

BUSINESS HISTORY REVIEW
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EDITED BY PROFESSOR F. E. HYDE

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The Entrepreneurial Spirit in Rhode Island

Once vigorously creative in adapting to environmental deficiencies or change, Rhode Island businessmen became increasingly passive and defensive as the 19th century progressed. The evolution of this initially dynamic spirit and the effects of its erosion on Rhode Island's economy form a suggestive study of the interaction of businessmen and their environment over time.

PETER J. COLEMAN

Entrepreneurship and Western Development

As an important business figure in the development of the West, Micajah Williams' career illustrates the interlocking character of public and private economic interests during the early 19th century. This article suggests comparable functions of entrepreneurs such as Williams in public-works agencies and profit-oriented firms, and argues that the state canal enterprises served to recruit and train a significant number of western business leaders.

HARRY N. SCHEIBER

Systematic Management

In developing techniques and guides for many of the regular or routine activities of managers, the Systematic Management movement of the late 19th century performed an important service for American business. The movement's response to breakdowns in the internal co-ordination of manufacturing firms was especially significant and forms the basis for Professor Litterer's analysis of the relevant literature.

JOSEPH A. LITTERER

A British Firm on the West Coast

The success of Balfour, Guthrie & Co. in mobilizing British and American capital for productive investment contributed importantly to the economic development of the Pacific-coast region of the United States. The changing economic patterns of that region emerge through Professor Rothstein's analysis of the firm and its managers' actions and responses, from which a broader understanding of the problems and direction of foreign investment in the American West is possible.

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