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par Ralph R. Krueger

*Cahiers de géographie du Québec*, vol. 12, n° 26, 1968, p. 338-339.

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JACKSON, Donald. **Custer's Gold: The United States Cavalry Expedition of 1874.** 144 pp. + index & illustrations, Yale University Press, 1966.

In 1874, General George Custer, who was to become a legend in Western Americana because of his defeat and death on the Little Highorn two years later, led an expedition into the Black Hills of Dakota Territory. This region had been assigned to the Sioux Indians by the Treaty of 1868. At this time there was relatively little interest in the semi-arid land which composed the newly established Sioux reservation, but shortly thereafter rumors began to spread that part of this region was rich in gold.

As a result of the pressure from miners, newspapermen, frontiersmen, etc., to investigate reports that there was gold in the Black Hills, the United States Army ordered General Custer and the Seventh Cavalry to make a reconnaissance of the area. Donald Jackson has pieced together the story of this investigation by utilizing the writings of numerous individuals whose backgrounds and objectives are quite diverse, thus giving a new and certainly more human perspective to this expedition.

At least two of the enlisted men on this expedition have had their journals survive. That of Private William Zahn of Company G, Seventeenth Infantry, is phlegmatic and in some cases barely literate. On the contrary, that of Private Theodore Ewert, Company H., Seventh Cavalry, is extremely articulate and certainly vocal for he gives specific detail as well as his conjectures and reactions to various happenings. Information outside of the daily occurrences of an army on the march comes from members of the scientific corps that accompanied the expedition — the now young George Bird Grinnell and his assistant Luther North, geologist Newton H. Winchell, botanist A. B. Donaldson, and photographer William H. Illingworth.

Donald Jackson adds much new material to this familiar story of Custer's investigation of the Black Hills, and the inclusion of fine Illingworth photographs as well as several good maps contributes greatly to the story. Also the Appendices which illuminate and supplement the history of the 1874 Expedition will be helpful to the student. The author shows a good grasp of his subject, particularly when he asks: « Was Custer's expedition to the Black Hills a violation of the treaty of 1868? » And answers by stating « As originally projected it was not a legal violation. But the eagerness of the West for gold, and the eagerness of Custer for the limelight, turned it into a great public spectacle . . . As carried out by Custer, the expedition was a treaty violation in spirit if not in fact. » (p. 120) However, in the reviewer's opinion, this splendid, little volume which is Number 14 in the Yale Western Americana Series is somewhat marred by the author's strained attempt to write in a popular vein.

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### GÉOGRAPHIE ÉCONOMIQUE; CANADA

WOOD, W. D., and THOMAN, R. S. (eds.). **Areas of Economic Stress in Canada.** Kingston. (Ont.), Industrial Relations Centre, Queen's University, 1965.

*Areas of Economic Stress in Canada* presents the proceedings of a conference on that topic held at Queen's University in 1965. The conference brought together academics and policy makers from different disciplines to study both the theoretical and policy aspects of regional economic disparities in Canada. Both economists and geographers have long recognized regional differences in Canada's economic development. However, the geographers' regional description and analyses have not always been pertinent to the problems of formulating development policies, and economists have concentrated on the aggregative and sectoral aspects of the country's economy. Thus, it is noteworthy that this conference, dominated by economists and geographers, was called to study the regional aspects of economic stress in Canada.

The book is comprised of eight major papers, followed in each case by one or more discussant papers. The following list of major papers will provide some idea of the scope of the topics discussed. J. F. Graham, « Areas of Economic Stress in the Canadian Federal Context »; B. J. L. Berry, « Identification of Declining Regions »; A. D. Scott, « Policy for Declining Regions »; T. N. Brewis,

« Growth and the Canadian Economy: The Problem of Regional Disparities »; G. E. Reckord, « Federal Redevelopment in the United States »; G. Manners, « Areas of Economic Stress: The British Case »; E. G. Pleva, « Vital Issues in the Study of Aid »; and L. O. Gertler, « Development Policies at the Provincial Level ».

