

lated to prove a point, a fact long appreciated by researchers who have used the book.

Rosenberg did not set out to write a work of history, although there is much in *Canada's Jews*, derived primarily from the published works available to him. Had he wished to consult primary documents, he would have found scant resources at archives he might have visited. But the establishment, during the past several decades, of Jewish archival collections across the country, containing both communal records and private papers, permits scholars to build upon Rosenberg's efforts with resources beyond the statistical. Indeed, some of the material from which Rosenberg, himself, worked—the Jewish Colonization Association records, for example—are now at the Canadian Jewish Congress Archives in Montreal and Rosenberg's own papers are divided between that institution and the National Archives of Canada. Moreover, *Canada's Jews* could serve as a model for the study of other ethnic groups in Canada whose records, through the efforts of the archival profession, are becoming increasingly available for research.

For this reprint, produced on acid-free paper, Weinfeld has added a bibliography of Rosenberg's work, much of which adheres to the same high standard of scholarship as this volume. However, the editor has deleted the original introduction by the European sociologist Arthur Ruppin and Rosenberg's own preface. A more serious deletion is a very useful and detailed table of contents and a list of tables and maps. These made the first edition easy to use and would have been a considerable asset to the reprint.

In any case, by making this work available again, Weinfeld and McGill-Queen's have not only provided Louis Rosenberg with well-deserved recognition; they have also performed a significant service to the Canadian scholarly community.

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Planting the Province: The Economic History of Upper Canada, 1784-1870. Ontario Historical Studies Series. DOUGLAS MCCALLA. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1993. 446 p. ISBN 0-8020-3411-X (paper); 0-8020-3407-1 (cloth).

Douglas McCalla has written an ambitious, extensively researched book that will now be the standard work on the economic history of early Ontario. Other scholars and graduate students should happily graze in his pastures and hew their own refinements and refutations from the timber he provides them. Since it will have wide influence amongst their users, it behooves archivists who work with sources relating to Ontario to be familiar with *Planting the Province*. Likewise, McCalla's intensive and imaginative use of his sources can be instructive.

Until McCalla's book, the economic development of Ontario before 1850 has largely been interpreted as being driven by the development of two staples, wheat and squared pine timber. Staples, as McCalla explains, are "resource-based commodities, typically subject to relatively limited processing and destined primarily for export markets. From a staples perspective, economic growth in a region is a process of unbalanced growth, in which one or two sectors lead or propel the entire regional economy forward" (p. 4).

McCalla believes that those who have asserted the primacy of staples in the Ontario economy have assumed a causal relationship between external trade and local growth, rather than demonstrating it.

The most intensively researched portions of his book focus on wood and wheat. He emphasizes the variety of forest products that Ontario produced, arguing that, in addition to the Ottawa Valley squared pine, there was a second forest industry up the St. Lawrence and as far west as Lake St. Clair, based on hardwood and exporting a variety of products. This area actually exported more product than the Ottawa Valley. McCalla also emphasizes the significance of the domestic market for lumber and firewood. He projects that its value may have been equal to the value of wheat exports in 1825 and to Ottawa pine exports in 1831. Thus there was no clear dominance of a squared pine “staple.”

McCalla believes that forest products generated as much income as wheat despite the accepted image of wheat as dominant. He concludes that contemporary estimates of the capital, labour, and provisions involved in the forest economy were greatly exaggerated and that the investment in the Ottawa Valley timber industry was not sufficient to make it a leading sector for development elsewhere in Upper Canada. He finds no empirical link between immigration (using timber ships on the return voyage) and the timber trade. Finally, McCalla argues that preferential timber duties, usually credited with the creation and sustenance of the timber trade, were not as indispensable as assumed and that without them, lumbering along the course of the St. Lawrence would have contributed to growth, while loss of the development of the Ottawa Valley pinery would not have slowed the development of the provincial economy.

On wheat production, McCalla marshals statistics to show that until the 1840s, the majority of wheat produced in Upper Canada was consumed there and that which was destined down river was often mainly for consumption in Lower Canada. Thus wheat was not predominately an export staple.

McCalla argues that the annual wheat output would have required no more than one-fifth of the total land under cultivation and that it would have been difficult on an average farm to maintain more than ten acres of it without hired labour—which few found remunerative. Through his careful microstudies of the records of local merchants and farmers, he finds a variety of products involved in the market economy—ashes, rye, tobacco, barley, pork, etc. Although generally the most important crop, wheat was much less prominent than usually assumed and a variety of other products played a significant role. Upper Canada’s was always a mixed farming economy.

Rather than seeing unbalanced economic growth, driven forward or impeded by the demand in external markets for a limited number of staples, McCalla emphasizes domestic growth and diversity of development with a wide potential for choice of activities and products amongst individual producers. This in turn called for a degree of sophistication that has not commonly been associated with “pioneer” farming. Rather than distorted or unique development reliant on a few staples, McCalla stresses a balanced development, which he finds in its major outlines to be very similar to that of adjacent American states, particularly western New York, Ohio, and Michigan.

