

That the edition provides little new material is not a criticism of the publication, especially as this is not the point of this branch of the Carleton Library Series. Instead the series reprints these seminal texts for readers who may, like me, have missed them or may not have been in a position to appreciate them first time around. Furthermore, *Inventing Canada* does not need revising and updating in order to assert its significance within contemporary research on Canada at large or more popular concerns prevalent in the country regarding politics, environmentalism and geopolitics (to name but a few).

Indeed, Part 1: *Geology*, seems to have been reprinted at a particularly significant time, with its discussion of the exploration of Canada's mineral wealth and the significance of William Logan's geological survey to developing ideas of how a confederate Canada could operate. Zeller's articulation of the debates regarding Canada's resource wealth, with particular attention to its combustible minerals, has resonance with contemporary discussions regarding the Alberta Oil Sands that many would find interesting. The discussion of Canada's presence at the Great Exhibition in 1850s London and the significance of Logan's display in furnishing Canada's international reputation also has a hollow irony when compared with contemporary mineralogical debates.

Zeller's work has significant intersections with current academic research as well as contemporary events. Her ideas continue to be significant to the discipline of history of science, and current work by historians and (historical) geographers increasingly references similar themes. In Part 2: *Terrestrial Magnetism and Meteorology*, Zeller's discussion of the significance of imperial networks of scientific development, legislative processes and individual careers provides insight to a trend of work currently being developed within broader post-colonial studies. In this respect the republication of the work is significant as it should be available as a reference to the many scholars beginning work that intersects with the broad themes discussed in *Inventing Canada*.

Times have changed since the initial publication of *Inventing Canada*: academic research now has a more explicit emphasis on interdisciplinarity and Canadian Studies has become even more of a multi-faceted discipline. It is therefore appropriate that this reprint, in retaining the emphasis of the first edition, is given the chance to assert the publication's relevance to wider research and contemporary politics.

Philip Hatfield, British Library

Brian Titley, *The Indian Commissioners: Agents of the State and Indian Policy in Canada's Prairie West, 1873–1932* (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2009), xii + 266 pp. Paper. £26.99. ISBN 978-0-88864-489-3.

In this disturbing book Brian Titley explores the administration of Canadian federal Indian policy in the Prairie West during 1873–1932 through the biographies of the seven Indian Commissioners of the period. He shows that Prairie Indians were victims of various aspects of federal policy and the way the Commissioners and their subordinates chose to implement it. For example, in the early years, significant numbers of Prairie Indians died as a result of a policy of withholding food from those who resisted the Canadian government's efforts to control every aspect of their lives and eradicate their cultural heritage. It was a very effective strategy.

The Canadian government also sought to indoctrinate the young by removing them from the 'bad influence' of their parents by placing them in boarding schools or industrial schools

modelled on the infamous Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. The schools were funded by the federal government and run by a variety of Christian denominations. This was a less effective strategy. The increasingly under-resourced industrial schools for the most part failed to provide their pupils with the skills required to become manual labourers in white Canadian society. Most graduates of the industrial schools returned to the reserves. However, Titley reveals that an even more serious shortcoming of the schools was their failure to exercise their duty of care. Over the years government inspectors repeatedly found evidence of inadequate food, unacceptable standards of sanitation and ventilation and both physical and sexual abuse of pupils. Many pupils met an early death at the schools. For example, between 1894 and 1908, 28 per cent of the pupils at the Sarcee Boarding School died. The principal cause of death was tuberculosis. The Canadian government repeatedly failed to take action against the neglect and abuse because in the opinion of Commissioner William Morris Graham (1920–32) it preferred to listen to the excuses of the clerics than accept the factual reports of its own officials.

The aim of Canadian government policy was to ‘civilise’ the Prairie Indians. Commissioner Graham made a great effort to eradicate indigenous culture – in particular, religious ceremonies, which became a criminal offence. The Canadian government also sought to transform the Prairie Indians from hunter-gatherers to farmers. Graham promoted this policy through the creation and publicising of a model Prairie Indian farm. However, when Prairie Indians made a success of commercial agriculture this often made their white settler neighbours envious. In response, Graham’s predecessor, David Laird (1898–1908), had been only too happy to reduce the reserves in size or relocate them so that the Indians’ land could be sold to settlers. The Indians who were relocated might be allocated land many miles to the north that was largely unsuitable for agriculture. Notwithstanding his model farm, Graham also sought to reduce the size of reserves to free land for white settlement. Ironically, as Titley observes, there was still an abundance of uncultivated agricultural land available for purchase in the West outside the reserves.

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J.R. Miller, *Compact, Contract, Covenant: Aboriginal Treaty Making in Canada* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009), 448 pp. Cased. \$85. ISBN 978-0-8020-9741-5. Paper. \$35. ISBN 978-0-8020-9515-2.

Treaty settlements in British Columbia are the most recent outcomes of a process of negotiation and accommodation between indigenous peoples and settlers that has continued across North America since the seventeenth century. This study surveys treaty making throughout this entire period, thus covering agreements made through periods of trading, western expansion, international conflict and constitutional change. A dozen maps, and more than a dozen other illustrations, including cartoons, clarify and reinforce the narrative. Miller outlines transitions in the forms of treaties, comments on the contexts of negotiations and reveals conflicts between non-Natives and Natives involved in the treaty-making process. He identifies three main types of treaty that developed in sequence: commercial compacts, treaties of alliance and territorial treaties. The first, commercial agreements, established from the seventeenth century in north-eastern North America, accommodated Aboriginal ceremonial practices and involved the creation of ‘fictive kinship’ (p. 8) linkages between Aboriginal people and Europeans. These commercial compacts, embedded in a context of international competi-

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