

Book Reviews

Thomas Worthington: Father of Ohio Statehood. By Alfred Byron Sears. (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, for the Ohio Historical Society, 1958. Pp. viii, 260. Selected bibliography, index. \$5.50.)

Thomas Worthington was probably the most influential of the constitutional fathers of Ohio. Of English Quaker antecedents, he was born in 1773 near Harpers Ferry in what is now the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. When twenty-three, he journeyed westward to the Scioto Valley where he purchased lands in the vicinity of Chillicothe. On a second journey the next year he acquired nearly three thousand acres in the Virginia Military District. He and Edward Tiffin, his brother-in-law, began the construction of log cabins and agreed to move their families to Chillicothe. Back in Virginia he disposed of most of his property, manumitted his slaves, and prepared to move to the Northwest Territory. The opportunity to advance his station in life and to be of influence in building a new state, as well as his dislike of slavery, contributed to his decision to go west.

Miller, farmer, stock-raiser, shipper, and land speculator, Worthington was a successful businessman in his new location. As a member of the legislature of the Northwest Territory, he became one of the leaders of the Republicans in their struggles against the authoritarian Governor Arthur St. Clair. Their most important contest resulted from their desire to escape the arbitrary government of the territory. Success in this struggle entitles Worthington to be called "State-Maker." Although he enjoyed the assistance of Nathaniel Massie, Edward Tiffin, William Henry Harrison, Michael Baldwin, and many others, Worthington's skill and perseverance made him the dominant figure. In Ohio's constitutional convention of 1802 he also played an important part.

The legislature of the new state elected Worthington one of the first United States senators from Ohio. He generally supported Republican policies and was active in approving the purchase of Louisiana and in extending to its people the rights of United States citizenship.

Although the outstanding figure in the state, Worthington was defeated in 1808 in a three-cornered campaign for the governorship of Ohio. He was again defeated in 1810 in a race against only one candidate. His friends, however, turned defeat into victory by electing him United States senator. In Washington, he exerted himself by opposing without success measures leading to war. Before and during the War of 1812, Worthington endeavored to keep the Indians quiet, to raise troops, and to prepare the defenses of Ohio.

Late in 1814, he was chosen governor of the state. He recommended to the legislature an emergency wartime militia, improved educational provisions, better salaries for judges, more effective expenditure of state funds for roads, and a system of state regulated county poor farms. Some improvement was granted in respect to the militia and

counties were given discretionary authority to provide poor farms, but most of his recommendations were not adopted.

On October 8, 1816, Worthington was re-elected for a second term by a large vote. He seems to have retained his popularity although the legislature was scarcely amenable to his influence. As a member of the constitutional convention in 1802, he had helped to make the governor a figurehead, and as a governor he was not able to overcome this limitation.

Professor Sears has spent many years in the study of Thomas Worthington and is without doubt the best qualified person to write this biography. His research is extensive and his knowledge is ample. His documentation generally is very satisfactory; his bibliography is not exhaustive, a point which the author suggests by labeling it a "Selected Bibliography."

Two minor criticisms may be suggested. First, at times throughout the work fairly important incidents in Worthington's career are treated very briefly, such as his elections to important offices and his activity in the constitutional convention. For example, the work of the corresponding societies in the election of delegates to the constitutional convention in 1802 is not mentioned. Secondly, Sears shows a strong bias against Harrison and his military activity from 1811 to 1813. These criticisms are indeed concerned with minor points, and the volume will probably recommend itself to readers as an excellent work.

Indiana University

John D. Barnhart

The Health of a Nation: Harvey W. Wiley and the Fight for Pure Food. By Oscar E. Anderson, Jr. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, for the University of Cincinnati, 1958. Pp. ix, 332. Sources, notes, index. \$6.00.)

This biography of Harvey W. Wiley is a contribution to recent American history and an excellent portrayal of a bureaucrat at work. It provides a new opportunity for examination of the American scene from the 1880's to 1930, reveals much concerning the motivations of men high in business and in government, and clearly suggests that reformers are often the products of their times. Moreover, the numerous references to the sugar, corn products, whiskey, and food-processing industries should interest economic and business historians.

Professor Anderson devotes approximately one-tenth of the volume to Wiley's career to 1883, eight-tenths to his twenty-nine years as a chemist in the Department of Agriculture, and another tenth to the eighteen years following Wiley's resignation from the department in 1912.

For almost forty years, both in and out of government office, Dr. Wiley supported the campaign for pure foods. Anderson gives full recognition to the Muckrakers and, especially, to Sinclair's *The Jungle*. He proves that Roosevelt followed, rather than led; when the pressure for a pure foods law became too great to be ignored, T. R. took a positive stand.