

dispatched to intercept Lewis and Clark illustrate a continuation of Spanish concern with the northwest, such acts were little more than muscle spasms soon to be followed by rigormortus. Any real policy to maintain a presence in the Pacific Northwest would have demanded the reoccupation of Nootka Sound or some other port. The author's argument that part of Spain's weakness resulted from the placement of California, the Columbia basin, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca under the control of the Captain General of the Interior Provinces at Chihuahua isolated from the northwest coast is certainly correct. If, however, there had been a genuine policy to re-establish territorial claims, distance and administrative errors could have been overcome quickly. Even before the Napoleonic invasion of Spain in 1807 and the outbreak of the first Mexican Revolution in 1810, the idea of restoring Spanish control over the distant northwest coast had ceased to influence all but a few.

Perhaps the author's description of Spain's activities on the northwest coast as "the apex of her colonial expansion" is just a little misleading. From the beginning, most authorities in Madrid and Mexico City considered the region to be little more than an expensive and bothersome annoyance. There was little of the missionary zeal and effort to utilize available resources which characterized the Spanish empire in an earlier age. The flood tide of empire was carried forward by its own inertia beyond the point it should have ebbed. Despite the play on metaphors, Professor Cook has written an admirable book which will become the standard history of Spain's role on the early northwest coast. The only error of note is on page 107 where mercury is described as being in demand in New Spain for refining gold ore, which should read silver ore. Other errors (pp. 134, 185, 195, 394, 481, 530, and 549) are either small typographical mistakes or incorrect dates.

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CHRISTON ARCHER

British Columbia: One Hundred Years of Geographical Change, by J. Lewis Robinson and Walter G. Hardwick. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 1973. 63 pp.

This comprehensive historical geography of British Columbia by two University of British Columbia professors of Geography is a pioneer work in its field. It is concise yet packs in a surprisingly large amount of information on and interpretation of its subject. Some might consider it regret-

tably short, whetting the appetite of the reader for more elaboration, illustration and explanation of the multi-faceted and changing land of British Columbia. It is written in an interesting and fast-moving style that exhibits a satisfying uniformity throughout, although readers who are familiar with the authors' other writings will recognize their respective contributions.

A major theme in the book is the progression from the marked isolation in the early settlement period toward greater integration during a century of growth and change. A fourfold concentric zonation of British Columbia focused on the southwestern urban nucleus is defined, in which the "intensity and complexity of economic activity, and the density of population, decrease outward." This sets the stage for a discussion of the early settlement nuclei of Victoria and New Westminster and the penetration of the interior during the search for gold. The rapid rise of Vancouver which quickly overwhelmed its Vancouver Island rival in commercial and industrial importance is treated at length, including some consideration of its functional areas.

The approach is chronological within several broad periods, the first two being 1843-1886 and 1886-1918. The natural resource base and developments within major regions are traced up to the end of World War I. The rapid expansion of the economy, both on the coast and in the interior, during the period 1919-1946 is the main theme of the next section, followed by a more detailed outline of the ensuing industrial growth and functional integration after 1946. This latter section is organized under resource use headings, including forestry, fisheries and electric power. The last part of the book is focused on the hierarchy of urban places and their functional characteristics. An unfortunate mainland bias creeps in at this juncture where the authors devote nearly five pages to a detailed consideration of metropolitan Vancouver under the section heading, "Georgia Strait Region," but dispatch Victoria in a mere twelve lines. Not only out of respect to her aged dignity, but also on the basis of a metropolitan population nearly one-fifth of Vancouver's, surely Victoria warrants the better part of a page? A much better job is done on the roles of the sub-regional capitals in the interior, particularly Prince George.

The lack of references or a bibliography may please the general reader, but will disappoint the more academically inclined who might wish to consult this pioneer work as a starting point for further study. In one instance where some indication of source is offered the reader is frustrated: four maps of early Victoria are attributed to P. D. Floyd, two of

which even give page numbers, but nowhere is there a reference to what Floyd wrote or where it can be found. The inclusion of more maps to illustrate such changes as occurred in the fish canning industry would be desirable and a little more statistical information would be useful. Of course, documentation such as this might clutter the book unnecessarily for general readers, and no book can be all things to all people.

The book design is based on an $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ format with two columns arranged across the long dimension. A spacious and dramatic layout of the text is achieved by starting each heading half way down the page in the next column after the column in which the last section of text terminates. This is carried to extremes by treating even sub-headings in this fashion and might be more effective if only major headings were so treated. Also, strict application of the technique results in several unfortunate instances where one to four lines hang in open space on pages 30, 42, 54 and 60. Perhaps the text could have been backed up slightly by minor variations in starting points at the beginnings of sections in order to avoid this result.

The book is good reading and offers an excellent interpretation of the evolution of British Columbia in a nutshell, despite the minor flaws mentioned. It takes a broad view, identifying the major elements of the changing geographies of British Columbia. It is to be hoped that it will generate greater interest in the historical geography of the province and will inspire other books on the subject.

University of Victoria

C. N. FORWARD

Residential and Neighbourhood Studies in Victoria. Edited by Charles Forward. Victoria, B.C.: Department of Geography, University of Victoria; Western Geographical Series No. 5, 1973. xv + 230 pp., index, maps, diagrams; \$4.00.

A perennial and truthful response by teachers of urban geography when challenged by their students with the old battlesong to up the Canadian content has been to point to the paucity of humanistic empirical research (as opposed to conceptual and impressionistic studies) on the Canadian city. A few years ago William Bunge urged geographers to once again become explorers and chart the unknown islands of the human condition. For Bunge the dark continent was literally on his own doorstep, and throughout the late 1960's his Detroit Geographical Expedition