important place names and specific references to neighboring states. Having personally watched the progress of this work, this reviewer must note that the brief credits in the forward do not give deserved recognition to those who labored in gathering, writing and arranging the Guide. Even a token et al would be preferred to the passing manner in which they are recognized. Although the print is clear and pleasing in size, the binding is so weak that one wonders about its longevity under heavy use.

This book is a collector's item, however, in spite of its awkward format (8½ inches wide by 11¾ inches) and its thirty-dollar price tag. All students of Mormon history will find themselves constantly referring to this useful volume.

A Clash of Interests

A Clash of Interests: Interior Department and the Mountain West 1863–96 by Thomas G. Alexander. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1977, xii, 256 pp., appendix, bibliography, index. $11.95

This excellent, provocative study breaks new ground in probing the history of the Intermountain West. It had its inception when Professor Alexander noticed the widespread dissatisfaction of the residents of the far western Territories with the Federal government. Why, he asked, did they grumble when that government clearly spent more money in the Territories than it took from them? Expanding his investigation, he had to answer still other questions: For what functions did Congress appropriate funds, and why? For what activities did Westerners want Federal funds appropriated? How well were policies planned and how well were they implemented?

For his study the author chose Utah, Idaho and Arizona Territories. They were geographically similar and their histories fitted into a relatively similar chronology. Arizona and Idaho Territories were created in 1863; Idaho achieved statehood in 1890 and Utah in 1896. Moreover, Idaho and Arizona would balance any tendency away from the norm due to Utah's Mormon population and its conflicts with the Federal government.

In three parts, cut into nine chapters, Alexander analyzes these relations. Particular attention is paid to land policy as carried out under the General Land Office and Indian matters under the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He rightly identifies the Washington policy makers and probes their rationales. The Secretaries of Interior are given ample attention, but Alexander finds that for much of the period the real source of power was the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives. There the opponent of Western needs was ultraconservative, narrow-minded William S. Holman of Indiana.

Conclusions from this penetrating study are enlightening. Canards about the corruption of Indian agents, accusations about frauds in land acquisition, and widely believed premises about western attitudes toward land and Indians are exposed as totally inaccurate or, at the most, half-truths.

For almost the first time a competent western historian has written a book that defends Westerners from these widely disseminated accusations. The blame for so much wrong is placed squarely in the lap of Congress and the Eastern establishment. John Wesley Powell, that patron saint of western bureaucrats and certain well-known writers about the

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