

its original backing in Boston and thus typified the early migration of eastern capital to the West; its unusually complete records reveal the consistently conservative "New England" policies that have enabled it to survive depressions, disasters, and wars without a default. In the field of technological development, the Burlington was an early user of steel rails and vestibule cars, among other things, and conducted the famous Westinghouse brake tests in 1886 that led to the perfection of the modern air brake.

OTHER FACILITIES FOR SCHOLARS

These developments, to mention only a few, are amply documented in the records now being made accessible in the Newberry Library. In addition, the company makes available to qualified research men, at its secretary's office in Chicago, the original manuscript corporate records of the early companies (some 215 in number) which now form part of the unified 11,000-mile system, as well as printed reports and such early statistical and mechanical information as can be obtained.

Because of the current manpower shortage, the historical and archival activities of the Burlington have of course been subordinated to the necessities of the war. When peace returns, however, the company expects to continue its program in an effort to facilitate a series of studies revealing not only the development of this particular railroad, but also the growth of the territory it serves.

A New Business History Series

A book has recently appeared which is evidently the first volume of The Growth of Business Series to be published by the Columbia University Press. The book, *Camillus* by Alfred Lief, is concerned with a petty capitalist firm. It outlines the career of an immigrant, Adolph Kastor, who first worked as a clerk in a hard-

ware store in New York, later engaged in importing cutlery from England and Germany, and finally, because of the rising import tariff, turned to the manufacture of cutlery, especially pocket knives, in the town of Camillus, New York. The book really begins with the third development, the establishment of the cutlery factory in 1902.

The book is very readable and is strikingly illustrated. It sets forth clearly some of the production problems which the firm encountered and solved. By means of concentration on few problems, the simplification of processes, and general mass production, the firm was able to grow and prosper. The book has a good deal to say about production, but little about distribution and finance; thus it fails to give a rounded story of the firm's business. Moreover, it does not relate the history of the company to the general history of business in its time.

There is a particular need of small, effectively written books on business history. This book does not, however, promise well for The Growth of Business Series. It is to be hoped that later volumes will combine the effective style which characterizes *Camillus* with a more rounded and meaningful presentation of the business. To produce small volumes in business history which combine good form and readability with a general presentation of business founded on substantial research and insight would be a notable achievement.

Early Manufacturing in Oregon

If the whole history of American experience in establishing and operating manufacturing ventures were recorded, the number of failures would probably be found to be prodigious. Countless communities on rivers, large and small, dreamed of the time when the hum and whirl of machines would bring them wealth, and many such communities actually set up factories. Many ventures suc-