

As the book under review deals with a long series of important and highly controversial subjects, most readers would be inclined to argue about some details of the authors' decisions in matters of emphasis and proportion. In some cases many readers would have welcomed somewhat more emphatic opinions — on such matters, for example, as the Winnipeg strike, the Wartime Elections Act, the corruption that discoloured the civil service, the profiteering that took place during the First World War. Occasionally, one gets the impression that the authors have indulged in conscious restraint, perhaps with possible textbook sales in mind. These, however, are comparatively minor flaws in what is a solidly researched and skilfully written summary of this important era of Canada's national story.

With reference to the mechanics of the volume, certain failures should be noted. The most important of these is the wholly inadequate index. Over and over again when one is trying to relate events to each other, reference to the index provides no help whatever. It gives no real indication of either the scope or the detail of the work. Among scores of omissions are many important subjects (art, fisheries, irrigation, forestry, the C.C.F., aircraft). Names are overlooked and places are not mentioned (including, God help us, Ottawa!)

As distinguished historians, the general editors of the Series should revise their Introduction. The final paragraph, which refers to the authors of *Canada 1896-1921*, was apparently tacked on to an Introduction written for all the volumes in the Series. The Editors did not bother to re-read the earlier paragraphs in which they had declared that each volume "will be designed and executed by a single author" and that "each volume will have the unity and distinctive character of individual authorship". I have always thought of Ramsay Cook and Robert Craig Brown as discrete individuals. If they are not, let the mystery be elucidated.

Hugh L. Keenleyside

DAS TAGEBUCH DES MASCHINISTEN OTTO KRISCH: OSTERREICHISCH-UNGARISCHE NORDPOLEXPEDITION 1872-1874. BY EGON REICHHARDT. *Austria: Leykam-Verlag, 1973. 6¾ x 9½ inches, 121 pages. DM. 28, 70.*

This book is a direct transcription of the diary of Krisch, who was a member of the Austro-Hungarian North Polar Expedi-

tion from its beginning in 1872 to his death in 1873. The later fate of the expedition from the death of Krisch to the return of the participants in 1874 is described only very briefly.

The entry of nearly every day contains a short description of the weather, and the main activities on board. The entries about the weather have lost most of their interest, and are rather monotonous to read. The interesting part for all concerned with history and polar exploration is the very vivid picture the reader gets of the conditions on board ship, of the hardships and monotony as well as the entertainments. Krisch was certainly not a gifted writer, because no individual person on board becomes really alive. Even in the few episodes of a more personal note which he relates, only a few hints are given and nearly all is left to the reader's imagination.

But, it is perhaps just this inability, and his resort to the stereotyped phrases characteristic of his time, which creates in the reader a picture of an expedition 100 years ago.

E. Vowinckel

WAKE OF THE GREAT SEALERS. BY FARLEY MOWAT. *Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1973. 10½ x 11¾ inches, illustrated. \$16.95.*

This sombrely illustrated account of sealing (swiling) in Newfoundland waters by Farley Mowat is the latest of his writings based on that island province. The history is effectively narrated in the first person, but there is occasional difficulty in determining if it is presented through the eyes of a sealer or a moralizing mainlander Mowat. Despite the author's efforts to answer the question, the reader is left wondering what motivated Newfoundlanders to challenge the sea of ice under such hazardous conditions. Perhaps to be a sealer permitted them to share an élan that drove "real men" to pay for a berth and face horrendous death, rather than remain ashore with the cripples.

The stark black-and-white illustrations by native Newfoundlander David Blackwood add to the feelings of admiration and rage one feels while reading this book.

This volume will stand as the most significant contribution to the wake held in memory of a type of man Canada's welfare state will never again produce.

Peter Davis