The rest of the book carries forward these themes of balanced growth and diversity in studies of artisans and manufacturing (both rural and urban), the growth of shipping, and the development of financial institutions. McCalla's sources are more limited here and his outline more impressionistic than his studies of timber and wheat. This is what one would expect of a general economic history and archivists would do well to note the topics covered. Much of the agenda of the next generation's studies of early Ontario's society and economy will originate from these chapters.

McCalla's studies of Ontario's transportation network—roads and canals—stresses their adequacy for local development—another aspect of balanced growth. He places canals in the context of overall transport development, as a logical improvement of the existing system, requiring state financing (as did American canals) rather than an expensive tragedy coming too late to compete with their American counterparts as Laurentian staple theory depicts them.

On the role of government in the provincial economy, McCalla stresses that there was no single, united family compact, but rather multiple sources of initiative and control. He finds the major difference from American states not in the nature of involvement in the economy, but rather in the large investment by the external British government. Most importantly, he concludes that the routine expenditures of the government were not enough to make it a dominant participant in the provincial economy or its ordinary costs a burden.

The one major exception to the pattern of gradual growth conditioned largely by economic forces within the domestic economy was, according to McCalla, the development of the railways in the 1850s. They alone of the transportation facilities of the era could not be built incrementally and had to depend on outside investors and public funding. The investment required was enormous compared to anything previous and the demand for labour, unprecedented. Still, the impact of the investment and the labour requirements were essentially short-term; the long-term impact as a transportation system was to reinforce and extend existing patterns of urban development.

Detailed analysis in the book really ends with the 1850s; the carry through to 1871 does look at changing conditions—the end of net immigration, increased urbanization, the growth of a service sector and the beginnings of industrialization. Again the stress is upon continuity and the impact of domestic development: change is less dramatic than it might seem—the number of farmers actually increases; urban growth is most rapid in the smaller centres; production remains largely localized; ownership is individual or in partnerships. Most importantly, change is rooted in previous economic developments and domestic progress. The boom years of the 1850s and 60s, rather than being the products of external events—the Crimean War, the Reciprocity Treaty, and the American Civil War—as the traditional historiography sees them, were conditioned by previous internal factors.

In terms of sources, McCalla draws as one would expect both on the classic staple theory works and the more specialized books, articles, and theses of this generation. Newspapers and legislative journals are used for price series, but a solid core of the economic data and much of the narrative analysis—especially that which is

new—rest upon what would have been incredibly hard slogging through the fragmentary remains of farmer and merchant daybooks, accounts, and ledgers, supplemented by immigrant letters, and more standard provincial and British military and colonial sources. It is heartening to see the list of regional repositories used in this study: Queen's, University of Guelph, University of Western Ontario, the Niagara Historical Society, and the Metropolitan Toronto Library, as well as the Archives of Ontario and the National Archives. The archival repositories of the Windsor-Detroit region are a rather surprising omission. The long-established regional archives have quietly and patiently put together holdings of early papers relevant to the economy for decades; McCalla's research could not have been accomplished without them. Before McCalla, however, those sources had largely been used for local histories or specialized academic regional studies. Let us hope that McCalla's ground-breaking work in weaving them into a comprehensible provincial pattern will lead others to take up the challenge of using these valuable sources for wider studies.

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The Records of the Department of the Interior and Research Concerning Canada's Western Frontier of Settlement. IRENE M. SPRY and BENNETT McCARDLE. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, 1993. xii, 198 p., illus., appendices, index. ISBN 0-88977-061-1. \$32 (paper).

This book is both an impressive example of archival research and an extremely useful archival tool for anyone interested in the history of the Prairie Provinces. The two authors should need little introduction for any student or researcher of Western Canadian history. Irene Spry, in the course of her distinguished career, has written some of the seminal works of Western Canadian studies, including *The Great Transformation: The Disappearance of the Commons in Western Canada* (1976). As indicated by the references in the endnotes of "Part I" of the book, mentioning a forthcoming work concerning mission settlements in the West, she is actively continuing this tradition of scholarship. Bennett McCardle has produced a number of fine archival studies of the records of Canada's Native people, such as the two volume *Indian History and Claims: A Research Handbook* (1982), which have set standards for attention to detail and thoroughness of research. It is fortunate, then, that these two scholars have teamed together to produce a study they hope will "... promote interest in research on western settlement and development" (p. 31). Their wishes should be realized as *Records of the Department of the Interior* does an often amazing job (representing decades of research) of pulling together and tracking down the important and complex records of the department.

The book is divided into two major parts: "Part I" consists of the essay "Existing Research on the Frontier of Settlement in the Western Interior of Canada," which is concluded by a very rich and useful list of references that is actually longer than the text. The essay not only explains the complex pattern of settlement of Western Canada from about 1870 to 1930; it also functions as a fine historiographic essay of the scholarship concerning this settlement. Most interesting for archivists, the essay describes how the records of the Department of the Interior were scattered