

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*

*Not Unreasonable Claim* collectively show that progressive was, at best, a shared definition of objectives, not a platform for unified action. What triumphed was maternal feminism, a socially acceptable ideology justifying women's participation in politics and the compassionate professions as a logical extension of their special capabilities as women and mothers.

Placed in the context of recent feminist historiography, this collection finds a pleasing balance under the deft editorial hand of Linda Kealey. She has done a first class job of preserving thematic unity by way of a volume introduction and some useful observations prefacing each essay. Perhaps the general tone is a little too serious and better use might have been made of notes for elaboration and elucidation but these are minor flaws. What is really attractive is the sound research which has been done in the records of women's organizations like the National Council of Women of Canada, in the contemporary literature on women's action and into new sources which, like the archives of Toronto Women's College Hospital, are added to the historical canon.

Wayne Roberts opens the volume with an analysis of the triumph of maternal feminist ideology in the progressive period evaluating labour, socialist and working class women's response to suffrage which became the apotheosis of women's aspirations. Within the suffrage context, Carol Bachi examines the tenuous alliance between farm and labour organizations over the suffrage question. Marie Lavigne, Yoland Pinard and Jeniffer Stoddard trace the rise and fall of the Federation Nationale Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Quebec and Deborah Gorham examines the remarkable career of a radically different feminist and suffrage exponent, Flora MacDonald Denison. Women's entry into the medical profession and the nature of their feminism as professionals is analysed by Veronica Strong-Boag and in a parallel essay, Susan Buckley elucidates the role of the V.O.N. and nurses in the reform of pre- and post-natal care. Progressive ideas nurtured by a growing concern for the obvious human abuses of rapid industrialization and urbanization certainly prompted social action but Wendy Mitchinson and Joy Parr demonstrate the strength of protestant traditions and christian doctrinal convictions as springs for social action in their studies of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and child immigration activities. In the final contribution, Barbara Roberts connects the activities of the many societies for British female immigration with the prevailing sentiments of wider empire further developing a theme which appears in other essays of women as the objects of action rather than feminism as the objective of reform.

Plainly further work is essential and this book raises some exciting prospects. We need to know more about the changes in Canada's domestic structure and the attitudes of women and men to birth control, abortion and family size. We need to know more about those women who were neither the self confessed nor self documented feminist activists examined in these essays but who none the less entered the professions and expanding public service in increasing numbers, particularly in the immediate post-World War I years. What impact did increased mobility brought by railways and motor transportation have on family structures and social attitudes? To a generation born to jet travel there appears to be a sentimentalized, if not silly fixation, on the "perils" of unchaperoned travel. Why was this so apparent in the literature of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?

Research into these and other questions raised by the authors will prompt exploration of a whole range of untapped archival sources. Family and criminal court records need thorough investigation. Vast quantities of provincial and municipal public health and social work records remain to be explored as do the records of the burgeoning state bureaucracy which increasingly employed women in professional and policy-making capacities. Awakening interest in archives on the part of Canada's hospitals and private social agencies such as the Salvation Army have borne fruit in the establishment of several hospital archives in Toronto and more are planned in other institutions and agencies

across Canada. These new archives and hitherto unused or little used records in long established archives will provide solid sources for the spate of new research into women's history in Canada of which this book is symptomatic.

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**Stefansson and the Canadian Arctic.** RICHARD J. DIUBALDO. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1978. xii, 274 p. ill., maps ISBN \$18.95.

This volume could serve as a text book for explorers, politicians and civil servants. It could instruct explorers on how not to have successful relationships with the Government of Canada and it could show politicians and civil servants how not to deal with explorers, especially explorers of such strong individuality and undeviating determination as the likes of Vilhjalmur Stefansson (1879-1962).

In the 1920s, as the author mentions, Stefansson was one of the most famous celebrities in Canada and he remained one of the internationally best known authorities on the polar regions, and particularly the Canadian Arctic, until his death. He stimulated more interest in the Arctic than any other individual of his time as an explorer, pioneer Eskimo ethnologist, writer and theorist. He ended his life the friend of the famous, the sort of distinguished man of learning and adventure who was invited to the White House to meet visiting heads of state.

Stefansson actually spent remarkably few of his eighty two years in Canada. He was born at Arnes, Manitoba, a small Icelandic community on the western shores of Lake Winnipeg but climatic disasters drove his family to emigrate to the United States before he was two. His life became a realization of the legend of "America the land of promise". His formal education began in a one room school from which his intellectual abilities led him to two prairie universities, North Dakota and Iowa, and eventually on scholarships to the eastern athenaeum, Harvard University. In 1906, he was suddenly offered the position of anthropologist on the Anglo-American Polar Expedition just as he was about to join a British Museum expedition destined for Africa. He accepted and for the next twenty years his life became interwoven with every diverse aspect of the Canadian Arctic, the exploration of its extent, the study of its aboriginal peoples, the examination of its climate and nature, and not least its political significance to the Dominion.

Stefansson went on three major expeditions to the Arctic; the Anglo-American Polar Expedition of 1906-07; the Stefansson-Anderson Expedition of 1908-12, sponsored chiefly by the American Museum of Natural History; and the great Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913-18, of which Stefansson was the official leader. It is on this third expedition that this book chiefly focuses; the first two are rightly placed as preliminary studies of what went right and wrong for Stefansson personally, and the expedition as a whole, from 1913 to 1918 and afterwards. For despite considerable accomplishments much did go wrong with the Canadian Arctic Expedition, and what went wrong eventually made Vilhjalmur Stefansson "persona non grata" in official Ottawa for most of the last forty years of his long life. As one director of the Geological Survey, R.W. Brock, remarked, most lengthy polar expeditions have rows which are forgotten when they return home. But the animosities generated on the 1913-18 Expedition flourished, poisoned lives, and did not cease until the protagonists died.

Diubaldo's study examines what contributed to the successes and failures of Stefansson's three major expeditions. It is an examination of federal attitudes, policies and procedures and their relationship to an extraordinary intelligent, resourceful, determined egoist. At the very conclusion of his autobiography the octogenarian