

W. A. SPRAY. — *The Blacks in New Brunswick*. Fredericton: Brunswick Press, 1972.

This short book (72 pages long, with an additional 21 pages of manuscript facsimiles and photographs) is appropriate for its subject, when you consider the number of blacks who have participated in New Brunswick history. Blacks at no time in the history of the province made up more than a miniscule proportion of the population. From the foundation of the province in 1784 until today, the total number of blacks has fluctuated from 1,000 to 1,500 souls. In relation to the white population, the blacks have gone from a high of roughly two per cent in the Loyalist era to a steadily decreasing proportion of the population.

This study was undertaken at the suggestion of the Chairman of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, and like arranged marriages, it has a few uncomfortable moments. For example, a leader of the black community, Mr. Joseph Drummond, has provided a Foreword for the book. In it, he proclaims that "Black People must be the authors, creators, and the final authority on our History, our Culture and our Genesis" (p. 5). This statement presumably leaves Bill Spray, who is not black, somewhere short of being of final authority on the subject.

Mr. Drummond concludes his "Foreword" to the study with the declaration, "This work... is a partial attempt to rewrite a segment of the history of a strong people — the Black People" (p. 5). The text that follows is no such thing. It is an account of the usual suffering and deprivations that have detailed the life of any weak minority, especially one as easily differentiated as the Blacks, in this country throughout its history. I do not think that declarations of this sort will better the lot of the Blacks of New Brunswick, but careful studies of their history such as Dr. Spray's will contribute to a fuller understanding, and therefore, one would hope, to a fuller acceptance, of Blacks in the life of the province.

In spite of these interventions, the book itself is not polemical. It is a sober, fairly objective, account of the place of the negro in New Brunswick history. The earlier periods, the Loyalist era and the first quarter of the nineteenth century, receive the most attention. Giant steps are then taken via chapters on "Education" and "Progress in the Black Community" to bring the book up to the present day. A more detailed examination of the life of the black population in these later periods would have been helpful. How did the blacks fare in the golden age of New Brunswick history around the middle of the last century? More importantly, where did they fit as New Brunswick passed through the first and later stages of industrial development? Dr. Spray mentions in his introduction that there is additional material available, and that he hopes that a more detailed study of the Blacks in New Brunswick might be undertaken at a later date.

The other criticism of the study is its lack of hard data. Dr. Spray ventures a few demographic conclusions. For example, he says that there is "no evidence to prove that the Black population had a high death rate, or that they had smaller families than the white population..." (p. 64). He offers "a check of baptismal records" to support this conclusion, but he does not document these records, and no figures for the blacks or the entire population are given. An advantage of the 18th and 19th century statistical material available on New Brunswick from the point of view of this study is that it always differentiates between "negro" or "black" and the remainder of the population in its listings. Thus, it is possible to get some basic demographic details concerning the blacks from these records, and at least some sampled figures for the remainder of the population.

As far as it goes, however, the present study is a useful addition to secondary sources on New Brunswick history. It definitely should be a part of any reading list on the history of the province, for earlier works on New Brunswick history merely treat the subject in a few paragraphs. W.S. MacNutt's *New Brunswick, A History*, for example, has two references to Negroes and deals with their history in a total of about two pages. However, this treatment is a result of the relative insignificance of the numbers of blacks in New Brunswick rather than of any prejudice on Prof. MacNutt's part. The only other study specifically on the subject is a magazine article by a local historian, W.O. Raymond, written at the turn of the century. There is therefore a definite need for information on the subject.

The Blacks in New Brunswick was published almost simultaneously with Robin Winks' *The Blacks in Canada*. The books are complementary because the shared general accounts of the history of the blacks is, in the case of Dr. Spray's work, illustrated by specifically New Brunswick material. Both books are part of an increased interest in black studies in this country. Prof. James Walker of the University of Waterloo is presently editing a collection of papers illustrative of the life and experiences of Black Loyalists. I expect that other studies on the blacks are likewise in preparation. The blacks, from a position of obscurity, may be on their way to enjoying one of the better-documented areas of Canadian history.

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H. V. NELLES. — *The Politics of Development: Forests, Mines, Hydro-Electric Power in Ontario 1849-1941*. Toronto: Macmillan, 1974.

The revolution in technology at the turn of the century opened the way for the growth of huge enterprises in the mining, pulp and paper and hydro-electricity of Ontario. *The Politics of Development* by H.V. Nelles traces the story of the government's policy towards these resource giants through the first four decades of the twentieth century. The government's double and sometimes contradictory interests complicated this policy; Ontario premiers aided large companies to create more jobs but sometimes sought to protect the public interest from these same companies. At all times their policies had to be acceptable to a large section of the Ontario electorate. The book's general argument and its rich documentation make it convincing. Nelles seems really to know what went on between big resource entrepreneurs and government. Yet this is not a muck-raking book nor an attack on the Canadian robber barons. Although the author passes certain moral judgements, he is not concerned with corruption as such. He aims to write the history of a relationship between big government and big business, the function of which was to produce a high profit resource industry in Ontario.

At least since 1900 the Ontario government began to regard the assisting of such resource industries as one of its main tasks. Premiers Arthur Hardy and George Ross acted vigorously to compel the "manufacturing" of crown forest products, such as pine timber and spruce cordwood, into sawn lumber and pulp within the province itself. In this Nelles sees government as a "political extension" (p. 103) of some business groups. Ross also built the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario railway to service mining enterprises and bailed out Consolidated Lake Superior company, a giant near collapse. The tax which another premier, James Whitney, imposed on the lumber companies depended on their own estimate of how much timber they had cut. Still another premier Howard Ferguson connived