

Douglas created by Wells allows the reader to view a man who finally realized that his long held political views were no longer applicable to a rapidly changing American political climate. Douglas turned from the former materialistic bias inherent in his view of the nation and its welfare and sacrificed any chance of capturing the presidency in an effort to avert secession.

Wells contends that Douglas was a nationalist in an age of sectionalism. The reader becomes aware that in another era of American history, Douglas would have been known as a great compromiser, perhaps with a reputation equal to that of Henry Clay. However, it becomes evident that this was not possible in the period of political turmoil which preceded the Civil War.

Abraham Lincoln, the great political antagonist of Douglas, is given fair treatment in this book. Wells makes no attempt to berate Lincoln's image in order to improve Douglas' appearance; Douglas does not emerge as the hero in his encounters with Lincoln.

It is somewhat difficult to imagine that Wells would have the reader believe in his discussion of the Kansas Civil War of the 1850s that "Kansans today appear to be more serious than most Americans. They laugh less easily. The land and its people seem never to have quite recovered from the trauma that marked their early history" (p. 16). It is also questionable whether Douglas "knew better than any other Northern leader, the magnitude of the crisis that was now upon the country and the lateness of the hour" (p. 259).

Wells has written a book which will shed new light on the twilight years of Douglas' life. This scholarly volume allows the reader to view Douglas as he grappled with the issues which were tearing the United States apart. It is an important contribution to an understanding of some of the most crucial years in American history and will be welcomed by scholars and other serious readers alike.

*Oklahoma State University, Stillwater*

Robert E. Smith

*Gifford Pinchot: Private and Public Forester.* By Harold T. Pinkett. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1970. Pp. 167. Notes, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$6.95.)

This book demonstrates the value of perspective. Given two previous biographies, an autobiography, and numerous other publications touching his life, one could doubt the importance of another Pinchot volume. Yet archivist Harold Pinkett has provided an original segment of American forest and conservation history. As deputy director of the Records Appraisal Division of the National Archives, he is familiar with Pinchot papers which have not been hitherto

utilized. Pinkett's work focuses sharply on Pinchot's career in forestry. Eighteen crisp chapters contain 150 carefully documented pages outlining Pinchot's contribution.

*Private and Public Forester* provides a balanced survey of Pinchot's work. It discusses early years in private forestry, the influence of his mentor Sir Dietrich Brandis who believed that "forest management in the United States must begin through private enterprise" (p. 24), Pinchot's service on the National Forest Commission during the early years when he was a consulting forester. Ten chapters treat his administration of the federal forests and development of forest policy. Two chapters illuminate his direction of Pennsylvania's state forests.

Pinkett supplies a narrative of clarity which has relevance for the present. "Conservative Forest Use" is a masterful chapter on the chief forester's enlightened policy. Land in the forest reserves was "to be devoted to the most productive use for the permanent good of the whole people, and not for the temporary benefit of individuals or companies" (p. 58). Under his leadership lease and fee systems were initiated for special forest privileges. Grazing on public lands, the removal of dead and mature timber, and waterpower site development were regulated so that a variety of associated enterprises consonant with forestry could be permanent. The program was so successful that today both private and public forest reserves are lands of many uses. In the present, as a highly charged ecological emotionalism has swept the country with opposition to the multiple use concept, it should be remembered that when the idea was first advanced by Pinchot, not the liberal or radical elements of American society challenged it but the conservative business interests.

Perhaps the most engaging aspect of this book is its acknowledgment of the occasional failures of program and personality which were also part of Pinchot's career. Pinchot held rigidly to his own ideas and opinions. Pinkett describes the circumstances in which alienation developed between Pinchot and Bernhard Fernow (p. 17), Carl A. Schenck (p. 30), and Robert S. Conklin (pp. 133-36). Although Pinkett allows the reader to draw his own conclusions, it is clear that Pinchot seldom tolerated differences of professional opinion. Following his own dismissal from the federal service for insubordination and tactless conduct, Pinchot pressed for removal of Pennsylvania's commissioner of forestry. At the very least the reader is left to ponder Pinchot's motives when he followed Conklin as the new sheriff of Penn's Woods.

Pinchot criticized others but could not tolerate criticism which was directed at himself. When the botanist J. G. Lemmon accused him of using erroneous names for trees in *A Primer of Forestry*, his

chiding response was nonscientific and unprofessional: "The object of this Division is not to bring the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Consequently, it matters little whether, botanically, the names we use are correct or not, while it is of the greatest importance that the practical men in whose hands the future welfare or destruction of the forest areas of this country must necessarily lie, should find themselves as much at home as possible in our publications" (p. 53). Though generally the spirit of the men in the Forest Service was remarkable, Pinchot found it difficult "to forget a man's mistakes or failures, and tended to deny to one who had stumbled an opportunity to make good" (p. 72). In addition to his shortcomings in personal relations, the chief often invited public opposition because he attempted too many changes at once (p. 74).

Pinkett provides an excellent analysis of the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy. The facts are carefully delineated. At the center was Pinchot's belief in a broad constitutional interpretation of executive and national authority. While Theodore Roosevelt was President, such a philosophy was supported. With the advent of William Howard Taft, a lawyer who held more conservative views, Pinchot's actions—often taken without specific statutory authority—were inappropriate. Pinkett contends that the chief forester became less and less a man of science and more and more a politician. Nevertheless, Pinchot's removal created a backlash which ultimately caused the resignation of Richard A. Ballinger as interior secretary. The reactions to the more recent firing of Douglas MacArthur and the dismissal of Walter Hickel combined would not equal the magnitude of public outburst over the Ballinger-Pinchot affair.

If there is a shortcoming in this superlative evaluation of a man and his cause, it is not in the research, writing, or interpretation. Yet the work would have been strengthened by a chapter carefully describing scientific forest management. The author refers to elements and characteristics, but an extensive treatment would have been desirable. Otherwise, this is a miniature masterpiece of historical biography. More than anyone to date, Pinkett has argued convincingly that despite many concerned predecessors, Gifford Pinchot deserves the title of founder of United States forestry and father of the American conservation movement.

*Alaska Methodist University, Anchorage*

Robert A. Frederick

*The Frontier Challenge: Responses to the Trans-Mississippi West.*  
Edited by John G. Clark. (Lawrence: The University Press of  
Kansas, 1971. Pp. vii, 307. Notes. \$10.00.)