

## Reviews and Notes

*The Centennial History of Illinois*, Volume IV. *The Industrial State, 1870-1893*. By ERNEST LUDLOW BOGART and CHARLES MANFRED THOMPSON, University of Illinois, Springfield, 1920, pp. 553.

The characteristic feature of the period of Illinois history covered by this volume is an unbridled competition in the fields of production and commerce. Until 1870 none of the natural resources of the state, except the strictly agricultural, had been touched. The pioneer was primarily a home maker and a home enjoyer. The typical leader of the period following, 1870-1900, was a money maker. It is not accurate to say the captain of industry was more lawless than the pioneer farmer in his struggle. Each was a thorough-going individualist. The farmer would have been dumbfounded had his harvest hands struck and picketed his farm, causing the loss of his crop. Just such was the feeling of McCormick and Pullman. Industrial leaders and farmers with the same traditions found this interest coming in conflict in which the industrialists with their practices of capitalization and monopoly were having the advantage. A third interest, labor, different from both, was struggling for recognition. Transportation interest, distinct from each of the above, entered the struggle, making it still more complex. The farmer justly felt that he was being unduly exploited by these new interests. Each party was organizing for the fight, not always clear as to his enemies and consequently often fighting blindly. Each party, naturally for Americans, turned to the government for relief. The politics of the period, the Liberal Republican, the Greenback, the Union Labor, the Populist and the Free Silver movements, were only the surface reflections of these deeper conflicts. How completely this struggle dominated society is correctly shown by the different chapter headings of the volume under review. Nineteen of the twenty chapters are devoted to the various phases of the struggle. Chapter nine, less than thirty pages, is ample for a discussion of arts and letters during the thirty years. This seems a

pitiful story, and it is. Although society in 1900 was immeasurably wealthier than in 1860, it is doubtful if life was nearly so attractive or enjoyable in Illinois in 1900 as in 1860. The argument or history is enforced by a mass of detail, but if I have read the story correctly, such is the significance of the volume. It is one of the best volumes of the series. The style is easy and clear. The political struggles are described in straightforward, unequivocal, fearless language. Such stories as the hay market riot, the election of Logan to the senate in 1885, the fiasco of the Liberal Republicans and social life in the seventies might justly be called literary.

L. E.

*Collections of the Illinois Historical Library, Volume XIV. Constitutional Series, Volume II. The Constitutional Debates of 1847.* Edited with introduction and notes by ARTHUR CHARLES COLE, University of Illinois, Springfield, 1919, pp. xxx + 1018.

The making of constitutions may be called an American profession, for each state has a constitution and it is being constantly changed to meet new conditions and ideas. The debates of the second Illinois convention are typical. A reading of these debates will give a new appreciation of our national development.

In his preface to the volume, Mr. Cole points out the difficulty of obtaining reliable sources of information, that the delegates, working in an atmosphere of economy, retrenchment and reform, decided to forego official edition and content themselves with the newspaper versions. The author has reconstructed these debates from the newspapers. They were taken mostly from the tri-weekly *Illinois State Register*, a Whig newspaper, and supplemented in important omissions by items from the weekly edition of the same paper, and from the *Sangamo Journal*, a Democratic organ. These newspapers were partisan and often did not give space to opponents. Reporters and correspondents were not always prompt and often satisfied themselves with memoranda of the topic in discussion. Notwithstanding these conditions, the author has succeeded admirably in bringing the parts together in this volume.