Wetzel's name mentioned in any of the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, or in the published letters and messages pertaining to the expedition. The Lewis and Clark Expedition is one of the important events in American history and anyone having a part in it becomes, on that ground alone, a person of historic interest. Now if Lewis Wetzel, himself, claimed to have been a member of the expedition, and it can be shown that he was not, then Wetzel becomes a liar. This in turn casts doubt on the validity of many of the tales, for Lewis Wetzel was a "loner," and the ultimate source of many of the incidents had to be Wetzel himself, since he was frequently the sole survivor. On the other hand, if Lewis Bonnett said that Wetzel was with Lewis and Clark, and again the statement could be proved in error, then all of the material Bonnett supplied comes into question. This would seriously weaken the entire Wetzel story. Further, if Wetzel actually took part in the expedition, and that fact can be documented and expanded, surely these four months of Wetzel's life merit more than the six lines which Allman gives them.

Despite its faults, Mr. Allman's book contains a great many facts. Genealogists may find it of some use, for here the documentation is fairly good. The general reader will find many of the Indian stories exciting, and he will absorb something of the temper and mood of the people of the Ohio Valley frontier. The book succeeds, this reviewer thinks, in delineating with honesty the essential character of Lewis Wetzel, but the historical "bone-mover" will find it necessary to use it with extreme caution.

_Pittsburgh_  
_Milburn Johnson_


Mr. Brandes' book is divided chronologically into three sections: Section One: Meeting the Challenge of a World Economy; Section Two: Hoover Slays the Dragon of Foreign Monopoly; Section Three: Federal Control of American Loans and Investments Abroad.

Mr. Brandes very aptly describes Mr. Hoover's many accomplishments as Secretary of Commerce. It is befitting a writer who obviously has extensive factual knowledge of his subject.
The Foreword to Mr. Brandes' book, written by Mr. Lewis L. Strauss, effectively describes the special attributes of Mr. Hoover. These qualities dominated throughout his public service. He mentions Mr. Brandes' impressive research which is obvious when we examine the annotations and bibliographical references in his book.

The Preface by Mr. Brandes states his purpose was to "analyze the development and motivation of Hoover's economic policies as a major factor shaping America's position in the post-war world." This he has done very effectively.

The rebuilding of the unimportant Department of Commerce presented a task which was eagerly undertaken by Mr. Hoover in 1921. He was successful in establishing an organization which immediately encouraged investment of money by prominent United States business men in old and new industries both here and abroad.

Within these areas the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce was particularly active, and maintained offices in key American cities and in foreign countries. All were adequately staffed and proved to be effective.

Other departments such as the Divisions of Foreign Tariff, Commercial Law, and Finance and Investment contributed up-to-date advice relating to tariff problems, foreign legislation and financing methods.

Although the facilities offered by these various departments were used chiefly by manufacturing companies, bankers and merchandising groups, Mr. Hoover did not forget agriculture. He considered the farmer a very important segment of the American economy and quickly instigated the publication in 1923 of the pamphlet: How the United States Department of Commerce Serves the Farmer. Mr. Hoover organized the Chemical and Textile Divisions and both organizations helped the farmer by disseminating useful information about market conditions, and were very helpful (1) in preventing "gouging" by importers of fertilizer components and (2) in maintaining favorable prices by selling surplus products abroad.

Warren G. Harding's pre-election proposal (Less Government in Business and More Business in Government: The Need for a Closer Understanding Between American Government and American Business and the Economic Benefits That Will Follow It), had the unqualified approval of Mr. Hoover. To him it was the epitome of his belief. It was of the same fabric as his own famous "American Individualism."
Attention is focused upon Mr. Hoover as the center of public interest both as a humanitarian and in the field of foreign economic relations.

He had no definite political affiliation, but the image of the progressive and prolific "Quaker engineer" was appealing to both Republicans and Democrats.

Secretaries Hoover, Mellon and Hughes were extremely active in affairs of national concern including protective tariff, loans to foreign borrowers and Russian relief. They greatly assisted in solving problems occurring under their administrations.

"Coolidge Prosperity" was too conservative for Mr. Hoover because he believed it restricted normal functions of progressive government.

His agricultural program was never significant because of too many independent and unorganized farmers.

