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Book Reviews

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suit conditions and following the building of the *Camden* and *Belfast* in 1907 and 1909 for the Boston-Bangor run several steamers maintained the Kennebec service including the *Penobscot*, the *City of Bangor*, and the *City of Rockland* originally built for the Bangor line.

The New England steamboat services were considerably disrupted during the first World War and the Eastern Steamship Company abandoned the Kennebec line in 1917. In 1920, however, other interests formed the Kennebec Steamship Company which purchased and ran the *City of Rockland* until her stranding. Gone now are all the big white steamboats from the Kennebec and all the small ones too. One former Kennebec steamer still lives - the little *Sabino* that once carried the summer traffic from Bath to Popham Beach. Carefully restored she now carries steamboat enthusiasts on the Merrimac.

WRITINGS IN MAINE HISTORY
Books

Hunt, H. Draper. *Hannibal Hamlin of Maine, Lincoln's First Vice President*. Syracuse University Press, 1969.

Hannibal Hamlin of Paris Hill and Hampden will always be remembered in Maine as Lincoln's first vice president. Now Dr. H. Draper Hunt of the University of Maine, Portland, provides us with a modern, well researched biography. It re-enforces Hamlin's claim to rank with Blaine, Reed, and Fessenden as a Maine politician of national stature.

Born into a good family in Oxford County, Hamlin early broke the family's Adams-Whig pattern and became a Jacksonian. By 1835 he was in the Legislature and like many lawyers lost interest in the law when his political career blossomed. In principle he hated special privilege but not so dogmatically as to oppose subsidies for fishing and shipbuilding or import duties on potatoes and lumber. A professed 'hard money' man he was flexible enough during the Panic of 1837 to support limited paper issues. From a distance, he seems more a Conservative Democrat than a genuine Jacksonian.

While a young man, Hamlin was exposed to abolitionism when reading law in Samuel Fessenden's Portland Office. As a result he developed a disliking for the 'peculiar institution' but he rejected the aggressive approach of the

abolitionists. Hamlin held that since slaves were property under state jurisdiction, it was the "sacred constitutional obligation" of the North to leave slavery alone within southern states. All that could be done was to confine it. He adhered to this view up to the Civil War.

In Congress in the 1840's he fell in with the anti-slavery bloc of the Democratic Party. Like them, Hamlin was an enthusiastic expansionist while supporting the limitation on slavery contained in the Wilmot Proviso. His characteristic caution, however, showed itself when he refused to join these free-soilers when they bolted the party in 1848 and again in 1854. Prudently he waited until 1856 to enter the already well launched Republican Party. Only after the Civil War had begun and secession had violated the constitutional compact did he emerge as an outspoken exponent of immediate emancipation and retributive justice for rebels.

In 1860 when he was nominated to run on the ticket with Lincoln, availability was his prime asset. Hamlin represented the East; he was acceptable to the Seward faction; and his Democratic background balanced Lincoln's Whiggism. Once elected, however, his political power declined. Given only minor responsibilities, a bored Hamlin presided over the Senate where his chief accomplishment was to outlaw the sale of whiskey in the cloakroom. As a result he spent much time in Maine mending political fences and dreaming of being re-elected to the Senate. Despite this discontent with his office, Hamlin was deeply hurt when he was dropped from the ticket in 1864.

He soon broke with Andrew Johnson and supported Radical Reconstruction policies; had he been in the Senate he would have voted for impeachment. In his later years Hamlin became an uncritical admirer of Grant and with Blaine ran the Republican Party in Maine. Proudly he proclaimed: "I am a political partisan, I have been one my life long. I have little respect for any man who is not." Professor Hunt fills out but does not change the traditional image of a politician, who in an age of talented spoilsmen, had a remarkable ability for securing jobs and governmental favors for his supporters. Perhaps he was, as Gideon Welles who had little love for Hamlin once complained, "as rapacious as a wolf" for patronage.

On the intimate side Hamlin is revealed as a man with strong family attachments, a passion for cards, a deep love for Maine, and a patriotism and practicality which made him unappreciative of the art and "curiosities" he saw in Europe

while Minister to Spain in the 1880's.

This is a well written book and a valuable addition to the growing literature on Maine.

Ernest P. Muller
Professor of History, Bates College

Scontras, Charles A. *Two Decades of Organized Labor and Labor Politics in Maine, 1880-1900*. Orono, The Bureau of Labor Education of the Continuing Education Division of the University of Maine, 1969.

