

reached back into thirteenth-century English history for the Magna Carta and the Confirmatio Cartarum of 1297. All other documents are taken from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. These include well-known English constitutional documents of the Stuart Age, four colonial charters, several proprietary "Concessions" or "Frames," and a few of the pacts and agreements conceived by the colonists themselves. The final third of the book consists of declarations—assertions of rights—and constitutions of the Revolutionary and Confederation periods. Slightly over one-half of the volume is devoted to the editor's introductory remarks to each document.

The American Bar Association is to be commended for its attempt to bring together the most significant documents relating to the "sources of our liberties." It is possible that too much has been attempted, especially in the editor's remarks, although his comments could be defended in terms of the purposes for which the volume was published.

Historians may object to the free use of secondary sources in the introductory essays to each document, and especially to such antiquated sources as George Bancroft. More certainly they will take issue with several statements which seem to reflect popular misconceptions. Thus, without documentation, it is asserted that "the Quartering Act of 1765 was passed . . . to aid the enforcement of the Stamp Act and the Revenue Act of 1764" (p. 72). Similarly, section ninety-five of the Massachusetts Body of Liberties (1641) is interpreted to mean that "toleration in religious worship was to be observed" (p. 146), when obviously all that was intended was to authorize the formation of new congregations on the Puritan model.

In spite of such objections as those mentioned above, however, this work provides for the general public and for the teacher of history a valuable manual for study of the growth of personal liberties, containing not only the documents pertaining thereto, but also an account of the historical forces which brought about their formulation.

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*Pelts and Palisades: The Story of Fur and the Rivalry for Pelts in Early America.* By Nathaniel C. Hale. (Richmond, Va.: Dietz Press, Inc., 1959. Pp. xi, 219. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$4.75.)

The fur trade is an exciting topic for writers to pursue, and Nathaniel C. Hale has presented *Pelts and Palisades*, a popularly written account of the fur trade and of the rivalry for pelts in North America up to the French and Indian War. Presenting the story of the fur trade in narrative form, Hale begins his account by telling of prehistoric man's quest for fur. Quickly sketching the background of fur's economic value in the Dark Ages, he journeys to North America with Leif Erickson and his followers, but returns quickly to Spain for a trip across the Atlantic with Columbus.

Following the voyages of discovery financed by the leading royal houses of Europe, the fur trade remained in the background, for gold to the south and fish to the north received the primary attention of early

colonists. Fishing barques from France came to America's northern coast every year, and the mariners developed an ever increasing trade in pelts with the Indians.

England came of age and, with a penchant for commerce, soon engaged in colonizing activities in the New World. The fur trade in Virginia, according to Hale, opened a new source of revenue after the ventures for gold failed. The Dutch also entered America during this period.

Hale examines the three-way rivalry among the French, English, and Dutch in America, and adds an interesting chapter on the Swedes' Delaware colony, which is the most outstanding in the book. With over half the volume devoted to the period when the early colonies were established, events move at a rapid pace until the French and Indian War. Maryland, under the feudalistic Calverts, engaged in heated rivalry with Virginia over the fur trade and emerged victorious; the fur frontier, however, quickly passed beyond the colony. English encroachments, both from the north and south, spelled doom for the colony of New Netherlands, which surrendered in 1664. The English colonies, now joined together from Georgia to Maine, were faced with a new problem. The French had established a series of posts from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to New Orleans and the gulf area; but England emerged supreme in 1763.

The author traverses the years 1664-1763 in a relatively short space as compared to the attention he gives the earlier period. Furthermore, he could have added to the value of his work by including an account of the actual mechanics of trapping. The absence of footnotes is to some extent counterbalanced by a creditable bibliography.

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*Oil on Stream! A History of Interstate Oil Pipe Line Company, 1909-1959.* By John L. Loos. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1959. Pp. xvi, 411. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliographical note, index. \$6.00.)

*Oil on Stream* is a history of the Interstate Oil Pipe Line Company from 1909 to 1959. The author was engaged by Interstate's president to write the history but was to be free to use information furnished by the firm in any way he thought "proper to produce a balanced objective study." The author states in his Preface that he was given absolute freedom and there is no reason to doubt his statement.

The account is well written and interesting, but unfortunately it is primarily an entertaining series of stories concerning various aspects of company affairs. No attempt is made to evaluate critically company policies or to analyze the impact of the pipe line on the industry. Thus, the book would be useful as background or color, but of little value to a serious student of development economics seeking data on trends and relationships.

The book has eleven maps showing the location of company lines at different periods of time. It also contains sixty-three illustrations