The Mississippi River flood of 1927, which made 150,000 people homeless, concentrated attention upon Mr. Hoover. His swift rescue work, coupled with efficient relief again flashed the image of the great humanitarian. Not only was he great in this respect but he was much more. In the words of S. Parker Gilbert, Mr. Hoover was "Secretary of Commerce and Under-Secretary of all other Departments." This was true despite some difference of opinion between the various government groups and Mr. Hoover.

Special attention was devoted to exposing foreign monopolies or "cartels" which were organized to influence prices of American imports.

To combat this situation our government encouraged the use of substitutions and prohibited extension of foreign credit to countries controlling these monopolies. It also retaliated by restricting essential exports, and increased prices of certain other commodities.

The British Government's rubber monopoly, including the Stevenson Plan, is discussed at length as well as the American counter measures of several types. Also the extensive use of reclaimed rubber helped resist high "cartel" prices.

The Commerce Department also carried on a successful struggle against "price-fixing" of Brazilian coffee and Franco-German potash.

After World War I a devastated Europe appealed to rich America for sufficient funds to rehabilitate ravaged areas and revitalize seriously affected peacetime industries.

The official attitude on foreign loans was made public on March
3, 1922. It was a simple formula which politely requested all anticipating making loans to foreign countries to consult first the Commerce, State and Treasury Departments and receive the benefits of their collective recommendations. It amounted to a "loan approval system" and served to protect American businessmen from default, inflated currencies and unbalanced budgets in foreign countries.

By 1929 two hundred American firms operated 4,000 branch factories abroad, involving $1,300,000,000. Due to oceanic shipping, high protective tariff, unfavorable patent laws and lower wages abroad, these plants provided very acceptable returns. However, this situation resulted in serious unemployment and idled equipment in the United States.

Realizing that this condition could develop into serious repercussions the Commerce, State and Treasury Departments tactfully refused to provide essential information in areas which undersold American competitors. Also, they withheld statistical data about countries where anti-American demonstrations were staged against American-owned factories.

Financial aid to Japan was made only after consultation with informed persons in the Commerce Department. Assistance to Japanese firms producing low priced goods was discouraged and, in fact, disapproved.

Senator Glass introduced a resolution directing the government to desist from either sanctioning or refusing to consent to certain foreign loans.

Notwithstanding this situation there were some individuals who believed that foreign loans were excessive, and others who felt that official counsel from the Commerce Department regarding investments abroad was an insult to private finance, as well as to foreign governments.

Hoover's answer to his critics was that no defaults were involved with any foreign loan "where my proposed safeguards have been followed." He defended his tariff policies of keeping American tax barriers high on the basis of European economic independence and self-sufficiency.

Our funding agreements with our allies of World War I created the image of the United States as "Shylock" particularly among countries that were derelict regarding their debts to the United States Treasury. France was especially disturbed because of her failure to secure loans from our country. On the other hand those countries
that signed debt funding pacts were rewarded with the Commerce Department's gratitude and praise. Since Russia was a Communist country, and also because she repudiated all debts, no loans were made available to the U.S.S.R., or to countries desiring to export goods to Russia.

A substantial loan was made to Germany under the Dawes Plan of 1924 with unfavorable results. By 1929 German banks, government corporations and business houses owed $3,000,000,000 principally to American investors. A large portion of this sum was lost by default, but not because of any breakdown of the Commerce Department's information and counsel which had advised investors to be very cautious of loans to Germany on "a vast scale."

There was conflict between financial groups and industrial firms in the United States regarding foreign loans. The former approved free flow of American capital abroad with the attendant profits, while the latter were uneasy about competing with extremely low priced foreign products.

Loans to Latin American countries were scrutinized by the Commerce Department on the basis of productive enterprises, and by the State Department on principles of political reasons.

There is no doubt that "Mr. Hoover possessed an intimate knowledge of business on the international level as well as proven administrative talent and organizing skill."

We wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Strauss' statement that it "is a masterly and thorough survey of the period between 1921 and 1928 when Mr. Hoover headed the Department of Commerce but the account is not dehydrated and bloodless."

This book is recommended not only for study by future economists, but also for the entire range of college students enrolled in other courses. It should be read by our literate citizenry in order to help them cope with our nation's economic problems at home and abroad.

_Pittsburgh_  
Howard W. Callahan

_Forth to the Wilderness. The First American Frontier, 1754-1774._  
By DALE VAN EVERY. (New York: William Morrow & Company, Inc. $6.00.) (A Mentor Book (paperback) $.75.)