

competitions and exhibitions out of all proportion. That they did so is rather sad and pathetic and may say a lot about rural sensibilities during the period. Of course, some diversions were available at the country fairs, especially for males. But as Professor Jones points out, local policemen, school board officials, and provincial agents went to great lengths to sanitize and censor anything which seemed to be frivolous or titillating. The “hootchi-cootchi girls,” for example, were routinely denounced as being lewd and lascivious. They look harmless enough in the photographs. Surely these transient performers did not constitute a serious threat to the moral well-being of the prairie West. And what real harm was there in dancing cheek to cheek or riding the Big Dipper with the girl from the next township?

Here is the crux of the matter. One gets the impression from reading this book that the rural reformers, who played so large a part in regulating country fairs, were overly defensive and unduly censorious. They saw — or thought they saw — attacks upon the fabric of rural life at every turn, from every quarter. Had they tried to strike a proper balance between informative demonstrations and amusing displays, rural life — as represented at the annual county fairs of western Canada — would have been much richer and more satisfying. The “entertainers” and the “instructors,” however, were always at odds; the latter were usually the victors. The result was a circuit of uninspired, somewhat insipid events which inevitably had less appeal for an increasingly sophisticated rural population. No wonder, then, that the circuits all but disappeared in the 1930s. No wonder the boys left the farms and headed for big cities such as Vancouver. There they could take in shows such as the PNE. There they could ride the Big Dipper and ogle the “hootchi-cootchi girls” without feeling too guilty.

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Eldorado: Canada's National Uranium Company. ROBERT BOTHWELL. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984. xiii, 470 p. ISBN 0-8020-3414-4.

Eldorado — City of Gold — was originally the objective of Spanish explorers in the New World. Eldorado, the corporation, sought its fortune in Canada's northern frontier. While the anticipated gold mine never materialized, in its place a mineral even more valuable than gold brought Eldorado Gold Mines Limited to worldwide prominence. Radium, a metallic chemical element used in luminous materials and in the treatment of cancer, reached prices exceeding seventy thousand dollars per gram in the 1930s. Charlie and Gilbert LaBine, the enterprising brothers who founded the company in 1926, seemed destined to amass huge fortunes. They did achieve a degree of wealth from the sale of radium but ironically this did not reach either personal or public expectations. Another irony of Eldorado's history stems from the fact that radium was eventually supplanted as the main source of income for the company by an element originally deemed a useless by-product of the radium refining process. With the onslaught of the atomic age, uranium became the primary concern of Eldorado.

Robert Bothwell has written an authorized history of the early years (1926-1960) of this speculative gold mining company turned crown-owned uranium corporation. Beyond chronicling internal developments, Bothwell attempts to place Eldorado within a national and international context. He strives to examine the political, economic, and, to

a lesser extent, the moral issues surrounding the extraction, sale, and, most importantly, the uses of uranium. However, the main thrust of the book remains the people and events which most directly shaped the growth of the company. He offers useful insights into mining technology, the history of radium, resource development in northern Canada, public ownership and its impact, the role of C.D. Howe, and the emergence of various national and international atomic energy agencies. Bothwell amply demonstrates the fruit of research which required three years and numerous trips to such places as Great Bear Lake, Port Hope, Regina, Ottawa, Washington D.C., and London, England. He exhausted archival sources at the Public Archives of Canada, Saskatchewan Archives Board, and the Archives of Ontario as well as historical records held by individual departments and agencies. This corporate history offers an instructive blend of primary and secondary sources as well as first-hand insights provided by major participants in Eldorado's development. Bothwell took his research so seriously that not only did he immerse himself in technical subjects once foreign to him but he even consulted radioactively contaminated papers stored at the Port Hope refinery.

