

père » (p. 43–44) explique-t-il au Parlement pour justifier son retrait, liant le gouvernement entier dans sa décision. Une position qui mériterait d'être étudiée par plusieurs encore de nos jours.

L'ouvrage est visiblement le fruit d'une longue et minutieuse recherche, ce qui donne un texte amplement documenté. MacFarlane semble prendre un soin jaloux de ses sources, et il a la sagesse de donner les citations françaises dans leur langue d'origine, évitant ainsi des traductions qui peuvent être boiteuses.

Cet ouvrage est essentiel, non seulement pour comprendre l'influence de Lapointe sur King, mais également pour l'histoire canadienne en entier. En plus de nous faire voir concrètement le processus décisionnel et le rôle des individus dans ce processus, MacFarlane nous ouvre sur la vie d'une de nos figures politiques les plus marquantes. À lire absolument.

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Jean Manore — *Cross-Currents: Hydroelectricity and the Engineering of Northern Ontario*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1999. Pp. xiv, 209.

The development of Northern Ontario, a region which this book happily recognizes as an economic and social reality, has involved a great deal of corporate activity. Encouraged by the provincial government, lumbering, mining, and pulp and paper companies have exploited the resources of Northern Ontario. Their success required railway construction and hydroelectric power developments. As the title does not indicate, Jean Manore has focused on the establishment of power stations to meet the needs of the mining companies. The book describes how the Northern Canada Power Company began supplying power to the Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mining Company in 1912, explores the takeover of this company by Nesbitt Thomson of Montreal in 1924, discusses the gradual entry of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario into the region after 1930, and pursues the competition that led to the acquisition of the private company by the public utility in 1945. It then examines how the "Northern Ontario Properties", as these and other stations had initially been defined, were gradually integrated into the utility's southern Ontario system. Although this study attempts novel interpretations, it is clearly motivated by the impact that power development had on Aboriginal people, especially the Anishnabe of the Mattagami First Nation and the Cree of the Moose Factory First Nation. The fact that their activities were largely submerged by those of the large companies, until they confronted Ontario Hydro in the Demand-Supply Environmental Assessment hearings of the 1990s regarding "development" of the Moose River, sharpens Manore's analysis of the "engineering" of Northern Ontario.

Believing that the North American historiography of hydroelectric development has been urban and industrial, Manore asserts that "the northeastern Ontario hydroelectric system largely developed over a period of fifty years through a process of interaction between technology and the environment, Native and non-Native relations, metropolitan business and political interests and northern natural resources"

(p. vii). Although engineering has been imposed on the rivers, both the environment and the First Nations were able to “retain their own identity and shape the system’s development” (p. viii). The metaphor adopted to explore the interaction is the cross-current, which involves both turmoil or conflict between forces and adaptation that leads to continuity. Although the interests of the First Nations were submerged by nineteenth-century law and twentieth-century culture, they were reasserted at the end of the twentieth century. Private interests met the power needs of large companies, while municipalities struggled to obtain power for their people. The provincial utility, created to supply southern Ontario municipalities with power at cost, was only drawn into northeastern Ontario by the capital needs of a large pulp and paper company. The regional service was eventually integrated into the southern Ontario system, and this proved advantageous for the region, whatever the mining companies thought about it.

Despite the ambitions suggested by the title, this book has a very narrow focus. It begins on the Mattagami River with two power stations supplying one gold-mining company. The larger power-generating activities of the Abitibi Power and Paper Company and the Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company on the Abitibi and Mattagami Rivers are not examined. Although these activities are noted on pages 60 and 77, these companies receive little attention until Abitibi’s need for capital to build the Abitibi Canyon project led Premier Howard Ferguson to authorize the Hydro-Electric Power Commission to buy some of the projected power. Manore’s lack of appreciation of these “Power and Paper Companies” is matched by her failure to consider the historical context within which the developments occurred. A history of mining and of the forest companies, as well as of the growth of towns in the region, would provide valuable context and justify the information given by two maps. Only a small part of the geographic setting is specified, with the map of the “N.E. Ontario Hydro Electric system, 1911 to 1944” (p. 47) failing to include the stations on the Wahnipitae and other rivers which become important to the analysis on pages 44, 70, and 73. Not only was there no single system before 1945, but the several systems that did exist are not mapped to clarify how the Hydro-Electric Power Commission created a system after 1945.

