descent? The author was apparently concerned with the sale of his book. Otherwise, the listing of the names of at least 150 delegates of Polish descent to the Democratic national conventions of 1956 and 1960 and to the Republican convention of 1960 in the same footnote is hardly justified.

The most scholarly portions of this volume are those chapters devoted to the numerous fraternal organizations for Polish-Americans. The objectives of these orders were to satisfy the longing of the bewildered immigrant for security in a strange land, to protect his economic interests, to preserve a degree of Polish culture as well as to retain contact with the mother country, and finally to fit the immigrant into the American pattern of life. The largest and most important of these organizations were the Polish American Catholic Union (PRCU) and the Polish National Alliance (PNA). The former was dominated largely by the clergy while the latter was more under secular control.

This study is based almost entirely on secondary material such as Polish-American publications and the works of writers of Polish descent. There is an excellent bibliography, and the index is adequate.

Indiana University Powell A. Moore


Many remember well the drab, lifeless state histories produced as recently as the 1930's. In appearance they were as unexciting to the reader's eye as their texts were to his mind. Fortunately mid-century examples of the genre are things of beauty to both eye and mind; to this list, including John W. Caughey's California (1940) and—best of them all, perhaps—W. L. Morton's Manitoba (1955), must be added Dean Schell's centennial volume, South Dakota.

In this tightly packed volume are included most of the facts pertinent to the story of the state. Even more important are inferences and judgements based on the record. A few of them are: that the vested interests of the towns objected to attempts to keep land transactions honest; that speculators received the most advantage from the homestead law; that lax administration of land laws "retarded social progress" by speeding the development of farm tenancy. And, writing in a time more bedeviled and generally troubled than Americans of World War I could have imagined, Dean Schell is forthrightly critical of the Council of Defense and of overzealous patriots in the years 1917-1919. In a fine chapter on pioneer life he advances the view of Gilbert C. Fite (a native of Wessington Springs, S.D.) that frontier life while hard was not so drab and dull as usually pictured. The work is uniformly good, but the chapters on the range cattle industry, immigration, and the fortunes of the Indians are especially interesting and filled with graphic detail and insight.

This reader misses a map showing not only towns but also identifying rivers and railroads mentioned in the text. He regrets the comparative
neglect of the role of churches, the absence of an effort to explain the
the one-party character of the state, and the little space that has been
given to the problem of maintaining a modern American community
in a region that is, at best, subhumid. The author notes in Chapter 20
that in the present era of unprecedented prosperity the cost of govern-
ment is almost more than the handful of South Dakotans can meet—
even with generous help from the industrial East. A resident of the
other Dakota, where the water problem is a critical one, regrets Dean
Schell's failure to consider their region's long-term prospects.

All persons interested in the most northerly tier of trans-Mississippi
states will profit from this well-written, interestingly-illustrated account
of one of those states, an account based on thirty years of research
and thirty-six of residence and observation.

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