

outlining some of the forces determining the election of 1916, perhaps too much stress has been laid upon the fact that Wilson "kept us out of war". These criticisms, however, are of matters which are subsidiary to the main purpose of the book. But, when the Senate's constitutional privilege to "advise and consent" to treaties is under consideration (p. 244) and there is found the statement that "President Polk in 1846 referred to the practice as 'eminently wise'", it would have been more satisfactory had it been brought out that Polk actually did seek the "previous advice" of the Senate before he submitted to that body for ratification the treaty with England regarding the Oregon country, even though this was not a treaty closing a war.

Opening a Highway to the Pacific, 1838-1846. By JAMES CHRISTY BELL, Ph.D. [Columbia University Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law, vol. XCVI., no. 1.] (New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1921. Pp. 209. \$2.25.)

THE author tells us in the preface:

The present monograph has grown out of a wish for more light on one early phase of this expansion [to the Pacific]. . . . The pioneers opened a road across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast—the preface to territorial expansion—because they wished to realize the benefits from its geographical position in opening a new market for agricultural produce, and because they could not await but must have a hand in making their own destiny.

The above quotations give by far the clearest statement of purpose which the book affords, and the reader does well to keep this declared purpose clearly in mind as he reads.

The author departs widely from the method of exposition through narrative, traditional with writers of histories on the scale of this one. His is pronouncedly a monographic, "disquisitional" method. By this we do not mean that he fails to display a sufficient grasp on facts and incidents bearing on his theme. He has an abundance of these, but instead of causing them to stand up and tell their own story he, so to speak, makes them lie down while he explains what happened. This method always involves the temptation to subordinate facts to the discussion of their meaning, and it is to be feared the author has not always been able to resist that temptation. One of the outstanding merits of the book is the thoroughness of his search for the printed sources, and the author has used some unprinted material in addition.

As interpretation the book seems needlessly long and repetitious. The interpretation, in fact, is given practically in chapter IX., which is a review and restatement of what has gone before and is far clearer than the argument of the body of the book. Another partial restatement occurs in the appendix which follows chapter IX. And there is, in the main section of the book, much repetition of ideas and facts, and much "cutting and fitting" of facts to new turns in the discussion.

This last tendency is particularly disheartening to the reader. The author's statements have an inveterate habit of modifying themselves from chapter to chapter, and page to page, as the discussion proceeds on its easy, leisurely course.

On some points, however, he is very decided. He is convinced that the Lewis and Clark expedition was "almost negative as far as commercial exploitation and settlement were concerned" (p. 22), therein denying that the succession of American events following that expedition, the attempted exploitation of the upper Missouri trade from St. Louis, the Astor enterprise, and the restoration of Astoria, were related to it as effects to a cause, which is the usual view. He is clear that "the earliest effort made by any group of American citizens with material interests in the country west of the Rocky Mountains to terminate the joint occupation status of Oregon and determine upon a definite boundary, came from these St. Louis fur traders" [Rocky Mountain Fur Company]. In this he denies the facts brought out by Professor E. G. Bourne in regard to the Astor influence behind Floyd's efforts. He minimizes the significance of Floyd's pioneer agitation in Congress, charging that "the purpose of the move was probably to lend dignity to his opposition to John Q. Adams" (p. 64 n.), as if motive and result were in such a case interchangeable terms.

Students will be grateful to Mr. Bell for giving us a new interpretation of the beginnings of Pacific Coast history, and this gratitude would be all the greater if we could agree that the new interpretation is also a true interpretation in its general scope, as it assuredly is in some subordinate particulars. He has presented a perfectly sound view of the Rocky Mountain fur-trade; has shown with a clearness never before equalled how large a part the mountain trappers assumed in the emigration movement, and in chapter VI. (Agrarian Discontent) he has brought together a good many interesting historical facts not heretofore fully considered in determining the motives of the Oregon emigrants. But the present reviewer cannot convince himself, on the basis of that showing, that it was economically prudent for a few thousands to go to the Pacific at a time when many thousands were making shift to find suitable new homes along the older frontier; nor can he agree that the search for a new market probably constituted the dominant motive behind the Oregon movement. Of course the question is incapable of evidential solution. But it seems incongruous to assume that the Oregon emigrants had so reflected on the subject of world markets as to convince themselves of the inadequacy of existing markets for farm produce and the adequacy of the market on the Pacific.

The book is an attempt, not altogether successful as I think, to prove an hypothesis—that stated in the words quoted at the beginning of the review. But it is a well documented effort, it abounds in pene-

trating observations, and there is in it much that any student of western history needs to know. Some minor errors occur in the text, as is always the case; but these can be easily corrected.

JOSEPH SCHAFER.

Theodore Roosevelt and his Times: a Chronicle of the Progressive Movement. By HAROLD HOWLAND. [Chronicles of America series, vol. XLVII.] (New Haven: Yale University Press. 1921. Pp. xi, 289.)

Woodrow Wilson and the World War. By CHARLES SEYMOUR. [Chronicles of America series, vol. XLVIII.] (New Haven: Yale University Press. 1921. Pp. ix, 382.)

It is the clear right of the public man to have his biography written by a friendly hand, and to be represented for posterity in a pose which he would himself regard as characteristic. His enemies will, of their own accord, do enough to portray the unattractive and unsuccessful aspects of his career. The barrage of political criticism and the smoke-screen of his rivals may well blur not only the philosophy of a useful life but also the actual attainments. Here the general historian has limitations; for the degree to which he understands Thomas Jefferson may measure inversely his appreciation of Alexander Hamilton—and similarly as to Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. There is distinct advantage in the method of Professor Allen Johnson who has chosen, as his chroniclers of the two outstanding personalities of our own day, writers well fitted each to understand his man. From the standpoint of the *Chronicles of America* the policy does not make for uniformity, for the biographers are somewhat contradictory, by inference or by statement. But as yet it is more practicable and more important to understand Wilson and Roosevelt, severally, than to reach a final judgment as to their relative places in the sun.

Mr. Harold Howland has known Colonel Roosevelt as a journalistic associate on the *Outlook*, and has followed his leadership as man and citizen. His chronicle of the times of Roosevelt devotes two-thirds of its pages to the period before 1909, and reduces the political administration of President Taft to the position of one of the episodes of the Roosevelt Era. Without being unfair or unfriendly to Taft, he makes clear the way in which the years 1909-1913 cover the transition from Roosevelt republicanism to the democracy of Wilson. He has caught the spirit of his subject. The real "T. R." whose brief and rugged letters were made personal for their recipients by the interpolated sentences that he so loved to add with his pen as he signed the daily grist, fills the pages. There is no evidence of special historical research. Most of the facts here given may be found easily in Roosevelt's collected writings. But here and there Mr. Howland, as an eye-witness, clarifies or expands the story as already known. Notably, in connection