

showed that in the early 1930s most skilled jobs in Montreal were held by British-born immigrants. This practice of importing skilled labour goes back to the mid-19th century: skilled workers were brought from England for the construction of the Victoria Bridge, and at a later date, most of the skilled workers in the rolling mills and the glass industry came from the United States. When it could be seen at a glance that most of the available jobs required neither education nor special skills, it was unlikely that working class families would make the very real sacrifices necessary to keep children in school once they could find employment.

Most of the research for this study is based on often neglected official reports. The reports make it clear that municipal and provincial authorities were aware of the seriousness of conditions in housing, public health, welfare and employment, but were reluctant to take decisive action. The author has avoided using impressionistic accounts which usually are a prominent feature of studies of this kind. The absence of reliable sources for crime and prostitution, both of which are often directly related to poverty, has led to the omission of both topics which is unfortunate.

For the reader who is looking for the betterment of the working class, *The Anatomy of Poverty* is a depressing book. In only one area does the author note a marked improvement, whereas in the vitally important field of housing conditions actually deteriorated. Demonstrable improvements were made in public health. Contaminated drinking water and impure milk were dangerous regardless of wealth, creed or ethnic origin, but the upper classes articulated their dissatisfaction and exerted pressure on the authorities to institute the necessary reforms. In conclusion it should be said that the situation in Montreal is contrasted with that of other North American cities, and this broadening of the context enhances the value of the book.

D. Suzanne CROSS,
Vanier College.

* * *

S.M. TROFIMENKOFF, ed. — *The Twenties in Western Canada*. Ottawa: History Division, National Museum of Man (Mercury Series, History Division Paper No. 1), 1972.

Unfortunately the ten articles in this anthology do not coalesce to give the reader an over-all impression of the shape of the 1920s in Western Canada. Each article in this collection is narrowly focused, the result of primary research by graduate students or scholars who at the time of writing were assistant professors. Despite their limited scope most are useful contributions to scholarship. David Bercuson's reinterpretation of the One Big Union as "a flight of fancy that sapped the strength of western radicalism" will perhaps attract the most attention for its importance to Canadian labour history in general. It has since been reprinted in the *Journal of Canadian Studies* (May 1974). *Should our journals be reprinting published articles?* Ian Macpherson on Western co-operatives in the 1920s (which were not co-operating), Laurie Ricou on the changing image of man and prairie in Western fiction, John Thompson on the defeat of prohibition in Manitoba, and Patricia Roy on the Oriental question in British Columbia all solidly illuminate their subjects, adding new dimensions to our knowledge of the West in that decade. William Calderwood's study of reactions to the Ku Klux Klan in Saskatchewan is interesting, but would have been made more convincing with hard data on the Klan's strength. Foster Griezic's account of T.A. Crerar's political career and Thomas Flanagan's of voting patterns in Alberta elections are extended footnotes

to the work of Morton and Macpherson respectively. Donald Page convinces the reader that the peace movement was not important in Western Canada. Raymond Huel's discussion of French language education in Saskatchewan might more properly have been contributed to *Saskatchewan History*. Taken as a whole the book has enough important articles to be worth buying (at \$2.50) rather than resorting to the convenient illegal act of photocopying. This cannot be said of most anthologies, where one crime justifies another.

But the publication of this book in this form raises a more general problem about the future of anthologies, especially the annual collection of papers from the Western Canadian Studies Conference. Who doubts now that regional and local history are among the most flourishing of Canadian studies? Who doubts that the Western Canadian Studies Conference has become established as the leading annual scholarly (and social) event for students of Western Canada? Surely it is time to reconsider the practice of hawking each year's papers around to the publishers, having them appear in different formats from year to year, and then see the books lost in the limbo of indifferent distribution and irresponsible reviewing? Let us have an annual Western Canadian equivalent of the *Historical Papers*. The University of Calgary could certainly afford the subsidy, even if other angels feared to tread. I think the proven quality of the papers of the last several years can be sustained; the sponsors would not appear foolish. This is not a revival of the proposal for a Western Canadian journal of History, which was decided against by the Canadian Historical Association at its meeting in 1973 in Kingston. The Conference papers are already being published annually, but in an unsatisfactory, irregular, and to some extent misleading format. Their authors deserve better treatment. An annual publication from Calgary, which would develop a regular subscription list (and could, if quality or funding slipped, be suitably retrenched), would provide that better treatment.

Michael BLISS,
University of Toronto.

* * *

HARTMUT FROESCHLE, ed. — *German-Canadian Yearbook: Deutschkanadisches Jahrbuch*. Toronto: Historical Society of Mecklenburg Upper Canada, 1973.

It is clearly impossible to summarize thirty-nine articles and ten book reviews and bibliographical articles in a short review, or organize them about one unifying theme. However, when seen together, they demonstrate three varying thrusts of ethnic studies: the political, academic and practical. The volume's first section treats the politics of ethnic existence in Canada today. Former Minister of State, Stanley Haidasz, whose multicultural office funded almost half of this book's expenses, leads off by outlining the process of the politicizing of ethnic groups since the federal government's first official recognition and funding of them in 1971. Dr. K. Bongart writes of German ethnic strategies within this new framework. Finally, the Ontario Provincial Secretary for Justice adds a few thin words of appreciation for the German cultural contribution to Canada of beer, sausage, bands and Oktoberfest.

Several contributions fall into the second category of academically-sound work, rigorously employing the tools of disciplines such as history, sociology and philology. H. Boechenstein discusses recent research into older German-Canadian newspapers. Anna Hess relates the short career in Canada of Adol von Riedesel, when he commanded in 1776 the Brunswick troops of the British army. Epp, Peters and Arndt wrote good short pieces on Mennonites, Hutterites and