

by the papers in the volume—would have been Indians and land claims. War with the Indians, who were supported by allies in Spanish Florida, disputes over ceded lands, the opening of roads and the extension of mail routes were a few of the major difficulties. Many proclamations of public land sales and reports from the land offices are included. Petitions frequently protested against intruders upon the Indian lands or the public lands. Apparently, the usual procedure in dealing with squatters was to evict them and burn their cabins. Some of the petitioners thought this treatment should be supplemented by arrest and imprisonment.

The book is a storehouse of information for those interested in Mississippi territorial history, but it is more than that. Much of the material is valuable for any student of American history who is interested in sources on Southern territorial history or on the relations of the United States with Florida, Spain, and Great Britain during the critical years of the War of 1812.

As in previous volumes, the editor's work has been well done. The explanatory notes, cross references, and excellent index are all very satisfactory. The inclusion of a brief sketch of the political and economic background of the period would have aided the reader in placing the documents in their proper perspective. Likewise, a map making clear the extent of the Mississippi Territory and the location of some of the most important land cessions, post roads, *et cetera*, would make many of the items mentioned more understandable.

GEORGE C. OSBORN.

Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture in the Eighteenth Century.
By Arthur Cecil Bining. Pennsylvania Historical
Commission, Harrisburg, 1938. Pp. 227, illustrated.

This very scholarly monograph is Volume IV of the *Publications* of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. As the author very correctly states in the "Preface," the study is "the result of intensive research on one unit of eighteenth century American industrial life." The book deals with the beginnings of the iron industry in America, a period when the capital involved was small, the knowledge of iron manufacture meagre, and the processes employed very crude. Every chapter, and indeed every paragraph, reveals that the

author did not write until he garnered and interpreted the facts.

The treatment of the "iron plantations," so widely scattered over Pennsylvania, is a fascinating story. The iron-making process, the changes in the means and methods of production, the ironmasters of the province who played important roles in the economic and political development of Pennsylvania, the mansions of the masters, the work and homes of the laborers, the mines, the forges, the furnaces—all these are carefully and even eloquently portrayed in the narrative. The last chapter (IX) of the little volume is an excellent summary of the history of the iron industry in Pennsylvania from 1716 to 1800. Handicapped by lack of capital, by the money and banking situation and by trade restrictions, nevertheless, "down to the period of the Revolution, the iron industry of Pennsylvania had achieved a normal growth." The author makes the very interesting (and no doubt correct) observation that but for the high stage of development reached by iron production before 1775, "the colonists would have been helpless in the struggle" for independence.

An extensive and very valuable bibliography accompanies the little volume and the index is adequate. The author deserves high praise for his careful research and careful writing. He has prepared a volume that will prove to be very useful to teachers and students of economic history, not only in Pennsylvania, but elsewhere, especially in every state where iron production was carried on in the eighteenth century. The book will also provide fascinating reading for any intelligent person who may pick it up. WILLIAM O. LYNCH.

Early Western Pennsylvania Politics. By Russell J. Ferguson. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, 1938. Pp. xv, 300, map, illustrations.

Every general work on American history, short or long, has given some attention to political conditions in early western Pennsylvania. Comments in such works have usually been based on limited information, and it is well that a monograph dealing with the topic has at last appeared. The volume covers roughly the half century following 1773, with the quarter century lying between 1790 and 1815 strongly