

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-

ture of the subject; he has counseled with librarians and local historians. But above all, he has spent long hours profitably with the human documents still extant. Footnotes are negligible and the bibliography is general. Though there are some minor historical slips (p. 20, for instance), here is enough geology to satisfy all but the geologist, enough history to satisfy all but the specialist, enough economics for all but the statistically-minded brethren, and enough human interest for everybody.

Mr. Murdoch would probably deny being a historian—he was associate editor of a trade journal and a writer of travel bureau booklets—but he has an inquiring mind, patience, and a sincere interest in his subject. He can turn a phrase without torturing a fact. *Boom Copper* is a readable and useful book on a subject of considerable importance in the history of the Middle West.