dropped the poppet-valve levers back on the wipers; and obeyed the following bell for steam' (p. 27). Only an expert could figure out what it means, but it is utterly charming. The reader may also wonder at the choice of materials and the amount of space given to various ones.

Unfortunately, the book contains numerous factual errors. To mention only a few: Fort Machault was built in 1755, not 1753 (p. 10); William Pitt was never prime minister of England (p. 10); Fort Duquesne was not built "directly at the Point" (p. 11) but at least one hundred yards up the Allegheny; there is no authentic evidence that Mike Fink was an Indian fighter with Anthony Wayne (p. 19) or that he left the rivers during the War of 1812 (p. 19) or at any time before his death; and George Fitch (1877-1915) was not "a Victorian expert on the Western River boat" (p. 23). He was an early twentieth-century newspaperman and humorist. Such regrettable mistakes could have been avoided by better research and editing.

Pittsburgh

George Swetnam


A few years ago the Garland Publishing company initiated the publication of its Modern American History series under the general editorship of Frank Freidel. In an effort to disseminate its volumes as quickly and as broadly as possible, the company did not contract for new titles and syntheses but merely produced facsimile editions of completed dissertations (some over twenty years old), placed the copies between hard covers, and exacted rather stiff prices for its new product. Many scholars would insist that dissertations are different *in kind* from books; therefore, to publish an unrevised dissertation in book form, particularly one which is more than two decades old, is to mislead the reader or buyer.

Some of these dissertations have been revised and expanded. However, this volume differs from the original only in that there is an index along with a seven-page foreword (neither is included in the table of contents) which offers a summary of journal articles and dissertations published since Keller, a professor of history at Millers-
ville State College, finished his work at Columbia in 1960. While somewhat useful, the foreword is not extensive enough, and although the volume carries a May 1982 publication date, the latest citation is for 1976. If the publishers felt such a need for this edition, it should have been brought up-to-date as much as possible.

Well known by now because of its extensive use by scholars of the New Deal, Keller's account offers traditional political history based upon the discipline's usual sources such as newspaper accounts, government documents, manuscript collections, and more than a dozen interviews with political figures of the period. After decades of Republican rule dating to the Civil War — a rule dominated by conservative politicians, powerful industrial interests, and the urban political machines of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia — the spell was broken by the shattering impact of the Great Depression. Against considerable opposition within his own party, Republican Governor Gifford Pinchot fought rather unsuccessfully for ameliorative programs designed to relieve the suffering of Pennsylvanians while incidentally advancing his own political cause. Faced with staggering economic, social, and personal losses, the people of the commonwealth decided that the New Era Republicanism of the twenties was insufficient to address the profound crisis of the thirties and turned to a new generation of political, labor, and newspaper leaders who now led the revitalized Democratic party in the state. Capitalizing on the obvious appeal of the New Deal, Pennsylvania Democrats in 1934 elected a governor and a United States senator, each for the first time in the twentieth century. With their newly acquired political and patronage advantages, Governor George H. Earle III and his lieutenants successfully emulated much of the national New Deal with the Little New Deal in Pennsylvania. Supported by previously weakened constituencies such as labor, education, urban ethnic groups, and others, the Earle administration was particularly effective in realizing reforms in taxation, education, relief programs, and for organized labor and others at the work place. Then, just as a new era of Democratic hegemony appeared at hand (particularly after President Roosevelt became the first Democratic presidential candidate to carry the state since Buchanan eighty years before), the party committed fratricide in the elections of 1938, helping the opposition to return to Harrisburg and to elect a new United States senator as well. Yet, while the Republicans returned to power soon enough, the old industrial feudalism which had sustained them for so long never reappeared. The Little New Deal remained, and was even advanced
in the years to follow irrespective of which party controlled things in Harrisburg.

The legacy of it all provided the commonwealth with a number of able and experienced administrators, a sense of progressivism in politics, and, as Keller concludes, "the memory of an aroused people using their government to thwart the special interests which had been in control for so long" (p. 399).

Perhaps as with most dissertations there is both too much here and not enough. For one thing, the book is broader than the title suggests; of its fourteen chapters, only five deal with the Earle administration. And while considerable space is devoted to Pinchot's second term, the notorious Margiotti affair, and the political campaigns of the same period, the reader learns little about administrative affairs, how effective the Earle program actually was, and the terrible social as well as economic costs to the people of Pennsylvania. Moreover, one might argue that Keller's treatment of the Pinchot administration as a kindred prelude to the Little New Deal is questionable. While such a position softens the dramatic impact of the Earle years and supports those scholars who dispute the suddenness and newness of the New Deal, it is not necessarily supported by the available evidence.

All these observations are debatable, of course, perhaps even minor and picky. The truly nagging problem with this physically unattractive book is that it adds nothing to our knowledge of the period. Keller's dissertation has long been available to scholars through University Microfilms; the present edition is in the same format but the quality of reproduction of the typescript is inferior. Keller has also condensed and summarized the results of his research in an article in Pennsylvania History (October 1962) and through an essay in John Braeman, Robert H. Bremner, and David Brody, eds., The New Deal: The State and Local Levels (1975), neither of which uses additional sources or refers to the work of others. The volume seems to be an example of publishers'/scholars' overkill, and at fifty dollars per, it is simply too costly for our return. The irony is that such an undertaking occurs in this depressed time, a time which approximates that of the Great Depression more than any other in over forty years.

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