Book Reviews

For Most Conspicuous Bravery: A Biography of Major-General George R. Pearkes, V.C., Through Two World Wars, by Reginald H. Roy. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1977. Pp. xiv, 388; $15.95.

Who could deny the difficulties involved in writing a biography of a living and much admired public figure? How does the biographer reconcile the demands of his craft for scholarly objectivity with his admiration for and familiarity with his subject? How can the problem of source material be overcome, whether it is too much or too little? A difficult task indeed it is to tread the line between hatchet job and paeans of praise, and one must wonder just why it is that biography remains one of the most popular forms of scholarship.

These questions interest me in particular because I am a failed biographer. Half a dozen years ago I set out to write a biography of Mackenzie King during the Second World War, an intention that I retained until I had done drafts on most of the period and realized that I had a political study of King's administration and not a biography of that difficult, fascinating character. I think I can recognize the difficulties that others face.

Professor Roy faced in particular the problem of sources. For most of his subject's varied career, there is very little available. There are no rich files of Pearkes papers, crammed with letters, memos, reports and articles; all were destroyed or never existed. How then can one proceed? Roy opted for an extensive series of oral history interviews with Pearkes, his friends, colleagues and acquaintances, and relied on correspondence with others who dealt with the General. He used the military records in the Public Archives of Canada and in the Directorate of History of the Department of National Defence, and a few collections of manuscripts. His major source for Pearkes' career as Minister of National Defence is the Douglas Harkness Papers, apparently a collection of both Pearkes' and his suc-

cessor's ministerial files. Other collections were closed to him, particularly those of John Diefenbaker. As a result, much rests on oral sources.

Is this adequate or necessary? Oral history is very "in" these days, as the popularity of the Broadfoot and Stursberg volumes attests. But oral history is based on the memories of individuals with axes to grind, things to forget, alter, bowdlerize or even remember accurately. It is by definition a haphazard and chancy procedure that should only be used with care. As a skilled historian Roy is clearly aware of the difficulties, but he has nonetheless been forced to rely on oral sources perhaps to the detriment of his book. And, curiously, much of the oral material he presents is banal — so commonplace that one often wonders why it is included.

The question of manuscript sources is also puzzling. Professor Roy has, for example, used the King Papers and Diaries for the war but he has only a handful of citations from this rich collection. There are relatively few citations from the Ralston Papers, those of the Minister of National Defence for most of the war years, and none at all from the papers of Angus Macdonald and Chubby Power, Ralston's war associates. There is nothing from the Conservative party's records, nothing from the files left by Graydon, Bracken, Hanson, Meighen, Bruce, Macdonnell, Bell and other Conservative figures. There is nothing from wartime cabinet ministers such as Crerar, Claxton and Howe. There is nothing from senior civil servants such as Pearson.

Does this matter? I think it does. It matters first because no historical study can be complete unless all the sources have been canvassed, even the less obvious ones. It matters as well because of the paucity of Pearkes' material in his own records. And it matters because there is occasionally useful material in out of the way places. To cite only one example, in the Pearson Papers in Ottawa there is a letter from General H. D. G. Crerar to Pearson dated 25 April 1942. Crerar had taken over command of Pearkes' division overseas and replaced him as temporary corps commander as well. Pearkes, Crerar wrote to his friend Pearson, was a forceful leader and able trainer, but a man of limited scope who would be better as a battalion commander than a brigadier or better as a brigadier than a division commander. He was a man of limited vision, Crerar said; a man who could see only one thing at a time; a man with no interest in long-term plans; a first-class fighting soldier who would handle his men with determination but who might produce negative results.

Now this is only one letter by one man. Some of the criticism and the reasons for it are countered by Roy's biography, and countered very well indeed. But this letter should have been cited in the book and directly

dealt with — and countered — in the text. A thorough search of all the available manuscripts would have turned up this letter, and others.

It follows too that the weaknesses in the archival research are reflected in the lack of context in the book. Roy is very good indeed when he treats Pearkes' role as a soldier. He understands the military and he likes to write about the two world wars, and he does this well. His sources on the military side, as I suggested above, are quite complete and well mined. But on the political context, particularly in the period when Pearkes was commanding in British Columbia and when he was in opposition and government in Ottawa, the context seems weak. Conscription, for example, is a contentious issue on which many points of view are possible. But we must, at the least, try to understand not only Pearkes' motivation and attitudes to this subject but also those of the Prime Minister, his cabinet, General McNaughton, and French-Canadians. Roy does treat the subject but his prose is flat and he suggests (to me, at least) that he really understands only Pearkes' position at this time. But then he is the biographer of Pearkes, and I am a failed biographer of King, unquestionably affected both by my interest in King and by my failure.

