

by the changing political strength and policies of the two parties. The Republican party in Michigan which enjoyed almost complete supremacy as the only real party worthy of the name until the time of the Great Depression has suffered a general decline in its fortunes and in its voter strength, while the Democratic party, poverty-ridden and hopeful only for the patronage to be gained from national victories until sudden prosperity descended upon it after the Democratic landslide of 1932, and after a chaotic grab by many hands for control, developed a party organization and has advanced in strength and in the number of Democratic voters. Much of the story is, of course, the story of the entry of strong labor unions and automobile manufacturers into the controlling positions in the Democratic and Republican parties, respectively.

Though the book may be a helpful guide to those who wish an introduction to Michigan politics for the purpose of extended research on the subject, it is unfortunately too short to be of any great help to the general reader. Though not designed as a textbook, the book suffers from the normal textbook complaints but will no doubt serve as an excellent starting point for the further study of Michigan political history. This type of work should be emulated by other states as a beginning toward a better understanding of local politics.

Indiana University

Joe A. Parsons, Jr.

The Government and Administration of Ohio. By Francis R. Aumann and Harvey Walker. American Commonwealth Series, edited by W. Brooke Graves. (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1956. Pp. xiv, 489. Frontispiece, notes, appendix, bibliography, and index. \$5.95.)

The pattern of development of the Ohio state government in the century and a half covered in this book is a reflection of the transition from an agricultural economy with emphasis on local self-government to an industrial economy in which taxation and control are more nearly centralized at the state level. The executive was kept weak in the early years in order that it might not grow into a power which could threaten the liberties of the citizens. It was greatly strengthened in later years so that it could perform

the services which the citizens increasingly demanded of the state government. This was a slow development and it was not until the twentieth century that Ohio's governor was given the veto power.

Very significant is the change in the educational picture. At the beginning most public schools were of the one-room, isolated variety, administered and financed by the local school districts, but since the passage in 1935 of the School Foundation Law and of the School Aid Law of 1955 the costs of public education have been largely met out of state funds, and there has been a greatly increased state supervisory role over the expenditure of these funds. To implement this supervisory function more effectively a State Board of Education was established in 1955.

It is interesting to note that the State Highway Patrol, in view of the lack of a state constabulary, performs many of the functions which a constabulary would be expected to perform. In addition to its main duty to enforce highway laws, it also maintains a communication network and keeps a fingerprint file, a bogus check file, a rogue's gallery, and a "crime laboratory," which includes a lie-detector and other such equipment. All this is done under its authority to patrol the highways.

Because of the nature of the book—it is a summary of what the law is—the general impression left is of achievement, of good intentions. This is a record of laws adopted by the legislature and the people of Ohio and not of the failures of legislation and enforcement. In general, therefore, there is a tendency to feel a sense of pride in the accomplishments of the state and in the general evidence of enlightenment and of intelligence shown in the handling of increasingly complex and difficult economic, social, and political problems. However, the authors do recognize some shortcomings and failures in Ohio government and administration. They admit that the two-man bipartisan Civil Service Commission tends to produce, under certain circumstances, a kind of "covert spoils system." The merit system is not effectively maintained at the county and municipal level, partly because of inadequate appropriations by the legislature for local administration. Of course, the simplest way to hamstring state agencies is to eliminate or reduce state appropriations for financing such agencies. Such reductions

can always be justified on the ground of economy. The extreme crowding and general inadequacy of state prisons and mental hospitals are not overlooked, but attention is called to the attempts to do something to improve these conditions. Admitted too is the so-called constitutional gerrymander by means of which cities are kept in a kind of rotten-borough status.

In general, the reviewer has little negative criticism of this book. At one point the authors refer to Massachusetts' claim cutting "directly across the northern part of Ohio." Massachusetts never attempted to assert a claim to any portion of Ohio. The somewhat confused statement of land claims toward the beginning of this book could have been considerably clarified by the inclusion of a single map. There are a few minor misprints and mechanical errors.

On the whole, however, this is an enlightening book, which this reviewer recommends to legislators, to the League of Women Voters, to other intelligent citizens of Ohio and neighboring states, to all students of government, to high school and town libraries, and to visitors from abroad who would understand the complexities, difficulties, and advantages of the American federal system.

Oberlin College

Robert Samuel Fletcher

A History of Minnesota, Volume I. Revised edition. By William Watts Folwell. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1956. Pp. xx, 533. Appendix and index. \$6.50.)

When this book appeared in 1921 as the first of Professor Folwell's four-volume history of Minnesota, a reviewer in this magazine, doubtless its editor Logan Esarey, wrote: "It is a pleasure to turn from the deluge of historical trash thrown on the market at present to the work of an honest historian. Dr. Folwell has at his elbow the collections of the Minnesota Historical society. He was president of Minnesota university from 1869 to 1884, was a soldier in the Civil war, and has been actively employed in governmental duties for near a half century. Besides thus understanding his state and his people and besides having a personal acquaintance with the geography of his state, he writes in a pleasing style. The volume under review covers the territorial period, from the appearance of Radisson and Groseilliers, about 1660, down to the constitutional convention in 1857."