

Career of Joseph Lane, Frontier Politician by Sister M. Margaret Kelly, is basically a biography, whereas the present book is largely a study of Lane as an inveterate machine politician during his Oregon career from 1848 to its denouement in 1860. Roughly one-third of the Kelly book is devoted to Joe Lane's Indiana-Mexican life. Hendrickson, however, takes identity for granted and initially refers to his subject simply as "General Joseph Lane, the 'Marion of the Mexican War' and the 'Cincinnatus of Indiana'" (p. 2), followed by one brief paragraph on Lane's pioneer family background. In view of this limited background material it may well be that Hoosier interest in this new book will be to observe how well one of its own fared in outside political fields.

The present author has had one significant advantage over Sister Kelly in the preparation of his book; he was able to use the Lane Papers now housed in the Lilly Library at Indiana University, whereas his predecessor prepared her study prior to the availability for scholarly use of this important manuscript collection. It is, however, incorrect for Hendrickson to declare, as he does in his introduction, that the Lane Collection was "hitherto unused." It has been previously used, and at least one article based solely upon the collection appeared in the *Indiana University Bookman* more than a decade ago. This comment does not mean to imply that Hendrickson has been remiss in the use of materials related to his subject. He has made exhaustive use not only of Lane manuscript sources but also of sources for persons associated with him—including "the Salem Clique."

The product is a thorough and very readable treatise on machine politics as they were deftly managed by Oregon's first territorial governor, territorial delegate to Congress, and United States senator.

Hendrickson is, on the whole, somewhat more critical of Lane as a political figure than was Sister Kelly. His over-all estimate is well summarized in a brief epilogue. He credits Lane with "most faithful and energetic" (p. 253) service and with being an effective representative in Congress. He declares Lane to have been "a colorful if not particularly attractive personality and a man of unquestioned personal integrity" (p. 253). He was also egotistical, ambitious, shrewd, and demagogic. If he stood for a principle at the time of sectional crisis, it was "that the majority must not tyrannize over the minority" (p. 255).

Indiana University

Oscar Osburn Winther

The Galena Lead District: Federal Policy and Practice, 1824-1847.

By James E. Wright. (Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, for the Department of History, University of Wisconsin, 1966. Pp. xv, 148. Maps, tables, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$3.25.)

This slight volume is solely concerned with federal mineral policy in the Galena lead district, 1824-1847, and makes little or no effort to place the story of lead mining in its larger economic setting. No

mention is made of federal mineral leasing policy in Michigan of the same period. It may not be fair to ask more of the author than he intended to do, and certainly the first experience of the American government in dealing with its minerals needed attention, yet one could wish for a treatment of lead mining of the scale and with the technological knowledge that Rodman Paul has given to gold mining.

The story is not a pleasant one. It reveals a low standard of public morals in officials charged with the administration of the lands, the leases, and collections in the lead district and the tarnished reputation of the entrepreneurs engaged in the mining. The author finds that the leasing system seemed to work fairly well at the outset, which is somewhat surprising, but that it soon broke down. Through dissimulation, influential people in the region, including prominent politicians, were able to persuade the government that much lead-bearing land contained no minerals so that it could be sold.

Administration of the leasing, collection, and sale of the rent lead was handled by the War Department rather than by the General Land Office. This divided responsibility did not work for the best. The author has used the local deed records and is aware of the speculation in lead-bearing land carried on by local people supplied with capital from the east. He has made no effort, however, to show the extent of their purchases. He is concerned with the "profitability" of mining and smelting, but the operations were on such a small, individualistic scale and participated in so widely that he is not able to be very concrete. Some attention is given to the gradual shift from mining to agriculture.

Widespread discontent with leasing and a concerted drive in Congress to end the system, led by that redoubtable champion of free enterprise, "Old Bullion" Benton, resulted in 1846 in what the author calls the "desocialization" of the mineral reservation policy. The reserved lands were to be sold as other public lands were sold, first at public auction and thereafter at private entry, except that no preemption rights were to be recognized until after the public offering. Tracts on which mines were actually being worked were to be offered in small lots at a minimum price of \$2.50 an acre, and working mines then under lease were not to be sold until the leases expired. Wright has produced a useful account of a small segment of a big and much needed history of federal mineral policy.

Cornell University

Paul W. Gates

Newspapers on the Minnesota Frontier, 1849-1860. By George S. Hage. ([St. Paul]: Minnesota Historical Society, 1967. Pp. ix, 176. Illustrations, appendix, notes, index. \$4.50.)

Much newspaper history is no more than superficial chronology shored up by a liberal use of quotations. The present book fits more into that genre than anything else, but not entirely. The author,