be modern productions; narratives, or personal anecdotes; and histories, which are for the most part personal reminiscences and brief résumés of various lumbering activities. Several dedicatory pages containing portraits and sketches of men prominent in the raftsmen's association precede the main sections. A list of Clarion River pilots (p. 13) and a detailed map (p. 25) of the Clarion River, with every creek and ripple, every early town and camp marked, are unique features. There are illustrations of lumbering and rafting scenes during the latter part of the nineteenth century, several of which will interest western Pennsylvanians familiar with the state's reserve, Cook Forest. One wishes, however, that the editor had devoted more time to editing and arranging his contributors' manuscripts. The miscellaneous arrangement of the articles, without even an attempt at chronological order, makes the omission of an index a serious defect in the book. The use of triple exclamation points or question marks where one punctuation mark would suffice is a peculiarity of the book. An unusual and praiseworthy omission is that of all references to the gory tragedies that are customarily to be found in such collections, although one story of a man so destructive as to be dubbed "Seven Buckets of Blood" did escape the censor.

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Unlike the majority of county historians, Mr. Beebe does not seem so much concerned with glorifying the pioneers and their successors as with giving a truthful and unvarnished account of his county's history. Potter County followed the usual cycle of Pennsylvania mountain counties. Its first permanent settler came in 1807, three years after it had been created, and the early years saw the vicissitudes incident to pioneer times—the journeys in freezing weather to the older settlements for food and the difficulties of clearing land and of obtaining clothing. Prosperity came with the growth of lumbering, and the chapter on this phase of industry is of particular value. The author evidences a realization of the seriousness of wholesale deforestation but brings out the significant fact that it was almost forced upon landowners by the policy deliberately adopted by local officials and expressed in the words "lay the taxes right on; in a few years the timber will be gone, and we shall have no unseated taxes" (p. 163). Railroads were constructed and mills built for the
manufacture of wooden articles, paper, and chemicals. The development of the county's oil, gas, and coal resources and the building of tanneries and glass factories added to its prosperity. Stores, banks, newspapers, hotels, and churches sprang up everywhere, and public utilities were started to serve the prosperous and rapidly growing towns that by the turn of the century dotted the county. The zenith of Potter County's prosperity was reached about 1904, when its population was in excess of thirty thousand and it was celebrating with barbecues, parades, balloon ascensions, and much perfervid oratory its hundredth year of existence.

The decline, however, was not far distant. The exhaustion of the forests forced most of the sawmills and woodworking factories to close down, and the drifters moved on. With the decrease in payrolls the dependent industries, such as building and public utilities, began to decline. Factories, hotels, newspapers, and stores closed or went out of existence, and with only too many of them decay and fires swept away all but their memories. The railroads decreased their services and then began to discontinue the branch lines. The usual heartbreaking efforts of local business bodies to revive trade and industry followed, but met with little success, though the state did much to provide the county with good roads. One of the few encouraging signs is the fact that agriculture, particularly dairying, is reviving. What is to be the fate of Potter County and its 17,500 inhabitants, and, for that matter, of hundreds of rural sections like it? Will the decentralization of industry so eagerly awaited solve their problem and make them once more busy hives of industry? Time alone can decide.

The volume is small but there is a surprising amount of information packed into it, and it is well illustrated. The insertion of a good map would have added greatly to its value.

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