

government, and railways. Descriptions by Oblate archivists on sources open to researchers show where comparisons might be explored. Personal comments by veteran Oblates also illustrate research possibilities on such topics as Indian residential schools. Maps and a list of symposium participants provide incentive and opportunity.

The two articles in *Western Oblate Studies 1* which are of particular value to scholars in British Columbia are Émilien Lamirande's "Le père Honoré-Timothée Lempfrit: son ministère auprès des autochtones de l'île de Vancouver (1849-1852)," and Thomas Lascelles' "Father Léon Fouquet, Missionary Among the Kootenays." Lempfrit and Fouquet were both French missionaries whose notes are unmined in comparison with those of their colleague and later superior, Paul Durieu. Both were involved with Oblate missions that failed on Vancouver Island: Lempfrit at Fort Victoria and Cowichan 1849 to 1852, and Fouquet near Fort Rupert from 1867 to 1874. Their correspondence could shed light on the genesis of the Indian land question in British Columbia.

The essays on these two missionaries open avenues that might well be explored in Oblate records. What was the role of native prophets in communicating perceptions of European religion and treaties among Vancouver Island natives in advance of the missionaries? What part did Lempfrit play in negotiation of the Fort Victoria treaties? How did his Salishan language and school efforts influence neighbouring natives' relationships with Oblate missionaries in later years? Why is there a lack of "success" of his and Fouquet's missions and schools where nuns were not involved? How does this compare with Oblate mission "success stories" in western Canadian missions where women's orders ran schools?

One final point to note is that the English translation of H-T. Lempfrit's *Oregon Trail Journal and Letters from the Pacific Northwest 1848-1853* was done by Patricia Meyer and Catou Levesque as a project of the Société Historique Franco-Colombienne in 1985. Patricia Meyer is not père Meyer, as Lamirande calls her in his essay on Lempfrit.

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Ginger: The Life and Death of Albert Goodwin, by Susan Mayse. Madeira Park: Harbour Publishing, 1990. Pp. 230. Illus. \$24.95 paper.

Susan Mayse's biography of coal miner, socialist, and union activist Ginger Goodwin is a welcome contribution to the province's slim labour history. An indefatigable researcher, the author sifted through a mountain

of evidence to piece together what will likely stand as the nearest thing to a definitive work on B.C.'s best-known victim in the class war that raged in the early years of the century.

As Mayse points out in her concluding chapter, little has been written about Goodwin and less is known about him. Shot by a special constable while evading conscription, he has been hailed by those on the left as a martyr of the working class. And there are a few too many "coincidences" surrounding Goodwin's death to dispel the sense that he was set up: his obvious ill health, which was ignored by authorities as they demanded that he report for military service; the connection between his role as strike-leader and his military call-up; the haste to track him down; and the fact that his murder came just days before a general amnesty was announced for those avoiding conscription. But the circumstances of his life are not well known. Mayse's book — a well-written account, enhanced by the skilful use of both photographic and oral evidence — thus fills a real gap.

Goodwin left his native England not long after his nineteenth birthday. He landed in Nova Scotia and worked as a miner in Cape Breton for four years, moving west in 1910, evidently blacklisted after a strike. He stopped briefly in the Crows Nest Pass and settled in Cumberland by the autumn of 1910. The next eight years, from the time of Goodwin's arrival in Cumberland to the summer day in 1918 when Dan Campbell shot him to death, form the subject of Mayse's book.

Goodwin was active both as a unionist and socialist, and Mayse does a good job of describing his career in the province's factious labour movement. She does miss one episode, a four-month period when Goodwin was a paid organizer (evidently the first) for the Socialist Party of Canada, travelling through the Crows Nest Pass and Boundary districts. Although not a great success — the *Western Clarion* reported that "the [wage] slaves have gone hockey mad" and consequently attendance at meetings was poor — Goodwin worked the region from February to June of 1914, during the period when Mayse seems to assume that he was still involved in the Miners' Strike in Cumberland. But this is not a very substantial omission.

More questions might be raised about the tone of this work. In a biography of a man who was murdered under what were clearly very dubious circumstances indeed, the author's engagement is understandable; this is a book which speaks to injustice. But balancing engagement with objectivity is a tricky business, and not all will agree with the broader picture here. (As someone forced to remove the words "scab" and "CPR thugs" from his dissertation prior to its acceptance, my sympathies are with Mayse.) The book's stark descriptions of mining are accurate but not the

complete picture. British miners, as Royden Harrison and others have argued with much persuasiveness, were proud men who did not see themselves as exploited victims. There is evidence that Island miners had a similar pride in their work; certainly the autobiography of Cumberland miner Bill Johnstone (cited by Mayse) suggests this. To portray them only as the oppressed and the down-trodden does them a disservice.

