

A Guide to the Archives of the United Church of Canada: Alberta and Northwest Conference. LORRAINE MYCHAJLUNOW and KEITH STOTYN, comp. Edmonton: Alberta and Northwest Conference, United Church of Canada, 1991. 167 p. (microfiche).

On 10 June 1925, the union of the Methodist Church, the Congregational Churches of Canada and the Presbyterian Church in Canada was realized. This "organic union" would ultimately yield a wide and rich array of primary sources effectively documenting the history of the Protestant Church in Alberta. The growth and development of the United Church in the province of Alberta did not simply reflect its wider Canadian expression. In many ways, in fact, it defined the United Church experience in Canada. Accordingly, *A Guide to the Archives of the United Church of Canada: Alberta and Northwest Conference*, compiled by Lorraine Mychajlunow and Keith Stotyn, must be considered an invaluable reference tool for a variety of researchers, both amateur and professional.

Well-structured and concise, the *Guide* provides information on archival holdings pertaining to such areas as church bodies and organizations that pre-date the 1925 union; administration of the United Church of Canada; pastoral charges/congregations; papers concerning clergy and other church workers; interdenominational affairs; the personal papers of clergy and other church workers; and a description of related holdings at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Significantly, the *Guide* provides a description of records covering the period from 1831 to 1990. As observed in the introduction, these holdings thoroughly document and indeed reflect the "spirit of fellowship and compromise" that has historically marked the United Church of Canada.

Roderick McFall

National Archives of Canada

Our Own Master Race: Eugenics in Canada, 1885-1945. ANGUS MCLAREN. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart Inc., 1990. 221 p. ISBN 0 771055 544 7.

The Canadian Social History Series, of which *Our Own Master Race* is a part, seeks to explore "neglected areas in the day-to-day existence of Canadians," and to increase "the general reader's appreciation of our past and [open] up new areas of study." Angus McLaren examines the thoughts and actions of "believers in the primacy of heredity," better known as eugenicists, from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries in Canada. Arguing against the belief of many that the eugenics movement was simply the actions of a minority fringe group dabbling in pseudo-scientific concepts, McLaren shows that the concept of eugenics was quite common throughout society, belying the popular image of Canada as a long-standing haven within a world of racism and class consciousness. In the preface, a brief but provocative example of the pervasiveness of the idea of eugenics in the early twentieth century underlines this point. In 1933, Tommy Douglas, first CCF premier of Saskatchewan and a pioneer of state-run health care, wrote his MA thesis entitled "The Problems of the Subnormal Family." His conclusions relied heavily upon hereditary theories for social reform; namely, that social problems had a biological cause and could therefore be solved by applying a variety of eugenic controls such as marriage restrictions, segregation, and sterilization of society's mental and physical misfits.