

attempts to improve the effectiveness of the Audit Office to meet the complexities of present day federal government, the development of the value-for-money philosophy in public expenditure and a detailed examination of the Office's role in the Atomic Energy of Canada and the Polysar affairs of the mid-1970s.

But this overview does not constitute a real history of the Office of the Auditor General. The author is obviously more interested in the successes and triumphs of the present Auditor General than she is in the historical development of the Office. Any history of the Audit Office must take into account the state of public auditing prior to the passage of the 1878 Act. No mention is made of the attempts to establish proper auditing practices throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, the role of the Inspector General of Public Accounts in pre-Confederation Canada is not looked at and the very important career of John Langton as Auditor General of the United Canadas and Canada from 1855 until 1878 is omitted. Although Langton was also an official of the Department of Finance and therefore not "independent", during his long term as Auditor General he established important principles and precedents in the auditing of the public accounts. Events after 1878 cannot be understood without at least some acknowledgement of attempts to establish an audit system prior to 1878.

These imbalances and lack of historical perspective are only two aspects of this book that render it less than satisfactory. A third is Sinclair's use of sources, a subject that should concern all archivists. Even though it may be granted that the administrative records of the Auditor General's Office after 1878 are not extensive, supplementary sources of information are available, and wider use might have resulted in a more useful history of the Audit Office. Although there are no footnotes or bibliography, it appears that the author made some use of the voluminous annual reports of the Auditor General, but records of related departments, such as the Finance Department, and the papers of Prime Ministers, would have yielded additional information. The author interviewed public servants, politicians and former employees of the Audit Office and perhaps this accounts for the lack of historical perspective in the period prior to 1940.

One is left with the impression that the author is simply not interested in the long range development of the Auditor General's Office. Her enthusiastic description of J.J. Macdonnell's tenure leaves no doubt where her sympathies lie. If the value-for-money notion was applied to *Cordial But Not Cosy*, the cost would not be justified by the return. As a study of a highly significant government authority, it is simply and plainly inadequate.

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**A Chronicle of Irish Emigration to Saint John, New Brunswick 1847.** Edited by J. ELIZABETH CUSHING, TERESA CASEY and MONICA ROBERTSON; with an introduction by MONICA ROBERTSON. Saint John: New Brunswick Museum, 1979. 77p. ISBN 0 919326 36 6. \$5.95.

This work is primarily a genealogical publication containing the names of Irishmen who died at Partridge Island and obituaries of persons born in Ireland who died in the Saint John area during the year 1847. Also included is a list of vessels which brought emigrants to the Port of Saint John, accounts of relief measures undertaken on behalf of emigrants and people in Ireland, and information on tenants sent out from the estates of some prominent Irish landlords during that year. Excerpts, arranged chronologically, are taken from the 1847 files of a well established weekly newspaper, the *New Brunswick Courier*, founded in 1811 by Henry Chubb.

*A Chronicle of Irish Emigration to Saint John* focuses on a subject which is generally known in a wider context. During the Irish potato famine, ports of the British North American colonies and United States suffered in common with Liverpool and other ports of Great Britain to which the natives of Ireland brought an epidemic of typhus fever. Extensive emigration to Saint John in 1847 was expected. Early in the year, the *Courier* carried reports of distressed conditions in Ireland and of the large numbers planning to leave. No one could have predicted the numbers who would actually come. The Introduction states that over 16,000 emigrants arrived at Saint John but according to the returns of the Emigration Officer only 14,892 landed at the Port. Nonetheless, when one considers the influx of so many destitute and diseased emigrants into an area of population of slightly over 30,000 one is struck by the enormity of the problems it created.

For the information of friends and relatives in Ireland and elsewhere, and because the number of deaths at the Quarantine Station, Partridge Island, "have been greatly exaggerated," the *Courier* published the names of emigrants who died there. These deaths, which were mainly from typhus fever and dysentery, amounted to more than 600 persons. Over eighty of them were passengers from the barque ALDBARAN alone. Their names, and others appearing in the book, are carefully recorded and a nominal index facilitates reference to them. Also included are reports from the Emigrant Hospital, located at the Saint John City and County Almshouse, Parish of Simonds, where upwards of 600 emigrants died. Unfortunately for the genealogist, these are aggregate returns only. The obituaries selected for publication reveal that not only emigrants succumbed to the fever. Dr. James P. Collins, aged 23, died while assisting the Health Officer at the Quarantine Station and both Captain Robert Hall, aged 51, of the barque PALLAS, and seaman John Blair, aged 25, of the barque BETHEL, died from exposure to fever contracted while aboard passenger vessels.