In 1883 Governor Frederick Robie noted the unrest in Maine's labor ranks and, in reply to the demands of the laboring men of the state, recommended a substitute for a labor union and the trouble it might bring. As it happened, the leaders of the Knights of Labor rejected Robie's formula of the simple application of "industry, energy, prudence, and common sense" to achieve success.

It had been just one year prior to the Governor's concerned announcement of unrest that the Knights of Labor had been officially established in Portland. From Portland the fever spread rapidly across the state (largely among shoe, granite, and textile workers) until in January, 1887, the order could report a list of 127 local assemblies--a number which was to be the zenith in membership.

The Knights struggled, first of all, for existence. The organization continued to be plagued with problems of administration. Ossian C. Phillips and Alexander A. Beaton, both District Master Workmen, fought the handicaps imposed by their unsalaried office, the size of District 86, and their inability to visit all the local assemblies. Further, there was the difficulty created by Bishop Healy's objection to their being a secret society--an entity abhorred by the Roman Catholic Church.

To achieve their aims, the organization engaged in politics. While some fragments of the order favored the formation of a political party, others looked to the efficacy of political pressure groups. Some of the members joined with the Union Labor Party and the Populist Party and some remained within the confines of the two major political parties.

The political program of the Knights of Labor in Maine (much of which failed to be realized) included a ten hour law, abrogation of imprisonment for debt and the trustee process, regular wage payments, establishment of a Bureau of Labor

Statistics, control of convict labor, abrogation of the 1889 Conspiracy Law, the secret ballot, free text books, and other reforms.

While tangential to the main thrust of the program of the Knights, some of their members engaged in cooperative movements, profit sharing, and utopian programs. The Portland Assembly, for example, formed a Mechanics and Knights of Labor Mutual Relief Association and founded a general store based on the Rochdale formula. Ara Cushman and Company of Auburn (shoe manufacturers) adopted profit sharing and opened a cooperative store. And the Rev. W.F. Eaton of Portland (the former treasurer of District 86) became enmeshed in a utopian scheme in Mexico.

By 1889 Alexander A. Beaton could report to Terrence Powderly at the national headquarters that Maine had only 933 Knights. The decline of the order was due to several causes. According to the *Industrial Journal* (no friend of the Knights) their diverse membership, strikes, intimidation, and boycotts killed the chances for success. The celebration of Maine's first legal labor holiday in 1891 was symbolic of the condition of labor in the state. Sitting on the same platform with Governor Burleigh were Alexander A. Beaton and Samuel Gompers--the former the representative of the dying order of Knights and the latter the herald of the rising American Federation of Labor. The funeral took place with the last Maine District meeting on January 22, 1895.

Two Decades of Organized Labor and Labor Politics in Maine is a well-documented work. The footnotes are extremely complete and informative (though some might say excessive). The material at the end of the book also further documents the sources. The appendix contains samples of Knights of Labor songs and poems; a list of local assemblies of Knights in Maine; strikes in Maine, 1881-1900; a brief biography of Alexander A. Beaton; a list of the official membership of the Knights; a list of Trade Unions in Maine in 1903; a national membership list of the AFL; the "Iron Clad" Contract signed by Auburn Shoe Workers, 1894; lockouts in Maine, 1881-1900; and Remarks of Justice Enoch Foster...on the boycott, coercion, and interference.

Professor Scontras has produced a work worthy to be ranked with the best local (state) history. His book is scholarly and is readable as well. The serious student of the history of Maine will search far before he locates a comparable work in this area of labor history (in Maine or anywhere else).

Edward O. Schriver
University of Maine

Fleming, Alice. *The Senator from Maine: Margaret Chase Smith*.
New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1969.

The life of Margaret Chase Smith has been such an open book it seems fruitless to sit down and read another account of her career unless some new light can be shed in the way of a fresh interpretation. What we have here is a charming story of a lady who easily and steadily reached the top almost without effort and without suffering political defeat at any turn except in her token bid for the Presidency in 1964 which most of us have forgotten about. All this because she had the common sense to be herself and to do and say the right thing in the eyes of her constituents - and people elsewhere judging from the honors that have been heaped upon her.

This slim volume has done exactly what was intended - to give a simple account for young readers of a woman politician who has held her own in what certainly is and always will be a man's world. For the greater part of her nineteen years in the United States Senate she has been the lone female member of the most exclusive "gentlemen's club" in the country. Her advice to young women brave enough to enter the field is, in dress be feminine, but not too feminine, let others do the talking, but when you do speak up, do it courageously. The book offers for the general reader a quick review of Maine's renowned Margaret Chase Smith (who, incidently, likes her name).

