

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

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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,