Roy has a freer field in his writing on Pearkes' political career. But I found this section disappointing too, primarily because we never get a full view of Pearkes' role in Ottawa and his influence or lack of it. Certainly the General must have been close to Diefenbaker, and certainly Diefenbaker was a storm centre throughout George Drew's tenure of office as party leader. But we get little on any party questions. Nor, once Pearkes becomes Minister of National Defence under Diefenbaker, do we get much that is new on defence policy. Pearkes had stepped down before the rot set in and before the nuclear crisis destroyed the Conservative government, so perhaps this is simply an unfortunate bit of chronology for Professor Roy (although certainly it was Pearkes' good luck to have gone to his reward in B.C. before the deluge).

Thus one can say of this book that it is very well done on the military aspects of Pearkes' career, and particularly so on the Great War period. George Pearkes was a fighting soldier of enormous distinction and incredible courage, the kind of officer who inspires awe in his subordinates and superiors both. He was a brave man whose story is well worth the telling (and reading), and he will undoubtedly be pleased by Professor Roy's biography of him.

York University J. L. GRANATSTEIN

Vancouver's First Century: A City Album, 1860-1960, edited by Anne Kloppenborg, Alice Niwinski, Eve Johnson and Robert Gruetter. Vancouver: J. J. Douglas, 1977. Pp. xix, 154; $19.95.

Regular subscribers to the *Urban Reader* will find little new material in this book, but those who are unfamiliar with the periodical will find it an attractive and entertaining volume. Most of the material in *Vancouver's First Century* first appeared in the pages of the *Urban Reader*, a periodical that began publication in March 1973. The *Urban Reader* started as a LIP project but by 1974 was being funded by the Social Planning Department of the City of Vancouver. The magazine was "initiated to bring urban issues into focus for the general public." Issues focus on such diverse subjects as transportation, family violence, housing, alcoholism, pollution and drug addiction, as well as carrying regular features like book reviews, notices and letters to the editor. The most popular editions, however, were five historical issues published between July 1974 and February 1976. Each covered a particular period in Vancouver's history, ranging from the "Pioneer Days" of the 1860s to the era of the "Crewcuts and Chrome" in the 1940s and 1950s. And it is these five issues — together with some new material — that make up *Vancouver's First Century.*

The book is a visually striking volume. It is divided into eight chronological sections and the editors have chosen a number of excellent photographs from the collections of the Vancouver City Archives, the Provincial Archives and the Vancouver Public Library. The photographs are interspersed with a series of old advertisements, vignettes and excerpts from newspaper clippings, diaries and journals. There is also a general introduction and a capsule (one page) history for each section.

In spite of its price, *Vancouver's First Century* will probably be enjoyed by a large audience. The more than 150 illustrations provide a vivid and absorbing series of images. The editors deserve full marks both for locating so many superb photographs and for producing such a beautiful picture book. *Vancouver's First Century* is, as well, a fine tribute to such Vancouver photographers as H. T. Devine, Philip Timms, C. S. Bailey and Stuart Thomson.

Unfortunately, *Vancouver's First Century* is nothing more than a picture book and — whatever the editors' stated goals — can be severely criticized for a number of omissions, failures and distortions. The most obvious of these is the absence of any substantive written material to balance or counter the nostalgic, sentimental image of the "good old days" presented in the illustrations. The one-page introductions to each section

barely identify the issues of the various periods, let alone analyze them, and the general introduction by David Brock is romanticism of the worst sort, appealing, at best, to older Vancouverites who lived through many of the years covered in the volume. Why the editors did not invite one of the many scholars working on Vancouver's history to write the general introduction is a complete mystery; at the very least, this might have given the volume a coherence it now lacks. Unconnected anecdotes succeed one another in a random fashion, and each section is little more than a scrap-book chronicle of a decade or so. Moreover, each section generally remains unrelated to the sections that precede and follow it. The fact is that *Vancouver's First Century* is only concerned with visual impressions; it makes no deliberate judgments and contains no interpretation or analysis.

