

* * *

Fifty Years of Labour in Algoma, Essays on Aspects of Algoma's Working Class History. Sault Ste. Marie: Algoma University College, 1978. Pp. x, 178.

BRIAN HOGAN. — *Cobalt: Year of the Strike, 1919*. Cobalt: Highway Book Shop, n.d. Pp. vi, 185.

These two studies deal with different aspects of the working class in two northern Ontario urban industrial centres, Sault Ste. Marie and Cobalt, which have been ignored for too long. Thus these works could potentially fill the vacuum in the historiography of these centres.

Algoma contains seven essays on strikes, riots, industrial accidents and working conditions, immigration, politics, and social welfare at Sault Ste. Marie. It is useful to learn that working class unrest was manifest by strikes and riots in the Sault as in other Canadian industrial cities. Unfortunately there is no clear picture of the strikes or the riots and many questions are left unanswered regarding these eruptions. Similarly the article on industrial accidents and working conditions between 1900 and 1920 is regrettably short on conclusive information. There is practical information on the influx of immigrants into the area and their subsequent problems. The article on the 1946 steel strike deals more with the strikes at Hamilton and Dosco rather than Algoma; was the Algoma confrontation less important than the others? The collection could have been more valuable had there been careful direction in writing and research.

Hogan's *Cobalt* reviews the strike of silver miners in 1919 as well as the situation before that date. It treats the organizing of workers, nativism, the role of returned soldiers and the organized mine managers. The strike's size (c. 2500 workers), the divisions in the community and the interest it apparently aroused on the stock markets, contribute to its significance. A number of other factors could have been fruitfully considered.

The major problem in these two productions is that they lack a conceptual framework. Such a basis would have made the studies more meaningful.

F. J. K. GRIEZIC,
Carleton University.

* * *

FERNAND HARVEY et GILLES HOULE. — *Les classes sociales au Canada et au Québec*. Québec, Institut supérieur des sciences humaines, Université Laval, 1979. 288 p.

Il ne fait pas de doute que cet instrument de travail qui explore la littérature concernant les classes sociales au Canada, sera utile aux chercheurs, aux enseignants et aux étudiants. En effet, depuis une trentaine d'années l'intérêt pour l'analyse des structures sociales et des mouvements sociaux s'est développé. Naturellement, la question des classes sociales a vu son importance croître par rapport à la question nationale qui n'est plus la seule à polariser l'attention des écrivains et des chercheurs. Les 863 titres que renferme cette bibliographie, sont regroupés par tranches chronologiques. L'introduction inclut les travaux de portée plus générale. Elle est suivie de l'énumération d'une série d'études portant princi-