

While Mr. Dabney points out the significant contributions made by the *Picayune's* founders, George Wilkins Kendall and Francis Asbury Lunsden, as well as Samuel F. Wilson, Page Baker, Pearl Rivers and others whose names brought fame to the paper, he has rightfully discerned that a newspaper actually is made by a great body of anonymous workers who toil day after day, almost unknown to the public. It is to this group that he has dedicated his volume.

Fayette Copeland

Lake Michigan. By Milo M. Quaife. American Lake Series. (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1944, pp. 384. End maps, illustrations, bibliographical note. \$3.50.)

Lake Superior. By Grace Lee Nute. American Lake Series. (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1944, pp. 376. End maps, maps, illustrations, bibliographical note. \$3.50.)

Dr. Quaife, editor of the Series, naturally chose Lake Michigan as his own. Long familiar with the documents, the people, and the region, the author has produced a happy combination of solid history, travelogue, and inspirational description. Part one, "From Bark Canoe to Steel Leviathan," establishes the historical background. "Black Robe and Red Skin," "Dreamer of Empire," "Cities in Embryo," "Treason and Sin at Old Mackinac," "Sturgeon Boats," "Wind against Steam" are representative chapters which both suggest and deliver. In part two the "Talk of Many Things" ranges from an authentic historical account of state boundary disputes to nineteenth-century community-utopia quests and the Kingdom of Benton Harbor. Part three escorts the reader around the coast; fruit, tulips, dunesland, the Green Bay Road, and finally Chicago, the "Eighth Wonder of the World," are stops on the itinerary.

Treating as the author does, with topics of varying interest appeal, the writing presents, to the reviewer at least, a delightful change of pace. Being a historian, Dr. Quaife realizes that people who read this kind of book often want some meat as well as dessert. At times the reader finds himself mentally filing away the location of rich lodes of useful factual and source material; at others, chuckling over comedy low and high. Many shrewd observations and

reflections are interspersed in the text. Footnote references are adequate to enable the reader to know where he is "at" at all times; the bibliography represents the sifting of a specialist.

Lake Superior—a great cold sea and a land of scenery, history, and romance. French discoverers, fur traders, and missionaries, aided by the author, tell their own stories in part one—"Footprints on the Sands of Time." Part two, "Vulcan's Shops and Neptune's Realm," treats of transportation, iron, copper, fish, and lumber. In part three arise the "Saintly Cities" of the Sault, the cities of the south shore, and the "Queens of the Unsalted Sea"—Superior and Duluth. The scenic drive of the north shore (one of the most beautiful in the world), Isle Royale, Indian lore and its literature comprise parts four and five. Most sources are identified in the text. The bibliographical note is brief but adequate.

There is much history here, also much knowledge of lake fisheries and fishing, of lumber, mining, ships, men, and processes; there are statistics even. Permeating all is a love of the land, nature, and the great lake.

Lake Michigan and *Lake Superior* are excellent examples of the successful semi-popularization of history. When the literary artists attempt history, the result is usually something more or less delectable—without much history. In these books the reader will find a thrilling story, no less thrilling for its being true. For the student, historian, and lover of the Middle West, a most important and lasting value is the introduction to the sources and literature of the history of the lake region, often quoted, discussed and analyzed by the two persons who know it best.

Years ago Theodore Roosevelt said:

The states that have grown up around the Great Lakes and in the Valley of the upper Mississippi, [are] the states which are destined to be the greatest, the richest, the most prosperous commonwealths which go to make up the mightiest republic the world has ever seen. These states. . . form the heart of the country geographically, and they will soon become the heart in population and in political and social importance. . . I should be sorry to think that before these states there loomed a future of material prosperity merely. I regard this section of the country as the heart of true American sentiment.

Others noted that the area would logically be the seat of American culture as well, a culture as foreseen by the historian of a century ago, inspired by the momentous epochs of days gone by "to which the human heart with its features and phenomena and the Godlike work of its improvement, adds a permanent field of study and research." To this end the editor, authors, and publishers of the American Lake Series are contributing their knowledge and their labors, the worthy products of craftsmen.

In material dress these books are war-time casualties—particularly so as regards the paper. Obviously publication could not wait and the reader is the gainer on balance; he can travel vicariously through time and space, on and around the Great Lakes—awaiting a day.

R. C. Buley

Boom Copper: The Story of the First U. S. Mining Boom.

By Angus Murdoch. (New York: The MacMillan Company, 1943, pp. 255. End maps, photographs and drawings, bibliography. \$3.00.)

This is the story of Michigan copper, the Keweenaw Peninsula, and the Ontongon Country—from pre-Columbian times to World War II. Until the 1920's, the "only place on earth where pure native copper was found in commercial quantities," the Copper Country was "discovered and rediscovered more times than the North and South poles together." Less spectacular than silver, gold, or diamonds, copper not only was of as great economic importance, but contributed its romance and human history as well.

From Indian hatchet choppings to the world's most profitable metal mine, from "the edge of nowhere" to a stronghold of defense in two wars was the history of an area the size of a couple of average counties. Indian secrets; French dreams; Carver-Henry superlatives and promotions; Douglas Houghton, the real Columbus of copper; White Pawnees; Jim Paul's boulder; Alexander Agassiz, Boston capital, and Calumet and Heckla; prospectors; Cousin Jacks; the life of the miners, the big and the little who placed blue chips on red metal—all these and many other things come and go as the fascinating picture develops.

The author has used the newspapers, the statistical reports, company records, and the available secondary litera-