
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.

University of Pittsburgh

Alfred P. James


While Dixon Ryan Fox, now president of Union College, Schenectady, New York, was a professor of history in Columbia University, he twice visited
western Pennsylvania to deliver lectures. It is a matter of local pride that two of the four brilliant essays contained in this publication were given by the distinguished scholar as lectures in Pittsburgh. One of these, "Culture in Knapsacks," was read at an annual banquet of the University of Pittsburgh chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, honorary history fraternity. Another, "Refuse Ideas and Their Disposal," was read before the annual history conference of the same institution. The remaining essays, "Civilization in Transit" and "A Synthetic Principle in American Social History," were read before meetings of the American Historical Association.

Ideas in Motion is an attractive title. Comprehension of the social, cultural, and intellectual heritage of the human race is fundamental to an understanding of civilization and mankind; and much light on this heritage can be derived from careful perusal of these four delightful essays.

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