

detail from the viewpoint of the Mounted Police, by one who knew Commissioner Irvine, head of the Force at that time.

Important statistics about the NWMP and the West are also included—the first uniform, how the Force got its name, the first badges, the first recruits, the motto, the reason for the red tunic, the origin of the buffalo head insignia, legends, early criminal investigations, trails and sites now forgotten by most Canadians. In short a storehouse of historical facts and pleasant reading.

It's a history that all members and ex-members of the Force, and anyone interested in the annals of that organization will be proud to own. Historians will find it an excellent source of information about the progenitor of the RCMP and the Canadian West of yesterday. For in it is the true and factual story, with no lapses into hyperbole.

It was a tremendous task, and probably no one realized it more than the author himself. He completed it, despite ill health and intense physical suffering for over a year before he died, carrying on the proud tradition of those about whom he wrote. Sad indeed that he did not live to see the magnificent culmination of his efforts and ambition.

E.J.D.

GAMBLING. Should it be Legalized?, by Virgil W. Peterson. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill., U.S.A. and The Ryerson Press, Toronto, Canada. Pp. 150. \$3.50.

This book by the Operating Director of the Chicago Crime Commission comes just at a time when a Royal Commission has reported to the British Government its findings concerning public gambling in Britain, and when a Congressional Committee has reported preliminary findings on organized gambling in the United States. It is only a few months since a commission inquired into the activities of professional gamblers in Windsor, and as this is written, the same gentry are under the scrutiny of a committee of the Legislature of Ontario. These contemporary events are all significant in view of what is perhaps the most important fact developed by Mr. Peterson in his historical review of the problem, namely, that anti-gambling legislation comes from the experience that organized gambling, left to itself, becomes

an intolerable burden on society. As a conspicuous example, he traces the long career of the Louisiana State Lottery which for years dominated the political and, to a great extent, the economic life of the state, and even sought to spread its tentacles into the national capital.

His other strongest point is that "gamblers don't gamble". This he supports with convincing details, but here again, his strongest confirmation is found in contemporary events. Cases arising out of the basketball scandal are before the Court in New York, so that it would be out of place to discuss them here, but this much may be said, that, if the first reports can be relied upon, there has been a shockingly callous, and deplorably successful campaign to corrupt boys engaged in intercollegiate sport.

There is a tendency for discussion of the gambling issue to go off on moral grounds, and it may be noted that the British Royal Commission has expressly deprecated such arguments. Mr. Peterson for his part, has studiously avoided them, and treats the subject in its economic aspect. It may be that the promoters of organized gambling are less unprincipled, and less arrogant in Britain than they are in the United States, but we in Canada cannot afford to forget that our proximity to the latter country makes us vulnerable to the same evils as beset it.

This does not by any means sum up the whole of the author's case. He has made a valuable contribution to the dispassionate study of a complex and vexatious social problem.

J.C.M.

MANITOBA ROUNDABOUT, by Lyn Harrington. Illustrated with photographs taken en route by Richard Harrington. Ryerson Press, Toronto, Canada. Pp. 234. \$3.50.

According to the jacket, this is the first full fledged travel book on Manitoba. The title is derived from the fact that the author and her photographer husband use Winnipeg as the hub for a number of short trips into the province, rotating their direction like the spokes of a wheel.

Although its lovely name—Manitoba—perpetuates its favorable connection with the Great Spirit of the Indians, the story of the province has been one of struggle