

reasoning. The pejorative view of the savage reached its widest acceptance during the twentieth century, as Smith points out. This occurred with the introduction of compulsory history in the schools at a time when "le cruel sauvage" was the prevailing stereotype. "Le bon sauvage" never received such diffusion, not even with the best efforts of Grey Owl. While on the subject of that enterprising Englishman, why say he was accepted as being of partial Amerindian descent? (77). He passed as an Amerindian, pure and simple.

One could ask if it is really true that "contemporary French-Canadians, having accepted the secular values of the new urban, and industrial society, have abandoned the concepts of the old" (88). That reads rather like those early enthusiastic reports of conversions that were said to have transformed Amerindians from "sauvages" into "hommes policés" by the simple act of baptism. Changing a traditional viewpoint is not the work of a day, as Jesuit missionaries observed of Amerindians.

An excellent bibliographic guide greatly adds to the value of this study as a tool for students of Amerindian aspects of our history. It is to be regretted, however, that the editing of this useful work was so summarily done.

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ROBERT F. LEGGET. — *Ottawa Waterway: Gateway to a Continent*. Toronto and Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 1975. 291 pp., \$15.00.

Ottawa Waterway is, in places, a well written, entertaining and informative book but, at the same time, for those with some knowledge of the history of the Ottawa Valley, it proves to be disappointing reading. Legget himself styles it as "liquid history." The emphasis is very much on the river, "greatest tributary of the River St. Lawrence" and "gateway to the continent." To the author it is the "River of Canada" and "a vital part of this country's cultural heritage."

All this creates a rather romantic, almost epic setting. This mood is intensified by Legget's masterly second chapter which provides a physical description of the river, replete with simple but accurate maps and diagrams as well as lengthy quotations from T.C. Keefer and Sir William Logan, both admirers of the rugged beauty of the Ottawa River. Here Legget is in his element and writes with measured thoroughness. Unfortunately the author rarely reaches this form again in the remainder of the book. Only his chapter on "Canals and Steamboats" can be classed as a real contribution to historical knowledge. It is based on original research and provides interesting portraits of early canal building and the difficulties connected with transportation on the River. Other chapters on the fur trade, lumbering and settlement, however, are very weak efforts at best. They are, for the most part, based on secondary sources and local histories. At times even the most standard and readily available works have obviously not been consulted. For instance in the chapter on lumbering no use seems to have been made of A. R. M. Lower's long-published books on the forest industry or Michael Cross' more recent study of the Ottawa lumbering community, not to mention the fine primary collections at the Public Archives of Canada which detail the growth of the lumber industry in the Ottawa Valley.

Much of the problem with the book appears to be its emphasis on those who used the River primarily as a transportation route to and from the interior and not on those who chose the area as their home. In some mysterious way Legget finds

the explorers, fur traders and travellers who passed through the Valley more heroic and romantic figures than those who worked and prospered there. A whole chapter is dedicated to "Traveller's Tales" where one diary quote follows on the other until the whole thing begins to wear a bit thin. Sir George Simpson is easily the hero of the whole piece although he contributed very little to the development of the region. Legget seems to forget that all those Valley towns were founded by interesting people whose citizens created their own unique and exciting history. Only the Wrights of Hull and the Hamiltons of Hawkesbury are mentioned in any detail and once again Legget had neglected to consult the best primary and secondary sources concerning either family.

Finally it should be noted that the book contains many excellent photographs which add much to its fine design. It is, however, poorly footnoted with the use of a cumbersome page and line system. As well the last chapter contains a highways and byways touring guide to the Ottawa River which, while useful in itself, may be resented by some in a fifteen dollar hard-cover book.

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MAURICE YEATES. — *A Main Street: Windsor to Quebec City*. Macmillan of Canada in association with the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs and Information Canada, 1975.

Professor Maurice Yeates in this study of the St. Lawrence-Lower Lakes region, from 1961 to 1971, asserts in his ultimate sentence that the axis "... is the key to the nation." Though Donald Creighton might quibble with the tense, he should be quite pleased with the sentence, both on account of the rediscovery of the Laurentian Thesis and for the apparent resurrection of the Empire whose loss he lately laments. "The idea of the St. Lawrence, as the inspiration and basis of a transcontinental, east-west system, both commercial and political in character" lives on, it seems.

Professor Yeates, however, provides little consolation for the legion of Creighton critics. Incredulity at the concluding sentence of *Main Street* could only be compounded upon discovering that it is also the *a priori* assumption of the book. The "domination of the urban areas between Windsor and Quebec City over the Canadian economy" seems to be taken as given. A primary purpose of the monograph is merely "to document" the "extent" of domination. Critics of the Laurentian Thesis would no doubt be even further enraged at Professor Yeates' somewhat gratuitous observation that "dominance of one area over another is not to be feared as long as society recognizes its existence, agrees that it is necessary, and accepts as morally justified the methods by which it is achieved."

The historian, then, however cautious he might be in making judgments on the highly technical specifics of the book, can nevertheless be highly suspicious of a work that justifies dominance in general, assumes a dominance in particular, and finally, in exhaustive analysis after exhaustive analysis, does indeed document such dominance. Logicians have a not very flattering phrase to describe such a process. To go on to generate "forecasts" on the basis of such a happy conjuncture of "theory" and "fact" is equally suspect, no matter how accurate the data, how sound the methodology, or how cautious and circumspect the researcher. To say the least, the forecasts in the penultimate chapter do not flow from "all the