

looked to their own personal opportunity and cultivated bases of support independent of LaFollette when they might have campaigned unilaterally.

Second, the author insists that the Wisconsin progressive movement effectively ran its course before America's entrance into World War I. The stalwarts managed to elect their resourceful leader Emanuel L. Philipp as governor in 1914, introducing a period of consolidation. This change suggests to Margulies that the character of a resurgent reform movement after the war could have been different.

Indeed, he concludes that the "new progressivism" beginning in 1919-1920, commonly assumed to be a continuation of the old style activity, was in fact distinctly different. The war had shattered the reform movement. Zealous patriots concerned with national honor attacked opponents of war like Wisconsin German-Americans, the Social Democratic party, and, of course, Senator LaFollette himself. Sensitivity over patriotism encouraged a different alignment, to which new elements like the Nonpartisan League, the State Federation of Labor, and the railroad brotherhoods, disenchanting with economic conditions created by the war, were attracted. LaFollette could easily assume leadership of this new coalition, campaigning on issues which, like the high cost of living, civil liberties, and isolationism, were all born of the war and bore only an insignificant relationship to those of the prewar progressive era.

At the outset, Margulies modestly, but forcefully, stresses that he cannot, and will not, make national generalizations about progressivism based on the experience of just one state. Whether later synthesizers rate Wisconsin as typical or not, this study will be indispensable to them. Wisconsin progressivism now has a monograph that matches the movement's reputation.

Eastern Illinois University

Neil Thorburn

Illinois Municipal Finance: A Political and Economic Analysis. By Glenn W. Fisher and Robert P. Fairbanks. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1968. Pp. viii, 242. Notes, tables, figures, appendices, index. \$7.50.)

Illinois Municipal Finance describes and evaluates and is a comprehensive quantification of taxation, borrowing, and expenditures of forty-one municipalities within and outside the Chicago SMSA. Emphasis is placed on general description of municipalities, property tax and related problems, the magnitude of expenditures and indebtedness of respective municipalities, and the complex nature of municipality decision making processes. Comparative per capita data is presented on numerous points and is narrated in a concise, easy to read manner. A quantitative and qualitative description of the communities and financial constraints imposed by law, tradition, or practical politics is equally thorough, indicative of a highly developed insight on the part of the authors, and indeed presented for the reader in an interesting manner.

The widely diverse environment of municipalities, the complex array of real or assumed constraints on municipal finance and rapidly changing needs

of communities seemingly (but understandably) left the authors a bit frustrated in their desire to analyze Illinois municipal finance and recommend solutions or specific courses of action. Analysis beyond such broad concepts as "decisions which produce 'proper' levels of service and reasonable distribution of cost" (p. 197) apparently became increasingly difficult. For somewhat the same reasons, the authors apparently found it difficult to associate "good" or "poor" municipal finance with "good" or "poor" municipality services and environments. This indecisive treatment of how-to-do-it solutions is not necessarily a criticism of the book: it doubtless reflects the complexity and diversity of municipal finance problems. Responsible persons in other states could benefit from a comparable inquiry.

Complexities notwithstanding, the reader of *Illinois Municipal Finance* will yearn for more evidence that the authors fully applied their judgments on such questions as "Is 'sound' municipal finance really important to an area?" "How might bond issues be made more attractive?" "How have some Illinois municipalities achieved an improved financial structure?"

This timely study and report on Illinois municipal finance should be considered required reading for students of the subject, for responsible municipal and higher level government officials, and for responsible minded lay citizens whose democratic influence in large measure will determine "municipal finance" in respective communities.

Indiana University

Lawrence E. Kreider

Black Swamp Farm. By Howard E. Good. ([Columbus]: Ohio State University Press, 1967. Pp. ix, 304. Illustrations. \$7.00.)

Conscientiously, in his wish to make this a complete album of the farming area around the Maumee Valley in northwestern Ohio, Howard Good starts back in the geologic longago, the ice age, the glaciers, the forming of a soil that was no longer a swamp when he lived there as a farm boy. This makes for a slow start, and Good's style is not essentially fast moving anyway; but once this is accomplished (end of Chapter 1) he is ready to take on the pioneer settlers and their forest-clearing and dangers.

From then on the Black Swamp area becomes a distinct and engaging personality in this readable genealogy. Good's talent lies less in sparkling humor and story telling than in minute, almost loving observation and honest reporting. The reader with a farm background or one who cherishes the land will find many occasions when he would like to lean forward and clap an appreciative hand on Good's shoulder, as a farmer would do in face-to-face conversation. To mention a few: the boots that irritatingly pulled the socks down into themselves; the scratchy new unbleached towels; filling the straw-tick; trading a fodder chopper for a parlor organ; heavy farm menus that produced no fat farmers; games the school boys played; old-fashioned names for parents; superstitions farmers believed in; colloquialisms they spoke in;