

quent occasions when close contact with the supporting artillery was lacking. Companies advancing without an artillery forward observation officer were unable to call for supporting fire or, most important, report their own location to avoid being shelled by their own guns. Bitter experience forced the infantry to make better use of the artillery, and the descriptions of the later battles reflect this improvement. However, the provision of adequate anti-tank protection remained a serious problem in Italy. Finally the Seaforths followed the example of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and improvised a "tank-hunting" platoon within the battalion.

The achievement of close co-ordination depended mainly upon good wireless communications. But for most of the interwar years the Seaforth's signals training had been confined to a few ancient field telephones. When enterprising members of the Signals Section applied for permission to conduct experimental work with their own wireless transmitters and receivers, it was refused by the National Defence Headquarters on the grounds that it might detract from their orthodox signals training. Such military obscurantism was bound to create tactical and technical difficulties when the small prewar army was suddenly expanded. But these difficulties could not detract from the quality of leadership and service in war which enabled the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada to live up to the proud traditions they display in peace.

Vancouver City College

B. A. LEACH

Victoria: The fort, by Derek Pethick. Vancouver: Mitchell Press, 1968. 287 pp. \$7.50.

Despite an almost archaistic delight in using Victorian prose, Derek Pethick has produced a first-rate history of Fort Victoria's first twenty years. His book should please both casual readers and academicians, for it is well documented with annotated footnotes at the end of each chapter, and the abundant resources of the Provincial Archives in Victoria have been thoroughly exercised.

There are two outstanding characters in *Victoria: The fort*, Sir James Douglas, KCB, and Amor De Cosmos (né William Smith). Douglas is treated in the usual manner, emerging as something resembling a stuffy "hero." Pethick's observations on De Cosmos are engrossing and show

the reader a man who was sensitive to the pulse of his time. It is to this same De Cosmos that we owe a debt of gratitude for establishing our first library and archives in 1862. The feud between Douglas and De Cosmos is described fully. Pethick also discusses in some detail the term of the first colonial Governor Richard Blanshard but unfortunately does not provide any new information as to why Blanshard was ever selected for the job.

The Fraser River gold rush of 1858 and the influx of several tens of thousands of wild American miners brought Victoria into the mainstream of the nineteenth century. Again the author recounts the significant events accurately, while keeping the reader entertained with amusing vignettes like the account of Victoria's lively atmosphere with gun duels, "furious riding," and other barbarous misbehaviour (p. 166).

The final chapter is appropriately titled "The End of An Old Order" and deals with the retirement of Governor Douglas and the appointment of Arthur E. Kennedy in his place. It is somehow fitting that the last building of the old Fort, built by Douglas twenty years before, came down the same year that Douglas retired.

It is unfortunate that wider use was not made of the huge photographic collection in the Provincial Archives to supplement the text. Some photographs are presented but they are the standard portraits and familiar street scenes. But for anyone interested in looking at this province's development, *Victoria: The fort* should be added to their reading list. The bibliography is quite useful and, except for some misnumbered footnotes, no major publishing errors appear.

Centennial Museum, Vancouver

JAMES B. STANTON

The Canadian Indian: The illustrated story of the great tribes of Canada,
by Fraser Symington. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1969. 272
pp. \$20.

There are few subjects better suited to the expensive, picturebook market than the North American Indians. With a stirring history, richly documented, the story of the Canadian tribes could have been made into a great book. Unhappily we have been served a bad one.

Twenty-one illustrated chapters of text and ten separate picture sections are arranged to provide a wide coverage of such topics as the origin of