

manufacturing totalling millions of dollars, fortifying industry, and laying the foundations for the increasing internationalization that has been seen in the late 1980s and 1990s. Indeed, one can observe a beneficial legacy from international relationships created and fostered over several decades. Parker's evidence is useful to discount the idea that 'going global' is something that can be achieved in an instant; it requires long-term investment. What also emerges is personalities whose contribution might otherwise be lost. Tempting as it is in a book of this nature to get lost in a list of great men from the past, Parker skilfully treads this line, and the overall effect is a positive balance of context and person. Rightfully, some of the useful and important commercial and civic contributions of men like textile manufacturer Sir Laurence Stevens, and employer, manufacturer and mayor Sir Jack Allum, are held out for inspection, giving the book both character and usefulness.

Overall, while some of the facts in *Wealthmakers* tend to favour the employer side, and the book is overtly pro-employer — it is, as Sir Wilson Whineray states in his Prologue, an attempt to 'correct a long bias in history writing in favour of governments and unions' — Parker has produced a readable and valuable book. It is not the definitive account of New Zealand's employer/labour history, nor does it seek to be. Rather, it is one of a number of important works emerging which are increasingly filling the void in New Zealand's historical record: the development of commerce and industry.

IAN HUNTER

The University of Auckland

The Governors: New Zealand's Governors and Governors-General. By Gavin McLean. Otago University Press, Dunedin, 2006. 416 pp. NZ price: \$59.95. ISBN 1-87737-225-0.

THIS SUBSTANTIAL AND ATTRACTIVELY DESIGNED BOOK makes a significant contribution to New Zealand's political and social history from the time of the Treaty of Waitangi up to the present day. It provides detailed insight into the changing but often hidden contribution made by the governors — an integral element of our constitution and government. Even if their usual response was no response — as it should be for powers held in reserve — the teasing out of the debates and the reasons for action or inaction make for fascinating reading.

People will recognize the centrality of the governor during the Crown colony period of government, 1840–1854, and may be aware of the continuing powers of the governor, particularly Thomas Gore Browne and Sir George Grey, in the early decades of representative government that followed. But many will not have given much thought to exactly how governors (and later from 1917 governors-general) continued to mesh into the governing of this country.

And there will be more who will be interested to read about how the role was gradually redefined around its social and cultural dimensions and lost its stiff formality, and most recently, how the representative first of Britain at large, then of the monarch, effectively became New Zealand's own representative and articulator of national identity. McLean steps aside from time to time to take stock of how the role changed — dramatically in the long-term even if at a snail's pace from year to year, and refers to the 'patriation' or 'indigenizing' of the office and its current role as a 'virtual presidency'.

McLean is particularly adept at teasing out vignettes and cameos that bring personalities to life. The foibles of pensioned-off 'old duffers' and their apparent obsession with their 'screw' — the salary, allowances and various perks — keep the pages turning at a lively pace. He provides interesting side-bars on various aspects of the functioning of the institution such as allowances, staff and travel.

McLean ensures that all get their dues. From Sir George Gipps, governor of New South Wales, at a time when the Australian colony briefly had charge of New Zealand, 1839–40, to the brief but important stay of Sir Hercules Robinson, 1879–80, to the latter-day gracious Dame Silvia Cartwright and the swearing-in of the current governor-general, Anand Satyanand, in 2006, all are here.

The procession of governors after Grey, and their struggles to find a role, having been removed from the centre of power, is particularly interesting. So, too, is the involvement of governors in the Parihaka episode in the early 1880s, in the country's defence policy (Jervois and Jellicoe), and in the matter of Legislative Council appointments in the 1890s. The last proved critical in confirming the role as figurehead. Pomp of empire replaced constitutional manoeuvres.

The book is organized around short biographies of each incumbent in turn, supplemented by chapters on ceremonial behaviour through the ages and on constitutional change within the British Empire, 1917–1931. There is also a slightly odd, lengthy, chapter-like Appendix 3 dealing with Government House. With ceremonial matters integrated in the main body of the book this material too should be located there.

The major point of the British Empire chapter is that New Zealand hardly changed at all. The reader has to pick up in following chapters signs of the extremely gradual severance of the governor's relationship with the British government. It was not until 1941 that Government House was completely supplanted in communications with the British government, and not until the late 1950s that New Zealand assumed its right to nominate people to the position.

The book is organized thematically into half a dozen sections corresponding to phases in imperial development and the eventual emergence of a 'home-grown' breed of governor. This is helpful in terms of the external forces changing the institution but, in combination with the even-handed biographical approach, it dilutes the differential impact that governors had in shaping our political history. In particular it underplays the Crown colony period when the governor reigned supreme and the early phase of representative government in which the governor retained (and exercised) crucial powers. While we have a detailed constitutional study of the Crown colony period together with biographies of Grey and other politicians, we still lack a sustained history of *governing* in the period.

But this is not meant to be an in-depth political history. McLean has accomplished a great deal in documenting a visible but not greatly understood component of our constitutional and political life. He has assembled into a single volume a fascinating parade of the governors in all their finery and with all their foibles. As we see them passing by we can reflect on just how much New Zealand itself has been transformed.

JOHN E. MARTIN

Parliamentary Historian, Wellington

Innovation and Independence: The Reserve Bank of New Zealand 1973–2002. By John Singleton with Arthur Grimes, Gary Hawke and Frank Holmes. Auckland University Press in association with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Auckland, 2006. 340 pp. NZ Price: \$49.99. ISBN 1-86940-364-9.

IN 1973 PROFESSOR GARY HAWKE published his wonderful history of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, *Between Governments and Banks*. His book covered the policy debates that led to the bank's foundation in 1934, described its nationalization as the first legislative Act of the first Labour government, and analyzed how successive Ministers of Finance insisted that they, not the bank, would determine monetary policy.