

on Alberta's ranching frontier and small southern Alberta communities was in some way the result of the work of Thomas and his students. To extrapolate somewhat further, had Thomas had a similar impact on the broader provincial scale, one would expect to see collections at the Provincial Archives which concentrate on social and material history, with perhaps a particular effort to collect the records of our rural and urban elites. My recent work on prominent individuals in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Wetaskiwin, and Red Deer has often been frustrated by a lack of family papers which seem so abundant in comparable repositories in Manitoba and Ontario. To me, this is a sure indication that Thomas' writing and teaching probably had little influence on the local archival community.

Indeed it seems, and this is more an impression than the result of exhaustive analysis, that there has been a strong tendency to preserve only the records of provincial agencies, municipal governments, and province-wide associations instead of private manuscript collections. If archival collections determine historiographical direction, and to some degree they must, it is likely that the next generation of Alberta historians will tend to write history from the perspective of successive provincial governments and their agencies, and of the various provincial associations that dominate the collections, rather than that of the individual. This would be ironic in a province stamped for the past century as Canada's last bastion of individual initiative. In short, the inadvertent collecting tendencies of the archives will make it very difficult for many of Thomas' insightful suggestions, based as they often are on observations of individuals and their community collections, to be eagerly or effectively pursued.

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Lost Initiatives: Canada's Forest Industries, Forest Policy and Forest Conservation. R. PETER GILLIS and THOMAS R. ROACH. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1986. xiii, 326 p. ISBN 0-313-25415-X \$35.95 (U.S.).

This book examines provincial and federal policies relating to forest management between 1880 and 1980 with emphasis on the period before 1940. It describes ideals of forest conservation which became popular before 1905 and subsequent attempts to implement them in forest policy. Ultimately, it is a story of failure; the authors conclude that "there has been little political leadership in this country which has endeavoured to create in an imaginative way a policy framework taking into account the needs of forest industries, but going beyond these to insuring regeneration of Canadian woodlands on a rational basis for future generations." The responsibility for this failure is placed at the feet of the Canadian public which, it is claimed, has remained blind to the fragile nature of the resource and insensitive to its wholesale destruction.

The historical account leading up to these conclusions presents a more complicated explanation for this failure. The first chapter provides an overview of the forest industry in eastern Canada to 1870. Chapters Two and Three describe the origins of the conservation movement and early federal initiatives in this area. Chapters Four through Seven chronicle attempts to carry out forestry programmes in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and British Columbia before 1940. The next two chapters summarize the history of

federal forest policy until 1940, while the last chapter provides an overview of postwar developments and examines the causes of "lost initiatives." Throughout this narrative, one is struck by the difficulty of placing such an amorphous and vaguely understood subject as forest conservation into the hard mould of government policy, shaped as it is by political expediency, fiscal restraint, and constitutional impasse. The book demonstrates how in almost every case, early idealism about man's ability to manage forests as a renewable resource resulted in despair, as rational planning gave way to political compromise. This was as much due to the particular nature of the forest resource as it was to political reality. Forests have been subjected to competing pressures from big and small enterprise, settlers, and speculators. Each brought particular concerns to the management of forested land. Governments internalized these conflicts, and policies became derailed by the lobbying of farmers and industrialists alike. Add to this the realities of government in Canada, and we have a recipe for failure. At the provincial level, the temptation to use forest revenue to offset the general debt instead of on reforestation was overwhelming. The federal government, too, was preoccupied with problems of deficit and was crippled by constitutional restraints which give the provinces control over resources.

The history of resource management is an important topic for understanding the economic development of Canada, and one that has received scant attention from historians. *Lost Initiatives* is therefore a welcome addition to Canadian scholarship. Unfortunately, it also appears as a disappointment because it fails as an adequate treatment of Canadian forest policy. The book's weaknesses are inevitable: as a pioneering national study, it must rely on an uneven array of local predecessors, but it compounds this handicap with lapses in research, analysis, and organization.

