

## BOOK REVIEWS

Québec, Séminaire de. Archives. *Papiers Contrecoeur et Autre Documents Concernant Le Conflit Anglo-Français sur l'Ohio De 1745 à 1756*. Edités par FERNAND GRENIER, professeur au Petit Séminaire de Québec. (Québec, Les Presses Universitaires Laval, 1952. xxxiv, 485 p. Maps, illustrations. \$10.00.)

This volume of 218 annotated documents brings to the desk of every student of American history a wealth of course material on one of the most interesting phases of our history—the North American phase of the Seven Years' War in Europe, commonly called the French and Indian Wars.

The struggle between England and France for domination of the North American continent was as old as the English colonies. Seemingly, Great Britain gained ascendancy over France by the Treaty of Utrecht, actually a series of treaties promulgated between 1713 and 1715. By Utrecht considerable territory in North America passed from French to British jurisdiction. Already Britain controlled the Atlantic seaboard; by this treaty France ceded to her New Foundland and Acadia and confirmed her right to the vaguely defined Hudson Bay Region. Except Cape Breton, which gave France control of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, she was surrounded, north, south, and west, by British establishments.

Another important feature of the treaty was France's acknowledgment that the "Five Nations were dependent upon the English Crown." This article validated Britain's claim to most of the Great Lakes basin and the Ohio River Valley. France constructed the mighty bastion Louisbourg, thereby dominating the North Atlantic. New England commerce had suffered from raids on her shipping (1713-44), and so with the outbreak of King George's War (1744) the British took Louisbourg (1745). By the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle which ended the war, Louisbourg and all other gains made by the English were restored to France.

Both British and French interpretation of these treaties (Utrecht and Aix la Chapelle) made the land west of the Alleghenies contested territory; both vied for domination by attempting to gain and hold the allegiance of the Indians who lived there, thus gaining the valuable fur trade. The Ohio Company plan to make settlements along the Ohio River brought an even more dangerous element into the picture.

When the Marquis de Duquesne became governor of New France

(1752), he was given explicit instructions to keep both English colonists and traders east of the height of land—the Allegheny Mountains. France had active colonies at the mouth of the Mississippi and along the lower St. Lawrence Rivers. The line of communication between the colonies was established and she was in a position to expand trading activities with the Indians in the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley areas. Since she could tolerate neither English trading establishments in the western country nor settlements athwart the connecting routes or in the surrounding territory, the English had to be kept east of the Allegheny Mountains. For this purpose Governor Duquesne organized an expansive military expedition to the Ohio River Valley.

Much general source material for the study of Duquesne's strategy is readily available in source books and transcripts of Colonial correspondence with France and Great Britain, but the particulars of that strategy have never been easily accessible. The Archives of the Seminary of Quebec contain a wealth of source material about Colonial history, and the editor of the *Papiers Contrecoeur* has selected from that great collection the material pertinent to this campaign. Generally, this volume contains the correspondence of Contrecoeur, Marin, St. Pierre and Beaujean, all commanders of the French expedition to the Ohio Valley. Although there is correspondence from other collections, the bulk of the material was selected from the Viger-Verreau collection.

For the first time one can follow, step by step, the progress of the French army, the difficulties it encountered, the change of plans, and even movements of the English not recorded by themselves.

Important details of actual losses of both General Braddock at the Battle of the Monongahela and Colonel Washington at Fort Necessity add considerably to the sum total of information heretofore available.

Perhaps the most significant contribution made by the volume is the over-all picture of changing French diplomacy. Time after time their fear of committing the overt act of an armed clash with the English is revealed. For example Governor Duquesne writes to Contrecoeur congratulating him on his success in forcing the Virginians to withdraw peaceably from their hastily constructed stockade at the fork of the Ohio (April 17, 1754: "Enfin Monsieur, C'est à votre bonne et Sage conduite qu'il ne s'est passé rien que bien flatteur pour La Nation puisqu'à votre aspect et Sans Coup ferir, les Anglois Se sont retirés aver Leur

courte honte et que dans moins d'une heure de tems, vous ayés été Maître du Champ de Bataille . . . Il est à Souhait que dans votre conduite, Il ne Se Soit rien passé qui approche de L'acte d'hostilité."

Another revealing document is Duquesne's letter to Contrecoeur, June 24, 1754. In it the governor remarks that Jumonville's death "est unique et ne peut Se laver que par une effusion de Sang." He orders Contrecoeur to confiscate everything he can at the scene of the skirmish, unless the English deliver the "meurtriers" up to the French; and if forced into a war with the English Duquesne would "après Le premier Coup de fusil tiré" do everything to uphold the honor of his country. Although this letter could not have been received at Fort Duquesne until after the Battle of Fort Necessity, it shows that premature French action against Washington's men coincided with orders already issued at Montreal.

The editor, Fernand Grenier, professor au petit Séminaire de Québec, in addition to making a careful selection of documents concerning the Anglo-French conflict on the Ohio, 1745 to 1756, has contributed valuable information by his annotations. Through the cooperation of the staff of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Professor Grenier obtained source materials from our local repositories, and so his annotations, though brief and at times merely an outline, are particularly well balanced and inclusive.

This publication was made possible by the collaboration of the Archives of the Seminary of Quebec, the Institute of History and Geography of Laval University (Quebec) and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

In format it is octavo, well bound and printed, with a table of contents, a chronological list of documents published, a classified bibliography, and a particularly valuable index.

The institutions which made the publication possible are to be congratulated. Students of history are deeply indebted to Professor Fernand Grenier for his selection of documents and for his concise and informative annotations based on source material.

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*The Harmony Society: A 19th Century American Utopia.* By CHRISTIANA F. KNOEDLER. (New York, Vantage Press, Inc., 1954. xi, 160