

the Agricultural Extension Service and the Farm Bureau, especially at the county and state levels.

During the administration of Secretary of Agriculture Anderson from 1944 to 1948, attempts at separation subsided markedly, at least partly because the Farm Bureau and Secretary Anderson were relatively close to each other on matters affecting national agricultural policy. With the appointment of Secretary Brannan in 1948, however, battle lines formed again. The Farm Bureau, from a national point of view, became increasingly vulnerable to criticism because of its close association with a tax supported educational program while taking such a vigorous stand relative to national agricultural policy on the other hand.

Secretary Brannan, who was perhaps more vigorously opposed by the Farm Bureau than any other secretary of agriculture, did not himself see fit to issue an order forcing dissolution of official ties that still existed in a few states. It remained for Secretary Benson to do this by executive memorandum in the fall of 1954. But his time, official separation of the Agricultural Extension Service from the Farm Bureau was supported publically by the federal extension director, the Land Grant College Association, most of the state extension directors, a great majority of the state farm bureaus, and, tacitly at least, by the American Farm Bureau Federation itself.

There is no concrete evidence that dissolution of the official ties between Extension and Farm Bureau enhanced the membership of either the National Grange or the Farmers Union or that it injured the membership of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

This book is strongly recommended for students of agricultural policy and for students of the relationships among the agricultural pressure groups, the general farm organizations, and the development of agricultural programs. In this sense the struggle for separation of Farm Bureau and the Agricultural Extension Service is incidental, as indeed I believe it to be, to the broader and more fundamental question of the kind of general relationship that exists between government and agriculture.

Purdue University

Earl L. Butz

Readings in the History of American Agriculture. Edited by Wayne D. Rasmussen. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1960. Pp. xi, 340. Illustrations, chronology, selected readings, index. \$6.50.)

In view of the preponderant importance of American agriculture in the general scheme of things, it is somewhat surprising that not more has been written about its history. Professor Rasmussen's book is a welcome addition to the rather short list of works bearing upon the subject. As the title indicates, it is a collection of readings. These are divided into eight parts, the division being made largely on the basis of chronology. That is, the book starts with earliest colonial times and comes down to the present. Attention is given to technology, public policy, national emergencies, and other significant aspects of the development of agriculture.

Parts I and II cover the period from 1607 to 1789. The contributions of the Indians to the agriculture which was transplanted by settlers from Europe are treated at some length in Part I. Part II deals with early national land policy and the beginnings of technological progress in agriculture in this country.

In Part III, which covers the period from 1789 to 1861, the editor presents materials dealing with further technological progress and the beginnings of agricultural cooperative marketing. This period saw the introduction of the mechanical reaper, the steel plow, commercial fertilizers, and improved breeds of livestock.

Part IV covers the period from 1861 to 1914 and is headed "The First American Agricultural Revolution." Its main theme is rapid technological progress in American agriculture, with some attention to public land policy and the rise of farmers' organizations.

Parts V, VI, and VII deal with World War I and its aftermath with respect to American agriculture. Part V is short, covering only the years from 1914 to 1919. Part VI deals with the chronic agricultural depression extending from 1920 to 1932 and is concerned mainly with political efforts at farm relief. Part VII has to do with the New Deal era of the 1930's, and the materials are about equally divided between public policy with respect to agriculture and further technological progress.

Part VIII is headed "World War II and the Second Agricultural Revolution." It is regrettably short and considerably inadequate.

The book has numerous illustrations which are quite good, and the sections on chronology and recommended readings are useful. Although the work as a whole deserves a good rating, it has some serious deficiencies. For example, there is virtually nothing about the Populist movement in it, and the whole subject of farmers' movements is dealt with very scantily. The farmers' role in politics in this country has been much more important than these readings would indicate. The book could well have been considerably longer than it is.

Indiana University

Troy J. Cauley

The American Civil Engineer: Origins and Conflict. By Daniel Hovey Calhoun. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1960. Pp. xiv, 295. Map, appendices, bibliographical note, notes, index. \$5.50.)

This book tells of the American civil engineer's rise toward professionalism. When agitation for internal improvements began early in the nineteenth century, the few native technologists were chiefly home-spun products of experience on surveying crews; in 1816 there were only about thirty in the whole country.

Interest in canals and railroads created a technical demand partially met by the United States Military Academy; by Alden Partridge's American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy, established at Norwich, Vermont, in 1820; and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, founded in 1824. By the 1830's a number of institutions offered