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America's New Frontier, the Mountain West. By MORRIS E. GARNSEY. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

314 pages. 1950;

The Rural Economy of New England; A Regional Study. By JOHN DONALD BLACK . . . Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. 796 pages. 1950.

ACCORDING to the author, *America's New Frontier* is *The Mountain West*, and in the preface and all through this book he refers to this area as a region. The subtitle of *The Rural Economy of New England* is "A Regional Study." While, therefore, a review of either book on some other focus of reference would require discussion considerably different than what is presented here, the authors of these two books have invited a consideration of their contribution to regional analysis. But the books are so dissimilar in content that it would be unreal to review them, so to speak, in parallel columns.

The author of *America's New Frontier, The Mountain West*, believes that this area of eight States has so many common denominators of natural resources and types of production, of history, population characteristics, institutional development, political and other types of ideological behavior, that it acts and is treated by others as a region. Furthermore, that its future depends to a considerable extent on its and others' intelligent recognition of this fact. He says in his preface that "a region is formed to a very large extent around its resources, and the material well-being of its people depends upon the effective utilization of the resources at their disposal." His theory of the value of regionalism is clearly recognized when with the above quotation is coupled the following: "The United States is a single integrated economy within which different regions exist with their own peculiar problems and special interests. But the interests of the parts are also the interests of the whole and the welfare of the National economy depends upon the integration and balance of the various regions which constitute the total National economic organization." He asserts that it is because the economy of The Mountain West is more directly influenced by the physical environment than any other portion of the United States, that it is primarily a livestock and not a crop agricultural economy, is a forest and grazing area, is a mineral and mining area, etc. He relates these basic physically determining facts not only to the economic development of the region but to the attitudes and ideas of its people and to its political

behavior. Most important of all he relates them to its potential development and uses a knowledge of them in recommending a 12-point "Program for Action."

The reader should assume from what has been said in this necessarily brief analysis of this book as a contribution to regional analysis that its author used most of its space to present a theory of regionalism. Quite the contrary is true. His 20 chapters and the appendix include 21 tables, 8 maps, and 5 charts, which are unique in their highly selective and analytical presentation and use. Many of them present data on Mountain States and United States comparisons, others on time trends within the region. Moreover, his discussion is replete with economic, social, and political analysis, all of it forthright and intellectually critical.

The author of *The Rural Economy of New England; A Regional Study* does not present any large portion of either his data or ideas in terms of regional concepts. Furthermore, his study deals only with the rural economy of the region and "rural economy is taken in the main to be rural land-use economy." After stating that "the most useful basis of classification of areas for this and other studies like it is similarity of interests and of social relationships," he says "... let it be very clear that nothing in the situation gives reason for setting off the States of New England rigidly from all the rest of the country. . . . All that can be said is that the six New England States taken as wholes have more interests and social relationships in common with each other than with any other states, and that it cannot be said of any other that it has more of these in common with the New England States than with some other group of states."

Whether the author would have proved or disproved this assertion had he subjected his myriads of data (and others which would have been required) to statistical tests, he does not know. It is therefore only by broad comparisons of his data, compiled for other than regional analyses, many of them fragmented or atomized so far as a regional universe is concerned, that *regional analyses are accomplished*.

Nevertheless, this volume is a compendium of

knowledge on New England and an exceedingly valuable source book on one of the major regions of the United States. Furthermore, it does not fail in its many detailed analyses to give to any one interested in regional analysis authoritative data on and interpretation of such regional characteristics as types of agricultural production—dairy, poultry, vegetable, maple products, tobacco, and even fruit. It gives due consideration to the unique roles of woodlands, recreational uses of lands, and part-time farming, and relates these to soils, climate, urban population and industrial development.

One looking especially for regional data and interpretations will find them primarily in chapters 1, 2, 35, and 36, where the author sets forth his "assignment," gives his answer to "What is New

England?" and discusses "Trends, Prospects, Potentials" and "Regional Policy and Program." In all of these, however, and throughout the book it is clear that the author has little concern with regionalism. Like the author of the other book reviewed here, he is convinced that "any sound program for New England (as a region) must be geared in with National programs in such a way as to promote the common interests of New England and the Nation." Unlike the other author he never says and does not seem to believe that New England is a social entity with its own "peculiar problems and special interests." Undoubtedly there are differences between the two areas and both authors could be right. If so, this in itself is an important regional fact.

Carl C. Taylor

Selected Recent Research Publications in Agricultural Economics Issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Cooperatively by the State Colleges¹

CHRISTENSEN, RAYMOND P., and MIGHELL, RONALD L. COMPETITIVE POSITION OF CHICKEN AND EGG PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES. U. S. Dept. Agr. Tech. Bul. 1018, 58 pp., illus.

Attempts to answer questions concerning reasons for the low prices of chickens and eggs and the increase in production, whether the expansion in output will continue, whether producers have a balanced farm program and are using resources to best advantage, whether consumption of protective foods will increase so that present production will be absorbed at prices acceptable to producers.

DAVIS, JOE F., and STRICKLER, PAUL E. ELECTRICITY ON FARMS IN THE EASTERN LIVESTOCK AREA OF IOWA—A PROGRESS REPORT. U. S. Dept. Agr. Cir. 852, 88 pp., illus. September 1950.

Four-fifths of the electricity used on the sample farms in 1947 was used in households. Other uses discussed as well.

DUCOFF, LOUIS J. MIGRATORY FARM WORKERS IN 1949. U. S. Dept. Agr. Agr. Inform. Bul. 25, 20 pp. 1950.

Relates to a sample representing approximately 420,000 persons, 14 years old and over, in civilian population at end of 1949 who did migratory farm work in 1949.

EARLE, WENDELL. BUSINESS OPERATIONS OF NORTHEASTERN WHOLESALE EGG BUYERS. N. Y. (Cornell) Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 868, 24 pp. May 1950. (Northeast Regional Publication 4; RMA; BAE cooperating.)

Includes analysis of information obtained in summer of 1948 from 182 wholesale egg receivers: 44 located in New York, 88 in Pennsylvania, 13 in Connecticut, 17 in Maine, and 20 in Massachusetts.

FUGETT, KENNETH A., BAYTON, JAMES A., and BITTING, H. WAYNE. CITRUS PREFERENCES AMONG CUSTOMERS OF SELECTED STORES. Tex. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 722; 48 pp., illus. June 1950 (RMA; BAE cooperating).

At the prevailing level of prices for citrus and competing products consumers were more sensitive to changes in quality of citrus products than to changes in price.

GARLOCK, F. L., TOSTLEBE, A. S., BURROUGHS, R. J., LARSEN, H. C., LINGARD, H. T., JONES, L. A., and WALLACE, M. E. Under the direction of NORMAN J. WALL. THE BALANCE SHEET AND CURRENT FINANCIAL TRENDS OF AGRICULTURE, 1950. U. S. Dept. Agr. Agr. Inform. Bul. 26, 46 pp., illus. October 1950.

¹ Processed reports are indicated as such. All others are printed. State publications may be obtained from the issuing agencies of the respective States.