There are a few places where the book is a little careless when describing the context in which events occurred, a function of the focus on personality necessary in any biography. The discussion of the Trail strike in 1917, for example — a strike in which Goodwin played a leading role — is not particularly satisfying. Mayse is inclined to reduce it to a clash between Goodwin and a senior Cominco manager. I would have preferred a greater emphasis on the war and the impact of enlistments upon changing union strategies. And my own analysis would be a good deal less charitable towards Goodwin, whose efforts to secure an eight-hour day for the 450 workers who still worked nine-hour shifts (out of a total of 1,600, the rest of whom worked eight hours) led to the destruction of the smelter workers' union in Trail. It was more than twenty years before the union was re-established. The strike was doomed virtually from day one (on the second day the international union ordered the men to return to work), and condemned as asinine by other unionists. If there are occasional weaknesses, however, Mayse more than compensates for them with her subsequent reconstruction of the events surrounding Goodwin's murder, which came eight months after the Trail strike. She provides an excellent account of the tragedy that unfolded above Comox Lake in the summer of 1918.

Reading this book as well as Eric Newsome's *The Coal Coast*, I was struck by both authors' apparent ignorance of a sizeable shelf of scholarly literature, notably a half dozen or so M.A. theses and several excellent Honours essays. Nor does Mayse seem to have read either *BC Studies* or *Labour/Le Travail*, both of which have published articles relevant to her topic, notably the latter journal's recent piece by Allen Seager. Had she done so, or consulted McCormack's or Martin Robin's books on labour politics in the west, she may have been less likely to describe Ralph Smith as "British Columbia's first socialist Member of Provincial Parliament" (p. 50), an assertion that I suspect would have either amused or appalled the electors of Nanaimo. The Western Federation of Miners did not endorse socialism from its birth (p. 51), it did so in 1902, and then only after a heated debate which saw the six B.C. delegates split on the issue. Nor was it ever "outlawed for its revolutionary socialism" (p. 59). The I.W.W. were Industrial Workers of the World, not International Workers of the

World (pp. 75 & 82). A few errors appear even in the discussion of the Cumberland coal field: miners there worked bituminous coal, not anthracite (p. 32). While I would not want to defend Robert Dunsmuir at length, it is inaccurate to link him with the development of Cumberland (pp. 33, 219), the colliery was established by the family's next generation.

Such errors are certainly not fundamental flaws and do not diminish the value of what is clearly intended to be a popular and accessible work. And on that level this book can be hailed as a very successful one indeed. With Lynne Bowen's *Boss Whistle* and Eric Newsome's *The Coal Coast*, this book is welcome evidence that the history of the province's industrial pioneers and labour martyrs is finally reaching a broad audience. My fervent hope is that it will be sold in CPR tourist outlets across the province.

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JEREMY MOUAT

A history of the Corporation of the District of Coldstream, by Margaret A. Ormsby. Corporation of the District of Coldstream, 9901 Kalamalka Road, Vernon, B.C. V1B 1L6. Friesen Printers, Altona, Manitoba, R0G 0B0. Pp. viii, 145. Illus. \$14.95 paper.

The history of British Columbia's European settlement reflects the variety of its geography, its seacoast, its mountains, its rivers, valleys and lakes, the equal variety and great wealth of its resources, and the number and sophistication of its native peoples. That variety is reflected in the local history, where even in what might seem at first sight a relatively homogeneous region like the Okanagan, there are notable differences between its component communities.

Here Margaret Ormsby traces the history of Coldstream from its origin as a military grant in the early years of British Columbia's ranching, through its development as a fruit-growing centre into its present status as a highly desirable suburb of the city of Vernon and part of the residential complex that the Okanagan seems destined to become.

It was Charles Frederick Houghton who chose the name "Coldstream," not, as might be supposed, in honour of the famous regiment of Guards, but because on the property he fancied a "stream of pure water flows right down the middle of the valley and emptys [*sic*] into the Head of Long Lake." Houghton, like the friends with whom he came to British Columbia, the Vernon brothers, Forbes George and Charles Albert, sons of the high sheriff of Dublin, had been prepared for the army but saw little prospect