

Beyond this doubt, which may be based upon the reviewer's too partial regard for Franklin as a vital personality, nothing can be said that is not praise. Mr. Van Doren has lived with the Franklin documents for a decade and his work shows this to a marked degree. He has dug up new material and has reset the old with laudable patience and zeal. His admiration and sympathy for Franklin have not made him a partisan. In fact there is an almost Franklinesque absence of comment, and from this and the simplicity, discrimination, tolerance, and straightforwardness of the story one gets an impression that the author must be in many ways like the admirable man he portrays. These qualities have made this a biography that is the most satisfactory full-length portrait yet given of Franklin, certainly from the point of view of the scholar and of the earnest reader, and the prophesy might justifiably be made that it will neither be equalled nor surpassed in this generation.

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LELAND D. BALDWIN

*Growth of American Manufacturing Areas* (University of Pittsburgh, Bureau of Business Research, *Monographs*, no. 7). By GLENN E. McLAUGHLIN. (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1938. xxvii, 358 p. Tables, charts.)

By prodigious and laborious effort, Professor McLaughlin has analyzed a mass of statistical data and has produced a real contribution to the industrial and social history of the United States in general and of western Pennsylvania in particular. Making use of the published and unpublished materials of the United States Bureau of the Census and of the United States Bureau of Mines, he has examined the growth of the thirty-three industrial areas of the United States, as defined in 1929. The period studied extends from 1869 to 1930, with considerable emphasis placed upon the development since the industrial census of 1899.

In Part I of the study the author presents the results of a careful examination of the statistical records and establishes the "trends" from which he later draws his conclusions. Comparative tables and statements show the absolute, relative, and proportional changes that are taking place in the whole population, the numbers of gainfully employed workers, and the comparative values added by manufacturing, as well as the relation of these phenomena to the growth of industry as a whole in each of the thirty-three areas of the United States. This alone makes the volume worth while from the point of view of na-

tional history. That all analyses have been "pointed toward a more intelligent understanding of the Pittsburgh district and toward a clearer appraisal of its future prospects" makes the work significant locally. Part 2 deals with the reasons for the variations in growth among these thirty-three areas. Some of the more important topics discussed are: shifts in population and the resultant shift in consuming power, changing costs of production, natural advantages such as transportation, localization of new industries, consumer preferences, and the other causal factors making for regional differences in the rates of industrial growth. In these chapters the attention is focused to effect a better understanding of conditions in southwestern Pennsylvania and to present a prognosis for the future.

The picture presented in this part of the study is far from optimistic. Briefly, the Pittsburgh area is still largely dependent upon the heavy industries. Through the force of many changing factors, their development has been falling below the median for the whole nation. Viewed in terms of the relative national development of our whole industrial plant, the Pittsburgh area reached and passed the zenith sometime between 1918 and 1920, and before 1929 it was growing less rapidly than any other of the five major iron and steel areas. This is reflected by the census of 1930, which showed that only three of the sixteen counties of southwestern Pennsylvania increased their populations during the decade by more than the excess of births over deaths. And further, Allegheny County reached a maximum population during December, 1932, and since that time has shown a positive decrease. This trend should serve as a significant warning.

The author has established some very interesting conclusions, foremost of which is that the Pittsburgh area has reached its "industrial maturity." The phases of most rapid development were reached and passed several decades ago, and the absence of new major industries in proportion "in large part explains the marked retardation about 1910." The record of the past three decades shows that new major industries in large numbers are not likely to come to the Pittsburgh area in the immediate future. Neither is it probable that manufacturing and construction in the country at large will take the up-turn necessary to occasion any unusual revival in the predominantly basic industry of this area.

The value of this study to the business interests of the community is easily demonstrated. Many valuable predications may be based on these conclusions. For the historian, the work has many additional uses. The data that have been gathered and reduced to usable forms are of inestimable value in the study of

such social topics as population, unemployment, and occupational distribution. In the field of economic history it is even more significant, as the study of this development of our national industry is yet far from complete. The study, therefore, more than justifies itself to both the progressive business man and the professional historian. A word of caution, however, should be inserted for the benefit of the lay reader. To produce a volume of this kind with the interest of the running narrative is not in the nature of this type of work. The author of this particular book however has been more than usually successful in this respect.

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THEODORE R. PARKER

*Pen Pictures of Early Western Pennsylvania.* Edited by JOHN W. HARPSTER. Maps and illustrations by HARVEY CUSHMAN. (Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1938. xv, 337 p.)

THIS volume is one of the series of studies growing out of the important work done by the historical survey sponsored jointly by the Buhl Foundation, the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Harpster has edited and arranged interesting and pertinent portions of the journals of soldiers, traders, missionaries, and travelers in the early Middle West relating to the settlement and development of western Pennsylvania. In one account a French soldier describes the construction of Fort Duquesne and tells an absorbing story of life in a frontier outpost; the journal of William Trent affords a first-hand account of the siege of Fort Pitt by the Indian confederates under the Ottawa chieftain, Pontiac, in 1763; and the journals of Colonel James Smith, Indian captive, and of Robert Orme, aide-de-camp of General Braddock, describe the latter's defeat. These and more than thirty other selections render a colorful and accurate picture of this region as eyewitnesses saw it from the time of the struggle between the French and English for control of the Ohio Valley to 1829. Pittsburgh was then nearly half a century old and presented an aspect of "filthy looking houses stretching away in rows continuously ahead and enveloped in an atmosphere of smoke and soot which blackened everything in sight" (p. 287).

The University of Pittsburgh Press has set a high mark in the publication of *Pen Pictures*, and the reviewer seldom has the opportunity of claiming so many virtues for one book. It is artistic in format, the product of scholarly work, and yet should be read as widely by the general reader as by the student of the period, who may be led through these selections to the full text of the