

and later to Rivers Inlet and the Nass River, is not probed fully, especially with regard to the differences in capital financing between the Skeena and Fraser canneries. Later, in Chapter Eight, the author is concerned with the sale of many canneries that occurred in the late 1920's and the general decline in the number of operating plants. The year by year events of the industry are recorded for the period, but there is little analysis of the reasons for the great turnover in ownership and the effects of these ownership changes on the consolidation of operating canneries along the coast.

Cicely Lyons' concern for an interest in the salmon industry is attested to by the diligence with which she has pursued completion of this lengthy volume. We are indebted to her for assembling much interesting data and later historians will assuredly benefit from this work. Lyons' devotion to the salmon industry, and her concern for the species on which the industry is based, makes it all the harder to conclude that we still lack a systematic and rigorous, historical analysis of British Columbia's salmon industry.

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*Bella Coola* by Cliff Kopas. Mitchell Press Ltd., Vancouver, 1970. 291 pp., illus., index.

Cliff Kopas, a journalist, makes no claim to be an historian. His aim is purely "to perpetuate the thrilling story of Bella Coola and its people," to communicate to his audience his obvious and understandable love of this small coastal village. The author's goals are limited but laudable, and this book will, no doubt, enjoy a measured success in the gift shops of Victoria, although a more varied and more imaginative selection of photographs might well have enhanced its souvenir value.

More a series of descriptive vignettes than a chronological accounting of Bella Coola's past, Kopas' volume ranges over the usual recitation of eighteenth and nineteenth century explorers, Indian life and customs and the entrance of fur trader and missionary. The work of B. F. Jacobsen and the establishment of the Norwegian colony at the turn of the century make the Bella Coola story unexpectedly unique. Kopas' anecdotal treatment only accentuates the lack of that real meat of historical writing — good localized histories of this and similar towns.

The climax of the work, both in terms of the author's enthusiasm and the book's conclusion is the communal effort of the 1950's to build a road link to the interior of the province. With all due public commendation of the role of P. A. Gagliardi, then minister of highways, the minutely detailed description of the construction of the Bella Coola road has all the atmosphere of bringing the good news from Ghent to Aix. Yet it is this episode, more than any other, which brings the reader close to the problems and preoccupations of small town British Columbia.

Kopas' *Bella Coola* is based on undisclosed sources, according to the author, a mélange of stories, reminiscences, diaries and letters from his personal collection. Yet one chapter on Indian war and politics is only a slightly dramatized version of the comparable chapter in T. F. McIlwraith's monumental work on the Bella Coola, and it is surprising that this particular debt was not acknowledged. Unfortunately, Kopas appears to have missed the Rev. R. C. Lundin Brown's accounts of the area in the 1860's, in particular the dramatic conversion of Klatsassan before his execution, material eminently suited to this "fusion of fact and fancy."

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