Both volumes are rich in plans, diagrams, tables, and illustrations, and are replete with indexes. Each contains a good beginning bibliography of the book's subject, of 18 and 19 pages, unannotated, and listing books and articles; that in volume I itself includes bibliographies, and volume II includes publications of both the 19th and 20th centuries.

Review Editor

Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Volume IX, 1861 to 1870. Editors: F.G. Halpenny and J. Hamelin. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1976. 967 p., cloth, \$20.00 ISBN 0-8020-3319-9

It is now 12 years ago since the first volume of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*/*Dictionnaire biographique du Canada* was published. Since 1966 four more volumes have appeared, while another six volumes are in preparation. In 1972 the *DCB* published the first volume (X) for the nineteenth century, covering the decade of 1871 to 1880. Volume IX deals with persons of Canadian interest who died during the Confederation decade of 1861-70. Hopefully, the next volume to be published will be number XI (1880-90). After all, the men and women who died between 1860 and 1890 represent together all the major themes of Canada's checkered nineteenth century.

Volume IX consists of 524 different biographies, written by more than 300 contributors, many of whom are professional historians. The articles range from brief summaries to full-scale biographical essays of up to twelve thousand words. There is perhaps some irony in the fact that the two longest essays deal with the two great antagonists of the second quarter of the nineteenth century: W.L. Mackenzie, the rebel of 1837, and J. Strachan, the godfather of the Family compact. The biography of each runs fourteen pages.

The fact that the nineteenth century was in a unique way the age of politics and politicians is reflected in a preponderant number of articles dealing with governors, politicians and public men. In addition to the biographies of Mackenzie and Strachan, there are articles on D'Arcy McGee, Allan MacNab, J.B. Robinson, W.H. Merritt, L.H. La Fontaine and J.B.E. Dorion — almost household names to those familiar with Canadian History. At the same time, there is a wealth of information about significant Canadians in other areas: religion, education, commerce,

fur trade, exploration, cultural life. Laura Secord, the heroine of the War of 1812, is included as well as Theophile Hamel, the Quebec portrait painter, who was commissioned in 1853 to paint the portraits of all the speakers of the assemblies and legislative councils since 1791.

Refreshingly, there is little evidence of a "centralist" bias in the selection of biographies. The editors have made a successful attempt to include significant Canadians who died between 1861 and 1870 from Newfoundland to British Columbia.

As is the case with the four volumes published previously, Volume IX is comprehensive, scholarly and, yet, eminently readable. The biographies have been written according to the directives to the contributors, namely to write an orderly account of both personality and achievements "against the background of the period in which the person lived and the events in which he or she participated."

Those who have a special research interest will benefit from the bibliographical information in the list of primary and secondary sources which follows every article. One minor improvement which could have been made is the addition of a separate index of all the biographies in this book. As it is, they now have to be culled from a lengthy cross-reference index which runs 52 pages in length.

The volumes of the *DCB* are of absorbing interest to the professional historian and the university student. They should also have a wide appeal to all those who are fascinated by Canada's past. It is perhaps too much to expect that this volume will be read "from cover to cover", as the jacket suggests, but it certainly is a thoroughly enjoyable book "to be dipped into at leisure". As a scholarly reference text on Canada's nineteenth century, it is indispensable.

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English-Canadian Literature to 1900: A Guide to Information Services. [By] R.G. Moyles. Detroit, Michigan: Gale Research Company, 1976. xii, 346p., hard, \$18.00 ISBN 0-8103-1222-0.