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# Lorimer, James. *The Developers*. Toronto: James Lorimer and Company, 1978. Pp. xi, 307. $14.95 cloth

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See table of contents

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layers needed to strike, for no employer dared challenge their control over the workforce or workplace skills. Street-railwaymen, brewery workers and civic workers made their gains in the context of public-supported legislation or arbitration. In the third place, few Toronto unions were obsessive about craft jurisdiction. Moreover, these supposedly feeble crafts had fought the Employers Association to a standstill by 1910. For this reason, the defeats of 1919 and 1920 were more than last tangos in Toronto. Since they were accompanied by a realignment of "left-right" forces within the union movement, a realignment unfavourable to militants locally and nationally, these defeats were part of a distinct era of labour history, not simply a culmination of previous trends. This, the weakest chapter in the book, is based on an inadequate general knowledge of the labour movement.

This is a book about workers as victims, not actors; the labour history equivalent to the survival theme of Canadian literature and federalist historiography. It is a study of conditions, not life. This aspect will be particularly disappointing to urban historians who may find Piva's focus on occupational class unduly formal and one-dimensional. As he argues in his introductory chapter on Toronto: "Although the ethnic, religious and spatial characteristics of Toronto's population had an important impact on the life of the city, the single most important social division occurred along class lines" (p. 14). Thus, class relations are not studied in terms of their ethnic, religious and spatial characteristics, but apart from them. That abstracted and lifeless conception of "the condition of the working class in Toronto" is what detracts from an otherwise informative and provocative work.

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Lorimer, James. The Developers. Toronto: James Lorimer and Company, 1978. Pp. xi, 307. $14.95 cloth.

Throughout the 1970s one of the most consistent and reliable chroniclers of the processes shaping Canadian urban centres has been James Lorimer. (Earlier books include The Real World of City Politics (1971), Working People (1972), The City Book (1976), and The Second City Book (1977). Lorimer is also an editor of the influential City Magazine). His latest book, The Developers, focuses specifically upon the land development process. This volume is based upon both a careful synthesis of existing work in this field and a considerable amount of original research. While the post-1945 period receives the most attention in the book, Lorimer does display some feel for historical events and processes, so The Developers should be of more than passing interest to historical

urban scholars.

Lorimer has divided The Developers into three basic sections. In the first of these he examines the changing organization of the Canadian development industry from a business dominated by individual entrepreneurs to one in which large-scale corporations now play the major role in urban development. Lorimer also assesses the general economics of the development industry and the role of various levels of government in fostering the development industry as it is known today. While he does provide some of the history of government housing policy, at times the discussion is sketchy. This area could prove to be fruitful ground for historical urban scholars. For example, a full-scale analysis of the impact and spatial activities of Wartime Housing Limited, a federal government agency that produced nineteen thousand housing units across Canada between 1941 and 1945, would be useful in helping us to comprehend later developments in the housing philosophy of the nation. Lorimer clearly provides readers of the Urban History Review with a number of interesting research possibilities.

The second section of The Developers is devoted to an evaluation of the major types of projects that have been tackled by Canadian development companies. Essentially, Canadian developers have channelled their interests in five directions: suburban housing projects, high-rise apartments, industrial parks, office developments, and shopping centres. Most Canadians come into contact with the products of the development industry on a daily basis. Lorimer devotes at least one chapter to each of these major development types, and his treatment of each includes an evaluation of the historical evolution of that development form, the prices and profits involved, and the role of various levels of government in encouraging such projects.

In the final section of The Developers, Lorimer examines the consequences of the achievements of the Canadian development industry. He emphasizes the profits realized by the large development corporations and points to undercurrents of dissatisfaction with the industry amongst ordinary Canadians, which have become manifest in alternatives to the products of the developers such as co-operative housing schemes. Lorimer also uses his final chapter to attack two popular myths concerning Canadian enterprise. He cites the emergence of the developers to refute the notion that Canadians are unwilling to gamble. The development industry, he argues, has been built up from scratch in three decades by an adventurous band of entrepreneurs who successfully responded to opportunities created for them by the government. This represented a distinct movement away from other more traditional and proven avenues of investment.

It has also been suggested that there is a shortage of investment capital in Canada. To progress as a nation, so the myth goes, foreign capital is essential, especially for major resource and industrial developments. Lorimer argues that the rapid growth of the development industry is proof that this is not true. In thirty years investment in real estate, as reflected by the total amount of money in mortgages, has swelled from

$600 million to $75 billion, a figure that dwarfs even such capital intensive projects as the James Bay hydro-electric development scheme. Given sufficient incentive, Canadians and their financial institutions have the ability to finance a considerable amount of development on their own. In fact, in what should prove to be the most controversial part of the book, Lorimer hypothesizes that over-investment in real estate development has retarded much needed modernization and expansion in other areas of the Canadian economy, especially in manufacturing.

The Developers is highly recommended to the readers of this journal. Some may not like Jim Lorimer's political and economic views, but most will admit that the story of the Canadian development industry is a fascinating tale. At the very least, The Developers points to the need for more detailed studies of all aspects of Canadian urban housing development prior to 1945.

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Hareven, Tamara K. and Vinovskis, Maris A., editors. Family and Population in Nineteenth-Century America. Quantitative Studies in History Series. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1978. Pp. xiv, 250.

If anyone needed proof, this book proves that historians can now crunch numbers as needlessly as sociologists and demographers. The book is made up of unrelated essays (more properly, papers) commissioned for, and discussed at, an advanced seminar on "the family in the process of urbanization" held in 1974. Time spent revising these essays may justify some of the four-year lag between presentation and publication; still, the lag is unfortunate. It is not that Nineteenth-Century America has changed in the interim; rather our conception of what social science is about may have changed.

These essays catch the tail end of a movement to quantify history that started, belatedly in America, in the 1960s (much earlier in Europe, where history and demography have long been friends) and melded into most of the rest of world history by the mid 1970s. These essays seem, therefore, not as anachronistic as the drum and bugle history some still write but, still, anachronistic. Out of charity it is possible to read these essays as though we were still living in the late 1960s and computers were darkly beautiful objects of mystery to historians. But more can be gained by asking: what do the contents of this time capsule mean to us today? And without difficulty, we can identify a few redeeming qualities in this book.