver. Admirers of Len Norris will be delighted by the inclusion of several of his cartoons relating to civic politics. And one of the most original photographs shows Mayor Tom Campbell swinging on a wrecker's ball, during a recent renovation project.

All three books present a well-written and comprehensive history of three of Canada's major cities, and are illustrated with skill, sensitivity and often with humour. The books aim at an overview, and the stories are concise; readers looking for details about a particular event or biographical information about a particular citizen will have to look further. For example, the Winnipeg book says little about the Red River rebellion of 1869-70, and the Vancouver book devotes only a few lines to the great fire of 1886. But provided these terms of reference are understood, readers will find these books attractive, informative and entertaining.

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**Robert Laird Borden : A Biography.** ROBERT CRAIG BROWN, Toronto: Macmillan. Volume One: 1854-1914 (1975), 306 p., illus. ISBN 0 7705 1317 4 \$24.95. Volume Two: 1914-1937 (1980), 256 p., illus. ISBN 0 7705 1854 0 \$24.95.

Robert Laird Borden was Canada's eighth Prime Minister, a lawyer from Nova Scotia who guided Canada throughout World War I and aided in our development as an independent nation. Craig Brown has just completed the first full treatment of Borden since his death nearly fifty years ago.

Volume One of *Robert Borden: A Biography* covers the years 1854 to 1914 and examines Borden's youth, his career as a successful Halifax lawyer and his eventual entry into politics and success as Prime Minister. Volume Two continues until Borden's death in 1937 and concentrates on Borden's tenure as Prime Minister during World War I and his role in asserting Canadian independence after the war. The focus in both volumes is on Borden's public life rather than his private one.

Craig Brown has written a traditional political biography emphasizing the many positive aspects of Borden's career. His basic pattern is one that has been followed by the majority of political biographers. A cursory treatment of Borden's youth and his development as an important Halifax lawyer is followed by a closer examination of his tenure as Prime Minister concluding with a final chapter on Borden's retirement years. Brown is able, like most Canadian biographers, to maintain a respectable distance from his subject while at the same time portraying Borden in a predominantly sympathetic manner. Brown does not identify with his subject as Creighton did with Macdonald nor does he delve into psychohistory as Joy Esbrey does in her treatment of Mackenzie King in *Knight of the Holy Spirit*. My disappointment with Brown's biography of Borden is not, then, with his methodology but the results he has achieved.

Brown has given the reader a portrait of an honest, hardworking man who strived towards what he felt was best for Canada. We are able to sense Borden's deep sense of commitment throughout his career, but especially in Volume Two when Brown discusses Borden's reaction to the war, his dedication to the Canadian Expeditionary Forces and his desire to ensure a more independent Canada. These are what Brown felt were the highlights of Borden's life and are therefore emphasized. Yet, because the emphasis is on the positive side of Borden's accomplishments, we seldom read any critical assessment of Borden's actions. With the same facts presented by Brown the reader could come to different conclusions. Throughout his career Borden was unable to come to terms with French Canada. His search for a Quebec lieutenant was often difficult and even more troublesome were his relations with members of his Quebec caucus. Brown is able to explain Borden's willingness to expand Canada's manpower needs through conscription, but glosses over Borden's inability to understand Quebec's protestations over the enactment of conscription. In another instance, Borden was able to rally behind the rationale of provincial rights in his reaction to Regulation 17 and the Autonomy Bills, but his response to prohibition was to bow to English Canadian pressure and allow the federal government to intervene in a matter that was under provincial jurisdiction. These seeming contradictions are not adequately discussed. Borden's inability to understand some of Canada's basic tensions is not explored.

There are many instances throughout the biography when Brown is able to integrate both social history and Borden's political role. The best example of this is in Brown's description of Canada's changing responses to World War I. Brown is able to capture the euphoria experienced by many in 1914 as members of the community packed box lunches for the departing soldiers, took part in jubilant parades and donated generously to the war effort. However, as Brown explains, the manpower problem became more acute, Borden was forced to rely on conscription and Canada's unified war effort became divided. In both instances it is possible to understand the interaction between the man and his times; more often one is left wondering why Borden acted or thought in a particular manner. Throughout his early political career Borden often thought of leaving politics. His deep dissatisfaction with the partisan nature of political life is discussed, but we are left with an unclear picture of why he remained in politics. As Leader of the Opposition he led a particularly bitter campaign against the corruption and patronage used by the Liberals, yet Brown does not discuss Borden's view of his role in this highly charged partisan climate. In addition, Borden's progressive attitude towards

government ownership of both railways and natural resources is not explored in detail. Brown is better able to explain the social climate of the times rather than Borden's own response to it.

Part of the explanation for Brown's difficulties in explaining Borden's views lie with Borden's nature and with the type of sources available for this study. The most frequently cited source in both volumes is the Borden Personal Papers at the Public Archives of Canada. This series contains Borden's diary and his correspondence with his wife Laura and with family and friends. The Borden diary begins in 1912 and continues until Borden's death in 1937. There are daily entries but they are short in length and not explanatory in nature. They give the reader an indication of what happened on a particular day, but they rarely encourage insight into Borden's rationale for his political behavior, his feelings towards various individuals or his responses to specific events. The absence of any reference in Borden's diary to such a traumatic event as his being booed off stage in Kitchener during the 1917 election illustrates the lack of personal revelations in this record. His diary entry concerning the Quebec Riots was quite cursory. Later on, he made no mention of the tragedy at Passchendaele, thus lending weight to the realization that the Borden diary does not greatly reduce our distance from the man. Borden's letters to Laura are a more revealing source which Brown adeptly uses in Volume One. However, these letters cease after 1905 when Laura moved to Ottawa and Brown has had to cope with the fact that there is almost no correspondence of a personal nature thereafter. Brown attempts to fill this gap by using Borden's correspondence with colleagues both in Canada and in Britain. But once again Borden's nature surfaces as a major problem because he rarely offered insights into his actions in his personal or official correspondence. The major source for this biography was the Borden Papers and they lend themselves better to a study of the events of Borden's time rather than his responses to them.

Previous to Craig Brown's work, Canadians were largely unfamiliar with a man who led Canada through tumultuous years. And Brown has enriched our knowledge of national politics at the turn of the century by blending political biography with a touch of social history. Will the next trend in biography make use of the changing fashions in social history and complete biographies of labour leaders, women and municipal politicians? Or perhaps when R.B. Bennett receives full treatment, the Canadian historiographic bent towards biography will have taken yet another twist.

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**Labour and Trade Union Archives/Les archives des syndicats et mouvements ouvriers.**

Munich: K.G. Saur for the International Council on Archives, 1980. 190 p. (Archivum, v. 27) ISBN 0 89664 136 8 (New York) \$35.00 bd. Available from Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, Mi., U.S.A. 48226.

In June 1977 the editorial committee of *Archivum; The International Review on Archives*, the annual journal of The International Council of Archives, resolved to prepare a volume devoted to Labour and Trade Union Archives. The following year they began the compilation of the issue by asking their national correspondents, which number close to 100, to identify labour and trade union specialists in their respective countries. These specialists were then, in turn, sent a questionnaire inquiring about such matters as the legal status, history, and present state of their national trade union and labour archives. In addition, they were requested to both identify any research institutes or