

a measly "\$12.75 million" in return. In summary: "City Council, again abdicating its responsibility to the electorate, has aided and abetted the CPR at every turn, giving the smooth CPR negotiators everything they ask for, and on occasion, even more than they wanted."

A brief look at the facts, all of which were available to Gutstein, suggests a different interpretation of how the negotiations went. A subdivision of the sort Marathon proposed would normally require a \$10.5 million outlay for things like parks and utilities. In addition to standard subdivision costs, however, it was agreed that Marathon would supply \$12.5 million worth of additional parkland; \$1.5 million for school purposes; \$1.25 million towards construction of a community centre with daycare, swimming, and other appropriate facilities (that figure is in 1974 dollars and escalates in line with inflation building costs); \$3.5 million for the development of public open space (again that amount escalates with inflationary costs); \$2 million extra for the construction of a high-quality public seawall; and \$0.5 million for a perimeter road. This comes to a total of \$21,500,000 additional expense for Marathon Realty and a total cost of \$31,750,000.

In summary, in return for the city's actions which, if we accept Gutstein's figures, added \$23,460,000 in value to the Marathon land, the people of Vancouver received added benefits amounting to about \$31,750,000. Gutstein prefers to ignore this because he's trying to show that city councils give the people of Vancouver's assets away. The negotiations surrounding the north side of False Creek, in fact, show a council securing and improving the city's assets for everyone's benefit.

The real problem with *Vancouver Ltd.* is that anyone who knows anything about the city knows that Gutstein doesn't know much. He is an apprentice of the famed "excreta tauros sensos frustratur" (bullshit baffles brains) school of journalism. *Vancouver Ltd.* is the result of his apprenticeship.

Vancouver

GORDON CAMPBELL

Fishing; British Columbia's Commercial Fishing History, by Joseph E. Forester and Anne D. Forester. Saanichton: Hancock House Publishers, Ltd., 1975. Pp. 224; \$14.95.

With the publication of *Fishing* there is, at last, a book about British Columbia's fisheries which is worth buying. All facets of the industry from

its beginning to the present are described, and the extensive use of photographs, diagrams and maps enhances the value of this publication for the general reader. It is especially useful for its descriptions and illustrations of fishing techniques.

Those wishing to use it for academic purposes, however, will find it disappointing. Despite its wide scope, *Fishing* lacks footnotes, a comprehensive bibliography, and consistent in-depth research. It is a shame that the authors came so close to producing an excellent reference work and then wasted this potential. The exclusion of footnotes is especially baffling as that addition alone would have greatly aided the academic.

The authors also tend to romanticize the fisherman rather than present a critical evaluation of the industry's workers. They credit fishermen with fierce respect for the sea, but fail to mention that this is often overridden by a greed which leads to carelessness and death. Alcoholism is not described as the problem it is and no mention is made of the boredom at sea which often leads to alcoholism.

Romanticism is also evident when the authors describe early labour relations in the industry. Paternalistic management was, and is to a lesser extent today, a characteristic of the industry but this does not support the authors' conclusion that the canners and early fishermen worked together for mutual gain (p. 63). Company-owned gear more often than not meant that the fisherman was perpetually in debt to the company. This left little room for realistic bargaining. The contract system of hiring Oriental cannery crews was by no means a "voluntary one" (p. 126). Most early Oriental cannery workers could not speak English and thus had to work through a contractor or "boss Chinaman". Records at UBC's Special Collections show that the contractor was often in league with the canners to the detriment of the cannery workers. Royal commissions on Oriental labour emphasize the evils of the contract system.

In many cases certain themes are overdeveloped and other, more important topics are given only passing notice. The early period of labour organization is extensively described while the formative years of the present day unions, the 1930s, are virtually ignored. There is no excuse for this as there are at least two secondary works on the subject and the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union is very receptive to those doing research on the fisheries. Considering the scope of this book, the chapter on the Japanese seems far too extensive. This space could have been better employed discussing all the racial groups of the fishery. The description of early canning is excellent, but the accounts of the key innovations of the modern cannery — the butchering machine and the sani-

tary can — should have been developed further. Although there were at least five types of butchering machines, only the “Iron Chink” is mentioned. A further criticism is that as this is a history of the fisheries, more than one paragraph should have been devoted to modern fishing plants.

Several inaccuracies can be found in the text. More care should have been taken on dating the introduction of various techniques. The dates for the establishment of canning on the Fraser and Skeena are highly questionable, as is the date for the introduction of whaling. In North America the canning of salmon began in the east, not on the Sacramento. It is also highly unlikely that Alexander Ewen introduced the drift net to the Fraser, considering that the Hudson Bay Company was experimenting with nets at Fort Langley three decades earlier.

All these criticisms aside, this work is an excellent publication for the general reader and helps fill a gap in the history of British Columbia's staple industries. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to read a general history of Canada's Pacific fisheries.

Victoria

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