Elizabeth Ring
Maine Historical Society

Cohen, Sheldon S., ed. *Canada Preserved: the Journal of Captain Thomas Ainslie*. New York, New York University Press, 1968.

The march of Benedict Arnold and his men to Quebec in the fall of 1775 was one of the legendary feats of the American Revolution. It has inspired articles and books, among them that classic of historical fiction, Kenneth Roberts' *Arundel*, and the formation of a dedicated group of historian-archaeologists, the Arnold Expedition Historical Society. Part of a two-pronged attack on Canada, the section which took the difficult route up the Kennebec, through the bogs of Northern Maine, over the Height of Land, emerged exhausted and diminished in numbers on the St. Lawrence in November,

1775. There it was joined by Montgomery and his men of the Western section, victors over Montreal. The ill-fated attempt to storm Quebec at the year's end saw Arnold wounded, Montgomery killed and hundreds of the attackers made prisoner. Months of frustration followed as disease and desertion still further reduced the numbers of the besiegers; reinforcements proved insufficient and the arrival of substantial British forces with the Spring fleet made necessary the withdrawal of the invaders and an end to the major effort of the rebelling colonies to take Canada by force.

The story of this effort is well documented. Journals like those of Henry Dearborn, Dr. Isaac Senter, Return Jonathan Meigs and the fragmentary account of Arnold himself give the American version. There are several British journals as well; its most recent editor feels that that of Thomas Ainslie is the best of these. Ainslie was a British customs official in Quebec at the outbreak of the Revolution. Loyal to the Crown, he served through the siege as a captain of militia. His report on the background of the rebellion assigned a leading role to "the cunning N: England Demagogues," and he has a poor opinion of the rebel leaders, including "one Benedict Arnold." His hero is Sir Guy Carleton, Quebec's defender. He gives a detailed account of the siege itself and its aftermath to the arrival of the fleet in May, 1776.

There have been earlier editions of the Ainslie Journal, which survived in more than one version. This edition is based on the original manuscript, now at the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Professor Cohen has supplied a useful introduction, good footnotes, maps and illustrations. He makes more accessible both to scholars and to general readers interested in the 1775 attack on Quebec a version of these events which differs considerably from the standard American accounts.

Alice R. Stewart
University of Maine

Ring, Elizabeth. *Aids to the Teaching of Maine in the Public Schools*. Portland, Tower Publishing Company [1969].

This 61 page manual constitutes a revised edition of a pamphlet published in 1949. The author has thoroughly reviewed the current historical scene in the State, and her bibliographies are up-to-the-minute.

This manual deserves a far wider audience than its restrictive title would seem to indicate. Anyone working with local

historical societies or with state historical agencies would profit by studying the wealth of projects presented. Reference librarians in addition to students of Maine history will find a useful, modern bibliographical survey of the entire subject.

Unlike many teaching manuals which are totally dependent upon one particular textbook, this publication, happily, stands on its own.

Available from: Tower Publishing Company, 335 Forest Avenue, Portland 04101, for \$2.25 plus state sales tax.

G.M.

Briefly Noted

Vickery, James E., editor. *An Illustrated History of Bangor, Maine*. [Bangor Chamber of Commerce Bi-Centennial Committee, 1969]. This handsomely designed bi-centennial history features a host of fine illustrations plus a better than average selection of brief historical articles. Copies may be obtained from: Bangor Chamber of Commerce, 23 Franklin Street, Bangor 04401, for \$2.81 including state sales tax.

Storms, Roger C. *History of Parkman: Mainstream Democracy in Parkman, Maine, 1794-1969*. Freeport, The Dingley Press, 1969. An expanded version of the author's University of Maine M.A. Thesis, attractively printed in hard cover form with illustrations. Available from the author, Box 283, Lee, Maine 04455, for \$5.25 including state sales tax.

Camden-Herald Publishing Co. *Camden-Rockport Bicentennial: 1769-1969*. Camden, 1969. A lavishly illustrated booklet celebrating Camden-Rockport's bicentennial with an agreeable potpourri of articles dealing with the area's history, legends, and institutions. Available from the publisher, Camden, Maine 04843, for \$1.50 including state sales tax and handling.

Bearse, Ray. *Maine; A Guide to the Vacation State*. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1969. Since a number of reviews are appearing in the current press regarding this book, we shall withhold comment until *Maine: A Guide 'Down East'* is released in March, at which time, a combined review will be included.