These are common enough complaints to make about local histories. Yet, although they deserve to be repeated here, these criticisms are only part of the problem. The most significant criticism goes beyond content and style and concerns the role volumes like *Vancouver's First Century* play in formulating and elaborating concepts of community. In many volumes the local past is seen as a continually unfolding success story of an essentially monolithic urban community in which all citizens, regardless of their socioeconomic standing or their ethnic origin, were united in meeting challenges and resolving common problems. Viewed from this perspective, local history is a powerful tool in maintaining the existing social order and justifying conformity to goals and values established by local elites. The accuracy of the history is less important than the use of the past to promote contemporary views. While *Vancouver's First Century* contains some mention of "unfortunate" incidents such as strikes and race riots, the reader is never told why these happened or even how frequently they occurred. Instead, the reader is informed that Vancouver's "faults and losses have defied the laws of physics and justice by not subtracting much from its total good," and "that it is better to love her still and know not why, so dote upon her ever."

The problem with this kind of rhetoric is that it makes the possibility of a real sense of community developing even more difficult since it advances an urban community based on voluntarism without any basic revision of the prevailing system of social and economic inequality that exists in the city. The notion that all classes share the same basic interests and goals is based more on wishful thinking than reality. Class differences, poverty, crime, pollution and racism existed in the past and continue to exist in Vancouver, and these problems can hardly be confronted or solved when their existence is either ignored or denied. Only when studies like *Van-*

couver's First Century come to terms with some or all of these realities will Canadians be able to begin to order their urban environments in a more equitable and humane fashion. A study that ignores the essential historical reality delimits a particular range of alternatives and channels the thinking of its adherents in certain directions. And, as the basis of current urban policy, its flaws and inconsistencies are all too apparent.

The shortcomings of *Vancouver's First Century* do not end here. The second major criticism has to do with the use of the photographs themselves. Photographs are powerful tools for conveying emotion and for telling us things we cannot get easily or at all in other ways. Photographic documentation is especially useful in describing physical growth and internal spatial patterns of cities. In no other way can the successive stages of development be seen; no other source shows so clearly the transformation of land to urban purposes or so well traces the intensification of urban use over a period of time. In a unique way, too, the camera records the changing skyline from the first wooden shacks to the dominant skyscrapers of the present. An aerial view can convey the pattern of a city; a snapshot can catch the tangled texture of the neighbourhood or street. And a photograph handles problems of scale — the size of things in the environment — in a way that cold statistics never can.

Yet, like all documentation, the photograph has its limitations. The photographer, no less than any other observer, selects his material. Out of an almost infinite range of possibilities he chooses the subjects which interest him most. Thus any photographer will capture only a small part of a city's life. In addition to omissions, photographic documentation also contains the problem of bias. A picture — at least a good one — conveys more than it records. Perhaps the "camera never lies," but the photographer does select. The finger that snaps the shutter may also write a message or grind an axe. Moreover, the limitations are technical as well as personal. The camera works best in strong light and so the city after dark is rarely recorded. In addition, until recently, the long time exposure of cameras made it difficult to handle movement and photographers went about their work when traffic was lightest and when few people were around. When people do appear they are usually holding a pose. A final limitation of photography as documentation stems from the fecklessness of historical preservation. Since photographs have only marginally been used by historians, few libraries or archives have collected them systematically. Interest has certainly increased, but there are still many gaps that may never be filled.

There are, of course, many ways to attempt to overcome these short-

comings. The compilers of illustrated volumes can inform the reader of omissions and of the problems encountered with selection. Maps and statistics can be used both to correct false impressions and to orient the reader. Most important, however, are the more traditional resources available to the historian — archival material, diaries, newspapers, and so on. Unfortunately, the editors of *Vancouver's First Century* not only made precious little use of any of these resources, they did not go to the trouble of including a bibliography directing readers to the growing body of secondary literature on Vancouver.

In general, then, *Vancouver's First Century* is a failure made all the more regrettable by the fact that it was such a good idea. The plan of illustrating a volume with superb photographs and other visual materials deserves enthusiastic endorsement. Fortunately, the book has served one very useful purpose — its production has resulted in the rescue and collection of many valuable photographs. Future historians of the city will owe the editors a substantial debt.

University of Victoria ALAN F. J. ARTIBISE

The Practical Application of Economic Incentives to the Control of Pollution: The Case of British Columbia, edited by James B. Stephenson. Published for The British Columbia Institute for Economic Policy Analysis by the University of British Columbia Press, 1977. Pp. 441.

