

*Napoleon Bonaparte Broward, Florida's Fighting Democrat.*

By Samuel Proctor. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1950, pp. xiii, 400. Illustrations, bibliography, and index. \$5.00.)

At the turn of the 20th century, the entire United States was steamed up for a battle royal against monopolies and exploitations by trusts and corporations. In Florida this struggle for the people's rights had as its leader Napoleon Bonaparte Broward; the weight of his influence so impressed itself on his day that it has been called the Broward era.

Broward's family was one of many impoverished by the Civil War. An orphan from childhood, his rise to reputation and popularity was the result of his own hard work as steamboat captain on the St. Johns River. When the Cuban struggle for independence materialized, Broward, then one of three owners of the tug boat, "The Three Friends," turned filibusterer. He was a startling success both in the amount of arms he carried to Cuba and the amount of controversy he initiated with the United States authorities. That he and the United States seldom pursued the same policy endeared him to his contemporaries.

Political forays became part of Broward's life when he became sheriff of Duval County in 1891. Jacksonville, the county seat of Duval, presented a lusty picture in those days and Broward added both vitality and variety to the scene. The author is particularly good at narrating this turbulence, drawing color and humor as well as fact from his generous quotations from the press of those years.

By the time Broward became Governor of Florida in 1905, he had added to his fight against corporate monopoly the project of draining the Everglades, the great area of mucklands and sawgrass stretching for several million acres around and to the south of Lake Okeechobee. Since many of the land, lumber, and railroad interests had large unsatisfied land claims against Florida on the one hand and were liable for drainage taxes on the other, they fought the enterprise. But to a man of Broward's temperament, opposition solidified determination. Drainage operations started with a paucity of both knowledge and money; from the former rose the many problems still unsettled today and from the latter, land speculations and in time land scandals which reverberated throughout the nation. The author leaves a number of questions un-

discussed covering this phase of the Governor's activities.

Broward's last fight was his campaign for Senator in 1912. He won but the victory soon lost its point; he died before he could take the coveted seat.

Mr. Proctor has narrated an excellent study of a picturesque and vital figure of Florida's history. The University of Florida Press has embodied the study in an equally excellent format.

*Winter Park, Florida*

Kathryn Abbey Hanna

*Simon Cameron's Adventure in Iron, 1837-1846.* By James B. McNair. (Published by the author. 818 S. Ardmore Avenue, Los Angeles 5, California, 1949, pp. 160. Index, illustrations, and frontispiece portrait of Simon Cameron. \$3.85.)

The history of Simon Cameron's political career is in some detail widely known; not so that of his relevant business career. The author here contributes to the latter, chiefly from "over fifty" Cameron manuscripts in the McNair family collection lately placed in the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery at San Marino, California. Thomas McNair was in partnership with Simon Cameron, S. F. Headley, and Simon Humes "for the manufacture and sale of iron (principally to what is now the Pennsylvania Railroad)."

Space does not permit review of all the several interesting features of this book by James B. McNair, "analytical chemist and genealogist." Example: He graphically describes the property of McNair and Company, later Humes, McNair and Company at Foundryville or Columbia Furnace, Pennsylvania, as a typical iron plantation. It consisted of a large acreage, a post office, a mansion house, homes for workers, schoolhouse, office, store, gristmill, sawmill, blacksmith shop, bake oven, fields, orchards, besides the woods, charcoal house, and furnaces—an almost-sufficient unit not unlike the cotton plantation of the South (pp. 32-35). But this the author fails to emphasize: labor in Pennsylvania was "free," while that in the South, which also had iron plantations, was chiefly "slave"; and Cameron did not hesitate, as late as 1846, to recommend Thomas McNair to James Walker, President James K. Polk's brother-in-law, who had a slave labor iron