

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.

University of British Columbia

OLAV SLAYMAKER

*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

too enamoured with the eyewitness accounts and the reader, lacking the compass of analysis, gets lost in detail.

There are twenty-eight separate "battles" and massacres described in this book. If the reader is surprised at this number, he should appreciate that the author has had to be selective in those he picked to relate. Only two or three sea battles are described, for example, and many more could be chosen. The same holds true of massacres. Most if not all of those selected are massacres of white men (and women and children) by Indians.

The descriptions of the more important battles and engagements vary in quality. The Battle of the Beechwoods, the Disaster at Fort William Henry and the Battle of Queenston Heights are especially well told, as is the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. Louisbourg deserves better treatment and the description of Lundy's Lane, although giving a good impression of the confusion of battle, becomes too detailed and difficult to follow.

Despite these drawbacks, this book will appeal to many. It is a well-written account of an aspect of Canadian history which is not well known. Well illustrated, and with a general bibliography for additional reference, it gives a good description of most of the important military and naval engagements in New France and British North America.

*University of Victoria*

REGINALD ROY

*Bibliography for the Study of British Columbia's Domestic Material History*, by Virginia Careless. Ottawa: National Museums of Canada, National Museum of Man Mercury Series, History Division Paper No. 20, 1976. Pp. 73; free.

The intent of this bibliography, as the Mercury Series Publications listing states, is to assist those studying interior decoration, furnishing, and social and cultural life in British Columbia at the turn of the century. It should, the series claims, be of particular use to those interested in historical restorations and museum reconstructions of period rooms. Undoubtedly, Careless' bibliography will become a standard reference work for museums in B.C. It covers material available in the major repositories of Vancouver and Victoria, offering some 800 entries, divided into forty-six subject categories.

The bibliography emerged from a project to make the domestic rooms in the B.C. Provincial Museum's modern history display more historically