Pollution control in British Columbia consists largely of government regulations prohibiting excessive rates of discharge of particular kinds of pollutants from industrial outfalls and smoke stacks and from (as well as to) municipal sanitary sewers. This basic policy is supplemented by a number of ad hoc government measures such as (a) prohibitions on the use of particular kinds of materials (such as DDT) or on the method of application of some materials (such as insecticides), (b) land-use regulations (such as those prohibiting the clear cutting of forests close to streams), (c) subsidies (such as those available to municipalities to build sewers and treatment plants), and (d) charges (such as those paid by households for garbage removal).

This system of controls has been criticized from a number of different quarters during the 1970s, and on a number of different grounds. Some environmentalists as well as some people connected with the commercial and sports fisheries have complained about its inadequacy in preventing

ecological damage. Others have complained about a lax and secretive administrative machinery set up to enforce compliance with the regulations. And others too have criticized the policies as unnecessarily wasteful, either because of the excessive costs they impose on industries and municipalities or because of the excessive administrative costs (borne by all levels of government) in implementing the controls. Politicians have reiterated these dissatisfactions. They should all read this book. It contains more information about the nature of pollution control in British Columbia than any other single source. The book — which in fact is a collection of nineteen different articles — contains a number of insights and lessons for academics, for the general reader, and for elected and appointed officials of government.

The value of the book for academics is in its empirical rather than theoretical findings. Economic theory has, for a large number of years, shown that a price placed on the use of the environment for the disposal of pollutants can successfully act as an incentive for waste producers to take into account the value that others place on their uses of the environment, other things being equal. Unfortunately, the major finding of this book is that "other things" in British Columbia are rarely equal, and, depending on the circumstances, governments may induce more efficient responses on the part of waste producers by employing a battery of policy mechanisms rather than relying on a single mechanism like an effluent charge. For example, in what is arguably the best article in the book, on pollution control in the mining and milling industry in B.C., Professor Peter Nemetz reviews the limited amount of information available on the damages of different kinds of mining residuals, collects and summarizes a range of technical information on abatement control measures for mill tailings and process water practices by some forty-six major mine-mill complexes, and compares the effectiveness of regulations, effluent charges and the sale of pollution rights to those companies using different technical abatement procedures (direct discharge, impoundment plus overflow, and closed circuit). He also calculates the cost-effectiveness of the three policy mechanisms in inducing closed circuit systems to be incorporated into large inland open pit mines, small inland underground mines and mines discharging directly into coastal waters. None of the policy mechanisms is inherently superior to any of the others. So much depends on the number and kinds of pollutants discharged and on the site specific characteristics of the mine, including climate. In short, academics will receive sanguine lessons about the technical feasibilities of applying alternative policy mechanisms to different classes of polluters from this book. As

incidental payoffs they will also be able to review a few original contributions to the field, such as (a) Professor James Stephenson's application of Blair Bower's model for calculating the abatement cost curves of alternative technologies for reducing biochemical oxygen demand and suspended solid wastes in pulp mill effluent; and (b) a reporting by Professors Kenneth Nicol and Earl Heady of their attempts to estimate the effects of various environmental controls on agricultural practices on macro variables, such as land and water use, in the United States.

The book will probably be of most value to general readers, if they will forgive the turgid style of the occasional article (such as that by Professor George Polling on "Treatment of Mineral Industry Effluents in British Columbia") or the occasional methodological sophistry (such as the mathematical equations in Professor Harry Campbell's "Pollution Control and the Productivity of Agricultural Pesticides"). The book contains a lucid overview by Professor Irving Fox of alternative policy mechanisms and of their relative advantages and disadvantages, and a wealth of interesting details and findings about the types of pollutants, control technologies and known and uncertain environmental effects for the metals production industry, the pulp and paper industry, the greater Vancouver region, and certain aspects of the agricultural industry. As merely one example, Professor Harry Campbell estimates that tree fruit farmers in the Okanagan actually spend less on pesticides than would be justified by solely financial considerations or required by environmental regulations.

