

Emerging Issues in Forest Policy, edited by Peter N. Nemetz. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1992. xviii, 573 pp. \$49.95 cloth, \$29.95 paper.

This collection of twenty-two essays gives an economic slant on such subjects as forests in connection with the environment, timber supply, world trade, Asian and African rural communities, multiple uses, and land abuse in the third world. The editor contributes a good survey, and his co-editors, American forest economists Roger Sedjo and William Hyde, offer five of the better chapters. Only partly about B.C., the volume succeeds in showing how questions about our still unlogged areas will now be resolved by the changes in wood supplies from dozens of new nations. I found it very enlightening.

Scanning the useful index shows that forest taxation is no longer regarded as the main economic policy instrument, though some chapters do present numerical calculations in which the total revenues from "stumpage" emerge. Otherwise, only Patricia Marchak's study of how an emerging global log market is affecting wood-product communities in B.C. and in Japan even asks whether revenue arrangements seriously change the way loggers operate.

Some perennial forest issues still flourish. One of these is the best-rotation question: how to identify and enforce a planting-to-cutting period to get the forest value over a string of "rotations." Still a puzzle, it is taken up for B.C., and also for the U.S., Sweden, half a dozen Asia-Pacific regions, Kenya, and Brazil.

Several chapters, reviving forestry's interest in "institutions," examine public versus private ownership, lease specifications, the terms of the leases of forest users, and the politics and lobbying behind changes in such institutions — notably the short life of a Swedish law intended to share out the timber cut among companies.

Some authors urgently discuss what Hyde calls rural Asian "social forestry." A main issue is whether to favour fenced plantations or to try to redirect existing village "systems" that share out fuelwood, fodder, and land settlement by means of self-government, personal or communal property, and social pressure and/or custom. The authors distrust forest economists' traditional nostrum — individual ownership — and they respect indigenous institutions. But only up to a point. Many want to prevent today's "traditional" open, destructive access to the woods by creating or at least fortifying collective responsibility and control and curtailing individual rights.

They are properly modest, knowing too little about the characteristics of alternative institutions, yet realizing that many rural systems are not traditional but quite modern adaptations to larger numbers, new tastes, new techniques, and new roads. The authors also admit they know little about whether or how the government, the markets, or the courts can actually re-model today's forest-using institutions.

From the dozen articles about North American and British Columbia's forests, two approaches can be mentioned.

Any reader will appreciate one grouping of chapters which illustrate some classical political-economy concepts, more familiar in farm than in forest discussions. Among these are a survey by Bengtson and Gregersen of *technical change*, touching on the house construction industry. They find that builders, like farmers, change to new materials as quickly as other industries. In a pair of papers, Sedjo investigates the usefulness of the concept of one region's long-run *comparative advantage*, when rival regions can still export old-growth timber. Bowes and J. Krutilla offer an empirical example of the intricacies of *joint production* when density in a Sierra Nevada forest stand helps timber growth but retards water runoff for irrigation. And Wear and Hyde explore the *redistribution* goals lurking within two well-known USDA Forest Service efficiency-increasing programmes.

A second group presents policy, simulation, and econometric models. For example, Margolick and Uhler neatly measure the loss of ending the protective log-export ban. Thompson, Pearse, van Kooten, and Vertinsky simulate the rehabilitation of almost one million hectares of cut-over forest land that is "Not Satisfactorily Restocking." Making many sweeping assumptions about future yields on a wide range of land qualities with, and without, the rehabilitation measures, they find the province's net benefits to be surprisingly modest. A larger simulation, by Adams, forecasts in detail periodic U.S. softwood-supplies or harvests to A.D. 2040. It enables them to estimate the price and quantity effects of a policy that reduces the public cut: a higher price, larger private cut and increased imports. (In later decades the U.S. private forests cannot supply so much, so price rises and imports increase more.) While it is based on market forces, this study stops short of trying to measure any cost or benefit that might flow from such a drastic cut.

Related to this second group are several competent studies of Canadian or Canada-U.S. forest product trade. R. Boyd and K. Krutilla simulate how free trade would work for several U.S. forest sectors, finding the losses of some are less than the gains of others. Irving Fox contributes a good

analysis of the industrial/political situations underlying the pre-FTA trade relations and those possible under the FTA.

It is regrettable that some of these Canadian and American studies badly need updating from their 1983 or 1988 bases. In them the recession seems hardly to have started. To use this book to take a view on B.C.'s internal and trade-policy forest choices, the B.C. reader must somehow get up to date. Having done so, such a reader will find the topics taken up in the volume's other chapters unusually enlightening.

Vancouver

ANTHONY SCOTT

Three's A Crew, by Kathrene Pinkerton. Ganges: Horsdal and Schubert, 1991. 320 pp. Map, illus. \$14.95 paper. (First published by Carrick & Evans, New York, 1940).

Three's A Crew is Kathrene Pinkerton's account of her cruises on the British Columbia coast between 1924 and 1930 with her husband Robert and their daughter Bobs. Midwesterners and professional writers, in 1917 they had gone to California, but in 1924, tiring of what Pinkerton called "the usual routine of proper schools, dancing lessons, the inevitable orthodontia for a growing child, and a decent neighborhood in which to bring up a daughter," they decided to "spend a summer cruising the intricate coastline of British Columbia." From their base at the Seattle Yacht Club, the Pinkertons took the *Yakima*, a thirty-six foot cruiser, north to British Columbia. This book, the final result of seven voyages, was first published in 1940, ten years after the most recent of the events described.

The book is in two halves. The first sixteen chapters (of thirty) concern the Pinkertons' first two summers on the coast; they dwell on travel, work, description, and place; on the challenges of living together and bringing up a child on a boat. British Columbia disappears in the wandering and formless final ten chapters, which deal mainly with Kathrene and Robert's sporadic tours of southeastern Alaska. As British Columbia disappears, however, a powerful mother-daughter story emerges.

The book is about national differences and their effect on Pinkerton and Bobs. Pinkerton insisted that the coast of British Columbia was different from the coasts to the north and south. Nowhere does she refer to Canada. This is "British Columbia," "the British Empire," and "Great Britain." Her first chapter is called "Going Foreign." When she finally reached Alaska, she wrote that it was "different"; she found a "warmth," "friendliness," "an instant sense of fellowship" there. "Nothing had led