

advanced, rather than one whose total effect is to suggest that there has been no forward movement at all.

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*Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. III, 1741 to 1770. University of Toronto, 1974.

In many ways, criticism of this enterprise would be an invidious activity. As the volumes of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* come from the press they are instantly shelved as the indispensable reference work for those in any way occupied with Canadian history. The high standard of research, the clear prose, the pleasant organisation of the entries on the page, the system of cross-references, every aspect of the volumes seems to please. Further, the presentation of introductory essays which focus upon the most obvious framework of events for the volume add considerably to the value of the enterprise. The overwhelming reaction to each new volume in the series is one of thankfulness. Here is good grist for almost every-one's mill.

From the stand-point that this work is both a most worthwhile endeavour and well-executed, any comment is more in the nature of a query than a complaint. The idea of introductory essays is itself so helpful that one wonders why it has not been expanded, and five or six pages of additional commentary included that dealt specifically with the major aspects of the economy and of the social structure of the time. The net cast for contributors is so inclusive, catching people as diverse as a graduate student of anthropology at the University of Iowa, and a retired naval officer in East Molesey, Surrey, England that it is something startling to discover that the sole tentative link to the Centre d'Études Acadiennes, Moncton, New Brunswick, is the work of René Baudry, the Paris based archivist for the Public Archives of Canada. Was the help of the Centre not sought? or was it not forthcoming? When one is aware of the immense genealogical work that has been carried on at this Centre and also of the impact of the deportation of 1755 upon Acadian lives, the omission seems curious. Considering that, at a most conservative estimate some four thousand Acadians perished between 1755 and 1763 alone, this lack needs an explanation.

The Leblanc family is represented by one entry. No mention is made of René Leblanc, the notary who had worked for peace between English and Acadian over many years. Yet the gentleman himself is not difficult to trace through the records of Pennsylvania archives and most of the relevant documents from these archives are now in Moncton. The list of Acadian leaders omitted is a long one and the issue is really less the absence of names than the absence of explanation for this lack.

But a work such as this *Dictionary* is obviously a work envisaged as one always in process. Whether by supplemental volumes specifically related to those first designed or by some other method, this enterprise must already be considering how revisions and additions are to be handled. In the meantime, whatever queries can be voiced, or complaints registered, the volumes now published stand on their own: an inestimable contribution to Canadian scholarship.

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