

study of modern society in Canada, it will become increasingly incumbent upon archivists to develop effective means for tackling their mountain of paper. This may, indeed, require radical measures.

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Calgary Builds. The Emergence of an Urban Landscape, 1905-1914. BRYAN P. MELNYK. Edmonton: Alberta Culture with the Canadian Plains Research Center, 1985. 213 p. illus. ISBN 0889770387 \$15.00.

Bryan P. Melnyk's *Calgary Builds. The Emergence of an Urban Landscape, 1905-1914*, is an expository view of Calgary's first major attempt to develop as an urban centre. The work, which was Melnyk's Master's thesis from the University of Calgary, concentrates on the building boom in Calgary from 1905 to 1914 when the city experienced rapid growth. This period of growth witnessed a change in architectural style due to a social need for a more modern and progressive image, and the boom economy itself. There is a present-day Canadian myth that Calgary did not enter the twentieth century until the oil expansion period following the 1973 Yom Kippur War. The fallacy of this myth is strengthened by this work. The first two decades of this century are shown as the period when Calgary evolved from a prairie ranching centre to a sophisticated distribution centre.

Melnyk adeptly expresses the liberal optimism of the time. Economic and social gains were being made by individuals who had left established and rural communities in eastern Canada, the United States, and Europe. The population of Calgary expanded sixfold and those citizens who had left older and more firmly established centres desired creation of the same and even more enhanced social institutions. These services were provided by the structures which were being constructed and these structures became the symbols of the progressive growth of the period.

Many hold the belief that cities in western Canada have become sprawling communities because they were adapted to the expansive physical environment of the surrounding prairie. However, the author concludes that the reason for this was more complex. Western Canadian cities were developing at a time when Europeans and eastern North Americans were crying out against the tenements and more confined physical restraints of the Victorian urban community. Calgarians' response to this outcry is reflected through their residential, public, and commercial development. The Calgary citizenry desired their own private homes with surrounding gardens, substantial and impressive public buildings, and large practical commercial buildings. This was because they had an inherent belief that such an environment would nurture a community of individuals who would be thrifty, conservative in thought, and at the same time individualistic. Calgarians were thus expressing the ideals of the majority of their progenitors: the British.

Bryan Melnyk has used a wide selection of primary and secondary sources. His use of municipal sources is brief, but this criticism should be directed at municipal archives as well as at Melnyk, for those archivists in municipal repositories must strive for better preservation and description of their records. He has attempted to compensate for this gap by conducting his research among many published sources. However, he has not made

use of minutes of the Calgary City Council, the minutes and reports of the Calgary Planning Commission, or even building by-laws. Perhaps in a future work, the full evidence will be examined.

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Farming the Frontier: The Agricultural Opening of the Oregon Country, 1786-1846. JAMES R. GIBSON. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1985. 265 p. ISBN 0-7748-0219-7 \$29.95 cl.

In focussing on the agricultural activity in the Oregon Country before the 1846 boundary treaty, James R. Gibson has tackled a neglected and misinterpreted period and has shed light on it. Firmly based on a mass of raw data, the book is clear, concise, well-ordered, and readable, and manages a satisfying balance between a wealth of detail and the logical development of an argument.

Gibson attributes the neglect of the pre-1846 period to "the ethnocentric bent of American historiography" and "the inaccessibility, until recently, of the archives of the Hudson's Bay Company." (p. 5) Americans prefer to concentrate on the later period when British and Canadian influence in the area had diminished. Gibson, however, is under no such constraints. A major theme throughout his book is the strength of the British claim to the area and the dependence of the few American pioneers on the support of the Hudson's Bay Company. A major advantage which Gibson has over earlier researchers is his familiarity with the resources in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. Through his study of these sources, he has been able to document in lively detail the "laborious and largely successful efforts" of the Company's servants who "tested the agricultural resources and proved the agricultural potential of this sprawling and diverse region." (p. 5) A major result of this research is to reverse John S. Galbraith's earlier conclusion that the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company was a political and economic failure.

Within each of the four units into which the book is divided — Post Farming, Company Farming, Homestead Farming, and Mission Farming — Gibson discusses the origins, results, and problems of each effort. The discussion of the activities of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company occupies two-thirds of this book. Directing and dominating the operations of both these companies is the controlling figure of Governor George Simpson. John McLoughlin, James Douglas, William Tolmie, and other familiar "West Side" figures appear, but Simpson prescribes, cajoles, and commands as he organizes the farming operations for the benefit of the fur trade. He issues specific instructions on every operation from the selection of immigrants with "as few useless hangers-on and children as possible" (p. 110), to the penning of cattle (p. 121), and the breeding of ewes (p. 122). If Simpson's boundless energy and far-ranging expertise required further proof, Gibson has provided it.

These chapters also provide helpful reference aids to those interested in general Company operations on the Pacific Northwest Coast. Almost forty pages in the first unit are devoted to capsule histories for some seventeen posts. The account provided of the formation and history of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company is particularly clear in elucidating its interconnections with the Hudson's Bay Company. From the research