

BOOK REVIEWS

The American Heritage Book of Indians. By the Editors of *American Heritage*, the Magazine of History. (The American Heritage Publishing Company, 1961. Pp. 424. Ills. Index. \$15.00.)

This volume is distinguished by an introduction written by John F. Kennedy, President of the United States. Mr. Kennedy displays an awareness, which may be surprising to Oklahomans, concerning Indians and their place in our American heritage as he writes: "When we forget great contributors to our American history—when we neglect the heroic past of the American Indian—we thereby weaken our own heritage. We need to remember the contributions our forefathers found here and from which they borrowed liberally." The narrative, prepared by William Brandon, indicates here and there a similar notion of the importance of the contribution made by Indian culture to our American way of life, but stops short of the premise advanced by some that what is truly American in our culture, as distinguished from the European, is primarily Indian in origin.

A fascinating compilation, this material on the Indian is prepared in the now familiar format employed so successfully by the *American Heritage* editors. Every phase of the Indian past is presented by picture and word, beginning with probable origins derived from archaeological data and concluding with a short statement on "Indians Today," which points out that "the 'Vanishing American' is far from vanished." The *Book of Indians* is recommended reading for any Oklahoman who wishes a better understanding of our Indian heritage and the tremendous debt Americans and the world owe this "vanishing" race.

—James D. Morrison

Durant, Oklahoma

History of South Dakota. By Herbert S. Schell (University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1961. Pp. xxiv, 424. Illustrations, references, index. \$5.50.)

The story of South Dakota unfolds from a wilderness setting to a modern state, in this packed, one-volume work. But the author does much more than trace the history of a single state. In the first part of the book, he takes a wider sweep, and reveals much that is significant historically of the whole Northwest.

"The Natural Setting," "The First People of the Land," "French and Spanish Sovereignty on the Upper Missouri," "Opening the Way to the Western Sea," and "The Saga of the Fur Trade" are titles of chapters of general purport, pertaining to subjects not limited to the historical confines of any one of the Northwestern states.

Many dramatic events growing out of the Indians' headlong clash with the white man's civilization occurred in South Dakota, and their narration sparks the reader's interest, prompting him to read on through the more prosaic, and perhaps less interesting but informative portions of history in the other sections of the book.

An Oklahoman will find much to remind him of the history of his own state in this book, and will discover that his state and South Dakota have much in common. Although two territories were united to form the State of Oklahoma while one territory was divided to form the two states of North and South Dakota, there were similar political fights and turmoil in the formation of these states and the same trouble in locating their capitals.

The subjugation of the Indians, the extermination of the buffalo, and the cattlemen taking over the open ranges, together with their subsequent displacement by the homesteaders, were movements which took much the same course in South Dakota as in Oklahoma. Also the breaking up of the Indian reservations, as the Indian country was placed under the white man's domination and converted to his use, presents striking resemblance to Oklahoma history. Even the discovery of gold in South Dakota and the rush into the Black Hills, with the springing up of Deadwood and other wild and lawless towns, almost overnight, has certain aspects similar to the Oklahoma oil fields and its early boom towns.

Although the scope of this book is such that it will provoke general interest, the author, in order to tell the complete story, found it necessary to include considerable detail dealing with the political, economic, and cultural phases of the progress of the state, which is of more regional interest than of wider concern.

A pictorial review section portrays both white men and Indians involved in the state's history with some interesting and relevant scenes. One of these is Mount Rushmore, which with its sculpturing, stands in grandeur in the Black Hills as a lasting and inspiring symbol for all America.

This book is the fruit of some thirty years of research on the part of its author, Dr. Herbert S. Schell, Dean of the Gradu-

ate School and Professor of American History at the State University of South Dakota. It preserves much interesting and valuable history of South Dakota and the great Northwest, and should be read with both pleasure and profit.

—Frank F. Finney, Sr.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
