

British Columbia's history and who enjoys historical photographs, without being too critical about the quality of reproduction, this is a good book.

University of Victoria

PATRICIA E. ROY

The British Columbia Parliament Buildings, edited by Martin Segger.
Vancouver: Associated Resource Consultants Ltd., 1979. \$6.95.

This book is very well conceived and reasonably well executed. Every year thousands of tourists and school children troop through the legislative precincts in Victoria, and for a great many of them, perhaps the majority, a memento of that occasion is most welcome. Rulers have always attempted to construct grand palaces which readily symbolized to their subjects the awesome power of the state. These buildings in Victoria seem a match for the grandest pretensions of provincial governments in British Columbia. That grandeur is remarkably well portrayed in this book.

Martin Segger, an art historian at the University of Victoria, has very sensibly produced a book with a popular audience in mind. In particular the introduction by Segger and Douglas Franklin, the epilogue by George Giles on the restoration program, and the appendix, "Tour of the Precinct," are all well-written pieces which provide an adequate guide to the tourist. Indeed, the last mentioned serves as a very useful aid to anyone wishing to have an organized procession through the buildings, although it might have been improved by including more details for this purpose. The long piece from the 10 February 1898 edition of the *Victoria Times* entitled, "A Marble Palace," is also well written, though perhaps a little flowery for modern tastes, and little harm would have been done the book had it been appropriately edited. No doubt Mr. Segger was grateful to have found it, since it does provide a nineteenth-century view of such an edifice.

The book is much more, however, than a mere tourist brochure. The sections on events surrounding the architectural competition and the actual construction are most informative, and would be of professional interest to historians, architects and others interested in the late nineteenth century. The one disappointment with the book — and perhaps this merely reflects the bias of a political scientist — is the cursory treatment given the political process that takes place within the handsome

precinct. Segger recognizes that there would be interest in such discussion and provides two pages that give a very brief overview of legislative history and of the organization of the assembly itself. He is, however, a bit too concerned with the coat-of-arms and the provincial flag and not enough concerned with the actual processes of government. Moreover, he commits an unfortunate error when he suggests that the Lieutenant-Governor is appointed on the advice of the provincial administration. This is true for the Australian states, but in Canada Lieutenant-Governors are appointed by the Governor-General, who acts, in effect, on the advice of the federal cabinet. The provincial cabinet has no official say in the appointment and often, in the history of the province, has not even been consulted.

But not very many will notice this small error, and no doubt a great many will be relieved not to have a civics lecture dished up with architectural description and explanation. The book clearly serves the purpose for which it was intended, and it has been, quite deservedly, a commercial success. At \$6.95 it is a genuine bargain.

University of Victoria

TERRY MORLEY

Fighting Joe Martin Founder of the Liberal Party in the West: A Blow by Blow Account, by Peter Brock. Toronto and Vancouver: The National Press, 1981. Pp. 418.

Fighting Joe Martin held a number of positions in four parliaments, but none for long. After being a school teacher in Ontario, he moved west to establish a law practice in Portage la Prairie and was elected to the Manitoba legislature in 1883. When the Liberals came to power in Manitoba in 1886 Martin became Attorney-General in the Greenway cabinet. He resigned his provincial seat to run unsuccessfully for a federal one in 1891. He went to Ottawa after a by-election in Winnipeg in 1893 only to be defeated in 1896. Moving to British Columbia, he served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1898 to 1903, including a brief period as Premier in 1900. In 1909 he was elected as a Liberal member of the British House of Commons. Joseph Martin had, to say the least, a chequered political career.

Martin's inability to retain an elected position for any length of time was in large part the consequence of his abrasive personality and apparent inability to co-operate with others. Biographies of unpleasant individ-