ing upon the memoirs of an early Michigan superintendent. The nar-

rative on the development of public education in Detroit is an ex-

tremely useful case history. The descriptions of the impacts of the
two world wars upon education are the familiar stories of shifts to-

ward military training, physical fitness, patriotic exercises, and the
deliberate distortions of contemporary history. Disbrow describes
the experiences of some of the more forceful state superintendents
which exhibit the continuing problems of political control, financing,
growth in student population, and the increasing ethnic diversity of
students, which climax in the grave issues of racial integration.

This narrative provides case histories on the additional problems
associated with adult education, the role of the nonpublic schools, the
dubious effects of organized athletics, religious education, the im-
pacts of major federal interventions and foundations' support, teacher
tenure, vocational education, education for the handicapped, the "ex-
panding curriculum," and the whole complex of miseries which are
collected under the label of urban education.

This well written history is valuable because of the author's com-
prehensive treatment of these many concerns. He chooses the kind
of detailed information which can stimulate comparative thinking
rather than merely provide for anecdotal recall.

There are a small number of typographical errors and faulty
grammatical constructions in the book which suggest careless proof-
reading. These are minor defects which are hardly worth mentioning
alongside the many merits of this book. Here is an excellent example
of the proper use of history and a justification for detailed local his-
tories if they provide material that can be used to improve an under-
standing of the relationships between events and ideas and between
the present challenges and hopes for the future.

Indianapolis Public Schools

Alexander M. Moore

Immigrants and Politics: The Germans of Nebraska, 1880-1900. By
appendices, bibliography, index. $7.95.)

Professor Luebke presents an interesting analysis of the political
behavior among German immigrants who constituted the largest non-
English speaking ethnic group in Nebraska. The first territorial
census in 1854 recorded seventeen German families. Thereafter, each
year Germans followed the trail to Nebraska. Some came directly
from Europe. Others who had been farmers in older and more densely
populated states left these areas when they wished to add to their
holdings because the price for additional land was prohibitive. Nebraska, therefore, where land was more reasonable and the taxes were lower, attracted many German immigrants. Likewise, railroads, colonization companies, state and local agencies, churches, and private individuals aided in luring settlers to the state.

The Germans in Nebraska belonged to the lower middle class and were literate but not well educated. Craftsmen and merchants were numerous, but the majority were farmers. Their speech, clothes, and mannerisms differed from the native American. Consequently, they conformed to the norms and attitudes of their ethnic group. This presented a problem to the politician which could not be ignored.

Upon his arrival in America the German immigrant frequently chose the Republican party because of its reputation as the opponent of slavery and the preserver of the Union. Later, however, as he became more involved in politics he discovered the Democratic party was the friend of the immigrant. In this study church membership proved to be the best clue to the immigrant’s choice of a political party.

During the 1880s when prohibition, women’s suffrage, and Sabbatarian legislation were the chief issues, the Germans indicated a preference for the Democratic party. They foresaw women’s suffrage as a device to obtain the passage of a prohibition amendment. Schulfreiheit and prohibition were the only issues which interested the Germans in 1890. An effort was made for their vote on the basis of “personal liberty.” Populists, however, were unsuccessful in their campaign for the German vote. A direct appeal to the German element occurred in the Nebraska election of 1900 in which one of the major candidates for governor was of German ancestry.

The author states that the most reliable method of determining concentrations of Germans is through the use of the census. He uses the published federal census reports and schedules of the Nebraska state census of 1885, but fails to consult the original census returns, 1870-1900, which contain much detailed information. As evidenced by the footnotes there is heavy reliance for much of his information on unpublished theses and dissertations.

Among other omissions are the Burlington Archives in the Newberry Library, the Frederick Jackson Turner articles on German immigration in the Chicago Record-Herald, William Godfrey Bek’s translation of Gottfried Duden’s letters published in the Missouri Historical Review, and reports on emigration and immigration in House Executive Documents and Senate Documents.

Anyone, however, interested in German immigration and the history of Nebraska will find the book worthwhile.

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Elfrieda Lang