

another the various aspects of the right of suffrage—such as age, citizenship, residence, and literacy—are surveyed, and comparisons with requirements in other states are noted. In a third the method of judicial selection and removal and the organization of the courts are discussed, and some recommendations are suggested. Local government outside Cook County (Chicago) is adequately covered, but the ever increasing problems of urban government and what a constitution should do about them receives major attention. The controversial issue of how much “home rule” local government should have is thoughtfully presented. Of course all these problems are inextricably intertwined with the methods of public finance and the legal aspects of revenue and the methods of taxation and exemption therefrom. The discussions on these topics produce more problems than answers.

Three papers deal with regulation of business, namely, corporations, banks and warehouses, and transportation. The paper on regulation of transportation points out the problems raised by any attempted repeal of the tax provisions in the charter of the Illinois Central. The paper on education raises the question of the necessity for a constitutional article on education and criticizes some of the content of the article in the present constitution. The dilemma seems really to be over which elements of the problem are so fundamental that they should be set out in the constitution and which should be left to the legislature. The final paper deals with the amending process.

This collection, while focused on the problems facing the Illinois constitution makers, deals with fundamentals and will be of inestimable value to constitution makers in other states.

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*Stump, Bar, and Pulpit: Speechmaking on the Missouri Frontier.* By Frances Lea McCurdy. (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1969. Pp. xiii, 218. Illustration, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

From the pulpit, the bar, the commencement platform, and the stump, two generations of speakers captivated audiences on the Missouri frontier with their colorful metaphors, earthy humor, and homely illustrations. Utilizing the thesis that “the process of testing and popularizing ideas of democracy is most clearly traced in the rhetoric of the frontier speaker” (p. xi), Frances McCurdy analyzes a significant number of formal and informal speeches delivered between 1803 and 1850. Noting the assumptions, reasoning, strate-

gems, and language favored by Missourians to persuade their listeners, she concludes that "the sovereign power of the people, the mobility of classes, the glorious future of the West, and the virtue of landholding were no more questioned . . . than was reverence due to motherhood, God, and country" (p. 186).

Using a topical organization, McCurdy tests her thesis by examining the rhetoric of six disparate types of speakers. By preaching that all men (save black men) were equal in the sight of God, frontier ministers promoted Jacksonian democracy as well as decency and morality. Although they fought against popular control of judicial processes, lawyers often proclaimed the merits of democracy in their courtroom pleas. The candidate for public office was forced to repeat his love for republican principles since to be accused of despising the common man was worse than to be charged with hog stealing. Once elected, public officials had to explain their votes on controversial questions to their constituents. Even the addresses of student orators echoed Jacksonian ideals. Seeing themselves as a people chosen by God to inhabit the best governed country in the world, they predicted for themselves a future filled with promise. On ceremonial occasions speakers repeated encomiums to the common man's wisdom and virtue, praised democratic principles, and encouraged optimism about the growth and development of the country.

Ten years of research support McCurdy's conclusions. She has examined a considerable number of often hard to find speech manuscripts and newspaper accounts of speechmaking activities. Her narrative is generally well organized, and a dry humor adds to the readability of the book. The reader may be disappointed that, although the narrative covers a fifty year period, McCurdy makes little or no effort to trace the development of ideas or to show changes in persuasive techniques. She treats ceremonial addresses, courtroom pleadings, and antislavery sermons statically, rather than attempting to show their development over the years or to explain their lack of change. McCurdy also has a slight tendency to overgeneralize from her data. Thus she will use a plural subject, "speakers," but will note only one speech (pp. 37, 39). This reviewer has the feeling that she could cite many other examples of the same type, but she does not.

Despite such shortcomings McCurdy's selection of speeches and anecdotes vividly recreates the Missouri frontier. The reader relives a time when the common man, in speeches at least, reigned supreme, when legal arguments were worth listening to, and when students debating the question: "Is the mind of man superior to that of woman?" quickly decided in the affirmative.