These shortcomings reflect the lack of editing the book sometimes reveals, in small points and in large issues. Examples of the latter include the awkward discussion of Aboriginal rights on pages 28–34 and the fact that two-thirds of chapter 4, “Resolution: A Single Power System, 1933–1945”, deals with events after 1945. Smaller examples include a reference to the “Hydro Electric Power Corporation of Ontario” (p. 7); confusing discussions of lake levels at 1,070 feet as well as 1,700 metres above sea level (pp. 51 and 56); placement of the Otter Rapids on the Mattagami River rather than the Abitibi (p. 60); reference on page 60 to lakes on the Groundhog River as being 1,600 kilometres south of the Smoky Falls (which would place them in Tennessee!); reference to the Provincial Secretary as D. R. Michener at one point (p. 106) and Roland Michener at another (p. 117); and such misuses of language as “factors that mitigated against the occurrence of issues” (p. 133).

These critical comments indicate that this book does not achieve what it promises. The conceptualization begins to wear on the reader, especially when the author

speaks of the “interweaving of cross-currents” (pp. 167–170). Among the strengths of the book are the thematic chapters 5 and 6 in which the author contrasts the difficult relations of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission with the mining companies and the Moose Factory First Nation to its much more cooperative dealings with lumber and pulp and paper companies. Such an approach could have been taken earlier to give coherent expression to the impact of power developments on the Aboriginal people, including the unmentioned Wahnipitae First Nation. Does the author have evidence that the power developments on the Mattagami River were as disruptive of traditional activities as she asserts more than once (see pp. 20, 37, 53, 55, and 57)? Note 20, regarding the first assertion, contains an unrelated declaration rather than a reference to documentation, and the later assertions are completely undocumented. Much of the evidence given to the Demand-Supply Environmental Assessment in the 1990s involved the Moose, rather than the Mattagami, River (cf. pp. 138–139). The flooding of the reserve on the Mattagami First Nation, mentioned on page 140 as an effect “that has yet to be discussed” (despite the discussions on pp. 51–58 and 90–92), was only one instance of the varied floodings of reserves caused by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission. Ontario Hydro’s efforts to resolve these grievances of the First Nations in the 1990s, including some around Lake Nipigon where this reviewer played a facilitating role, indicates the importance of this subject among the various issues that this book was to address.

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Valerie J. Matsumoto and Blake Allmendinger, eds. — *Over the Edge: Remapping the American West*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999. Pp. xii, 399.

This eclectic collection of essays serves as the forum for a debate about the various boundaries and meanings of the American West, even the relevance of the region as a topic of study. Although 15 of the 20 contributors are academic historians, the inclusion of works from outside the discipline makes for a volume that is stimulating to read, interdisciplinary in tone, and illustrative of exciting possibilities for western history. The articles in *Over the Edge* focus primarily on California, the Pacific Coast, and the Southwest during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Valerie Matsumoto and Blake Allmendinger divide them into three categories that “suggest ways of negotiating the West intellectually”: “Imagining the West”, “Crossing Boundaries”, and “Creating Community” (p. 6). Although several contributors write from an explicitly postmodern stance, others debate specific historical or historiographical questions. Drawing on various methodological and theoretical approaches, the multiple portraits provoke an engaging meditation on the ways in which studies inspired by literary criticism and postmodern theory can coexist alongside those concerned with material conditions and political realities. Above all, one finds here an awareness of the interconnection and complication of human experience in the American West.

The first section on “Imagining the West” contains essays in which the authors