

RCMP Schooner *St. Roch* had a rough journey on her first trip through the North-West Passage. That she made it is a tribute to the skill and courage of her skipper Sgt. Henry Larsen (now Superintendent Larsen, Officer Commanding "G" Division, RCMP) and to the dogged endurance of her crew.

Only those who have lived in the Arctic regions can have any conception of its complete isolation—the feeling of living in a world apart. "Arctic Assignment" pictures the existence of the *St. Roch's* crew while the vessel remained locked in the ice for two years and it is flavored with the salt tang of an authentic sea adventure.

The exploits of the *St. Roch*, and particularly her history-making voyages across the top of the continent, have been told before in *The Quarterly*, as well as other publications. This book deals largely with the schooner's first trip through the North-West Passage in 1940-42, but the author had the edge on others who have written about the *St. Roch* because he was a member of her crew on that memorable voyage. Those who knew Sergeant Farrar and were familiar with any of his writings, will recognize in this story his own personal touch, his native ability as a teller of tales. They will, I am sure, agree with this reviewer, that it is a great pity he did not live to see his favorite story in print.

H.E.B.

REGINA, The Queen City, by Earl G. Drake. McClelland and Stewart Ltd., Toronto, Canada. Illustrated. Pp. 260. \$5.

This is the story of the capital of Saskatchewan, of its struggling beginning, its sturdy pioneers, of the conflicts between the rival factions interested in its development and of its emergence as an important provincial centre and quiet wholesome community in which to live.

One might go so far as to say that the story of Regina is a story of struggle, because even Nature wasn't overly generous in providing bountiful natural resources, or a picturesque setting. Located in what was originally known as "the Barren Plains of the Souris", the site of the new capital of the North-West Territories was the joint selection of the Canadian Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway. Surveyors' reports showed that instead of

being "barren" the country-side actually contained "some of the finest agricultural land in the world". It had little else to recommend it however, and the disputes and discord which eventually followed selection of the town site, developed into a scandal involving Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney. From such an inauspicious beginning, Regina slowly and sometimes painfully began to assume the proportions of a community.

Among the pioneers whose dogged determination played such a vital part in the growth of the city, were many solid, respectable young people from Eastern Canada who quickly developed a strong civic-mindedness and community spirit. The book gives us a good idea of the lives these people lived, the activities they sponsored and the developments they planned. It tells of their religious life, their scholastic program and the social and sporting life of the young capital. It gives the darker side of the picture too, the disasters, set-backs, tragedies and back-breaking labor that was also part of Regina's growth.

Altogether it is a most enjoyable book, one that will appeal to those interested in Western history and also to those whose connection with the Mounted Police has made Regina "home" for some period in their lives.

H.E.B.

THE RAILROAD POLICE, by H. S. Dewhurst. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill., U.S.A., and The Ryerson Press, Toronto, Canada. Indexed. Pp. 211. \$6.

A bustling city terminal, a passing freight, a welcome warning whistle at night—the railroad is regularly proclaiming its presence and ceaseless activity. Less conspicuous to the public but ever as busy are those men whose job it is to protect the millions of passengers and tons of valuable freight transported by rail each year.

Each of the 400 individual railroads operating in Canada and the United States has its own police department, each with its own policies and practices. But when the need for co-operation exists, they work as one. They are highly esteemed by other police forces.

This book makes clear the fact that railroad policing involves a wide range of diversified activities and duties. Realizing the futility of trying to cover each of the