In this short review it is not possible to summarize and comment on all of the papers. Instead, I shall comment briefly on one paper that will be of particular interest to geographers.

Brian Berry, a geographer from the University of Chicago, uses multivariate factor analysis to identify areas of rural poverty in southern Ontario. Berry describes the method he used to transform forty-seven variables into four factor scores which are then mapped. Despite the fact that the maps are extremely difficult to interpret (some of them have no titles, and the legends are meaningless without reference to the text), they make very valuable contributions in identifying and describing areas of rural poverty. However, as the discussant, Donald Kerr, pointed out, « factor analysis is a very important tool in identifying characteristics of local areas . . . but it is simply a prerequisite for explanatory analysis and not a part of explanation *per se* ». Berry seems to have drawn conclusions that cannot be substantiated by his research. For example, he provides no evidence for his statement that the social disadvantage differentials « appear to stem from cultural deprivation among the French Canadians ». As Kerr says, geographers need to employ « traditional field methods to complement the type of multivariate analysis which Professor Berry has expounded . . . »

In conclusion, I would suggest that geographers interested in both theoretical and applied economic geography will find this volume very interesting and useful reading.

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### GÉOMORPHOLOGIE; ESPAGNE

Romulo Santana AGUILAR. **Géomorphologie des bassins de la Bidasoa et de l'Urumea.**

Thèse de doctorat d'université, Institut de géographie, Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines, Bordeaux, 1966, 162 p., 20 fig., 8 p. h. t.

L'ouvrage de Romulo Santana Aguilar a pour cadre deux bassins versants contigus des Pyrénées basques espagnoles du Guipuzcoa et de la Haute-Navarre; unités géomorphologiques indiscutables donc, traversant plusieurs secteurs structuraux: secteur côtier avec son chaînon tertiaire et ses couloirs, massifs anciens de la Haya et des Cinco Villas, bassins de l'intérieur, qui fournissent à l'auteur le plan de son travail.

Qui ne connaît pas le terrain de pareille région ne peut apprécier les difficultés rencontrées par le chercheur: il s'agit de ces moyennes et basses montagnes océaniques où l'abondance de la végétation donne au géomorphologue des envies de pyromane. Une autre difficulté pour l'auteur qui est chilien, celle de la langue française, n'apparaît nullement à la lecture. Ces deux obstacles préalables n'ont donc aucunement altéré la recherche et la rédaction de cet ouvrage de 162 pages, format idéal pour un tel objet.

Le plan suit donc le guide de la structure géologique, parfaitement connue de l'auteur, dont un exposé vigoureusement synthétisé coiffe chaque chapitre. L'analyse géomorphologique vient ensuite selon le cheminement classique, dont on peut regretter la systématisation; il est vrai que chaque secteur est réellement différent. Cette analyse s'attache à retrouver les étapes de l'évolution du relief à travers les diverses traces que celle-ci a laissées dans les formes. Là encore, la démarche est dans la ligne traditionnelle des recherches géomorphologiques.

L'auteur renonce sagement à bâtir une théorie sans preuves sur les éventuelles surfaces d'érosion sommitales qui auraient précédé le défoncement initial du relief, lui aussi hypothétiquement caractérisable. Simple allusion est faite aux climats tertiaires chauds et humides qui auraient permis une profonde altération des roches et par conséquent facilité cet enfoncement. L'étude s'attache surtout à l'évolution quaternaire qui a laissé d'indiscutables empreintes. C'est surtout dans les couloirs et bassins que celles-ci sont les plus nettes et permettent l'établissement d'une chronologie relative complète. Là se trouvent les témoins des glacis d'érosion en roche tendre attribués à une période semi-aride à dominante chaude où les pluies violentes, non freinées par le couvert végétal, exerçaient