

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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*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

there or in Ireland. By 1863 the British Isles were producing far too many young men with genteel aspirations for the acceptable professions to accommodate, and too few upper class families were rich enough to set the surplus offspring up on enough land to support an appropriate way of living.

The three young Irishmen took advantage of their social connections and accomplishments to acquire property, to enter the public and business life of their adopted country and to make good marriages. Coldstream passed from Houghton to the Vernons, then to Forbes Vernon, and in 1891 to Lord Aberdeen. "This day," wrote the agent who negotiated the sale, "bought from Vernon ranch of 13,000 acres and 2,000 cattle, about 70 horses, implements, furniture and everything moveable for £50,000 (\$241,000)." In the interval Houghton had been a Member of Parliament, which bored him, and held militia appointments, where his drinking alarmed Hugh John Macdonald so much that he was passed over in favour of General Middleton for command during the Riel uprising of 1888. Forbes Vernon entered the British Columbia legislature in 1874 and served twice as chief administrator of lands and works, a powerful cabinet position. In 1887 the settlement at Priest's Valley, where a townsite had been laid out in 1885, took his name, "probably," to quote Dr. Ormsby's sardonic observation, "because he was in the position to grant favours." In 1895 he was appointed agent-general of British Columbia in London, a position abolished in 1898. He remained in London until he died in 1911. His brother Charles remained at the Coldstream Ranch until 1883. In 1879, he, like Forbes Vernon, made a judicious marriage — Houghton had married a Dunsmuir daughter. Charles moved to Victoria, engaged in real estate promotions, looked after his old friend Houghton in his final illness, and died in 1906.

Houghton and the Vernons, using Coldstream as their base, had moved through the ranching era of the British Columbia interior into the age of railway building and through these into membership in the British Columbia and indeed the Canadian establishment, with all their emphasis on the Britishness of the future of the new dominion. The Aberdeens, more firmly committed than most to doing good and "democratic aristocrats . . . indifferent to class distinctions," intended "to plant orchards on a big scale, sell off land in lots, and thus bring profit both to themselves and to their neighbours." This gave a different orientation to development at Coldstream. With the emphasis on fruit-growing in the decade following 1898, "land values were enormously inflated, and hundreds of acres were planted with

unsuitable varieties of apples and stone fruits. The whole Okanagan Valley was being converted into one vast orchard."

Much as the Aberdeens enjoyed the Okanagan as a respite from the formalities of Rideau Hall, they did not find it "the new Golconda" they, and those who had invested in Okanagan property, had hoped. Dr. Ormsby skilfully sorts out the complexities of the municipal organization in its various stages from 1906, when the District of Coldstream came into existence, and the important relationships with irrigation and power interests, so vital to the welfare of the area. The heavy investment involved was essential to fruit growing under what were not far from desert conditions and an important British contribution to Canadian development in the halcyon years before 1914.

Many names familiar in the history of British wealth find a place in the annals of Coldstream. Lord Aberdeen associated himself in the ownership of the Coldstream Ranch with James Buchanan, the whisky magnate, later Lord Woolavington, and he brought in Lord Cowdray. The name "Grosvenor" has had a long history in Canadian investment, and two Grosvenors appear. Cowdray withdrew but Woolavington deeded the ranch to his daughter, who remained an absentee landlord, though after 1948 a Canadian board of directors advised her. Bit by bit parts of its property were sold off, but it was still a substantial holding at the time of writing.

Coldstream was established and developed as a distinctive community when British immigration and investment in the Canadian west was at its height. British Columbia was particularly attractive, offering as it did uniquely beautiful scenery, a more than ordinarily pleasant climate and the opportunity to lead the kind of rural life that in the British Isles had been brought to an apparent perfection in the late nineteenth century, all the more desirable because of its sharp contrast with the urban life that for the unprivileged had accompanied the process of industrialization.

The Aberdeens and their contemporaries did create a kind of rural utopia, but it depended on infusions of capital and of new recruits to replace those whose energy and business acumen were unequal to the practical challenge. The war of 1914 put a severe strain on a district which by the Armistice had lost twenty-five of its ranchers and seventy-five of their employees. "The Coldstream Valley had been drained not only of its most experienced orchard owners but also of its prospective labour force." The orchards themselves had suffered from inevitable neglect and adverse weather conditions, and the managers had to cope with new problems arising out of mechanization and marketing. Yet as late as 1937 Coldstream could still advertise itself as predominantly Anglo-Saxon and pro-

mise "the delights of Rural England at one-tenth the cost." Sports, including a revival of polo, dances, a riding club "with a pack of real foxhounds," the Kalamalka Players, two private schools, the Mackies' Vernon Preparatory School for Boys and St. Michael's School for Girls, All Saints Church and Bishop's Garth, the residence of the Anglican bishop of Kootenay, all contributed to maintain and reinforce the British atmosphere cherished by the residents of Coldstream and their friends in Vernon.

The thirties was for the District a decade of "depression and disillusionment" and by 1939 "Coldstream's elitist society was disintegrating," "the valley of dreams when the fruit trees were planted had . . . become the valley of shattered illusions. The Arcadian life of early times had become a life of hard work and worry." War brought heavy enlistments and new anxieties but, in common with the country at large, Coldstream and Vernon prospered. The postwar years were years of rapid change as the Anglo-Scots community of the past gave way to a multicultural society. Then, after 1965, the provision of a new water supply for the Vernon Irrigation District made Coldstream "the fastest growing area in the North Okanagan" and "Vernon's fastest growing suburb." Though Coldstream still doggedly retained its independence as a rural district it had become "for its residents what it had been to their predecessors, 'second to none.'"

This is "local history" as it should be written, thoroughly researched, admirably documented, tightly organized. There is a useful name index, seven interesting maps and a collection of well-chosen photographs that admirably supplement the text in explaining the nature of the society that evolved in the North Okanagan. Coldstream is peculiarly fortunate in its historian, for Dr. Ormsby writes out of a lifetime of knowledge of the community where she grew up and still lives. She writes with both sympathy and insight and makes every sentence contribute its full weight to her narrative. My only regret is that she has confined herself to not much more than a hundred pages.

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*Our Own Master Race: Eugenics in Canada, 1885-1945*, by Angus McLaren. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1990. Pp. 232. \$15.95 paper.

As McLaren reminds us, some of the contemporary debate concerning race, class, and reproduction is nothing new in Canada. The question of who should reproduce has preoccupied some Canadians for generations.