

this biography is still the story of Lincoln and Douglas. Out of seemingly insignificant but really portentous events Douglas' strong character and his democratic philosophy develop. In sharp contrast to his background and in much less detail stands that of Lincoln, sketched in skillfully from time to time as the occasion demands and with increasing indication of his great destiny.

To this skill in characterization and to her careful historical workmanship, evident in *The Little Giant*, Mrs. Nolan adds a style of writing admirably adapted to her subject.

Kenneth B. Thurston

J. Sterling Morton. By James C. Olson. (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1942. Pp. xiv, 451. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

The people of Indiana should find this biography of the founder of Arbor Day very interesting and significant. It is the story of one of Nebraska's pioneer statesmen who became secretary of agriculture in Cleveland's second administration and whose political career was cut short by that other leader of the Cornhusker State, William Jennings Bryan. Born in New York and raised in Michigan, Morton attended the Wesleyan Seminary at Albion, Michigan, and the state university at Ann Arbor. From the latter he was expelled before graduation, as the result of criticism growing out of the dismissal of a member of the faculty. The occasion was less discreditable to him than to the university and it revealed a young man with a strong, determined character.

He soon became a pioneer settler in Nebraska, where he quickly reacted against his environment and the times by criticizing the conduct of the Civil War and joining the party of the opposition. As a politician he was a failure, but as an agriculturist he succeeded. Always a conservative, he opposed the Grange and the Alliance and all for which they stood. For many years he served the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad as publicist, lobbyist, and agent. He was for a time the leading member of the Democratic party in the state, but he favored the railroads and opposed the radicals, particularly William J. Bryan. Often he made considerable sacrifices of time and money for his party, but he preferred to see it defeated rather than to see it win under Bryan's leadership. As an outstanding agriculturist and con-

servative Democrat from west of the Mississippi, he was chosen by Grover Cleveland to be the secretary of agriculture in his cabinet in the second term, 1893-1897.

After the nomination of Bryan as the Democratic candidate for president and his defeat, Morton became active in the National Sound Money League. He began the publication of *The Conservative* on July 14, 1898, "in the interest of the conservation of all that is deemed desirable in the social, industrial and political life of the United States." He wrote that "Riches and capital are nothing but the result of industry and thrift," although he well know how railroads facilitated matters before legislatures by the contribution of money for campaign purposes and indeed must have known of more reprehensible uses which were prevalent in his state. He hoped to have a part in the formation of a conservative party, but those who aided other of his activities would not join in this endeavor. No doubt the railroad interests were too realistic to desire such a division in politics, when they had done fairly well in finding leaders to represent them in both of the older parties.

The most important defect of this book is that the author did not see what Morton also failed to see: that the farmers, hard pressed by climatic and economic conditions, were being exploited by the railroads of the West even to the point of tragedy. Indeed, Morton was not only a conservative but he was also an agent of the railroads in defeating the citizens of Nebraska in the use of political agencies to check this exploitation. His enemies called him a railroad "tool." Morton's ability deserved greater rewards than he received; the explanation is to be found in his rejection by the people of the state because he chose to serve the railroads rather than the people. It seems quite possible, however, that his political activity, which consumed so much of his energy, will be forgotten as a struggle against the dominant tendencies of his day, and that his work in planting trees and founding Arbor Day will prove to be his important contribution to his state and nation.

Perhaps the above-mentioned defect is due to the materials used. The extensive Morton Collection of manuscripts of the University of Nebraska Library must have consumed much of the author's time. The list of newspapers used is fairly comprehensive, but there is not a representative of the

Farmers' Alliance on the list, although the Nebraska State Historical Society possesses several such files. There are also certain theses which represent this side of Nebraska's history, which were not listed in the bibliography and must therefore be assumed not to have been used.

In most other respects the work is admirably done. It is well written, amply documented, and very adequately supplied with illustrations and possesses a good index and an excellent format. It has been carefully proofread and is not marred by the little slips that detract from so many works. The book will amply repay its readers. The author and the University of Nebraska Press are to be congratulated for writing and publishing so creditable a volume.

John D. Barnhart

The Dufour Saga, 1796-1942. By Julie LeClerc Knox. (Crawfordsville, Ind.: Howell-Goodwin Printing Co., 1942. Pp. 166, appendix. \$3.15.)

The early history of southern Indiana is one of fine pioneers, who, after constructing homes, insisted on a place of worship and a school, who observed the law and respected property. Many of their descendants have quietly fashioned our state. Wherever others settled, they have done their share to better their communities.

This book is the brief chronicle of one such remarkable family — the French Swiss founders of Vevay, Indiana — whose personalities stand out delightfully, as related by a great-granddaughter living today in the ancestral home.

It is the record of five sturdy sons and three daughters of the one-time judge and mayor of Montreux, Switzerland, whose eldest son, Jean Jacques Dufour, having read, as a lad of fourteen, that Lafayette's soldiers in the American Revolution bewailed the lack of wine in our otherwise abundant country, had long dreamed of one day introducing on a large scale the culture of the vine in the new world.

In 1796 he landed in Philadelphia and late in 1800 selected sixty-three acres in Jessamine County, Kentucky, for his experiment. He named this land "First Vineyard." The following year his brothers and sisters left their comfortable home in Switzerland to join him in the wilderness, with their father's admonition to respect and obey their eldest brother, to have preaching as often as they could, to read the ninetieth