

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

over five provinces into a frustrating number of repositories. The department was created in 1873 to administer the real estate and natural resources of newly-created Manitoba, the North-West Territories (part of which in 1905 became the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta), British Columbia's Railway Belt and Peace River Block, and Northwestern Ontario before the 1890s. The Department of the Interior was responsible for the settlement of the West through activities such as the disposal of homestead land, the granting of Métis scrip, the issuing of licences for mining and leases for ranching, and a host of other functions—including those of its “semi-autonomous programmes,” most notably Indian Affairs, Immigration, and the North-West Mounted Police. In 1930, Ottawa transferred the ownership of ungranted natural resources to the three Prairie Provinces; six years later, the Department of Interior itself was dismantled. This began the dispersal of the department's voluminous records to the western provinces (the last transfer occurring in 1978). One source the authors mentioned estimated two hundred railway boxcars full, although many dormant and active records continued to be held by the department's successors, most immediately Mines and Resources. Other documents were destroyed under “Public Records” authorities, and even as part of wartime paper drives!

This, then, is the task of the authors in the second part of the guide, to trace the major series of records into the different Record Groups of the National Archives, most notably RG 15 (Interior); or the various archival collections, provincial or other, of the western provinces. The book outlines a research “strategy” for approaching records relating to specific subjects such as land, families, timber, and other natural records, and Métis scrip. The records themselves are then categorized according to the administrative bodies or persons that created them, and, most critically for the researcher, the archival institution(s) that hold them and their current description. Throughout this discussion, a wealth of information about the provenance of the records, the destruction of some documents, related records, and a comprehensive listing of relevant secondary works is provided. The study is illustrated by an attractive collection of documents, posters, and maps. Also included are three useful appendices concerning the transfer of records of the department to the Prairie Provinces; a listing of the Dominion Land Agencies, 1873-1930, and a guide to relevant legislation, including the *Dominion Lands Acts*, as a bonus.

The brevity and simplicity of the previous description should not obscure the fact that a tremendous effort was required to collate the obscure and well-known, but always geographically dispersed, surviving records produced by the department. Indeed, the study stands as a warning to archivists that they should document the splitting of an archival fonds as it occurs because of the extreme difficulty of doing this afterwards. So it is understandable that the authors were not always able to have personal contact with everything in the guide, but were able to count on the knowledge of many skilled archivists to round out their knowledge of the records. It is difficult to be critical of such an impressive piece of research and scholarship, although it should be mentioned that it is destined to suffer the fate of all archival studies of this sort. Even though Interior has long ceased to create documents, more current finding aids are continually being produced, and “new” records are “discovered” or located within existing collections, thereby outdating such guides. With luck, however, the authors will eventually be able to produce an updated sec-

ond edition. The major drawback of the book may indeed be that there is so much of value here that it is difficult for the average researcher to grasp it all at once, although the well-crafted introductory essay is a more enjoyable “read” than most archival guides of this sort. Considering this excellent book, and the plans to put RG 15’s archivist Jeff Murray’s recently completed study of Métis scrip records on a forthcoming Government Archives CD-ROM, the student of Western Canadian History is in a truly enviable position regarding recent archival output.

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**Surgeons, Smallpox and the Poor. A History of Medicine and Social Conditions in Nova Scotia, 1749-1799.** ALLEN EVERETT MARBLE. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1993. xv, pp. 356, index.

This is an unusual book. Its subject is esoteric, yet its overall importance to the history of the Maritimes and to medicine is high. The sources used are wide-ranging, yet at the same time they are eclectic and appear to be spotty. The text itself is developed logically, but the structure seems frequently to defy logic. Archivists with a special interest in medicine will find this book an invaluable addition to their personal libraries. But as befitting this volume’s peculiar qualities, all archivists will find in it something of interest because the focus on sources makes them equal partners to the narrative. The author, Associate Professor and Director of Research at the Department of Surgery at Dalhousie University, devoted fourteen years of research to gathering data for this book, which he conceives as a social history of medicine, but one in which the medicine is very definitely left in. While the volume does not explore the new territory of the cultural study of science, *Surgeons, Smallpox and the Poor* still has lots to tell us about public health and medical practices in eighteenth-century Nova Scotia and particularly in Halifax.

Two interwoven narratives are developed within the broad framework of the politics of colonial settlement and the American Revolution covering the period 1749 to 1799. The first deals with the public health of the colonists and the military; the second concentrates on specific medical personnel, their training, practices, and professional associations. The volume is divided into five major chapters, each dealing with health, health care, and health policy in roughly ten year periods beginning in 1749. A substantial introduction gives us background on settlement, medical practices, diseases, and their nomenclature in the early eighteenth century. The author pays particular attention to the education of surgeons, the division of professional turf among physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, and a very useful review of smallpox and the practice of inoculation before Jenner. Chapter One covers the early years of arrival, settlement, and health from 1749 to 1753. Chapter Two examines the decade 1753 to 1763, which the author characterizes as one dominated by the interests and work of military and naval surgeons. Chapter Three extends to 1775, a period in which the needs of poor relief overshadowed early interest by officials in providing health care for the population taken as a whole. The arrival of the loyalists and the new order of medical men is discussed in Chap-