

## Reviews and Notices

*The Old Northwest as the Keystone of the Arch of the American Federal Union: A Study in Commerce and Politics.* By A. L. Kohlmeier, The Principia Press, Bloomington, Indiana, 1938. Pp. v, 257, \$2.50.

This significant monograph is concerned with the Old Northwest, its commerce with the rest of the world, and its place in the Union. As a hinterland, its well-being depended upon its ability to export its surplus commodities in payment for its imports. There were three gateways for this commerce: the southern, through New Orleans; the eastern, through the ports of Philadelphia and Baltimore; and the northeastern, through New York or the St. Lawrence valley. The area within the Ohio valley was settled first by immigrants from the southern and middle states, who used the southern and eastern routes. Efforts to connect this region with the South Atlantic ports failed; the Great Lakes area was settled by people of New England ancestry, who used the northeastern route; and the Ohio valley grew less rapidly than the newer northern portions of the Old Northwest. Commerce tended to expand with increasing population and surpluses, and the routes of trade were improved. Politicians struggled with sectional interests in respect to land policy, tariff, and internal improvements. Polk's policy of western expansion and reduction of tariffs, and the repeal of the British corn laws advanced the interests of the Lower South and the Great Lakes region but did little for the Ohio valley. England became more dependent upon wheat than upon cotton. The wheat growing region, which became more firmly attached to the Northeast, secured better prices and more settlers. The lower half of the Old Northwest, likewise, became more firmly attached to the South, but its growth was now slower than that of the nation as a whole.

The danger of sectional cleavage in 1850 brought a realization of the value of the Union to the Old Northwest. Efforts were made to bind North and South more closely together, while transportation routes within and without the Old Northwest were extended and improved. Little change resulted, however, and exports produced north of the National Road were transported over the northeastern channel while those of the Ohio valley were sent through the east-

ern or southern gateways. During the middle fifties the sections struggled to secure the eastern terminus of a proposed railway to the Pacific and sectional leaders again became aggressive, but the west began to realize the importance of keeping all of its commercial lines unbroken, because certain cities, like Chicago and Cincinnati, were using all three outlets. Competition of the consolidated railroads brought lower rates, thus proving the value of having alternate routes. An enormous increase in the production of cereals and cattle in the Great Lakes region enlarged commerce to the northwest. The eastern route, drawing from the same area as well as the Ohio valley, became almost as important as the southern route. The exports of the latter increased absolutely but not relatively.

Secession of southern states brought a crisis to the people of the Old Northwest. New Orleans was a little less important to them, but the South was as important in 1860 as in 1835. The railroads had not weaned the Ohio Valley away from its connection with the South. "The people of the Ohio Valley did not decide to fight the people of the South so much because they had concluded that they could get along economically without the south. . . ." Indeed, "they believed that they could not get along without it." The Old Northwest could not think of being divided between the North and South. It could not become a part of either. Nor could it attempt to be independent of both. Only by preserving the nation intact could it continue to use its three main avenues of commerce. Early interference with the trade of the Mississippi river made easier its decision to deny the right of secession. Because no other section had so much to lose by national disintegration, the Old Northwest was the keystone of the arch of federal union.

The work is written in a good clear style. The large amount of statistics make it a little heavy in places, but it does not appear certain that they could be relegated to footnotes or to appendices for they are an integral part of the text. Documentation is quite adequate, but it is hardly a substitute for a bibliography. The material has not been extensively used by historians and, therefore, its presentation in bibliographical form would be all the more welcome. It is doubtful whether the use of the term "Old West [pp. 129, 132, 146] conforms with the generally accepted understanding of the term.

All who are interested in the history of the Old Northwest and its place in the Union will find this a stimulating book. Students of Southern history will find in it further understanding of the failure of the Ohio Valley to continue its traditional attachment to the South. While it is an important addition to the literature of sectionalism, its chief significance lies in its explanation of the superior strength of national unity in the face of sectional division.

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A great southern element migrated to Indiana between 1800 and 1860, and readers of the *Indiana Magazine of History* are, therefore, much interested in southern history. The Macmillan Company brought out last year the first volume of a history of *The Old South* by William E. Dodd. The author has long been a student and writer in the field of southern history. The first volume, a book of over three hundred pages, covers the early colonial period of the South, presenting the history of southern colonial developments to 1690. The second volume will deal with the South in the period from 1690 to 1754. Students of southern history will look forward eagerly to the completion of the remaining volumes of this work by Professor Dodd.

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*A Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Indiana* was recently published by Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution. The compiler and editor of the volume is Mrs. Roscoe C. O'Byrne of Brookville, Indiana. Mrs. O'Byrne was State Regent, 1931-1934, and Vice President General, 1934-1937, is now Chairman of Roster. This well printed, handsomely bound book of more than four hundred pages may be purchased from Mrs. O'Byrne at \$2.00 per copy. The volume contains a "List of Revolutionary Soldiers and D. A. R. Chapters in Counties" (pp. 9-31), and "Records of Revolutionary Soldiers" (pp. 33-395) buried in Indiana, by counties. The "List" and "Records" make up most of the book. In addition, a few pages are devoted to the "Col. Archibald Lochry Massacre," to a "List of men whose service has not been verified," to "Revolutionary Pensioners who later transferred to other States," and to "Indiana Pensioners in other Wars." The