

South Pacific, 'but to tell the world . . . that we now contemplate it would be to defeat the object and prevent us from quietly acquiring paramount influence among the islands' (p. 356).

The book is rich in fascinating analysis and sound judgment, and there are some illuminating asides. It persuades us that the study of British imperialism is still a richly-rewarding occupation for the historian, whatever framework he adopts.

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Scotland and Australia 1788-1850, Emigration, Commerce and Investment.

By David S. Macmillan. Clarendon Press, 1967. xviii + 434 pp.
U.K. price: 75s. N.Z. price: \$10.35.

WHEN in the past my own research inquiries have taken me briefly to Scotland, I have wondered pessimistically whether the sources existed to make possible the important books which need to be written on the Scottish-Australian relationship. The neglect has been total, but a Scottish migrant to Australia has now made the first foray across the borders of scholarship with great success. This is not *the* book which might be written on the period, but it is a quite admirable pioneering achievement.

The book is divided at 1832 into two parts with twin sections on Scottish attitudes to Australia, emigration and Scottish-Australian companies which flourished in the eighteen-twenties and forties. Dr Macmillan's emphasis, however, is very much on the eighteen-twenties: Part I takes up over two-thirds of a long book and his detailed treatment of the Australian Company of Edinburgh and Leith more than one-third. Yet the ninety pages on emigration over the whole period are so rich that it is clear that an important and exciting book could be written on this subject alone. His survey of newspapers and periodicals has produced a surprising amount of material; and he has demonstrated clearly (no simple task) the impact of books written by Scots and mostly published in Scotland such as Patrick Colquhoun's *Treatise on the Wealth, Power and Resources of the British Empire* (1814), Alexander McConochie's *Summary View . . . of the Pacific Ocean* (1818), James Dixon's *Voyage to New South Wales* (1822), Peter Cunningham's *Two Years in New South Wales* (1827), J. D. Lang's *New South Wales* (1834) and John Waugh's *Three Years' Practical Experience as a Settler in New South Wales* (1838). Some of the most striking new views produced are of the explosion of interest in Scotland in Australia about 1820, the large Scottish contribution to the unassisted migration of the eighteen-twenties especially to Van Diemen's Land and the Hunter River, and the prominence among the migrants of genuine landed gentry. The Australian Company of Edinburgh and Leith, which did so much to promote this migration, was based on the Edinburgh Whig group of merchants and was highly significant as the first large-scale joint-stock British venture in trade with Australia and in establishing the first regular shipping-line. It was premature, however, and failed mainly because of the depression of the late twenties and the inability of the colonies yet to provide assured return cargoes.

The later period is treated far more cursorily, but the sketching in of the motivation and organisation of the assisted working-class migration of

the late eighteen-thirties (which was Scottish-wide, in contrast to the migration predominantly from the south-east of the eighteen-twenties) is admirable. So is the account of the two Aberdeen-based companies founded in 1839-40 — the unsuccessful North British Australasian Company and the highly successful Scottish Australian Company which concentrated on investment rather than trade and commerce. But Dr Macmillan's survey of Scottish opinion on the colonies in the later period is rather scrappy, he does not touch the migration of the later forties, and he neglects the Scottish contribution to Port Phillip: it is rather odd, for example, that outstanding men like William Westgarth, the Learmonth brothers, Angus McMillan and James Graham are not among the two hundred or so names listed in the excellent detailed index. Nor has he chosen to give more than passing attention to the pastoral industry in which the Scots were so prominent, although he provides by the way the interesting estimate that in 1848 about 30% of the pastoral lessees of New South Wales were Scottish (60% on the Darling Downs and 50% in the Western and Wimmera districts of Port Phillip).

Though in some respects this is an unbalanced book, a clear and detailed picture now emerges of the early Scottish contribution to Australia: relatively few convicts, and a disproportionately high contribution to middle-class migration, British investment in the colonies, the pastoral industry and the commerce of the capital cities. Dr Macmillan has handled his chosen aspects with authority and his writing is thoroughly competent, though curiously colourless. It should also be remarked that he may have made — I cannot judge — an important contribution to Scottish economic history. At the least he has cleared the way for more difficult work on the Scots in Australia, investigating, for instance, the degree to which their peculiar values and traditions were reproduced.

Who will tackle the equivalent, very different book on Ireland and Australia?

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Congressional Insurgents and the Party System, 1909-1916. By James Holt. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1967. 188 pp. U.S. price: \$5.50. N.Z. price: \$6.85.

STUDENTS of politics and social change during the 'Progressive Era' have worked with a remarkably imprecise vocabulary. Words such as 'reformer', 'progressive', 'insurgent', 'liberal', have been used interchangeably with results that are frequently confusing. The confusion is most apparent in attempts to offer explanatory hypotheses about the period in terms of a 'Progressive Movement'. We find that these hypotheses are forced to make some general sense of the substantially different temperaments, preoccupations and careers of such people as Robert La Follette, Jane Addams, Van Wyck Brooks and Woodrow Wilson. The standard resolution of the problem is to defer to the recent literature establishing diversity of intention and performance among 'progressives' but to cling finally to an irredeemably abstract notion of a 'progressive' climate of opinion. Here is a recent and typical example: 'Though they might agree on little else, progressives shared the view that the social order could and must be improved and that such change must not await God's will, natural laws, including the force of the