Today, governments remain torn over policies of liberalization and moderation, proving Campbell's assertion that liquor "control is still as important as profit" (p. 192).

In many ways the essays in *Drink in Canada* reflect the diversity of research on the history of alcohol, summarized by Pamela McKenzie's thematic bibliography at the book's conclusion. It is still a very young field of inquiry, and Warsh's rich collection reflects the quality of social history already produced by scholars within it. The historians represented here have succeeded in explaining Canadians' ambivalent relationship with alcohol. I highly recommend this book as a valuable contribution to the burgeoning historiography of drink in Canada.

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Kris Inwood, ed. — *Farm, Factory and Fortune: New Studies in the Economic History of the Maritime Provinces.* Fredericton, N.B.: Acadiensis Press, 1993. Pp. viii, 274

In these times when fragmentation, deconstruction, and post-modernism are threatening the tranquillity of academic pursuits, it is comforting to reflect on the great historical debates of earlier and (for many historians) happier times. One of the great traditions of Western history has been the periodic emergence of a single issue around which historians' diverse interests could coalesce — the formulation of a single question whose answer, for a time at least, seemed essential to understanding an entire national or even international history. British historians argued for decades over the standard of living during industrialization before turning their attention to the troubling question of why Britain had no revolution in 1848. French historians worried for years over the question "Which class started the Revolution?", while German historians have been obsessed with "What happened to pervert our liberal tradition?" Although it is difficult to discover a definitive national debate in Canada, those from "the regions" have been united in their apparent diversity by the single question, itself a distinctively Canadian derivative of modernization theory, "Why didn't we turn out like Ontario?"

The calming effect of these single-question issues has, like the clarity and coherence of much of the research they spawned, been seriously disrupted by the international collapse of functionalist systems and positivist ideology. Over the past decade, as Giovanni Levi summarizes, "what has been called into question is the idea of a regular progression through a uniform and predictable series of stages in which social agents were considered to align themselves in conformity with solidarities and conflicts that were in some sense given, natural and inevitable" ("On Microhistory" in Peter Burke, ed., *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*, Penn State University Press, 1992, p. 94). The essays in *Farm, Factory and Fortune* suggest that, while social historians may be writhing under crumbling monolithic explanations and destabilized structures of meaning, Canadian economic

history continues to provide a safe haven in an otherwise turbulent intellectual world.

Noting once again the "slow growth" of the Maritime economy in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, editor Kris Inwood has brought together eleven papers that "may be read as a collective investigation of regional underdevelopment during the formative years" of Maritime history (p. vii). Despite the inclusion of the word "new" in the subtitle, most of the essays in this collection are reprinted from issues of *Acadiensis* and furthermore constitute familiar cogs in the well-worn but intricate machinery of Maritime economic history. Readers are not asked to deal with "new" questions surrounding the social construction of "primary" sources, the legitimacy of social science methodology, the ideological premises of economic theory, nor, with some notable exceptions, the plurality of either behaviours or interpretations. Instead, the majority of articles in the collection invite the reader to participate in the creation of a new consensus about the old question: "Why didn't the Maritimes develop like Ontario?"

This time-tested approach to Maritime economic history has provided the framework for some impressive research and analysis. Ken Cruikshank takes issue with historians such as E. R. Forbes and T. W. Acheson (against whose arguments many of the articles in this book are directed) and provides evidence from the Intercolonial Railway that high freight rates did not inhibit "normal" development in the Maritimes. In a similar vein Gregory Marchildon modifies conclusions that the financial activities of Max Aitken, R. Stairs, and the Scotia Group were causal factors in the region's industrial decline. In their detailed study, Quigley, Drummond, and Evans compare the savings and loans behaviour of the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Royal Bank across Canada to argue against regional discrimination in the Maritimes and to deny any "causal link between the policies of Canadian banks and the economic problems of the Maritime Provinces"(p. 219).

Marilyn Gerriets demonstrates that the General Mining Association of Britain company created high prices for coal that inhibited industrialization, but she enters into the general spirit of the collection by arguing that Maritime historians should be cautious about where they lay the blame for economic inferiority: "the events of history have denied us the opportunity of knowing with certainty whether Nova Scotia had the potential to become more highly industrialized"(p. 92). Only E. R. Forbes, in the last essay in the collection, makes a clear case for the active role of the federal government in intensifying poverty in the Maritimes. He argues that the federal policy of matching grants in the 1930s was relatively disadvantageous to the Maritime provinces, whose already overburdened municipal and provincial governments were unwilling to increase their contribution to relief programmes.

In his essay "Maritime Industrialization from 1870 to 1910", Kris Inwood reopens an older debate by providing new evidence that the industrial decline in post-Confederation Maritime Canada can be explained by reference to the exigencies of a staples economy and the search of Maritime capitalists for better capital returns. In a second essay, Inwood joins James Irwin to examine regional disparities by using detailed calculations from census data to calculate commodity incomes in a variety of sectors in different regions before Confederation. Their research

suggests that Maritime incomes, based on agriculture, fishing, mining, and lumbering, were lower than those in Ontario, where agriculture provided a higher income. Like Cruikshank and Marchildon, they suggest that the "problems" of Maritime Canada cannot be traced to Confederation.

