

This publication is a good introduction to the historical and contemporary background of the Dakota in Canada. It is a fine addition to the Manitoba Studies in History series which examines native history from a western Canadian perspective.

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**The Journals of George M. Dawson: British Columbia, 1875-1878.** DOUGLAS COLE and BRADLEY LOCKNER, eds. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1989. 611 p. ISBN 0-7748-0276-6 (v. 1) ISBN 0-7748-0286-3 (v. 2).

*The Journals of George M. Dawson, 1875-1878* is a truly impressive piece of scholarship. Superbly edited by Douglas Cole and Bradley Lockner, this two-volume set examines the remarkable field activities of George Mercer Dawson, a former director of the Geological Survey of Canada (1895-1901) and one of Canada's foremost scientists in the nineteenth century. Appointed to the GSC on 1 July 1875 after serving as a member of the British North America Boundary Commission, the twenty-six-year-old Dawson was given specific responsibility for British Columbia and spent the remainder of the decade exploring the wilds of the province. From 1875 to 1877 he worked with Chief Engineer Sandford Fleming's CPR survey crews and covered an incredible amount of territory bordering the Fraser and Thompson rivers in the central and southern regions of the interior. In 1878 he went further afield to the north end of Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlottes.

The *Journals* cover these four seasons in British Columbia and feature not only Dawson's daily field entries, but also his notes on particular phenomena, his letters to family members, and even his poetry. The original records are held by the McGill University Archives, the Rare Book and Special Collections Department of the McLennan Library, McGill University, and the National Archives of Canada, and have been reproduced here with limited editorial revision. Dawson's punctuation and spelling idiosyncracies, for example, have been retained. Each particular field season is introduced with a map of Dawson's area of study and a handy day-to-day field chronology. The journal material itself is a testimony to Dawson's wide-ranging (some might say eclectic) interests, and clearly demonstrates his ability to extrapolate on the basis of limited observation to view the bigger picture.

The value of the *Journals* is greatly enhanced by extremely detailed footnotes (sometimes occupying more than half a page), which provide essential background information or elaborate on notebook entries. The work is further complimented by a concise introduction that nicely sketches Dawson's life and career and his varied contributions to Canadian science. There are also a number of appendices; perhaps the most valuable is the biographical dictionary of the many people mentioned in the *Journals*. Finally, there is a small collection of Dawson photographs which provide the reader with an appreciation of his skills in this area. Indeed, not only do the *Journals* represent a wonderful reference guide to the state and nature of Canadian science in the latter half of the nineteenth century, but they also confirm the need for a good biography of Dawson.

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