

tended to generalize about native peoples and to lump them all together. This was probably because of the common elements in the various cultures (division of labour, sex roles, responsibility to kin-group, lack of coercion, etc.) and the fact that when different groups behaved alike towards Europeans and their intrusion this served to increase the visible similarities between different Indian cultures. The visible differences from European culture, needless to add, aided the settlers, missionaries and officials to conclude that all Indians were in the same state of savagery.

The reader will find this an innovative work in an increasingly popular field of historical study. The author's balanced and objective analysis, his knowledge of the anthropological literature and historical sources, and his sympathy for and understanding of native cultures make this an important addition to socio-cultural history. The university publishers are also to be congratulated on the fine material and visual quality of the book.

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*Victoria: Physical Environment and Development*, edited by H. D. Foster.

Western Geographical Series, Volume 12. Victoria, B.C.: University of Victoria, 1976. Pp. xvii, 334; 98 figs., 6 plates, 25 tables.

Volume 12 in the Western Geographical Series has an attractive cover and interesting title. It may come as a surprise to the general reader that the objective of the book is to demonstrate the growing unity of purpose in geography (p. iv). The question must be asked "for whom is the book written?" The conclusion of this reviewer is that the book is aimed primarily at professional geographers and that the general reader will have difficulty in sustaining interest. Professional geographers, in turn, will be disappointed by the indifferent success achieved in demonstrating unity of purpose in geography.

The methodology that is used to substantiate the major thesis is (a) to select a region, namely the greater Victoria area, (b) to explore the interface between some of the physical and social systems in that region and (c) to declare that this material "should be of interest to physical and social scientist alike" (p. iv). The specific problems addressed are: (i) how did early settlers perceive the physical environment of Victoria? (ii) what is the present and potential use of Victoria's urban forest? (iii) what are the practical implications of the spatial variability of nocturnal temperatures on the Saanich Peninsula? (iv) what is the nature of the coastal

erosion hazard on the Saanich Peninsula? (v) what is the nature of the microseismicity hazard in Victoria? (vi) how can one predict the spatial variations in earthquake potential? (vii) how does one select sanitary landfill sites? and (viii) how has sewage disposal to the sea been perceived by the public and by regulatory agencies in the decade 1965-75 and in what direction will changes continue? Each of these topics is interesting in itself but they do not add up to a comprehensive or synthetic view of the Victoria region.

Typographical errors abound (two in the half-page preface on p. iv); scale and direction are absent from a number of maps and air photographs, and curious statements such as "the risk of exceeding critical low temperature limits [is] rather high" (p. 97) are not uncommon. The book is lavishly illustrated but many altogether unnecessary figures are included, e.g. figs. 1-7, 2-7, 3-7, 4-7, 5-7, 6-7, 4-8, 5-8, 6-8, 7-8, 8-8, 9-8, 10-8, 11-8, 12-8 and 13-8, to name only some of the most obvious candidates for exclusion. Many of the maps in chapters 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 are difficult to read because of the amount of compressed information and the inherent limitations of using two shades of black.

Although there are many criticisms that can be made of the balance and style of this volume, there are some good contributions. Three chapters should be picked out for special mention. They were Charles Forward's "The Physical Geography of Victoria, circa 1860" (chapter 1); Vilho Wuorinen's "Seismic Microzonation of Victoria" (chapter 5) and Harold Foster and R. F. Carey's "Simulation of Earthquake Damage" (chapter 6).

Forward's chapter is particularly interesting as a statement of the early colonial physical environment. Wuorinen's chapter is notable in that it is well grounded in the history of earthquake activity in Victoria, in the geophysics of the Victoria region, and in the nature of the hazard and how to respond to it. Foster and Carey's study explores the damage potential from earthquakes in a more quantitative way and uses a simulation model to extend predictive capacity over space and time. These three chapters together provide two good substantive discussions and one illustration of the application of a technique of analysis which generates information of interest to the general reader and, incidentally, of importance to planners.

I would not use this book to demonstrate the unity of geography; neither would I buy it as a comprehensive travelling companion when visiting the greater Victoria region. It is more in the nature of a source book for a number of randomly selected facts about Victoria's physical environment and development. In this latter sense much can be learned

about the various forest classifications in vogue and tree species present, microclimatic variations, coastal erosion and urban waste disposal alternatives in the greater Victoria region. It is a matter of regret that this book fails in its self-appointed major task.

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*Canadian Battles and Massacres*, by T. W. Paterson. Langley, B.C.: Stagecoach Publishing Co., 1977. Pp. 242; *illus.*; maps; index.

Almost twenty years ago Dr. G. F. G. Stanley wrote a book called *Canada's Soldiers* which he subtitled "The Military History of an Unmilitary People." The subtitle of Mr. Paterson's book is "300 Years of Warfare and Atrocities on Canadian Soil." Stanley may be correct in his premise that Canadians are not by nature a warlike race, but Paterson is equally correct in his accounts which illustrate that, once aroused, Canadians can hold their own with any other group when it comes to fighting on sea or on land.

This book is divided into five historic periods: the French-Indian engagements; the French-English wars; the War of 1812; the 1815-1866 era, dealing with the Rebellion of 1837 and the Fenian raids; and finally Western Canada, which covers the Massacre at Seven Oaks to the Chilcotin "War."

The term "battles" in the title, one should note, is used to cover everything from a skirmish to a siege, and sometimes the author will devote almost as much space to the one as the other. The description of Madeleine de Verchères' defence of her family's fortified home against several dozen Indians is an interesting account, but does it deserve even half the space devoted to Major-General Brock and his crucial battle at Queensston Heights, which helped to shape the outcome of the War of 1812? Moreover, although Madeleine's story is well worth telling in some detail, this reviewer finds it odd that there is no mention made of Benedict Arnold's assault on Quebec.

Mr. Paterson does make excellent use of eyewitness accounts and contemporary documents to enliven his description of the various battles and engagements. With the use of such material, together with his own natural talents as a story-teller, there are moments when one can almost smell the fumes of gunpowder or hear the roar of the cannon as the antagonists come together at a crucial point. At times, however, the author becomes