

Government Handout: A Study in the Administration of the Public Lands 1875-1891. By Harold H. Dunham. (New York: Da Capo Press, 1970.), *Looters of the Public Domain*.

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***Government Handout: A Study in the Administration of the Public Lands 1875–1891.*** By Harold H. Dunham. (New York: Da Capo Press, 1970.), ***Looters of the Public Domain: Embracing a Complete Exposure of the Fraudulent Systems of Acquiring Title to the Public Lands of the United States.*** By S.A.D. Puter, in collaboration with Horace Stevens. (New York: Da Capo Press, 1972.) and ***The Development of Governmental Forest Control in the United States.*** By Jenks Cameron. (New York: Da Capo Press, 1972.)

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# BOOKS

*GOVERNMENT HANDOUT: A STUDY IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PUBLIC LANDS 1875-1891.* By Harold H. Dunham. (New York: Da Capo Press, 1970. 364 pp. Bibliography. Index. \$15.00.) A Da Capo reprint.

*LOOTERS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN: EMBRACING A COMPLETE EXPOSURE OF THE FRAUDULENT SYSTEMS OF ACQUIRING TITLE TO THE PUBLIC LANDS OF THE UNITED STATES.* By S.A.D. Puter, in collaboration with Horace Stevens. (New York: Da Capo Press, 1972. 495 pp. Illustrations. Maps. \$25.00.) A Da Capo reprint.

*THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL FOREST CONTROL IN THE UNITED STATES.* By Jenks Cameron. (New York: Da Capo Press, 1972. 471 pp. Preface. Index. Bibliography. \$15.00.) A Da Capo reprint.

Historians will welcome these reprints. As a group, they show dramatically the evolution from a disposal orientation toward a national forest policy.

*Government Handout* is a reprint of Harold Dunham's doctoral dissertation at Columbia University. First published in 1941, it is still a valuable study of the General Land Office in transition, during a time when sporadic movements for reform alternated with increased pressure for disposal. Dunham's character sketches of W. A. Sparks, T. H. Carter, J. W. LeBarnes, and Carl Schurz are sharply drawn, and he tells the complex story well. His sources are largely government reports and court records, with some use of eastern newspapers, and some interviews. The book is a well-written professional monograph, that deserves republication.

The muckraker played an important part in the early history of the conservation movement. Men such as Stewart Edward White, C. P. Connolly, and Theodore Roosevelt himself contributed to this type of literature. The story of the life and errors of S. A. D. Puter, king of the Oregon land fraud ring, as told to Horace Stevens, is an outstanding example of this type of writing. Oregon journalism at the turn of the century, in the heyday of Harvey Scott and C. S. Jackson, was a unique mixture of good reporting combined with vivid imagery, rhodomontade, and hyperbole. Stevens was strongly influenced by the Oregon style and manner. Thus, Puter is characterized by the government sleuth, Colonel A. R. Green: "a pine tree out here alone isn't any safer in his hands than a virtuous maiden in the hands of a sultan"; while Green himself, with his billygoat whiskers and castor oil smile, looked "like a cross between a Kentucky colonel and a

wandering minstrel." Few of the sleuths come off well in Puter's hands; even the great William Burns is made the butt of Puter's pranks. The land looters themselves do not fare much better. Deception and double dealing among members of the ring proved that there was no honor among thieves. Puter, however, shows a typical Oregon chivalry in dealing with the women in the cases, including Emma Watson, Nellie Backus, and Marie Ware. He is strong in his condemnation of the politicians who betrayed the public trust, including Binger Hermann and John Mitchell, and revisionists seeking to restore the image of Richard Achilles Ballinger and Fred Dennett will find scant comfort here. He praises the federal judges and prosecutors, including Francis Heney, Charles Wolverton and Charles Bellinger, and secretary of the interior Ethan Allen Hitchcock. The book is lavishly illustrated with contemporary photographs and courtroom drawings. It is full of miscellaneous information thrown in as lagniappe ranging from the comparative merits of jails in Alameda and Portland to mining land fraud in Alaska.

As Horace Stevens says in the preface, the book does not tell the whole story of the Oregon land frauds, or of Puter's activities. In regard to the Blue Mountain conspiracy, for example, the exploits of H. D. Langille, Filibert Roth, and other Division "R" men would enliven an already interesting story. Land speculation on the Siletz Indian reservation deserves a separate monograph. As history, the book should be checked against modern studies such as those by Jerry O'Callaghan and Ralph Hidy. It is, however, an interesting period piece whose like we shall not see again.

Jenks Cameron's *Development of Governmental Forest Control in the United States* is one of three classics of the early history of the forestry movement; the other two being B. E. Fernow's *A Brief History of Forestry in Europe, the United States and Other Countries* and John Ise's *The United States Forest Policy*. Published originally as a Brookings Institute study in 1928, the book has been out of print for many years.

Cameron wrote:

The attempt has been made in this narrative to get down beneath the landscape gardening of propaganda to the bedrock of "things as they are," and to tell exactly the tale of a particular American development that has been from first to last a cross section of American development in general. (p. 430.)

His thesis is that United States forest policy has been a struggle between "Adventure" and "Order," freedom and control. Starting with the "Broad Arrow" policy of the British in colonial times, he deals with the American imitation of this policy in creating live oak reservations; the "era of magnificent plundering" in the mid-nineteenth century; the rise of a forestry movement in the seventies, and the "era of magnificent indignation" in the early twentieth century. The book ends with the

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