If any politicians are still under the illusion that pollution in B.C. can be controlled merely by shutting down industrial violators of administrative standards or by renaming existing bureaucratic agencies as Ministries of the Environment, they will profit greatly by reading this book. Pollution control is essentially a policy process in which value judgments must be made about the priorities to be accorded to the environment and to the waste-generating activities of industries, households and individual persons. A dominant theme to be found in most of the articles in this book is how little we know about the consequences of various waste-generating activities on the environment (what economists call the marginal damage functions) and, to a large degree, about the costs of controlling these activities in technological and administrative terms (what economists call the marginal abatement functions). As a result, politicians and bureaucrats are often unable to make wise choices. Indeed, as Professor Fox points out in his concluding article, one of the advantages of an effluent tax may simply be in raising revenue for governments of any political persuasion to generate information so they can make such wise choices.

Otherwise, politicians and bureaucrats will find many of the articles in this book to be politically naive. Politicians and bureaucrats are often treated as benevolent despots, without preferences of their own and interests to serve, standing ready to adopt any policy mechanism that is technically efficient and effective. Paradoxically, Professor Gardner Brown's review of the experience of six European countries with pollution charges (where rates are set by political negotiation, not environmental considerations) may be the most instructive for British Columbia. The policy mechanisms used to control pollution of various sorts and in various places in British Columbia are permeated by administrative and political considerations at all levels of government. One wishes that the now defunct British Columbia Institute of Economic Policy Analysis were still around to sponsor another conference that would integrate such political and administrative considerations with the economic and technical ones included in this collected volume of articles from a 1975 Conference at the University of Victoria. This volume is, nevertheless, the best of the five volumes of conference proceedings sponsored by the Institute. It owes no small part in its success to the selection of capable contributors by Professor Fox of the Westwater Research Centre at the University of British Columbia, and to the succinct summaries of the articles provided by the editor throughout the book.

University of Victoria MARK SPROULE-JONES

Right Hand Left Hand, edited by David Arnason and Kim Todd. Erin; Press Porcepic. Pp. 280.

Right Hand Left Hand is subtitled "A True Life of the Thirties." It is really a memoir of that decade compiled in the form of a scrapbook with commentary. The moving spirit is Dorothy Livesay, whose formative decade is here displayed; the editors, who have presumably had a great deal to do with the selection and arrangement of the material, are David Arnason and Kim Todd.

Dorothy Livesay was born in Winnipeg in 1909. Her family moved to Toronto in 1920, and there her father was engaged in journalism and eventually founded the Canadian Press Agency; her mother was an amateur writer whose own work was banal and who perhaps contributed most to her world and time by encouraging European immigrants with literary

inclinations to remain true to their own traditions while making the necessary adaptations to the life of the New World.

As a schoolgirl, Dorothy Livesay was already writing poetry, and her first book, *Green Pitcher*, appeared in 1928 when she was nineteen. The quality of her work was soon recognized by fellow poets; *Right Hand Left Hand* includes a letter from E. J. Pratt in 1935 praising her "Day and Night" as a "splendid bit of work." She lived the student life of the time in Toronto and Montreal and Paris; she became involved in the Communist Party and the various literary groups connected with it, wrote for *Masses*, was one of the editors of *New Frontiers*, and wrote agit-prop drama to be performed at the Toronto Progressive Arts Club and elsewhere. Later, as a writer for *New Frontiers*, she moved west, back to her native Winnipeg, and on to the coal mining country of Crows Nest, and then to Vancouver, where she married a soft-spoken Scottish accountant named Duncan McNair, and began the association with the West Coast, with Vancouver and Victoria, that brought her into close contact with Alan Crawley and the *Contemporary Verse* circle.

It is only the last pages of *Right Hand Left Hand* that bring us to the Coast. Dorothy actually arrived in August 1936, but by that time the peak of her Thirties was already past, with the Spanish Civil War and its special griefs and enthusiasms merely prolonging loyalties that were already dwindling, so that it is very clear that some time before the end of the decade she had ceased to be militantly active in left-wing causes and had turned increasingly to the personal and poetic life. It would be during the next decade on the West Coast that she would achieve her first peak of achievement as a poet; later, in the Sixties, she would excel her own past and become — in this reviewer's opinion — one of the best of living Canadian poets or, for that matter, of Canadian poets in any age.

There is really not a great deal in the 280 pages of *Right Hand Left Hand* that clearly anticipates Dorothy Livesay's later quality as a writer, though the book will doubtless be read by literary historians as a source of clues for her later successes. The earliest poems (from 1928) are romantically derivative:

> As long ago one thought he heard a voice
> And could not move until he called her name;
> The name of all names surely loveliest,
> Of lost, foreover lost, Eurydice.

