Reviews and Notices


This volume by Dr. Kettleborough is the third of three, the whole being a most valuable contribution to Indiana history, which the author began with the publication of the earlier volumes in 1916. The work, prepared under the auspices of the Indiana Historical Bureau, now brings the account of Indiana's attempts to amend her constitution down to date. It also supplements the earlier volumes by incorporating documents that would naturally have fallen in the period covered by them.

The author has carefully compiled "documents bearing some sanction of authority, including in this instance, activities of the General Assembly, governor's messages, party platforms, official ballots, court decisions, and opinions of attorney generals." If the reader tends to become weary in perusing the numerous documents; and if at times he feels that there might be needless repetition, he should keep in mind the author's viewpoint: "As all constitutional measures are required to pass through the ordinary legislative process it has seemed necessary to give a detailed description of the adventures of each measure as it was advanced to maturity and the political complexion of the General Assembly having it under consideration, since politics has been a most potent factor in advancing or retarding constitutional amendments (I, vii). The author's usually well worded and clearly expressed introductions to the various documents are marred by such involved phraseology as may be found on pages 109 and 300, as well as by the continuous use of the word "referred".

The introduction of nineteen pages summarizes the various efforts to amend the constitution. The appendix contains a group of tables: one gives the number of votes cast by counties on the various amendatory proposals; another summarizes the results of attempts to call a constitutional convention; a third,
and probably the most valuable of the group, shows what amendments have been proposed to each article and section of the constitution of 1851 and the disposition made thereof. The copius index is well prepared. The documents and other materials found in this volume will not only be interesting and valuable to the students of the constitutional history of the State but to all those who are interested in revising the fundamental law of Indiana. It is to be hoped that many will give this book careful attention.

JOHN A. COFFIN.


Studies dealing with Kansas in her early, troubled period are of great interest to all readers of American history. The struggles over the Territory produced deeds of violence within her borders, stirring scenes and debates in the halls of Congress, and widespread political agitation, accompanied by a new alignment of voters, during the period of bitter controversy. The careers of many political leaders of the country were made, unmade or profoundly modified by the pent-up forces released by the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854.

Of the politicians who went to Kansas Territory, none became so forceful or so conspicuous as James H. Lane of Indiana. The late William E. Connelley, long a student of the "grim chieftain", wrote, in a brief introduction for Dr. Stephenson's monograph:

General James H. Lane was the outstanding figure in Kansas in the struggle to withstand slavery and found a free state. He possessed an overpowering personality, and was a man of many eccentricities. He was a genius, and the wavy line separating genius from insanity is almost imperceptible—is completely so at times. I think there is no doubt that Lane was at times of unbalanced mind . . . . But that did not hinder him in his enthusiasm for Kansas. Kansas was his burden—his song.

The study under review constitutes an eminently fair, highly informing and very readable biography of Lane, though doctoral dissertations are in bad repute as entertaining reading matter. Professional reviewers, who are enamored of the writings of the present prolific school of journalistic histor-