

Indiana State Library and the Indiana University libraries have the best newspaper collections in the state, but some local collections such as the one held by the Northern Indiana Historical Society, at South Bend, are also of particular value for certain counties.

In this sesquicentennial year Indiana could do well to make plans for more appropriate centralization and preservation of her newspaper files. Four years hence the Hoosier press will observe its sesquicentennial, having been founded at Vincennes in 1804 when Elihu Stout launched the *Indiana Gazette*. Newspaper editors, historians, librarians, state officials, and historical societies should join hands to collect, preserve and make available to historians, and others, Indiana's priceless newspaper files. They should give help and encouragement to the writing of Indiana's newspaper story.

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Rainy River Country: A Brief History of the Region Bordering Minnesota and Ontario. By Grace Lee Nute. (St. Paul: The Minnesota Historical Society, 1950, pp. xiv, 143. Maps, illustrations, bibliography, and index. \$2.00.)

This little book by Dr. Grace Nute is a companion volume to her *Voyageur's Highway* published in 1941. The earlier book dealt with the frontier country between Lake Superior and Rainy Lake; the present book deals with the same country west of Rainy Lake as far as Lake of the Woods. Like its predecessor *Rainy River Country* is local in its appeal; yet it is not without interest to Canadians and Americans alike, for Dr. Nute's competence, scholarship, and wide knowledge of the Minnesota-Ontario region are well appreciated both in Canada and in the United States.

The Rainy River country has been historically of more significance to Canadian than to American development. This is natural enough. Rainy River and Rainy Lake were all part of the great east-west water highway which extended from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, through the Great Lakes, Rainy River country, Lake Winnipeg and Saskatchewan river systems to the Rocky Mountains, along which the Canadian trade has moved since the days of Jacques de Noyon. When the fur trade yielded place to lumbering and then to mining, the

first lumberjacks and first miners began their extractive industries on the Canadian side of the boundary line. It is not without significance that Fort Frances preceded International Falls by many generations. It was, in fact, not until the opening years of the twentieth century that the era of United States activity in this region began.

Dr. Nute is well aware of this fact and she would appear to be happier when writing about "the pines, caribou and Indians of McLoughlin's day" than when dealing with "the grasslands, farms and industrialized cities of 1950 in the Rainy River country." Nevertheless every chapter of her slender volume is most readable. Her restraint when dealing with the story of the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company which assumed financial responsibility for the publication of the book by a generous gift to the Minnesota Historical Society, is much to be commended.

There is no point in criticizing this book as a contribution to historical knowledge. Dr. Nute has not intended that it should be looked upon as a profound piece of work. Its value lies in the effective use by the author of her extensive knowledge to illuminate, for the general reader, the history of this small but important section of the border country of Canada and the United States. It is in no carping sense therefore that this reviewer suggests that one or two small corrections should be made. Lord Selkirk did not purchase "a controlling interest" in the stock of the Hudson's Bay Company in order to obtain the grant of land upon which he settled his colonists. When the grant was made, he owned no more than £4,087. 10s worth of stock. It was not until after the grant was made by the Company that Selkirk made huge purchases of stock bringing his holdings up to £26,000. Again, Garnet Wolseley (later Field Marshal and Viscount) was a colonel and not a lieutenant-colonel when he led the military expedition over the Dawson Route against Fort Garry in 1870. One more criticism. The book is well illustrated and a good bibliography is available, but this reviewer would like to see one or two maps in addition to the rather unintelligible French map of 1740 and the too small map to be found on the inside of the covers. Good maps help the reader to find his way through the pages of history.

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