

Several contributors attempt to discover whether economic principles offer any guidance for the solution of the jurisdictional conflict over the disposition of petroleum revenues. Anthony Scott explores four possible economic criteria in his long introductory chapter but concludes that none of them offers a strong argument for accepting either federal or provincial claims to exclusive possession of resource rents. Like most "economic" problems, this one turns out to be normative and political in its essence, and, as Donald Smiley argues in another chapter, it is complicated by Alberta's peculiar history and traditional penchant for defiance of the federal government.

Most of the chapters that express an opinion support a federal claim to at least a portion of resource rents. An exception, however, is the chapter by Andrew R. Thompson, a lawyer and chairman of the British Columbia Energy Commission, who considers that the provinces are more efficient in collecting resource revenues, partly because they can levy royalties as well as taxes and partly because a uniform federal resource tax could not be adapted to local conditions which vary between the provinces.

Two other chapters raise important political issues that should interest all students of Canadian federalism. Thomas J. Courchene argues that the oil crisis has exposed the unsuitability of the present system of equalization, since the payments are based on a comparison of provincial revenue sources while the funds available to pay them come entirely out of federal sources. John Helliwell and Gerry May view the Syncrude agreement as illustrating the dangers of executive federalism, since tax revenues were effectively transferred from Ottawa to Edmonton "by secret bargaining requiring no prior public or parliamentary investigation or approval." Both issues deserve consideration now that governments are once again proposing to revise the rules and structures of Canadian federalism.

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Natural Resources of British Columbia and the Yukon, by Mary L. Barker. Vancouver: Douglas, David and Charles, 1977. Pp. 155.

Natural resources have been central to the history and economic development of both British Columbia and the Yukon. This is the central message in Barker's brief overview of the natural resources in this area.

This argument is not new. Roderick Haig-Brown and the British Columbia Natural Resource Conference have explored this relationship earlier, but Barker has provided a useful update replete with graphs and excellent illustrations.

The six chapters discuss the major natural resources of the area, although the treatment is quite unequal, given the contribution of various resources to the economy. Minerals and energy are covered in substantial detail. Comparatively, the treatment of the forest industry is weak and does not exhibit the same level of detailed analysis. Other chapters focus on fish and wildlife and on parks and recreation. The book concludes with a section on natural hazards, which, while interesting, seems somewhat out of place in this work. Natural hazards are an important issue in how man manages resources, but this does not appear to be the major concern of the book, and natural hazards are not really resources by themselves. The book is not issue-oriented except in this section, and inclusion of this chapter is rather disconcerting. Had the author provided a statement of intent in the introduction, the chapter might well have meshed better with the rest of the volume.

The book has considerable merit. The illustrations are well chosen, current and on the whole clear and informative. This is especially true in chapters dealing with topography and geologic formations. There are two minor detractions. During a period of conversion to the metric system both metric and British measurement units might have been employed. Second, the map of installed hydro-electric capacity is difficult to read and might have been enhanced with a companion map of the power distribution system in British Columbia and the Yukon. Apart from this the text is highly readable and relatively free of errors.

Two statements are, however, quite questionable. The author argues that "new roads encouraged logging and sawmilling in the Interior of British Columbia and, more recently, hydro-electric power projects and new mines" and that "the pattern of settlement shifted in accordance with whichever natural resource was preferred" (p. 13). New roads were not the critical factor nor did they encourage hydro-electric power or mining. Indeed, much of the Peace River development and that on the Columbia River were influenced by the power potential, and new roads were not a cause of the development, but a service to that development. The argument about settlement pattern is just as suspect. The basic settlement pattern of the area has remained quite constant. Whitehorse and the greater Vancouver and Victoria areas have had the bulk of the population since the turn of the century. It is true that towns have expanded

and new towns have been created in response to the exploitation of different resources — Prince George, Kitimat and Endako are good examples — but this trend has not altered the basic pattern of settlement.

This volume follows the traditional pattern that geographers have employed to discuss natural resources of a particular area. It discusses each resource in particular detail but provides little discussion or analysis of the issues involved in the management of natural resources or a wider perspective on how natural resources should be managed. Such an observation is not a criticism of the current volume, since it obviously was intended for a different purpose. Rather, it is more of a lament about the absence of such an approach by geographers and others who have tried to present an integrated approach to natural resources and their use. In this particular work the author provides a useful bibliography which can lead the reader beyond the overview into the actual problem of management.

Those who desire or expect a critical analysis of natural resources management will have to wait. This particular volume is a lucid and simple description of the use of natural resources in British Columbia and the Yukon — no more, no less.

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Contact and Conflict: Indian-European Relations in British Columbia, 1774-1890, by Robin Fisher. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1977. Pp. xvi, 250. Illustrations, maps, index, bibliography. \$18.00.

Professor Robin Fisher, who teaches history at Simon Fraser University, has produced a thoroughly documented and well-balanced study of European contact with aboriginal peoples in British Columbia from the time of first contact to the “triumph” of white settlement. In general this timely investigation confirms the thesis of writers such as Baker, Huttenback and Jordan who have concerned themselves with problems of white settlement in aboriginal tracts, and the thesis of Larrabee and others who have concerned themselves more specifically with relations at the time of contact between Amerindian cultures and European immigrants.

There are, of course, a number of distinctive contributions which mark this study as more than a confirmation of existing interpretations. Not that the confirmation of such views is without significance, but there is