
This volume offers a detailed study of the first half-century of political life in Pennsylvania beyond the Alleghenies. The theme is the development of democracy among the early settlers. The frontier influences which led to this are well shown, and the author has not fallen into the error of believing that it was only in the West that democracy developed. He perceives its existence in the East and tells how the western leaders relied upon the democrats of the East for support. The sectional squabbles were often bitter, and harsh names, such as "western skunks," were used. In the early days the democrats, aligned with the strong eastern party, were victorious. When an attempt was made to overthrow the first constitution of Pennsylvania by the council of censors in 1783–84, the democrats "thwarted every move of the conservatives, and the delegates from among the back-country democrats had played no small role." The strong nationalist movement of the constitutional era gave them a temporary set-back from which they soon recovered under the ægis of Jefferson. The author is interested particularly in politics, but he does show the influence of economics on politics, especially in connection with the rise of manufacturing and commerce in Pittsburgh.

The book contains an excellent account of the boundary dispute between Virginia and Pennsylvania over southwestern Pennsylvania, as well as the battle over the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. The westerners opposed the Constitution, for they rightly saw in it the end of their own democratic constitution of 1776. Albert Gallatin's first public service was as a delegate to the Harrisburg convention that denounced the new Constitution and discussed proposals for amendments to it. The faith of the western Pennsylvanians in Gallatin is clearly shown in 1794 when he was elected to Congress from a congressional district in which he did not reside. When Jefferson organized the party of opposition to Hamilton he found enthusiastic support among the western Pennsylvania leaders such as Findley, Smilie, Gallatin, Baird, and Todd. The merchants and industrialists of Pittsburgh joined the Federalists, but the "growth of Federalism was slow...outside the towns of Pittsburgh and Washington." The story of the Whiskey Insur-
rection is well told, although nothing new has been added to it. The author's estimate of the result is interesting: "The insurrection produced no great changes in the politics of western Pennsylvania. The democratic farmers who had actively opposed the excise on whiskey were still opposed to the principle of the tax. Their economic problems and their environment did not change, and their political philosophy did not change; but they recognized that violent resistance to the federal government was not a feasible means of obtaining redress." The growth of industry in Pittsburgh and the concomitant demand for a high protective tariff is related, as is also the interest among the westerners in developing better transportation facilities. The bitterness of the political feeling between the Republicans and the Federalists is well shown in a "hitherto untold story of what was nearly a pitched battle at the bridge in Meadville between two companies of the militia, one Republican and the other Federalist," during the War of 1812.

The author has used the chronological treatment, which on the whole seems adequate. He shows the intimate relation between local and national politics and the importance of patronage, even in these early times, in building a political machine. The book contains a good map of western Pennsylvania and is well printed. The bibliography is adequate, although some important works are missing, such as "Papers Relating to What Is Known as the Whiskey Insurrection," in Pennsylvania Archives, second series, volume 4. The name of Charles Thomson, the Revolutionary leader and secretary of the Continental Congress, should not be spelled with a "p", and Alexandria is misspelled on page 256. The book is a product of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey and its sponsors should feel justly proud of the excellent contribution Professor Ferguson has made to the literature on Pennsylvania history.

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The history, techniques, labor conditions, and economics of the Pennsylvania iron industry in the eighteenth century are set forth here in a fashion that both the student and general reader can understand and appreciate. The different processes of making iron and steel are described clearly—no small boon to the editor of historical publications—and the study of the develop-