

tered in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era needs to include gender, and to discuss all relevant ethnicities and political persuasions. New working-class and radical syntheses should include “white privilege” and the newest social history.

David Berman’s *Radicalism in the Mountain West* helps assemble the nuts-and-bolts details of third party politics and political radicalism. He writes little about the Social Labor Party, which carved its own niche in several western places. There is too much West and too much labor and social radicalism, and no single study can include it all. But Berman could have gone deeper, exploring connections between years of recurring problems and shifts of populations in Bisbee, Rock Springs, the Coeur d’Alenes, Cripple Creek, and other places. Instead, he stresses breadth of coverage. Following radical cause and effect over the decades might have made a more powerful story.

The West feels oversized and hard to get a handle on; there is always more, but we try. Hattie Titus stood next to Herman Titus in the fight for Northwest socialism, and even after 1890, Chinese and Japanese miners played a complex role in Rocky Mountain labor relations. Professor Berman’s work covers the Rockies, but still leaves many dots to be connected.

Phil Mellinger
El Paso Community College

John Stewart. *Thomas F. Walsh: Progressive Businessman and Colorado Mining Tycoon*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2007; 272 pp., 25 b&w photos, 2 maps, 3 append., notes, bib., ind., cloth, \$34.95. ISBN: 0870818708.

Sadly, Thomas Walsh has been forgotten today by many Coloradans and others. If he is remembered at all, is it because he was thought to own the infamous Hope diamond, with its legendary curse. He did not, but his daughter, Evalyn Walsh McLean, purchased it after her father’s death.

Walsh’s story is that of a poor Irish immigrant

who gained wealth and fame in the mining West. In that sense, it is the all-American success saga, the promise that America held for those who traveled to her shores. He arrived in Colorado in 1871, at the age of twenty-one. His wanderings thereafter took him to the Black Hills, Leadville, and finally to the San Juans, where he eventually settled in Ouray and gained ownership of the famous Camp Bird Mine. That mine gave Walsh his fortune and fame, and allowed him to move to Washington, D.C., and hobnob with the rich and famous. It also was the basis for his other investment activities.

That is a thumbnail sketch of the story that historian and attorney John Stewart tells in *Thomas A. Walsh*, and he tells it well, in “high-grade” fashion. Stewart follows his subject with the passion and insight of Sherlock Holmes, and it is a trail that, until Walsh’s good fortune, is often faint. This is a vigorous story of a vigorous man, who saw much of the Rocky Mountain mining West. The story is enhanced by a fine selection of photographs, which helps to further illustrate Walsh and his times. This book will appeal to readers fascinated by mining history, Colorado history, and the adventures of the rich and famous. It is the story of one man who caught fortune by the tail and lived the dream of so many of his contemporaries.

Who, then, was Thomas Walsh? Colorado governor John F. Shafroth eulogized Walsh in April 1910 and captured his significance: “He was always one of the most valuable citizens of this state, generous to a fault, ready to help in any enterprise for Colorado’s advancement. His kindness will be remembered by thousands, the people will miss him more than any other citizen. In spite of all his wealth and riches, he had a strong sympathy for the poor and love for the masses.”

Duane A. Smith
Fort Lewis College