The results are contained in a book which portrays the growth of a company from a small gold mining concern, through the heady days of radium sales in the millions of dollars, to its contribution of raw materials for the atomic bomb. This book succeeds where previous works such as Lebourdais's *Canada and the Atomic Revolution* (1959) and Eggleston's *Canada's Nuclear Story* (1965) have failed. Bothwell neatly blends all the technical data and the chronology with the human stories of miners, managers, civil servants, and politicians. The numerous, colourful anecdotes provide a much appreciated respite from the detailed explanations of the intricacies of the international radium market, the principles of nuclear fission, or the deficiencies of the autoclave carbonate and sulphuric acid leaching processes used in refining uranium. By injecting these vignettes into his narrative, Bothwell supplies powerful images of the human cost exacted by this classic example of what Harold Innis once described as "economic cyclones" striking the frontier: rapid development of an isolated area of the north, exploitation of the natural resources, followed by an equally rapid demobilization of the settlement once the resource is exhausted or the market fails. This boom-and-bust cycle is applicable to many other industries and locations but the example of Eldorado is particularly apt.

Despite the book's impressive size, rich illustrations, and the obvious knowledge of technical details displayed by the author, *Eldorado* falls short of being a complete history. An obvious point is that the company's story is halted a full twenty-four years prior to the 1984 publication date. Undoubtedly, sources for the recent history of the firm become more inaccessible and more sensitive for each succeeding year, but there are significant events which should be reported since they have dramatically shaped the development of Eldorado. A second, more specific cause of this reviewer's dissatisfaction stems from the lack of information about what seems to be key episodes in the history of the company. While some of these are excused by the lack of primary sources, or by the poor state of much of the early corporate records, this is not the case for at least one prominent example. The historical records of Eldorado Nuclear Limited were transferred to the Federal Archives Division of the Public Archives of Canada in the fall of 1984 (Record Group 134, Accession 84-85/229, 34.9 m.) This reviewer can confirm the disarray of much of the archival material consolidated from various branches of the operation: Port Hope, Port Radium, Beaverlodge, Toronto, and Ottawa. These conditions, however, do not affect the documentation for the 1945 Glassco investigation into the allegedly

fraudulent activities of three prominent company employees or agents: French, Pochon, and Pregel. The corporate records supplied to Glassco, a Toronto accountant, along with various documents gathered as evidence, can be found in relatively good condition alongside correspondence and draft reports created by the investigating team. This material and complementary records in the C.D. Howe Papers and the records of the Department of Munitions and Supply (RG 28) provide extremely useful information about the change in attitude displayed by the federal government with respect to the management of the company. Bothwell consulted these sources but limited his treatment of the matter to a brief description of the Glassco findings. Much more could be said but is not.

Eldorado has some flaws. It leaves questions unanswered. At times it becomes mired in too much detail and at other times certain crucial issues such as the environmental impact of radium and uranium extraction and refining, occupational health and safety, as well as the previously mentioned Glassco commission do not receive sufficient explanation. These deficiencies, along with some annoying typographical errors, however, are substantially outweighed by the positive contribution this work makes to the existing literature on an important and controversial industry. This study will be of value to archivists and researchers alike as well as to anyone interested in the early history of one of Canada's most intriguing companies.

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E.H. Norman, His Life and Scholarship. ROGER W. BOWEN, ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984. xi, 199 p. illus. ISBN 0-8020-2505-6 \$25.00.

In April 1957, Herbert Norman, the Canadian Ambassador to Egypt, went to the top of an office building in downtown Cairo and jumped to his death. The apparent reason for this terrible action was the recurrence of charges that he was a Communist sympathizer, charges which had first been made some years earlier, and which the Canadian authorities had investigated thoroughly and judged to be groundless. Twenty-two years later, about one hundred scholars, friends, and associates of Norman met at St. Mary's University in Halifax to pay tribute to his life and work. This book consists of the papers presented at this gathering with some additional explanatory notes by the editor, Roger Bowen. The book is in three parts. The first describes Norman's life, the second appraises his scholarship, and the third consists of four examples of his own writings and speeches.

Herbert Norman was born in Japan in 1909, the son of a Canadian missionary couple. His early years are described by Edwin Reischauer, a respected American historian and diplomat, who was also a missionary child in Japan at the time. The Norman family did not live in "Missionary row" but in the countryside, truly among the Japanese, and Herbert's childhood playmates were Japanese peasant children. Throughout his life he exhibited what his friends called "an affection for the lesser names." Cyril Powles's essay describes the effect on Norman of these diverse early influences — the missionary background, his upbringing in rural Japan, and his being an expatriate Canadian.