

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 booted 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.

Paulette Dozois
Federal Archives Division
Public Archives of Canada

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

organizations in their countries which specialize in labour history and provide a summary bibliography of relevant written material.

The *Archivum* editors realized from the outset that they were not in a position to compile a truly exhaustive survey of world wide activity in this important field. However, they are clearly disappointed, as we must be, with the paucity of response to their efforts to assemble what could have served as a valuable, even if cursory, international overview of labour and trade union archives. Only about one fifth of the correspondents who were approached actually arranged for reports from their nation or region, namely, Australia, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, Ireland, Israel, Hungary, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia, the Caribbean Area, and Southeast Asia. Furthermore, these trilingual reports (12 English, 6 French, and 3 German) vary widely in terms of their comprehensiveness. The contribution from Finland, for instance, is longer than that from the USSR.

However, even with such obvious limitations, this issue of *Archivum* remains a useful addition to any archival library. Not surprisingly, its chief value derives from the international perspective which it partly affords. Contrasting Canada's unenviable record in the field with that of other, largely industrial, nations offers little in the way of solace. If anything, it further underscores our regrettable and somewhat anomalous neglect of social history. This is particularly true when you consider that we were spared many of the deleterious effects of two world wars that our European counterparts experienced. Even though, as Nancy Stunden the Canadian specialist, observes, the situation in this country has rapidly improved during the past decade to the point where current activity in the field is at a much more respectable level, there is still considerable room for improvement. This issue of *Archivum* provides us with a glimpse of a number of successful international models which, while they are not entirely relevant to our situation, certainly are worth investigating as the increasing number of labour archivists throughout Canada look at ways to collectively increase their effectiveness.

John Bell
Dalhousie University Archives

Canadian Airmen and the First World War, The Official History of the Royal Canadian Air Force, Vol. 1. S.F. WISE. Toronto : University of Toronto Press in cooperation with the Department of National Defence, 1980. xx, 771, illus., maps, ISBN 0 8020 2379 7 \$35.00.

The appearance of this book, the first official history to emerge from the Directorate of History of the Department of National Defence since C.P. Stacey's *Arms, Men and Government* in 1970 has been awaited with eagerness and a certain degree of skepticism. There is an inevitable feeling that the published result of such a long gestation period, regardless of its quality, will appear inadequate when the immense labour involved in its preparation is taken into account. This initial doubt was reinforced when it was known that this, the first of a projected four volume history of the Royal Canadian Air Force was to deal with Canadian airmen in World War I. The popular capsule view of the subject which, for once, was reasonably accurate was that Canada never succeeded in that period in establishing an air policy, or more than an embryo air service, but did become involved in air training and its young men, both military and civilian, furnished such a happy hunting ground for recruiters of the British flying services that Canadians did play an inordinately prominent part in the air war. Great stuff for 'war stories' but not a