
Indeed, there is no definite indication that any considerable percentage of the societies or libraries, especially the smaller ones, are interested in the history of business. It would appear that even where there is such an interest, the emphasis has been on the pioneer, the petty-capitalist type of business man. Generally speaking, business men, particularly the larger mercantile, industrial, and financial capitalists, have not found much room in the archives of historical societies.

A New Book in American Social History

The attention of the readers of the BULLETIN is called to a new volume (V) in the series, *A History of American Life*. The book is *The Completion of Independence, 1790-1830*¹ by Professor John Allen Krout of Columbia University and President Dixon Ryan Fox of Union College. The series is a social history. The recent book gives a very readable and effective account of various aspects of American development at the beginning of the period of great expansion and change in the nineteenth century. It is notable because of the way it treats the history of business.

The first thing that strikes the reader in this connection is the frequent use of the word "business;" earlier books almost never used the word, but used "economic" instead. Several chapters are devoted largely to business, a truly remarkable proportion in view of the neglect of business in the past. Those chapters, significantly, are written in terms of business men, business organization, the function of different types of business, and the contributions of business. Altogether the book draws a useful and interesting picture of business from 1790 to 1830. It is true that it does not deal largely with business in operation or with problems of administra-

¹New York: The Macmillan Company, 1944. \$4.00.

tion, policies, or management—that would have been beyond the scope and general purpose of the volume.

The significant thing is that the book treats the business man, his organization, and his work as an integral part of society. This is a far cry from earlier similar volumes, which came no nearer to business than to describe changes in mechanical techniques and production facilities and to deal with government policy with respect especially to the tariff, monopoly, and money and banking.

Secretary's Column

The Society acknowledges with gratitude the following publications:

From American Association for State and Local History, Washington, D. C.: *How to Organize a Local Historical Society*.

From American Petroleum Institute, New York: *Proceedings, Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting, Section I, General Sessions, Protection of Petroleum Facilities, Oil Trade Association Open Forum*, November 8 to 11, 1943; also, *Addresses and Reports Delivered at Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting*.

From Mr. Robert T. Billings, Arlington, N. J.: Letter concerning Nathaniel Blake's mail contract.

From Mr. Clifford Walker, Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company, Hartford: *The Spectator Insurance Year Book*, Life Insurance for 1941 and 1942.

From State Treasurer and Insurance Commissioner, Tallahassee, Florida: *Report of Insurance Department, State of Florida*, for the fiscal year ending June 31, 1944.

From General Motors Corporation, New York: *Thirty-Fifth Annual Report of General Motors Corporation for the Year Ended December 31, 1943*.

From Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad Company, Mobile, Ala.: *Fourth Annual Report, 1943*.

From Huntington Library and Art Gallery, San Marino, Calif.: *Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Sixteenth Annual Report*, July 1, 1942-June 30, 1943.