area, especially the Kankakee River region, was of paramount importance to the fur trade of the period, primarily because of its production of raccoon skins. Both white and Indian fur producers played a major role in economic development, at least in this region. Even more important, he gives incontrovertible evidence that the bulk of fur production ultimately depended on the "egg-money trapper" of the white settlements, while traders for Indian furs profited through their access to Indiana treaty debt claims and annuities (p. 68). Despite this, Clayton clearly demonstrates his statement that the fur trade "actually was of no importance to the economy of the United States as a whole..." (p. 71).

The citations are extensive and carefully presented, the numerous illustrations are well chosen and placed in context, and the four maps are valuable additions. Through these essays, the society amply indicates that its 1965 conference was worthwhile. The scholarly range of its program merits the circulation this little book should enjoy.

Ball State University

Bert Anson


In an attempt to analyze the phenomenon of "the American Irish politician," Edward Levine utilizes a third of his book to survey cultural, social, and political aspects of Irish history from the Reformation to modern times. The genesis of the "Irish identity" is examined and related to the centuries of religious persecutions, political privations, and economic discrimination under British rule, which endowed the Irish with a keen, if not perverse, appreciation of power. The fact that predominantly rural immigrant Irishmen became part of a political power structure as eastern urban dwellers, rather than as midwestern farmers, does not seem unusual to the author. As cotters or squatters most of them never had been part of the propertied agricultural class in Ireland.

The chapter entitled "Symbols of Irish Identity and Alienation" will be of special interest to the social historian and behavioral scientist alike. Levine views the power ascent of the Irish clergy within the American Catholic Church as one of the key factors delaying the "structural assimilation" of the Irish into the general population. And he convincingly demonstrates the culpability of the parochial school in preserving Irish ethnic identity. Conservatism isolated the Irish further, inhibiting their attitudes on nearly everything from abolition to political reform. In addition, Irish assimilation was also hampered by forces in middle-class Protestant America which were inimical to a working-class Catholic, alien group. Despite discrimination the Irish regarded even such extreme nativist groups as the Know-Nothings pre-
ferable to some German immigrants who were imbued with atheistic Marxist doctrines. "Apostacy was more reprehensible than heresy" (p. 91).

Levine is strongest on the subject he knows best, the phenomenon of the contemporary Irish politician. In the urban setting, the saloon and the police department are seen as institutions which figured prominently in the " politicization" of the American Irish social structure. Using the example of their church, Irish political organizations naturally became hierarchical and authoritarian. However, in the 1960's Levine sees traditional traits gradually dying out. Mayor Daley of Chicago is viewed as a "transitional" Irish politician, who can now assume status roles inconceivable a few decades ago. Generalizing upon his findings among the Chicago Irish, Levine concludes that the current generation of Irish politicians is probably the last of its kind. Admittedly, his conclusions are too thinly supported by the evidence which he offers, but his contribution is valuable in that it provides the prologue for some future Handlin-like work on the Irish in Chicago.

Marquette University

Thomas E. Hachey


This study of the United States Rubber Company is divided into four main periods: the founding years from 1892 to 1901, and the successive presidencies of Samuel P. Colt, Charles B. Seger, and Francis B. Davis, Jr. During this time the organization took shape and grew, and procedures shifted and adapted to changing business conditions. Profits vacillated and products multiplied as management sought answers to new industrial demands.

The early years emphasized organization, consolidation, and expansion in rubber footwear production and sales. Dozens of industrial plants were absorbed, each retaining its product identity, competing fiercely with other articles produced by the corporation. During Colt's presidency (1901-1918) the company expanded overseas and began producing tires and nonrubber related items. Brand names identified exclusively with the United States Rubber Company were promoted (Keds and United States Tire being the best known); research laboratories were established; production control instituted; and employee relations improved. Company worth jumped from $47 million to $134 million during this golden age.

Charles B. Seger (president, 1919-1928) is characterized as lacking executive skill and knowledge. His problems were legion—wastage strains, price and sales decline, heavy competition, deteriorating labor relations, research mistakes, overly-centralized administration, large indebtedness, and marketing shifts. All together they contributed to a