

modern scientific medicine has not yet eliminated disease nor made cure a foregone conclusion, there must still be a place for "a powerful faith that can release the self-healing propensities of body and mind."

Finally, it should be noted that whereas Dr. Rose most unfortunately rarely cites his sources and provides no bibliography, Dr. McKechnie provides good, if sometimes discursive, footnotes and his bibliography is extremely useful. Both books would have benefited from some firm editing to eliminate a variety of minor solecisms.

University of British Columbia

JOHN NORRIS

The Ladners of Ladner: By Covered Wagon to the Welfare State, by Leon J. Ladner. Vancouver, Mitchell Press Limited, 1972. pp. 161. \$6.50.

The careers of two young Cornishmen who travelled by wagon train across the United States to California in the mid-nineteenth century, thence to the Fraser River gold rush, and later to permanent settlement in the Fraser delta and the acquisition of wealth and influence in the new society of British Columbia ought to provide material for a book of absorbing interest and some importance. Regrettably, it must be said that this volume is disappointing and falls far short of being the contribution to the social history of British Columbia that it might have been.

A major problem arises from the apparent paucity of information which the author has about the activities of his father, T. E. Ladner, and his uncle, W. H. Ladner. Although we are told a good deal about wagon trains in the American west, about life in the Cariboo country, about Indian customs and relations between Indians and white settlers in British Columbia, and about the early salmon canning industry, what the author has to say about the role of the Ladners in the developments discussed is often based only on inference or surmise. The result is neither good general history, nor good family history. The occasional interjection of an anecdote about an African tribe, or some episode in the Canadian House of Commons, in which the author sat for nine years as a Conservative member, adds nothing to the flow of the narrative. A further difficulty for the reader arises from the author's failure to adopt even the simplest bibliographical style as a means of ordering his material and indicating his sources. A competent editor would have insisted on the removal of references to the sources from the body of the text.

Mr. Ladner wishes his book to stand as a tribute not only to his own family but to all B.C. pioneers. He also wants it to serve as a sermon in praise of the free enterprising individualist and a warning against the iniquities of the welfare state. From time to time the reader is told that "in those days no benevolent government gave any assistance or even encouragement to immigrants," that "the thought never crossed their minds that government would look after them" and that "one should never forget the inherent acquisitive or self-serving characteristics of mankind, evidenced in every page of history." All this leads one to speculate about Mr. Ladner's position within the Conservative party. His extreme mistrust of any form of state responsibility in economic and social life places him well outside the main stream of Canadian Conservatism. But perhaps he was not so untypical of British Columbia Conservatives? Some answers to that question may be forthcoming, since Mr. Ladner assures us that this book is a prelude to a second volume which will deal more directly with politics and especially with "that creeping political and economic menace, Communism. . . ." It is to be hoped that he will not confine himself to generalizations, but will discuss his own experience in the politics of British Columbia.

University of British Columbia

MARGARET PRANG