The alphabetical "List Of The Sailing Vessels Which Transported Irish Emigrants To The Port Of Saint John, N.B., In 1847" was compiled from information contained in the "Marine Journal" of the *Courier* and from *Papers Relative to Emigration to the British Provinces in North America*, House of Commons, Great Britain, 1847. This list is quite comprehensive containing the names of some eighty-eight passenger vessels. It also indicates the port of embarkation, the number of passengers and the date of arrival of each. One serious weakness is that it does not distinguish between the date of arrival of vessels at the Quarantine Station and the date of their arrival at the Port of Saint John. It may be difficult to find the exact dates of arrival at these two points but some of this information is available in the dispatches that are published in the *Papers Relative to Emigration*. For example, a June dispatch contains dates of arrival of eleven passenger vessels all of which were still detained at the Quarantine Station at the end of May (Colebrooke to Grey, 11 June 1847, C.O. 188/100, No. 51). Their detention is important when one compares the return of the Emigration Office, which shows that four vessels carrying 1,208 emigrants arrived at the Port during May (Colebrooke to Grey, 7 August 1847, C.O. 188/101, No. 74) with the editor's list, which indicates that seventeen vessels carrying 3,795 emigrants arrived. There is no doubt that many of the vessels, which the editor indicated as May arrivals, did not go up to the Port until sometime in June.

There are other deficiencies apparent in the editor's list as well. For example, in May, two vessels bearing the name MARY, not one, arrived from Cork (Colebrooke to Grey, 11 June 1847, C.O. 188/100, No. 51) and the second voyage of the BRITISH QUEEN from Londonderry is not indicated; the number of passengers listed for the CHIEFTON and the CUSHLA MACHREE are inconsistent with the newspaper accounts; and the number of passengers on some vessels is not recorded at all. Yet, it appears that the brig MARY from Cork, for instance, carried seventy-eight passengers and the MALVINA from Baltimore carried 183 (Colebrooke to Grey, 11 June 1847, C.O. 188/100, No. 51).

On the other hand, the newspaper accounts clearly illustrate the generosity of the

citizens of Saint John during the crisis. Fund raising schemes were held throughout the year in an effort to alleviate the suffering of Irishmen at home and abroad. For example, in February 1847, over £ 1,100 was collected by committees of the City and County, by churches and through social functions; the Bank of British North America issued drafts to individuals for relief purposes in the amount of £ 1,083 in one day alone; and late in the year, financial and material assistance was extended to orphans housed in the former City Poorhouse.

Quite plainly in evidence is the apparent insensitivity of Irish landlords, who were accused of sending out shiploads of paupers from their estates in order to place their own burden on the people of Saint John. For example, Sir Robert Gore Booth dispatched more than 1,150 emigrants to Saint John and Lord Palmerston, who was British Foreign Secretary at that time, sent over 600. One vessel, the AEOLUS, carrying 428 of Palmerston's tenants, arrived in Saint John on the first of November just after the Quarantine Station had closed for the season. The officials of the City were outraged. The Health Officer stated that "ninety-nine of every hundred must be supported by the charity of this community, or otherwise, as justice demands" and Common Council quickly passed resolutions condemning Palmerston or his Irish land agents for their actions.

A simple marriage announcement brings the work to a rather curious but somewhat optimistic conclusion. Ordinarily in a work of this kind one might rely on the introduction for a commentary on the excerpts chosen for publication and the significance of the events described in them. Yet, the introduction is only two pages in length and contains instead an abbreviated history of Irish emigration to New Brunswick. Analysis of the events of 1847 and comments relating to the newspaper extracts are sparse. By contrast, the preface clearly shows how requests for information and absence of records for this period created a need for a publication on this subject. The editors proceeded by ferreting out personal items from the 1847 *Courier*. The result illustrates the richness of the newspaper as a genealogical source while recording, to a certain extent, other aspects of the migration of that year. *A Chronicle of Irish Emigration to Saint John*, will, no doubt, appeal to an ever growing number of genealogists and to those of Irish ancestry it is certain to have a special attraction.

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**A Not Unreasonable Claim. Women and Reform in Canada, 1880s-1920s.** Edited by LINDA KEALEY. Toronto: The Women's Press, 1979. 224 p. ISBN 0 88961 052 5 bd \$17.95 ISBN 0 88961 049 5 pa \$7.95.

Riding into pre-World War I society, Canada's "new women" were off to a world beyond the home. Social reform action became the catalyst of new and highly visible public activity for women. Restive in their dependent domestic existence, which in contrast to the growing social problems of modern industrial society emphasized their uselessness in the public sphere, the "new women" and their organizations self-consciously embraced the most progressive social reform ideas and adopted aggressive public action.

Yet while women's participation in social action movements and their successful invasion of professional occupations hitherto reserved for men was looked upon by many contemporaries as unseemly, if not revolutionary, behaviour, neither social nor political revolution was the result. The unity of women's social, political and occupational actions was illusory. Whether women's actions were tarred or touted as progressive, the authors of *A*