

no means merely impressionistic; her evaluation of her Settlement Officers' reports involves, as it should, a thorough-going analysis of the personalities involved. Here, especially, she reveals herself as the superb historian she is. But she may still be open to correction here and there. The 'revisionists' of the future may no longer be considering the North-Western Provinces as a whole (let alone, of course, all of India). They will probably be working in India rather than on the India Office records in London. They may well be looking very closely at a single district, or even merely at a couple of villages. Meerut district — where, Dr Whitcombe appears to admit, there was 'general prosperity', to some extent as a result of the extension of irrigation — might prove an interesting starting-point. But there are many other districts to the east of the hardly typical Meerut which, if investigated as closely as the records in India permit, will probably bear out most of Dr Whitcombe's conclusions. We must be grateful to her for providing us with such an eloquent and stimulating major work.

I. J. CATANACH

University of Canterbury

Squatter, Selector, and Storekeeper. A History of the Darling Downs, 1859-93. By D. B. Waterson. Sydney University Press, 1968. 310 pp. N.Z. price: \$6.30.

A Biographical Register of the Queensland Parliament 1860-1929. By D. B. Waterson. Australian National University Press, Canberra, 1972. xvii, 205 pp. N.Z. price: \$4.33.

EXPATRIATE New Zealanders are manifold in Australia, but Duncan Waterson is unique for a continuing second shift, insofar as he lectures at Monash University in Victoria but principally writes of Queensland, as far from Melbourne as Auckland is from Sydney.

Whatever the merits and demerits of this double translation Waterson's books show that he has gained from comparative studies. He first became interested in the achievements of pastoralists and agriculturalists in the Darling Downs region of Queensland from his work in New Zealand, and comparisons enter his books both implicitly and explicitly. Illumination is given by his comparisons: for instance he writes on pp. 3-4 of *Squatter* that the 'despised squatters were the ones who had established the basis of western civilization and its expanding technology on the Downs. Furthermore, as in New Zealand, it was this increasingly efficient and diverse technology which saved the farmers from a life of hopeless subsistence and even economic extinction.' His very choice of the Darling Downs, where squatting was to be succeeded by farming, reflects his earlier interests in parallel New Zealand areas.

Queenslanders should be grateful for his intervention for as he rightly claims in both books Queensland history has been neglected and his work must be preliminary on many points. Far too often, Queensland has been relegated to the footnotes while New South Wales and Victoria have monopolised the text (*Squatter*, p. 1). He admits that in his second book as a pioneer work 'many errors and omissions are bound to occur' (p. viii).

His work on the Darling Downs has rightly become and will remain a

standard regional history for both Queensland and Australia, supplementing earlier works such as Margaret Kiddle's *Men of Yesterday*, and later studies as G. L. Buxton's history of the Riverina. Besides stimulating other works on Queensland history, most unfortunately still buried as university theses, his work is valuable in questioning the over-simplifications of general Australian historians who perforce wrote national histories before either colonial (State) or regional studies had been completed.

Waterson's second book stems both from his initial study, which gave considerable stress to politics, and from his continuing interest particularly in one Queensland politician. In explaining why the Pure Merinos (whom he clearly disliked) were defeated on the Downs he was forced into attempts to analyse Queensland politics, which led him for instance to uncover a group that he thought could almost be described as 'professional politicians; men avid for a paid office with its power and perquisites' (*Squatter*, p. 2). As well he made the as yet unproven claim that 'Downs' politics reflected Queensland politics as a whole' (p. 4), and suggested for Queensland as well as the Downs that politics 'were a matter of personalities rather than parties . . . [yet] it is a mistake to assume that fundamental issues played little part' (p. 5). His second book with its short biographies of the 635 members who sat in the Queensland Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council in his period should give the raw material for analyses which can more definitely prove or disprove such questions. In practically every case he has been able to find the occupation of every member and some details of their lives. While the cautious historian will still need to check every reference (for each fact in the space given could not be related to a specific source, nor has any attempt been made to show the criteria for assessing the reliability of the various sources), we now have innumerable leads for illuminating not only Queensland politics but also those of the other states by comparison.

Waterson's own work is now centring around one Queensland politician, Sir Thomas McIlwraith, and on the basis of both of these books with their comparative approach Australian and overseas historians should look forward to the completed biography. It must throw light on Queensland politics and indeed on general Australian history, for McIlwraith was a significant figure for so many years. Waterson's Victorian residence is relevant insofar as Victoria supplied so much of the capital behind McIlwraith and his supporters. Waterson has also already suggested comparisons between McIlwraith and some of the rugged individuals in the United States.

Such virtues in Waterson's work relate to his double translation. It is relevant now that all outsiders should be watching Queensland, in the hope of understanding a unique leader from the soil very close to Waterson's Darling Downs.

R. B. JOYCE

University of Queensland

Makers of Fortune: A Colonial Business Community and its Fall. By R. C. J. Stone. Auckland University Press and Oxford University Press, 1973. 240 pp. N.Z. price: \$7.85.

DR STONE'S book is a skilful compression of his Ph.D. thesis, and it is a significant addition to the literature of New Zealand economic history in general and of the Auckland region in particular. It provides a lightly