

Finally, Amstatter has described his own experiences and those of his associates at Tomslake in such a fashion as to imply that their saga constituted if not the whole story at least the most important part of the Sudeten presence in Canada. There is more. Besides Tomslake an equally significant and successful Sudeten settlement developed in and around St. Walburg, Saskatchewan. Moreover, those refugees who left the original settlements in Saskatchewan and British Columbia later formed an important Sudeten colony in eastern Canada (dispersed among Hamilton, Toronto, and Montreal). These other two Sudeten groups are as important as the Tomslake settlement in the overall history of the Sudetens in Canada.

Such shortcomings notwithstanding, Amstatter's work, which is the first book-length effort to describe Canada's Sudeten refugees, is important. For all its one-sidedness, it represents an invaluable historical document. The anecdotes, the colourful narratives, the sensitive impressions Amstatter provides are exciting, amusing, pathetic and always real. But the book is more than a telling primary source. From the onset, the author sets out to write a work on Canadian history which is transatlantic in scope. One cannot understand the German settlers of Tomslake, the author is saying, without knowing them first in their European context. Their trials, their strengths, their joys, their gratitude toward Canada cannot be fully grasped without knowing who they were before they became Canadians. There is a strong lesson here for those who might wish to write history dealing with other ethnic groups who have come to this country from abroad.

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*Vancouver: Western Metropolis*, edited by Leonard J. Evenden. Western Geographical Series Volume 16: Department of Geography, University of Victoria, 1978. Pp. xxii, 277; tables, graphs, maps and plates.

A collection of articles — thirteen in this instance — makes it difficult for a reviewer to discharge an obligation and distribute all of the laurels. Not every article can be discussed in detail. Therefore, much of this review considers the volume as a single work, particularly since Professor Evenden has taken a variety of research interests and edited a cohesive collection. The over-arching theme that Vancouver is a metropolis — a unique one — conveys a unity of purpose. The editor, in a generally

thoughtful and clear introduction, is careful to keep open the debate about the degree of Vancouver's metropolitan influence. This issue is raised in the first section concerning the economy and relations with the hinterland. Larry McCann presents Vancouver as a metropolis by 1914; Kenneth Denike's work on banking points to an ambiguous status with decisions about risk investments involving local autonomy but secured investments being made "at the sufferance of head staffs . . . in Toronto and Montreal"; Roger Hayter likewise describes a complex situation in the forest industries. Along with Charles Forward's solid description of port activities and the significance of bulk exports, these are fine pieces of interest to students of the Canadian economy as well as geography. Regrettably, a second section examining the internal geography lacks theoretical discussion in the introduction. The articles all touch upon numerous American and Canadian studies; therefore the current volume's position in the literature could have been delineated. Ann McAfee's claim that the housing problems of Vancouver "seem to differ" from "those being faced in the United States" is the form of general statement that requires comment or questioning from the editor.

Having directed attention to the problem of discerning the metropolitan status of Vancouver, it would have been stimulating to have opened controversy about whether in its internal geography Vancouver is especially unique. The land market operations ably analysed by Stanley Hamilton may have application for North America. On the other hand, the editor's contribution on suburbs points to the impact of accesses across inlet and estuary on the city's morphology; thus the peculiarities of site are given emphasis. Therefore, in the second section, it seems that the opportunity to have drawn attention to what truly has been singular and what has been commonplace about the Vancouver experience was passed over in favour of a synoptic approach to introducing the articles.

Despite a formal dressing in the nature of occasional technical phrases and the use of tables and graphs, the articles do not represent trailblazing in the discipline of geography. Sources, methods and theories are conventional. Narrative and a "no-surprise" documentation rather than tentative exploration and discussions of method dominate the volume; this may leave a few readers unsatisfied. A specific concern of this nature will be raised presently and there are bound to be several more. However, the direct style does make for a lucid introduction to Vancouver for students. Moreover, many of the articles add west-coast examples to urban concerns shared elsewhere. After all, to state that the work has a conventional cast does not ignore the presence of a number of important questions.

John Bradbury indicates the dilemma faced by resource towns needing an undetermined time to evolve social maturity but facing possible termination due to corporate decisions. "The Instant Towns of British Columbia" thereby contributes to the expanding literature on a Canadian social and geographic phenomenon. James Wilson presents a balance sheet in response to the question as to whether electric power development has been an instance of metropolitan dominance at the expense of the hinterland. His concern about informed discussion on energy projects and what he has termed elsewhere as "people in the way" has more than regional pertinence. In central Canada, the dumping of atomic waste already has gone to the stage of site exploration. The hinterland, not "energy-profligate" Toronto, will suffer the consequent community rending disputes and fears.

Bradbury and Wilson, as well as the editor in his study of land use on the lower mainland, remind us that from the hinterland metropolitan status cannot be viewed as benign on all counts. Matters that concern all who have an interest in social policy appear in articles on citizen participation and on housing. Albert Horsman and Paul Raynor draw attention to problems facing local-area planning in a city where there are powerful interests and traditions favouring city-wide decision-making and professional advice. Nonetheless, both they and Shue Wong record the achievements of citizen participation in planning. The point is that *Vancouver* embraces contemporary debate and does it well; in that respect it has much in common with the 1972 publication of the University League for Social Reform, *The City: Attacking Modern Myths*, a Toronto-centred work.

After praising the book both for its instructional value and for its illumination of vital concerns in the realm of urban and regional policy, we return to an elaboration of what it does not do. One area where a fresh theoretical approach now seems in order concerns the critical points in the rise of Canadian metropolitan centres. Larry McCann's work on Vancouver and recently on Halifax moves at the edge of a breakthrough and, because of this and the book's theme of Vancouver as a metropolis, a few lines are in order. McCann properly rejects current American models as eastern oriented; he also has an historian's sense for particular circumstances mentioning corporate shifts from Victoria to Vancouver. However, instead of presenting a new continental theory with regional variations and flexibility, he takes up the cause of the staple thesis. This approach has helped to make us aware of the country's vulnerabilities and quirks. But what about the economic problems imposed by an

economy which also relies upon a provision of settlers' effects and by urban boosterism? The work of Norbert MacDonald has been mined for a few facts, but it could also have suggested a more complex explanation of Vancouver's take-off by 1914.

For what it imparts and what it stimulates, the prospect of this Vancouver collection making an impact on the thinking of central Canadians interested in these questions seems favourable.

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