

Lane, Robert. *Policing the City: Boston, 1822-1885*. New York: Athenium, 1975 (originally published in 1967 by Harvard University Press). Pp. 299

D. A. Muise

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A common complaint of Canadian urban historians is that a general, comparative history of urban development in Canada is next to impossible since so few studies of individual towns and cities have been completed. Fortunately, this situation is changing since this study of the development of the Swift Current region is only one of several such studies completed and published in recent years.

Grassland Settlers traces the story of Swift Current and its environs from its original establishment in the early 1880's in south western Saskatchewan, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, through its early days of tented buildings and false-fronted stores, its exciting months as a military base during the North West Rebellions, its brief period of trail-freighting, its years as a ranching area for both cattle and sheep, to the coming of the sodbusters, and the incorporation of Swift Current as a town in 1907. In the process of writing this detailed account of the evolution of a community, the author has made effective use of several maps and statistical tables and included over thirty well chosen illustrations.

This volume is the fourth to appear in the Canadian Plains Studies series. Other books in the series are Esterhazy and Early Hungarian Immigration to Canada by Martin Louis; and two books edited by Richard Allen, A Region of the Mind and Religion and Society in the Prairie West. [A.F.J. Artibise, University of Victoria].

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Lane, Robert. Policing the City: Boston, 1822-1885. New York: Athenium, 1975 (originally published in 1967 by Harvard University Press). Pp. 299.

This book is a reprint of an important study that pioneered the field of the development of police forces in North America. Three threads are interwoven into the fabric of the narrative: how Bostonians

outgrew their traditional fears of police officers as a threat to political liberty and personal freedom; how the city of Boston created a professional police force; and how political and social strife developed over police issues between city reformers and city leaders and later between state and city.

The American experience described in this study is particularly pertinent to the study of the same phenomenon in Canada since many of the issues recurred in the Canadian setting, especially in the Maritimes, later in the century. [D. A. Muise, National Museum of Man].

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Gertler, Leonard O. Urban Issues ("Making Man's Environment" Series). Toronto: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1976. Pp. 204.

Considering the widespread interest in urban problems, it is a pity this book is so badly conceived and written. Many urban issues are indeed discussed, but so little context is given that one is obliged to search for meaning beneath the vagueness and verbiage. It is true there is reference to such questions as land costs, public versus private development, control of land for public benefit, and protection of recreational corridors. But, for example, at the beginning of Chapter IV, three "new communities within metropolitan areas" are discussed in the space of only three paragraphs, one per community. In the same chapter, Helsinki's Tajnola is cited with approval and Stockholm's approach to an integrated region is praised, but the description of each is so sketchy and incomplete that one is obliged to take the author's word for it that these are innovative solutions to contemporary urban problems.

Chapter V is the most cohesive chapter. Here a case study (regional planning in Alberta) is developed, and consequently the issues posed are better understood. Unfortunately the depth and clarity of