

subject are Beardian in origin. The criticism is well grounded. Yet the Beards were presenting a synthesis covering the gamut of American history and were almost certain to repeat the errors of those who had made more detailed studies of the period. *The Rise of American Civilization* is a sixteen-hundred-page work and only a half-dozen or so of those pages touch upon the fiscal history of the Civil War and Reconstruction era. Obviously the Beards could not explore in detail each facet of history dealt with in their study. Doubtless Professor Sharkey recognizes this, but he should have made the point clear and mitigated the sting of his criticism accordingly.

Summing up, this is an important study of a much misunderstood period of American history. The book is the product of painstaking research, and it should result in the revision of a number of erroneous ideas about that period. Of especial value to many students of Civil War and Reconstruction history will be Professor Sharkey's bibliographical essay.

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1877: *Year of Violence*. By Robert V. Bruce. (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., 1959. Pp. 321. Notes, bibliography, index. \$5.00.)

Times were hard in 1877. Railroad workers, already underpaid, were faced with new wage cuts. Summer came, and with it a tragic episode in American labor history.

In great detail, the author describes the strike of the Trainmen's Union against the Baltimore and Ohio, the Pennsylvania, the Reading, the Erie, the New York Central, and closely allied lines. The contempt of management for labor leaders; its disregard for the unemployed, the aged, the poorly paid; its stubborn insistence on big dividends alongside pay cuts—these are discussed at length.

Management techniques in handling union members—the black list, prompt dismissal of workers after participation in union activities, employment of Pinkerton detectives, and refusal to bargain—are all illustrated with vigor. Almost without exception, the executive heads of American railroads in 1877 are portrayed as enemies of the workingman, as reactionaries, and as patronizing, yet firm, masters of certain mayors, governors, congressmen, and, by inference, some officials on still higher levels.

Interestingly and effectively the author presents an hour-by-hour account of vicious attacks on private property by maddened men, women, and youths. With especial care he describes the horrors of mob action at Pittsburgh, Altoona, Philadelphia, Reading, and Baltimore. In each case, we are assured, the real damage was done by tramps and young hoodlums. The author places little or no responsibility on bona fide railroad workers, but his argument is not completely convincing.

A major contribution of the book is its description of the pathetic efforts of third-party agitators, especially those of the Workingmen's party, to unite the laboring class. Anyone whose interpretation of

American labor movements has been influenced by Selig Perlman's analysis is sure to see in the failure of the Workingmen's party an excellent example of the tendency of workers to distrust any threat to freedom of enterprise, even though the entrepreneurial group benefiting from working class disunity is at that time opposed to any improvement in conditions, pay, or employee morale.

A contribution of considerable significance is evidence indicating that the real reason for the railway strike's failure was the clever use, by management, government officials, and the conservative press, of charges that the whole uproar was inspired by Communists. This further emphasizes the fact that public opinion in 1877 was characterized by fear of organized labor, distrust of urban employees, and reverence for financial power.

This reviewer has two complaints about Bruce's volume, the first of which is minor. The author sets forth such a mass of detail that at times chronology becomes confused. Second, the presentation of the notes is little short of useless. Notes are arranged at the end of the book by page and by paragraph with no indication whatsoever as to which statement in the text the reference supports. No footnote numbers are used in the text. Therefore, in a given paragraph there may be a half-dozen facts worthy of footnotes, but there is no earthly way the reader can determine *which* facts are supported by *which* citations. The bibliography gives ample evidence of the wide range of the author's studies.

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*Teach the Freeman: The Correspondence of Rutherford B. Hayes and the Slater Fund for Negro Education.* Two volumes. Edited by Louis D. Rubin, Jr. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1959. Vol. I, 1881-1887: Pp. lv, 236. Vol. II, 1888-1893: Pp. 302. Index. \$10.00 per set.)

"No period in Southern history since the American Revolution is so poor in published correspondence as this one," Vann Woodward (to whom these volumes are dedicated) has written of the period from 1877 to 1900. Even more rare are published source materials on the history of the Negro in America. Louis D. Rubin's work in editing that part of the Rutherford B. Hayes Papers which deals with Hayes's work with the Slater Fund is a step in filling both gaps.

In setting up his million dollar fund in 1881, textile maker John F. Slater specified to the trustees that he had in mind "the uplifting of the lately emancipated population of the Southern States and their posterity, by conferring upon them the blessings of Christian education" (p. xx). According to Professor Merton Coulter, he also had in mind equipping them mentally to evade the clutches of a certain group of unscrupulous merchants. In any case, training Negroes as teachers and giving financial encouragement to colleges which provided that training were suggested as the best avenues for attaining the goal of the founder. The distinguished group of trustees were empowered to dissolve the foundation at the end of thirty-three years and to use