

referred to resides since Morrison's citations are incomplete. To future authors and researchers may I make a plea for the use of full citations in order to facilitate identification. It is a pity that Morrison's book inadvertently got caught in this time warp.

This minor criticism aside, *Showing the Flag* makes a significant contribution to the small body of scholarship on the role of the RCMP. The Mounted Police have long occupied a place in Canadian mythology. Popular studies of the "Mounties" abound; many stress the heroic aspect of their work in the North; many are simply picture books aimed at souvenir hunters and collectors of memorabilia. Others go to the opposite extreme of concentrating on the Force's shortcomings, especially in the area of national security and relations with native people. This book, written in a clear, straightforward style, deftly outlines and analyses the Force's role as overseer of northern development. Along with the handful of academic studies available, this work should form the basis for a critical, scholarly study of the overall development of the Force itself, a book which is long overdue.

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The Road Back: By a Liberal in Opposition. J.W. PICKERSGILL. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1986. 255 p. ISBN 0-8020-2598-6. \$27.50.

With *The Road Back*, J.W. Pickersgill joins the swelling ranks of former politicians wishing to place their personal stamp on the interpretation of the Diefenbaker governments which held office from 1957 to 1963. He does, however, offer a markedly different view of the period. While John Diefenbaker and Donald Fleming, to name only two, have documented the achievements of these governments in often painstaking detail, Pickersgill recounts government floundering through the eyes of the cause of the problems: Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. Aptly titled, *The Road Back* is the story of how Lester Pearson and a small group of Liberals successfully brought down the largest parliamentary majority in Canadian history.

Pickersgill's stated purpose was to produce "a book about the practice of politics ... with enough background to make the narrative intelligible." In this, he is partially successful, as one discovers the overt Liberal strategy in challenging the government during the high-profile debates of the period. Relying heavily on *Hansard*, Pickersgill looks at the Coyne Affair, the Hal Banks Affair, and the Nuclear Crisis in terms of political point-scoring and voter reaction. Yet, one is left wanting what has been left unstated. Instead of filling pages with *what* was said, no matter how entertaining or incisive it may have been, Pickersgill might have paid more attention to *why* and *how* he and his colleagues decided to state what they did. One suspects that the inside story may be more satisfying than that which is readily available in *Hansard*.

When Pickersgill departs from his stated intent and ventures into detailed descriptions, he captures a unique flavour in his prose. This stems at least in part from his experience as the Member of Parliament for Bonavista-Twillingate. Newfoundlanders take their politics very seriously, and tales of the trials and tribulations of campaigning in Newfoundland add colour to the narrative and highlight Pickersgill's considerable skills as a raconteur.

And humour is not all that the Newfoundland connection adds to *The Road Back*. Pickersgill was the senior member of the Opposition caucus from the Atlantic region, and was therefore intimately involved in all issues which touched upon Newfoundland or the Maritime Provinces. Thus, for the first time, local eastern Canadian concerns, such as the extension of the Trans-Canada Highway beyond the Province of Quebec, and Term 29 of Newfoundland's Terms of Union with Canada, figure prominently in an account of the period.

One of Pickersgill's stimuli for choosing this particular format for presenting the 'Diefenbaker Years' was the crushing defeat suffered by the federal Liberal Party in September 1984. As were many others, he was struck by the similarities between that general election and those of 1957 and 1958. In both instances, the Liberals were shocked, disillusioned and in a considerable state of disarray, so much so that — as Pickersgill frankly admits — they experienced many early difficulties in presenting an effective opposition. As he jumps from the seven years in question to the mid-1980s, Pickersgill presents a handbook for a government-in-waiting and an interesting reflection on the politics and players of the Diefenbaker governments. In spite of some "sins of omission" and the biases which are inherent in a political memoir, *The Road Back* is an anecdotal and highly entertaining tale.

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