It is in the essays dealing with the pre-industrial rural economy that this book comes closest to fulfilling the promise of its subtitle. By emphasizing the role of rural economies, the editor is broadening the scope of economic history, which has, as he points out in the introduction, been dominated by urban and industrial economic formations. A. R. MacNeil looks at the benefits accruing to settlers who look up land in Annapolis Township and offers compelling evidence that New England settlers benefited from the earlier improvements and livestock of exiled Acadians. Béatrice Craig and T. W. Acheson look at colonial New Brunswick, both arguing that the polarities provided by the traditional historiography — self-sufficiency vs. market orientation, farmer vs. logger — do not do justice to the economy of New Brunswick in the nineteenth century. They argue that the rural economy was a complex one, based on a shifting economy of wage labour, commercial farming, and subsistence agriculture that changed according to historically and geographically specific variables.

Outside of a few nods in the direction of household or informal economies, the categories used to define social and economic change throughout this collection — productivity, wealth, development, progress, income, employment, industry — are untroubled by the scrutiny that scholars in other disciplines are bringing to these "naturalized" categories of social analysis. This is brought home with particular force in D. A. Muise's detailed study of women's role in the paid workforce in three different areas of Nova Scotia. The author raises a number of important questions around the anomalous relation of women to industrial capitalism. The discovery of the gender-specific nature of women's employment, like its age-specificity and low pay, will come as no surprise to most historians, but it is interesting to see international patterns worked out in the varied contexts of Maritime Canada. Willing as Muise is to include women as active participants in Maritime industrialization, however, he ultimately fails to explain either the reasons for the disjuncture between men and women's industrial participation or its effect on the regional economy. The explanatory concept of "cultural norms" only obfuscates the deeper links between gender, neoclassical economic discourse, and industrialization that are being explored elsewhere by historians like Alice Kessler-Harris, economists like Nancy Folbre and Marjorie Cohen, and political theorists like Carole Pateman. As a result, women, like so many Maritimers throughout this collection of essays, continue to sit awkwardly on the margin of "economic" behaviour, the significance of their lives and work eclipsed by an economic ideology that privileges markets, paid work, and the structures of formal economic development.

Scholars will find this collection a stimulating addition to the ongoing debate about economic development in the Maritime provinces. This reader, however, is left wondering how long it will be before Canadian economic historians notice the political and ontological implications of their research and address the issues of

gender, power, and academic legitimacy that lie deep in the heart of economic history. Until then, they will no doubt continue their impressive scholarly analyses of the interesting question: Why is it, again, that we are not like Ontario?

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Duffin, Jacalyn — *Langstaff: A Nineteenth Century Medical Life.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993. Pp. vii, 383.

The story of Dr. James Miles Langstaff fills a void in scholarly Canadian medical history. The Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine's biographical series, "Canadian Medical Lives", has in most cases narrated the triumph of medical science through accounts of the contributions of important and well-known medical personnel. Most other studies of medical practice in Canada have examined large groups of medical practitioners. Standing in sharp methodological contrast to previous historical works, Jacalyn Duffin's study of a typical country physician of the mid-nineteenth century contributes greatly to our understanding of general medical practice.

Through systematic analysis of Langstaff's casebooks for information about diagnosis, therapy, and medical opinion, Duffin is able to measure his reaction to innovations and events concerning the medical community of Ontario: medical education, political issues, public health, and legislation. Judging from this doctor, country practice was not necessarily static or "backward". Langstaff kept well abreast of medical innovation. Moreover, he formulated hypotheses about the relationship between symptom and disease based on his own clinical observations and experience. Both he and his spouses took on causes for social reform outside the realm of medicine. As a result, Duffin's book contributes to Canadian historiography not only as medical biography, but as social history of medicine.

The therapeutic perspective the book provides is well integrated into sections on obstetrics, surgery, infectious diseases, and the doctor's attitude toward addiction and mental health. Duffin combines a Rosenbergian definition of therapeutics, which includes bedside manner, counselling, and generally acting as "confessor", with a Warnerian perspective, that of actual clinical practice. She determines that "Langstaff recognized the importance of psychological support for his patients, but he also relied ... on drugs, bleeding, blisters, and other material treatments in all decades of his practice" (p. 91). The doctor seems to have displayed surprisingly little therapeutic nihilism, untypical of his period, except when he was unused to performing a new procedure. He balked at doing risky internal and abdominal operations, for example, more than the superficial, external ones (pp. 176, 254). He did become more sceptical of new therapeutics later in his career, however, possibly because the novelty of new drugs had worn off.

In spite of these clinical reservations, Langstaff's therapy was the most innovative and least static aspect of his practice. If the continued presence of old drugs in his