

Book Reviews

tion activity, equipment, trestles and bridges (especially the mighty one across the Missouri River), stations and important office buildings, and men who worked for the company. There is an interesting series of pictures which show the four trainloads of guests who went to see the golden spike driven upon completion of construction. Haynes also took many views along the territory immediately adjacent to the line. He photographed the work of farmers, scenes in new or expanding towns, striking scenic spots, and especially the beauty of Yellowstone National Park. This fine collection is an excellent survey of life along the northern part of the West from 1876 to 1905. It leaves the viewer with a strong impression of the comparatively primitive machines used to construct the railroad, the rawness of the new country, the humble beginnings of what later became important towns, and the unspoiled attractiveness of Yellowstone National Park. This collection again proves the old saying that one picture is worth a thousand words and its publication is a happy event.

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

WILLIAM S. GREEVER

The Rise of the Midwestern Meat Packing Industry, by Margaret Walsh. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1982. x; 182 pp. Appendix, tables, maps, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$14.50 cloth.

Margaret Walsh reviews the history of the meat packing industry in the Midwest from the late 1830s to the 1870s. She opens with an argument citing the importance of the meat packing industry to industrial development in the Midwest, and describes how the industry progressed from an era in which its operations were relatively small in size and scope, with limited capital demands and simple procedures—indeed, it was largely a seasonal (winter) adjunct to the main activities of commission and produce merchants—to a level when a few larger, highly capitalized packers specializing in the meat trade and located in major urban and transportation centers were dominant. By the 1870s, she believes, the meat packing industry was on the verge of becoming a fully modern enterprise.

These changes in the industry were shaped by a wide variety of influences including westward settlement, population growth, improved communications, the rise of cities, and the Civil War. The most important influence was the development of the railroads which gave impetus to the shift from river ports to rail centers and to the concentration of the industry in the major cities of the upper Mississippi Valley. Next in importance later in the period treated was the industry's increasing use of ice in its operations.

The book's title is somewhat misleading, as the focus of the study is the pork packing industry rather than the meat packing industry as a whole. Also, Walsh, while tracing the peculiarities of the meat packing industry, might have outlined how developments in this one field paralleled developments in industrial enterprises in general, in such features as efficiencies of size, concentration in urban and transportation centers, new technology, assembly-line production, and so on.

The book has ninety-two pages of text divided into six chapters, the last of which summarizes what has been said before. An appendix, the copious and detailed notes, and a selected bibliography add nearly as many more pages. Walsh's research has been exhaustive. Twenty-four tables illustrate and validate the author's conclusions. Careful use of biographical material strengthens and enlivens the text. It is unlikely anyone else will replicate Walsh's endeavors or improve upon her general conclusions in the foreseeable future. The book will not attract the casual reader but it is a fine example of scholarship and will be of inestimable value to regional and economic historians.

KEARNEY STATE COLLEGE

GENE E. HAMAKER

The Assault on Assimilation: John Collier and the Origins of Indian Policy Reform, by Lawrence C. Kelly. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1983. xxix, 377 pp. Photographs, appendix, notes, note on sources, index. \$23.50 cloth.

John Collier is best known as the prime mover of the so-called Indian New Deal. In that role he is much acclaimed and much abused, both deservedly. Those who are critical of Collier argue that he shared the tragic flaw possessed by many "do-gooders." He cared so much about Indians that he convinced himself that he understood Indian values and goals, sometimes better than they understood these things themselves. Critics point out also that Collier's interest in and expertise with regard to Indians resulted from only a two-year stint in New Mexico where he "discovered" the Pueblos. His sincerity is never questioned, however.

Lawrence C. Kelly, professor of history at North Texas State University and prolific writer on the Indian in the twentieth century, is more positive than critical with regard to Collier and his efforts. He confines volume I of his projected two-volume biography to Collier's pre-Great Depression years; more than two-thirds of his study deals with the years from 1922 to 1927. It was in these years

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