

## Book Reviews

*Louisiana in the Confederacy.* By Jefferson Davis Bragg.  
(Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1941.  
Pp. ix, 341. \$3.00.)

Despite the absence of large scale military combat in Louisiana such as was witnessed in Virginia (both New Orleans and Baton Rouge were taken by the Federals without firing a shot), this important state of the Lower South suffered severely during the war. The fall of New Orleans and the control of the Mississippi, however, tended to immobilize such military or economic strength as the state retained, and this book gives one the impression that Louisiana contributed little to the Confederacy beyond manpower. It is because Professor Bragg feels that the Lower South in general, and Louisiana in particular, with the exception of New Orleans, has not received the attention it deserves from students of the Confederacy that he has written this book, "an attempt to tip the scales, howsoever lightly, in favor of a neglected section and people."

In broad outline, the book is a straightforward narrative of the history of Louisiana from secession to June 10, 1865, when Governor Wells congratulated the people on being restored to the protection of the United States flag. The study is based upon extensive collections of manuscript and printed sources, as the extensive bibliography indicates. Primarily, the treatment is political and economic, although military events receive sufficient consideration. In so far as the secession movement and events in and around New Orleans are concerned, the study seems to add little if anything to the work of W. M. Caskey, *Secession and Restoration of Louisiana*. Some critics may object that chapters on New Orleans under Federal control have no place in a study of Confederate Louisiana. It is in the study of affairs outside the city, however, that the author makes his chief contribution. Topics considered include problems of military organization, economic disturbances such as the suspension of specie payments, inflation, shortages of supplies, the cotton embargo, trade with Mexico, stay laws, fiscal policies, measures for the relief of soldiers' families, and relations with the Confederacy. The impact of the war upon the plantation system and slavery, both within and without Confed-

erate Louisiana, and the refugee movement into Texas, are discussed. Naturally, the work of the legislature and especially the problems and accomplishments of governors Moore and Allen receive attention.

If one were to venture a general criticism of the study, it would be that it does not go far enough, that it does not reveal some important aspects of the life of the people, that it is more a factual narrative than a penetrating analysis. One may wish to know, for example, what happened to the literary or cultural life of the people, whether there were amusements or diversions to relieve the tension of war, whether civil liberties were submerged. If Louisiana had an educational system which was affected by the war, it is not revealed in this book. What happened to the churches, orphan homes, and similar institutions? We find no discussion here of the Confederate judiciary in Louisiana. The reviewer thinks other topics could have been more adequately treated. The author points out, for example, that the racial population of the state was heterogeneous; but he does not explain what difference this made in the history of the war era. The discussion of the wide-spread disloyalty in the state seems too general. The problem of the hospitalization of soldiers is dismissed in a brief paragraph. There is, however, an interesting account of the manufacture of medicinal supplies. The book, in short, whets our appetite but does not satisfy it. It is possible that the restraint which the author has shown so admirably in treating military events has been used with less justification in presenting other topics less well known.

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*The Flag of the United States.* By Milo M. Quaife. (Grosset & Dunlap, New York, 1942. Pp. xiv, 210. \$2.00.)

On December 9, 1816, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution recognizing Indiana's admission to statehood; on the same day Peter H. Wendover offered a resolution to the same House for the appointment of a committee to consider the problem of the alteration of the Flag. This alteration was to consume fitful discussions for a period of eighteen months. By the Flag Act of April 4, 1818, the Flag of fifteen bars was abandoned, and the present basic