
These two volumes are prefaced by a valuable "introduction," in which the importance of the imperial side of American colonial history is pointed out, and a brief "Explanation of Method," in which is indicated how two and a half million words of instructions, mainly to royal governors, have been classified and collected under eighteen main divisions. Since Pennsylvania was a proprietary colony during all but two years of its colonial history, specific Pennsylvania instructions are not given. Western Pennsylvania in early days was intimately connected with Virginia history, however, and under three main divisions there are documents bearing on western Pennsylvania. Two documents appear under "Military Affairs": the provision that officers might be commissioned for service on the frontiers (1:407) and the instruction to Governor Dinwiddie of August 28, 1753, that gave him the authority to send George Washington out to the Ohio country in 1753 and 1754 (1:414). Under "Indian Affairs" is the order of October 24, 1749, to expel settlers from Indian lands (2:473). Under "Group Settlements" is the royal instruction for a land grant, February 23, 1749, to the Ohio Company of Virginia (2:645-647). Immediately following is the ten-year exemption from quitrents for western settlers, which was issued on August 27, 1754 (2:647). Apart from these five documents the volumes contain little of interest to regional historians.

The reviewer recognizes the fact that the lack of material on local history in these volumes is not surprising and in no way detracts from the value of this well-edited and well-printed publication to students of American history.

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While Dixon Ryan Fox, now president of Union College, Schenectady, New York, was a professor of history in Columbia University, he twice visited