

Congress in December, 1867. "Of all the dangers which our nation has encountered," he warned, "none are equal to those which must result from the success of the effort now making to Africanize the half of our country." Most of the Negroes who were enfranchised by the Congressional Acts of 1867 did not possess the qualifications to participate effectively in a democracy; but neither did large numbers of white Americans enfranchised during the age of Jackson "or the large number of immigrants who were being voted in herds by political bosses in New York, Boston, and other Americans at this time" (p. 87).

Except for South Carolina, Negroes did not dominate any of the conventions. With the aid of the much maligned "carpetbaggers" and "scalawags," able Negro leaders proposed new constitutions which contained many worthwhile provisions, some of which are still in effect. After the adoption of these constitutions and the election of the state legislatures, many white Conservatives implored God to deliver the state "from the horrors of Negro domination" (p. 129). But "they held their heavy fire until admission had been achieved" (p. 130). Only in the Mississippi and Louisiana legislatures did Negroes exercise considerable influence and even in those two states their influence was not in proportion to their population. Some of the Negro members of the state legislatures and of Congress were able men. Graft, which was common in some parts of the North, prevailed also in the South, but very few Negroes profited from "big graft" such as that associated with the development of railroads.

"Counter Reconstruction" began, as in the case of the organization of the Ku Klux Klan, before the era of "Negro domination." One of Professor Franklin's most important conclusions is his conviction that "reconstruction could have been overthrown without the use of violence" (p. 172). He agrees with Holland Thompson's assertion that the New South began with the fall of the Confederacy (p. 181). But the panic of 1873 left the South in such an economic plight that, as C. Vann Woodward pointed out in *Reunion and Reaction*, northern Republicans and Democrats used offers of financial assistance as part of the lever which made Southerners agree to the election of Hayes. Few historians will quarrel with Professor Franklin's final conclusion that after Reconstruction "the Union had not made the achievements of the war a foundation for the healthy advancement of the political, social and economic life of the United States" (p. 227).

His bibliographical essay is of great value to those who wish to delve further into the "bloody battleground of American historians."

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*Farms in the Cutover: Agricultural Settlement in Northern Wisconsin.*

By Arlan Helgeson. (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, for the Department of History, University of Wisconsin, 1962. Pp. vii, 184. Notes, bibliography, index. \$4.25.)

When the lumber companies finished ravaging the forests of northern Wisconsin, they left as refuse the denuded landscape, pitted by acres of stumps. Joseph Schaefer noted over forty years ago in

*Agriculture in Wisconsin* that the lumber interests were not even concerned enough to obtain valid titles to much of the land so exploited (a factor in the slow settlement which the author of *Farms in the Cutover* has omitted).

Quickly following the lumber barons were the land speculators (both individual and corporate) and the railroad agents, bent on enticing the immigrants to wresting an existence from the cutover lands. *Farms in the Cutover* is an account of the settlement in 24 counties of northern Wisconsin, 1870-1925.

From the viewpoint of the speculator there seemed every reason for success. The vanishing of prime agricultural land in Wisconsin and the West by 1900, the population boom, and the anticipated back-to-the-farm movement of World War I veterans all were factors which conjured visions of rapid land occupation.

The author emphasizes the similarity in the process of land speculation in Wisconsin and other frontier areas. Similarities there were, but in one significant way the colonizers of the cutover were unusually fortunate. Few speculators have had such consistent long-term support from the local newspapers, county and state governments (though the latter was erratic), and most intriguing of all from the Agricultural School of the University. Academic Dean Henry's *Northern Wisconsin: A Handbook for the Homeseeker* would have done credit to the most enthusiastic land publicist.

Support on a promotional basis was an asset; a huge liability, which no speculator or academician readily admitted, was poor land. In fact it was not until 1922 that a state commissioner of lands publicly confessed that the cutover region was "mighty poor for farming" (p. 88). Deficient soil would have been enough eventually to thwart agricultural utilization but other causes of the land colonizers' failure were not hard to find. The forecasted flow of population never materialized; the long-term credit base was never established; ethics of land agents, charitably stated, left something to be desired; clearing of land became a costly problem; and finally, the *coup de grace* was administered by the agricultural depression of the twenties.

*Farms in the Cutover* is a thoroughly researched—testified by 60 pages of notes and bibliography in a total of 184 pages—and carefully constructed work. Two caveats suggest themselves: first, the style seems unnecessarily pedantic; second, many of the individual promoters and corporate organizers remain shadowy figures, both as to personality and operation. After making such observations it is traditional to the point of dogmatism to note that the book under review is a contribution. With that judgment I have no quarrel; the profession is in Helgeson's debt for a competent monograph.

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*Called Unto Holiness—The Story of the Nazarenes: The Formative Years.* By Timothy L. Smith. (Kansas City, Mo.: Nazarene Publishing House, 1962. Pp. 413. Notes, index. \$4.95.)

The current publication of an official history commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Church of the Nazarenes is a welcome and