REVIEWS AND NOTES


Mr. Woodward, the author of this volume, is teaching in the Department of History and Political Science in Earlham College. He had his graduate historical training in the University of California under Professor H. Morse Stephens and Dr. E. I. McCormac. He was an Oregonian, but he is now an Indianian, and the historical students of Indiana welcome him heartily for the historical work he has done and gives promise of doing.

In the early days of our national life it was readily recognized that the sources of our nation's history were to be found chiefly in the States, in the life of the several distinct political bodies that had united to form the Union. Only by a knowledge of the men, deeds, and institutions of each local political community could be understood the life and spirit of the whole. Students of our national politics to-day are coming again to understand more and more fully the value to our national history of good local studies in the political life of the several States. Each State or section has its special interest, its special influence on the life of all, and each makes its special contribution to the story of our common growth. Qualified students of our history are devoting themselves to special studies in State history and are thus presenting valuable contributions to national history. As illustrations of this we may mention the three extensive volumes recently published on the Political History of the State of New York, by Mr. De Alva S. Alexander, and the more recent Political History of the State of New York, by Homer A. Stebbins. The history of State politics is replete with subjects for monographic studies. Professor Woodward, of Earlham, brings us one on the political history of Oregon from the beginning of the final diplomatic struggle for the possession of the Oregon Country to the close of Reconstruction. He relates the local story forcibly, connecting it up pertinently with our national history. He discusses the principle and basis of local self-government; the organization of the new Territory; its control under the Democratic regime; the influence of the sectional discussions over slavery in con-
nection with the Kansas-Nebraska excitement and the other con-
troversies preceding the Civil War; the effect of the political change
of 1860; and the issues of the Civil War and the struggle for the
Union. "Old Joe Lane," of Indiana, the first Territorial Governor
of Oregon, was a prominent character in this story. Lane became a
pronounced pro-slavery man in active sympathy with aggressive
Southern leaders who were urging on the extension of slavery.
The general reader will be surprised to learn, as he may from Mr.
Woodward's pages, that the Federal official class were exerting their
whole influence in favor of the introduction of slavery into Oregon,
in the days of James Buchanan. Lane, elected to the Unites States
Senate upon the admission of Oregon into the Union, was aiding
and abetting these efforts, and it was this record that led to Lane's
nomination for the Vice-Presidency on the Southern Democratic
ticket with Breckinridge in 1860. Lane was popular in Oregon and
the Breckinridge-Lane electors came within less than 300 votes of
carrying the State against Lincoln. Lane was an avowed Secession-
ist. He commended the South for its disunion policy and he hoped
that Oregon would leave a Union that denied "equality and protec-
tion" to the States, and help to set up a "Pacific Republic." This
policy ended Lane's popularity in Oregon as the majority there were
for the Union and against slavery, and the "Copperhead" speeches
of Lane could not turn the tide. Union Democrats and Republic-
ans combined in 1861 to place Col. Edward D. Baker, another prono-
mint national character from Oregon, in the United States Senate
to counteract the influence of Lane, and Oregon became a pro-
nounced Union State.

Professor Woodward presents many other interesting connections
between Oregon and national politics in his valuable book. The vol-
ume will bring him credit and, as has been intimated, it will serve
well to illustrate the rich field that is open to students of our na-
tional politics. Many good subjects corresponding to this worthy
work on Oregon politics and many inviting periods are awaiting
the willing and capable workers in Indiana history. The field will
be entered more and more in the near future. Young men and
women in our college and university historical seminaries are turn-
ing their attention in this direction for new themes for their doc-
toral dissertations. It will be found to be a profitable field and the
result will be the production of much good material, which will
prove of value to the future historian of the State as well as of the
country at large.

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