

BOOK REVIEWS AND REVIEW ESSAYS

Hugh A. Dempsey: *The Gentle Persuader - A Biography of James Gladstone, Indian Senator*. Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1986.

Students of Canadian Indian History are already deeply indebted to Hugh A. Dempsey for his many and valuable contributions to that field and its ramifications. His biographies of Indians have been of particularly high calibre and very useful. They are instructive to both scholar and general reader.

Dempsey is Associate Director of the Glenbow Museum. His work employs oral and written sources, Indian and non-Indian material. He conducted interviews, collected anecdotes and impressions from those who knew his subject to complement and give greater realism and verve to his biographies. This is "history in the round," as ethnohistory has been called. His latest work, the life of James Gladstone, is a welcome addition.

Gladstone was the first Canadian Indian to become a Canadian senator. Despite the fact that he was not legally an Indian until age thirty-three Gladstone's life touched many facets of the Indian experience in the twentieth century. He attended church-run residential schools and knew that experience well. He was a business man who experienced the frustrations of dealing with the paternalism, bureaucratic inefficiency and resistance of the Department of Indian Affairs. Of mixed Cree, French and Scots ancestry, he experienced the frustration of the Metis people. On the reserve he was faced with community rivalries and factionalism and these affected his public career.

Gladstone's participation in Indian organizations beyond the reserve level, in the second quarter of the twentieth century, brought him into contact with many of the figures who pioneered regional and national organizations--Fred Loft, John

Callihoo, John Tootosis, and Malcolm Norris. Gladstone was an early leader in the Indian Association of Alberta (IAA). Dempsey's accounts give valuable information about the efforts to create and sustain the IAA.

The story of Indian organizations in the era of Indian rebirth, the 1970s, has been much recorded. The earlier decades need much more attention. This work is a contribution to the history of Indian organizations as the period of the 1940s through 1960s is explored.

The Gladstone of this biography is, however, not only a public figure. We are given some picture of his private personality and family life as well. As a member of the Gladstone family, Dempsey is especially qualified to provide these insights. Nevertheless, special pleading and hero worship are avoided. This biography of James Gladstone is a welcome contribution to Canadian Indian history and to the study of one of Canada's major mid-twentieth century Indian figures.

E.P. Patterson

William R. Morrison: *Showing the Flag: The Mounted Police and Canadian Sovereignty in the North, 1894-1925*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1985.

Showing the Flag is an excellent study of the role of the Mounties in the Canadian North from 1894 to 1925. It focuses on the force as the great agent of metropolitanism. The Mounties transmitted an Ottawa-based image of law and authority. Because of federal neglect, parsimony and waffling, however, the police were left to their own initiatives and thus often suggested and even initiated policy. Nevertheless, it was southern policy, determined by late-Victorian southern values. Except during the boom in the Yukon, the Mounties