Three years later an individual tone and a sharp visual presentation were becoming evident, as in lines like those that open "Old Trees at Père La Chaise":

Old trees drift silently all down the hill,
And stop beside the green grass at the gate.
Encaged with tombs, they feel the wind, and wait.

And then we are into the socially conscious Thirties, the voice is strident, and the sentiments, with their deference to "proletarian" values, remind one of Cecil Day Lewis in his more naive moods:

Now I am alive, having created
My breath one with yours, fighter and toiler,
My hands ready, with yours, young worker
To crush the boss, the stifler
To rise above his body with a surge of beauty —
A wave of us, storming the world.

Yet, as with all the good Thirties poets, whether they were Americans or Canadians or the British who influenced Dorothy Livesay so much at this time, there were moments of pure lyric or elegiac intensity that emerged from a political dedication which in the brief hiatus between conversion and disillusionment was frank and inspired, and this quality emerges in poems like Dorothy Livesay's elegy on Lorca.

You dance. Explode
Unchallenged through the door
As bullets burst
Long deaths ago, your heart.

And song outsoars
The bomber's range
Serene with wind-
Manoeuvred cloud.

Light flight and word
The unassailed, the token!

These poems of the time, which include personal lyrics, political elegies, and even a mini-epic called "Catalonia" which I first published in *Canadian Literature* thirty years after it was written, are embedded in the mass of material which I have called a scrapbook, since, apart from a few passages of narrative continuity which Dorothy Livesay has recently written, it consists of documents of various kinds that she and other people have preserved from the Thirties. Perhaps, to catch the flavour of the time, I should indeed call the whole compilation a documentary rather than a scrapbook, for the Thirties was the age when the documentary came into being, in writing, radio, film; the age when in England the

younger poets went around gathering *faits divers* for Mass Observation; the age when Orwell went off to the north of England and came back with the factual diaries and the masses of figures he stuffed into *The Road to Wigan Pier*. Original facts, and if possible original documents to support them, were one of the passions of the era, and they produced some very interesting books long before people like Barry Broadfoot and Heather Robertson got into the act with tape recorders.

In this sense *Right Hand Left Hand* is very much a belated Thirties book, full of documents, and all of them print rather than electronic documents — poems, articles, newspaper items, photographs, letters between Dorothy and her friends and family, playbills, an interview about Dorothy with her closest friend of the period, and even pieces, like a letter from Bethune and Ted Allan's interview with Hemingway, which have no evident connection with Dorothy Livesay personally, but which obviously had enough meaning for her at the time to be preserved among her papers.

As a collection documenting one writer's development during a dynamic and long-past decade *Right Hand Left Hand* is indeed fascinating, and the fact that the Livesay of the Seventies is constantly breaking in with her linking comments is surprisingly undisruptive. I think this is because of the total honesty and also the lack of self-condemnation with which Dorothy Livesay regards her past. There is neither guilt nor bitterness; these were the actions that came naturally to her at the time, and she asks no pardon for them, nor indeed does she spend much time explaining what seemed and seems to her so natural; she presents and describes but in no sense offers an apologia. Let me quote two passages to illustrate the honesty with which she treats memories. The first arises from her agitational-cultural activities in Montreal between 1933 and 1934.

I learned a great deal about Communist tactics of penetration and camouflage; but I was too committed to be shocked. It was only years later that the false actions and fractional tactics were revealed to me in their true light. This did not cause me to hate the communists or to red-bait; rather I was disgusted with myself for having been so duped. But I believe I let myself be duped because no one except the communists seemed to be concerned about the plight of our people, nor to be aware of the threat of Hitler and war. . . .

The second is the last passage of the book, telling of her feelings early in World War II:

All our perspectives had changed since that Sunday morning when Churchill's voice came over the radio saying that he was giving his support to Stalin. They were joining together to defeat Hitler! This was a moment of intense

emotion for us. Soon all the comrades who had been in jail were released. The unemployed men and women joined the army and the communists, though never permitted to go to the front, marched down the streets of Canada in battle dress. We were all in high hopes again that this time it truly would be a war that would change the world. Instead, we received Hiroshima.

And in that last sentence the future years of reassessment, of realizing life on a deeper level than politics are opened before us. To the readers of Dorothy Livesay's poetry who are as interested in what she became as in how she began, another and more personal volume regarding her later life — whether it be documentary or straight autobiography — is a sequel to *Right Hand Left Hand* to be awaited with eager curiosity.

GEORGE WOODCOCK