

history, including the well known "safety-valve" hypothesis; Part Four, three on the problems of protection and management; and, lastly, Part Five is a useful appendix consisting of several maps, charts, a recent evaluation of public lands records, a table of the various district land offices, and a compendium containing a brief biography of each of the United States public land commissioners. Many of the articles in the first four parts also contain charts, tables, maps, and illustrations.

Centennial celebrations often have the desired effect of stimulating further research and publication. There are still many materials—even important public lands records—in depositories throughout the public lands states. Many of the records in Washington, D.C., have barely been touched. While excellent articles and books have been published on state studies, there are still many states without histories of their public lands. It is hoped that graduate students will take note of the opportunities for research in this important field. Indeed, the definitive history of the public lands of the United States is yet to be written, but it cannot be written until a great deal more research has been done, especially on the local level.

University of Omaha

Roy M. Robbins

American Indian Policy in the Formative Years: The Indian Trade and Intercourse Acts, 1790-1834. By Francis Paul Prucha. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1962. Pp. viii, 303. Notes, bibliographical note, index. \$6.75.)

Father Prucha concentrates on American Indian policy from 1790 until 1834 when "The formative years were over, and the United States looked to the future with an Indian policy that was considered reasonable and adequate" (p. 274). Three initial chapters provide valuable background about historical and administrative precedents from the colonial era through the early 1790's. Chapter IV adds a concise and useful account of the development of the "Indian Department" as a division within the War Department. These early chapters indicate that problems concerning Indian-white relations which the Americans faced had earlier beset the British but in a modified context.

According to Prucha, though American Indian policy was expressed in formal treaties with the Indians "it took shape primarily in a series of federal laws 'to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes, and to preserve peace on the frontier'" (p. 2). "To maintain the desired order and tranquility it was necessary to place restrictions on the contacts between the whites and the Indians. The intercourse acts were thus restrictive and prohibitory in nature—aimed largely at restraining the actions of the whites and providing justice to the Indians as the means of preventing hostility. But if the goal was an *orderly* advance, it was nevertheless *advance* of the frontier, and in the process of reconciling the two elements, conflict and injustice were often the result" (p. 3). Prucha recognizes that governmental policy "remained more an ideal than a reality because the means applied had been out of all proportion to the magnitude of the problem" (p. 275).

Chapters V-VIII detail innumerable examples of white exploitation and abuse of Indians, especially as regards the fur trade, disposition of whisky, intruders on Indian lands, and crimes in Indian areas. At times these chapters are perhaps more repetitive than necessary. Limited attention is given to Indian removal and efforts to civilize the Indians.

Fortunately, Prucha attempts to tell his story in as factual a manner as possible. He searches hard for facts upon which to base interpretations and conclusions, not for facts to buttress a largely preconceived framework. Thus, unlike too many ethno-historians, he is principally concerned with explaining what happened in the context of the period, not what should have happened in terms of subsequent developments and concepts. The result is a book which makes a significant contribution to increased knowledge and understanding of the formative period in American-Indian relations.

Indiana University

Donald F. Carmony

Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century. By Wilbur D. Peat. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1962. Pp. xiv, 195. Illustrations, index. \$12.50.)

Many architects would be prone to isolate those houses whose architectural style they prefer and neglect all others. (For example, it is difficult for me—feeling as I do that all architecture from 1850 to 1950 was based on eclecticism—to see much of value for future historians. So, with my biased point of view, I am exceedingly enthusiastic about all the early work south of the old National Road and quite a lot of the work along the northern end of the state.) In this scholarly production, however, Wilbur Peat has recorded with accuracy the most representative Indiana residential architecture of the 1800's, described the changes that took place, and shown the reasons for those changes. *Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century* gives the reader a fine interpretation of that architecture, identifying its many details with margin drawings describing cornices, bargeboards, bay windows, doorways, and many other examples of each period.

In his first chapter, Mr. Peat has summarized and clarified the styles of architecture prevalent in the nineteenth century. This will be most helpful to the general reader, but will prove of interest as a refresher course for architects and historians as well. In subsequent chapters the author has grouped houses into their various categories and, both by word and by drawings, given the reader information which clarifies the classification. In his discussion of the early nineteenth-century houses that were built from the Ohio to the northern part of the state, he has made clear that the colonnades, porches, and other additions by later builders and architects have in most cases damaged rather than enhanced these structures.

This is not a book which can be read with speed and then forgotten. It is a studious presentation. Wilbur Peat's constant interest in early domestic architecture has brought him forward as an authority on the