

reads the transcript carefully or who is slightly familiar with the subject, why didn't Broadfoot specifically name all of his subjects? If some insisted on anonymity, he could have at least provided a thumbnail sketch of their background and supplied cross-references identifying all the extracts from a particular interviewee.

To his credit, Broadfoot was aware of the danger of the book becoming pro-Japanese and did speak to some whites who had a particular interest in the Japanese such as a teacher in the interior camps and the consul for Spain, the Protecting Power for Japanese interests, as well as a few ordinary citizens. Yet there is no evidence that he interviewed such important figures as former alderman Halford Wilson of Vancouver, one of the leading anti-Japanese agitators, or Dr. H. L. Keenleyside of the Department of External Affairs, the federal government's "expert" on the Japanese situation in British Columbia. In order to flesh out the story, Broadfoot has coyly had interviewees quote extensively from several government reports.

Broadfoot did not confine his work to interviewing, transcribing and editing but has provided a few paragraphs of introduction to the book as a whole and to each of its fourteen sections. However, he has not corrected minor factual errors. One example will suffice. Attributing an election slogan — "A Vote for the NDP is a vote for the Chink, the Jap" — to Ian Mackenzie is obviously incongruous (p. 92), since the NDP was not created until 1961, some years after the enfranchisement of Asians in British Columbia and the death of Ian Mackenzie. Though such an error is relatively trivial, there is no reason for not correcting it. Because of the problems inherent in the oral history technique, this book will not be the last word on the subject of the Canadian Japanese in World War II. Nevertheless, it will have served its purpose well if it reminds Canadians of one of the more unfortunate incidents in their history.

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*British Columbia Chronicle 1847-1871: Gold and Colonists*, by G. P. V. Akrigg and Helen B. Akrigg. Vancouver: Discovery Press, 1977.

This book sets out to tell the story of British Columbia's history from the signing of the Treaty of Oregon to the colony's entry into Confederation, and follows an earlier volume, published in 1975, which chronicled the period from 1778 to 1846. The narrative is presented in annual seg-

ments arranged chronologically over the twenty-five year period, and is episodic in nature, emphasizing the dramatic and colourful incidents of the colonial era. While the events and personalities discussed in the book have been chosen primarily for their potential as a "good story", certain historical themes do bring continuity to the loosely structured text. The principal of these are the evolution of governmental institutions on the Island and mainland; the numerous gold rushes of the interior, both large and small; the creation of communication and transportation links between New Westminster and Victoria and the white settlements of the hinterland; and the establishment of social order throughout the colonies.

As a literary piece this volume at times is very successful. The book is well written, and tales like those about the peripatetic corpse of the gold-seeker John "Cariboo" Cameron's wife (pp. 267-69) and about Mrs. Staines' well-remembered salad oil (p. 74) are a joy to read. Helen Akrigg's very commendable maps are an indispensable supplement to the narrative, and hopefully will be used to good advantage in future by the teachers of B.C. history.

As history the chronicle is less easily accepted. One reason is the authors' very selective use of sources. The Akriggs have examined a considerable quantity of primary material, but have been much less diligent in canvassing more recent interpretive literature. Scholarly essays published in sources other than journals have been almost entirely ignored. Particularly noticeable among the material overlooked are several post-graduate theses in history readily available at coastal universities, including Bob Smith's work on Governor Kennedy, Kent Haworth's on Governor Musgrave, Jean Usher's on the missionary William Duncan and Robin Fisher's on Indian-white relations in B.C. Is there some reason why John Arctander's sixty-year old study of Duncan should have been used, to the exclusion of more recent work (in both published and unpublished form) by Usher and Fisher?

While little effort has been made to put the events of British Columbia's past into a larger analytical framework, such an approach is logically consistent with the chronicle form of historical writing. Yet the implied neutrality of this kind of history is impossible to maintain in practice, and the Akriggs' *British Columbia Chronicle 1847-1871* is no exception. This book presents a very definite interpretation of B.C. history — an interpretation based unfortunately on long-outdated views of the colonial period. The Royal Navy, Governor Douglas and Judge Begbie are presented as heroes, working to create a white, stable middle class and emphatically British society on the Pacific coast, while the trouble-making Indians and

rabble-rousing Americans are presented as villains, working to retard it. Sources such as Paul Phillips' essay on "Confederation and the Economy of British Columbia" have not been used because the complex economic questions they examine are deemed unimportant to this central drama. Particularly slanted is the Akriggs' portrayal of the native population through negative stereotypes which emphasize the Indians' "larcenous" (p. 64), "savage" (p. 298) and "thieving and drunken" (p. 162) character. No attempt has been made to interpret the historical role of B.C. Indians between 1847 and 1871 as anything more than a "problem" (pp. 161, 205) for the colony-building whites. Surely such tired assumptions should not remain unquestioned in the year 1977, even in "narrative" chronicles.

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