

nography, and climatology, Sapper produced an average of better than ten papers a year throughout his productive life. He laid the foundation for modern scientific geology and anthropology, as well as geography, in Middle America. His student, Franz Termer, details Sapper's extensive travels as an example of what a young man could (and still can) do with a modest expenditure of funds if he has the will. The effects of such broad field experiences are long-lasting and incalculable. The opportunity still awaits all young students of culture and environment in tropical America. The wonder is that so few respond.

University of California, Berkeley

JAMES J. PARSONS

From Atlantic to Pacific. A New Interocean Canal. By IMMANUEL J. KLETTE. New York, 1967. Harper and Row, Publishers for the Council on Foreign Relations. Policy Book Series. Maps. Notes. Index. Pp. x, 143. \$4.50.

This compact book by Colonel Immanuel J. Klette provides the reader with a concise survey of the problems, political as well as technical, involved in building a new isthmian canal. The Council on Foreign Relations is to be congratulated for sponsoring the study.

While the existing canal can handle the volume of traffic for some time to come, it is unable to provide transit for the largest cargo and military vessels. The United States is considering enlarging the present canal or building a new one. Several routes are being investigated: two in Colombia using the Atrato river, one on the San Juan river between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and the Sasardi-Morti route in Panama. Klette examines the problems of construction by either nuclear or conventional excavation. The former presents major political problems, while the latter requires substantially greater expenditures of money and time. In his opinion the Sasardi-Morti and the Nicaragua-Costa Rica routes are best from the standpoint of defense, construction, transit, and politics; but the Sasardi-Morti route is feasible only if nuclear power is employed in construction.

Among the nontechnical problems cited by the author the preeminent one is that of United States relations with the host country. Would there be an annual subvention to the host? Would the United States be permitted to maintain military forces adequate for the safeguarding of the route in the immediate vicinity of the canal? How could harmful effects of a new canal on the economy of the host country be offset? How would responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the canal be shared? Klette poses the questions and gives some tentative, necessarily incomplete answers.

The reviewer would quibble on a few points, none of which is significant to the main thesis. Did the first interruption of Spanish commerce across Panama occur in 1579 (p. 5)? Does the Senate "ratify" treaties (p. 15)? Should not "veiled preference" (p. 37) be "veiled reference"? The allusion to the United States' role in South Viet Nam (p. 93) detracts from the otherwise dispassionate and objective presentation. On balance this is a fine study, for the author does what he sets out to do. In a very brief compass he delineates the major problems facing those planning a new canal.

Mankato State College

CYRIL ALLEN

The Decline of the Californios. A Social History of the Spanish-Speaking Californians, 1846-1890. By LEONARD PITT. Berkeley, 1966. University of California Press. Notes. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 324. \$7.95.

This scholarly and provocative study of American social history does not deserve oblivion among parochial state histories, for it describes a series of events that took place again and again throughout the Southwest with only minor variations. Its theme is the manner in which the new Spanish-speaking Americans were systematically pushed aside into political subordination by the English-speaking Americans who took control after the war with Mexico.

The term *Californios* requires explanation. As Pitt says, "the central concern here is with the native-born Californians, or *Californios*, and to a lesser extent with Mexican immigrants." He prefers the term *Californios* over "Spanish-speaking," or "Mexican-Americans," although a hundred years after the events few things will arouse such heat among this ethnic group as a discussion of their name. (The current term used by the U. S. Census Bureau is "Spanish White"!) *Californios*, therefore, may not please everyone, but few will dispute the value of his work, for Pitt has recounted a sad and discreditable chapter in American history that bears closer study, if we are to benefit from the eternal proximity to Mexico rather than lament it.

The author traces the encounter between Anglo-Americans and Hispanic-Americans from the early 1830s to the end of the century. He gives attention to the cultural differences that made it difficult for the two peoples to understand each other and adjust to mutual satisfaction. The final solution was imposed by the Anglo-Americans, who proceeded to consolidate their military victories over the remnants of the defeated peoples. Since the *Californios* were not a homo-