

Indians. In doing so, he provides us with a valuable insight into the realities and even the dynamics of “gunboat diplomacy,” that much misunderstood (because never clearly examined) manifestation of the spread of European influence.

Professor Gough makes it evident that in this particular case — and let us remember that every example differed — there was no alternative method of maintaining law and order in potentially unruly frontier conditions. There were no police, no local militia, nothing. The resources of the Royal Navy therefore controlled to some extent the areas of settlement. Furthermore, and in contrast to the accepted view, the Royal Navy exercised its power, “the customary authority” in the words of one official, with moderation and often with benefit to both sides. Naval officers realised the potential dangers and were rarely keen to embark upon violent action.

The book has several maps, although not all places mentioned can be found therein. It has reproductions of many interesting photographs, a good index and is well referenced. The author has used a wide variety of sources. Some of these are obvious enough, but he has taken the trouble to consult not only the Admirals’ letters to the Admiralty, but also the station records of the Pacific squadron, that lower level of correspondence giving detail sometimes unobtainable otherwise. Owing to “weeding,” we must recall that Admiralty records have to be supplemented by almost any source available for the period 1840 to 1860, and so Professor Gough has drawn upon Colonial Office and provincial records too.

While Professor Gough’s period involves no great events, he has provided us with much food for thought in this useful volume.

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Personal Letters of a Public Man: The Family Letters of John G. Diefenbaker. THAD McILROY, ed. Toronto: Doubleday Canada Limited, 1985. 255 p. illus. ISBN 0-385-25005-3 \$24.95.

This book contains two hundred and fifty letters from the more than 65,000 documents found in the Family Series of the John G. Diefenbaker Papers. Given the immense proportions of this series one would expect an historical legacy unsurpassed in the archives of other Canadian prime ministers. While it is true that the quantity of these records outranks all others, the substance of the Family Series and, therefore, of this book, falls short of one’s expectations. Though we are able to plot the changes in Diefenbaker’s career through his relationship with his family over a sixty-year period, it is more difficult to uncover the inner nature and motivations of this quixotic figure. Diefenbaker confided in his two wives, his parents, and his brother about some of his fears, doubts, and ambitions, but it requires careful reading of these letters coupled with a thorough knowledge of the man and his times to glean any insights into the private side of his character. All too frequently the letters contain little if any information. As John admitted in 1946 to Elmer in a rare candid statement, “Edna says that I write the same kind of letter to her as I do to mother and to you. It is without any information. However, if I only write when I can think of something to write about, there would never be a letter.”

We do learn a good deal more about the people around Diefenbaker, including the important role played by Edna in assisting her husband during the early years of his fledgling political career. Her letters also paint a disturbing portrait of her struggle with depression, a series of physical illnesses, and eventually the leukemia which took her life. Diefenbaker's courtship of Olive Palmer is revealed through their exchange of affectionate letters. *Personal Letters* offers an image of a loving family led by parents quick to advise and full of the homespun philosophy that characterized the Diefenbaker *persona*. Elmer, John's younger brother, was criticized by some for his simple manner and unassuming nature, yet these letters demonstrate that Diefenbaker admired his brother most for those very qualities. No family is devoid of internal strife, and the Diefenbakers experienced some disputes. Occasionally Diefenbaker's political career interfered with his family duties. In 1944, election campaign commitments prevented him from seeing his parents on their fiftieth wedding anniversary. His gift could not temper the pain expressed by his mother in this memorable reply: "Fifty roses when all I wanted was sons. I never was so disappointed in all my life."

John Diefenbaker possessed an amazing knowledge of history and an extraordinary dedication to the preservation of archival records which portray his own place in history. These traits, however, were not coupled with much objectivity. This was made plain by his several attempts to shape the record to suit his own view of reality. As seen through his memoir, *One Canada*, he frequently took great liberties with historical facts and reformulated them to support his interpretations. The same is true in at least one case with his archival collection. The Family Series is augmented by the private papers of all his immediate family as they all predeceased him. He destroyed most of the correspondence of his first wife, Edna, and reduced to a bare minimum or deleted any mention of her in his biographical notes and in the autobiography. No doubt Diefenbaker was aware of the powerful tool that history could be. This had some effect on the manner in which his papers were preserved but, more importantly, it influenced the information he committed to paper. In *Personal Letters of a Public Man*, the selected family letters reinforce the sense that while our knowledge of the man has been broadened, very few of even his most private communications deepen our knowledge of the inner man. It is revealing that he left no private diary, perhaps another example of his literary inhibition.

The introduction and chapter notes, written by J.L. Granatstein, provide an incisive synopsis of Diefenbaker's career and family relations. The letters themselves extend to those readers fascinated by the life of John Diefenbaker an opportunity to explore areas not revealed in *One Canada*. For those who wish for more penetrating insights into the man and his motivation, however, this overly expensive peep into the personal mail of the Diefenbaker family is a disappointment.

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Seeking a Balance: The University of Saskatchewan, 1907-1982. MICHAEL HAYDEN. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1983. xix, 379 p. illus. ISBN 0-7748-0194-8.

Anyone interested in the history of educational institutions will greet this book eagerly since it sums up the history of the University of Saskatchewan in a way that one can use for comparison and reference. It speaks with an authority based on the author's use of a