

**Balf, Ruth. *Kamloops, 1914-1945*. Kamloops: Kamloops Museum Association, 1975. Pp. iii, 141. Maps. Illustrations. \$4.50**

A. F. J. Artibise

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system for the entire province; a proposal that was first made in 1912. Other proposals were put forward in the 1920's and 1930's, but it was not until the 1950's that construction of a province-wide system got underway.

In the process of explaining why this development took so long, Professor White examines the establishment and performance of the Saskatchewan Power Commission and the activities of privately and municipally owned utilities during the depression, the war, and the immediate war years. Other topics discussed in the book include the creation of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation in 1949, its negotiations with cities and towns to bring their electrical systems into an integrated system, and the corporation's rural electrification program. Throughout this book, there is much that is of interest to urban historians, particularly those concerned with the development of Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw and other Saskatchewan cities and towns. [A.F.J. Artibise, University of Victoria].

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Unlike many small or medium sized museums in Canada, the Kamloops Museum has always given written history and research a prominent place in its range of activities. The Museum has both an active archives committee and a productive history committee. Furthermore, the archives and resources of the museum are readily shared with the public; no mean task for an understaffed municipal museum.

Over the years, the Kamloops Museum Association has published numerous newspaper articles, several booklets, and at least one book. The latter was entitled Kamloops: A History of the District Up To 1914. It was written by the Museum's curator, Mary Balf, and was published in 1969. It has now been followed by a second study carrying the story of the "City in the Sage" to 1945.

Kamloops, 1914-1945 is a difficult book to comment on since it has been both major weaknesses and strengths. Written, as it was, under the direction of the Museum's History Committee (many of whom were actual participants in the events described in the book), the volume is sometimes more concerned with surface impressions than with deliberate judgements. The book also suffers from the lack of any formal or unifying organization; it is, rather, a series of often unconnected episodes covered under such headings as "Schools and Scholars", "Sports", "Parades and Pageants", "Representatives of the People", "Fire Fighting", and so on. But these and other problems, common enough in many local histories, are balanced by strengths not usually found in such works. The photographs included in the book are useful and enjoyable. More important, the book does grapple with several themes that are of interest well beyond the borders of Kamloops. Under such headings as "Hub City", "Ethnic Groups", and "The Local Economy", such themes as the role of boosterism, the relationships of a small regional center with its hinterland and its coastal metropolis, and the local reaction to the arrival of West Coast Japanese during World War II are examined. In short, while Kamloops, 1914-1945 could have been better, it is nonetheless an important addition to our growing collection of histories of individual urban centers. In time it, too, will provide the future historian of the Canadian city with valuable information.

Kamloops, Volumes I and II, are available from the Kamloops Museum Association, 207 Seymour Street, Kamloops, B. C. [A.F.J. Artibise, University of Victoria].

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Brault, Lucien, and Learning, John. La Salle Academy: New Life for a Heritage Building. Ottawa: Ministry of State for Urban Affairs, 1976. Pp. 110. Illustrations. Published in French as Academie de La Salle: un edifice patrimonial reprend vie.

Battles over the heart of the city have most often pitted the restorers against the razers with the latter being the more successful.