The chapters on Ontario and Quebec are based almost entirely on an extensive secondary literature of specialized studies. While the information is not fresh, the chapters present a comprehensive summary of forest policy in these provinces. The history of New Brunswick forest policy is based on a less complete selection of secondary sources. No primary research was done, although a fairly detailed picture is drawn from political and economic histories of the province. The chapter on British Columbia forest policy is ostensibly based on primary sources — newspapers, Forest Branch reports, and archival documents — but, while it is detailed, one suspects the lack of systematic research. The chapter fails to note, for example, that in 1915 the Chief Forester announced a deliberate departure from preservation in favour of an emphasis on marketing. The chapters on federal policy, on the other hand, are based on a thorough understanding of Dominion Forestry Branch files in the National Archives of Canada and represent the most original and ultimately the most successful contribution of the book. Focused almost exclusively on conservation, the chapters ignore other aspects of forest policy such as marketing. The chapters on federal policy, for instance, do not mention the important contribution made by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in the selling of Canadian lumber.

Gaps in research are less important than the uneven presentation. The book could have been better written. It needs an introduction setting out the issues of forest conservation. The first chapter is a hopeless tangle of information: one cannot see the forest for the trees. In many of the chapters, important points are buried in masses of detail. Worse, some of the argument gets lost in the verbiage, appearing confusing and contradictory. Here is a *non sequitur* taken from the conclusion. One paragraph makes the point that lumbermen's self-interest affected attempts to initiate forest policy: "The close relationship between the forest industries and the government, which was first investigated with George Hamilton

and the government of the Canadas, has persisted to this day. It is in a context of migrating cutting operations and a political climate more supportive of industrial exploitation than sound management practices, that the forest conservation movement has developed since 1880." Yet the next paragraph credits the lumbermen with forming an important power behind forest conservation: "It was the lumbermen, with the most direct economic interest in the forest, who were essential in promoting the movement." Both statements are probably true and can be explained by the fact that the ideals of forest conservation meant different things to different people over time. But the book passes too easily over the complexity and contradictions of the movement, presenting a confusing array of facts and opinion.

We had hoped for a better book; nonetheless, we are grateful that one appeared at all. Its most enduring legacy may be that it inspires more thorough research and analysis of a fascinating and complex subject.

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Victorian Lunacy: Richard M. Bucke and the Practice of Late Nineteenth-Century Psychiatry. S.E.D. SHORTT. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1986. xvi, 207 p. ISBN 0-521-30999-9. \$29.95.

Professor Shortt's latest work appears with an intriguing title, and the curious reader will not be disappointed. However, the uninitiated may find the work more demanding than its length might lead them to expect. Shortt's research is meticulous and the scope of the book goes well beyond Richard M. Bucke and late nineteenth-century psychiatry. The aspect of the book which most impresses one is Shortt's consciousness of his own subjectivity and the caution one perceives in his judgements about Bucke and his environment.

Richard Maurice Bucke, the Superintendent of the London Asylum and a close friend of Walt Whitman, is now a somewhat controversial figure. The controversy centres on Bucke's role in promoting and permitting gynecological operations on insane women in his asylum from 1895 to 1900. Bucke and a few other "alienists" felt that the operations were an improvement over conventional treatments. Indeed, Shortt argues that they saw the treatment as a means of modernizing and legitimizing psychological medicine. No therapeutic psychiatric effect was obtained, although Dr. Bucke clearly felt that some improvements were linked to the surgery.

My only reservation about Shortt's interpretation of Bucke's activities concerns the very brief section on Bucke's sexuality. Shortt seems quite certain that, although Bucke was the intimate friend of Walt Whitman and Edward Carpenter, he was heterosexual. My own reading of Bucke's letters suggests that Bucke was far more passionate in ink to Walt Whitman than he was to his own wife. To Whitman, he never fails to send his love and goes as far as writing "I send you my love, dear Walt, and sign myself yours till death" which compares with "I am your affectionate husband." Surely Bucke's passion for Whitman went beyond what one might expect to find among heterosexual males.

Bucke's relationship with Whitman is not particularly relevant to his motivation in permitting gynecological operations on insane women. I am inclined to agree with Shortt that the evidence does not show that the surgery was a manifestation of sexual anxiety. Nor does Bucke strike one as being hostile to women, as Shortt very rightly points out.