

Before Lewis and Clark: Documents Illustrating the History of the Missouri, 1785-1804. Edited by A. P. Nasatir. (St. Louis: St. Louis Historical Documents Foundation, 1952, two volumes, pp. xv, 853. Illustrations, index, and maps. \$15.00.)

After a brief preface Nasatir presents an introduction of 115 pages dealing with the exploration of the Missouri River from 1673 to 1804, or from the voyage of Marquette and Joliet to the Lewis and Clark expedition. He disposes briefly of the La Hontan narrative, sketches the French activities down to 1714, and then devotes two sections to the expeditions of Bourgmont, Du Tisne, the Mallet brothers, La Verendrye, and others. After the outbreak of the French and Indian war Frenchmen were seldom seen on the Missouri. The remainder of the introduction deals with the Spanish period and Anglo-Spanish rivalry for the Indian trade of the Missouri River country. The account is thoroughly documented by references to source materials discovered by the editor in his extensive research in the archives of France, Spain, England, and in various repositories in the United States. He is of the opinion that the Spanish would soon have undertaken the exploit accomplished by Lewis and Clark if their rule in the upper Mississippi Valley had not been brought to a close. There could be dispute about his statement that by the Nootka Sound Convention the Spanish yielded their exclusive control of the land along the Pacific north of the forty-second parallel.

The remainder of the volumes is taken up by documents of the Spanish period after 1785. The largest number of these documents consists of correspondence between Zenon Trudeau, Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Louisiana (or Spanish Illinois as it was then called) and commandant at St. Louis, and Baron Carondelet, Governor-General of Louisiana at New Orleans. This correspondence deals mainly with the problems of trade with the often treacherous Indian tribes of the Missouri, especially the Osages. There are some interesting letters relating to the proposed expedition of Lieutenant John Armstrong up the Missouri in 1890, as well as Jefferson's instructions to André Michaux for his abortive expedition up the same river in 1793. Other documents of interest are the journal of J. B. Trudeau (not Trudeau) on the Mis-

souri River in 1794-1795, and his description of the Upper Missouri, James Mackay's journal of 1797, extracts from John Evans' journal, the articles of incorporation of the Missouri Company in 1794, and a number of letters reflecting Spanish reaction to news of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

These documents contain references to a large number of Indian tribes, the names of which would be difficult to identify were not for a very comprehensive and detailed index. They reveal the vague geographical knowledge of the far west on the part of the Spanish and their firm belief that the Missouri must be defended because it opened a way to their rich possessions in New Mexico. The two volumes admirably supplement certain portions of Bernard De Voto's recently published *Course of Empire*. They will constitute a mine of information for all who are interested in the Indians and the trade of the Missouri River region prior to 1804.

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Forests for the Future: The Story of Sustained Yield As Told in the Diaries and Papers of David T. Mason, 1907-1950. Introductory Texts and Notes by Rodney C. Loehr. (St. Paul, Minnesota: The Forests Products History Foundation, Minnesota Historical Society, 1952, pp. xi, 259. Index, appendix, illustrations. \$3.50.)

The December 1952 issue of *American Forests* went to subscribers accompanied by a supplement of thirty-two pages prepared by the Conservation Foundation of New York City. Taking a broad perspective it discussed what the Forest Service, industry, and conservationists have to say about American forestry, and among other things it praised the way "private enterprise has greatly improved forest management wherever forest land is held by corporations with extensive investments in mills."

Aspects of this notable improvement in private forestry have been the main concern of David T. Mason in his professional life, his diary and public papers, and in his *Forests for the Future* as put together by Loehr. The book is an important, first-hand, insider's account of a key idea in modern forestry—sustained yield. Mason, says Loehr, "has done more than any other individual to further sustained yield