

Dr. Bowden Completes Another Book, "Boies Penrose"

"BOIES PENROSE, Symbol of An Era," a brilliant biography of one of America's greatest and, in many respects, most colorful political bosses, will soon be added to the list of important American biographies. And it was written by a Youngstown man.

Dr. R. D. Bowden, head of the Department of Social Science of Youngstown College, and well known author, has written an authentic and interesting account of Boies Penrose and the period in which he lived. The big lumbering giant from Philadelphia who for so many years dominated the political scene in Pennsylvania and the nation, lives again in these stirring pages. We follow him with admiration, and sometimes disgust, from his law partnership with the ultra-respectable Wayne MacVeagh and George Bisham where life "was too damned dull," to Frozen Bill Conery's oyster house or Jerry's side street ale house to the Presidency of the state Senate at Harrisburg. We chuckle at him while he was earning his first fee as a lawyer—he wrote an "authoritative" and highly sensational description for Mr. Barnum, of the latter's white elephant. Barnum thought it was magnificent, too.

Later in the United States Senate when, at the death of the senior Senator from Pennsylvania, Matthew Quay, Penrose demonstrated his political sagacity by being the undisputed boss of the Republican party till death removed him on New Year's day, 1922. He was a commanding figure in public life and perhaps more than any man of his time was "Symbol of An Era," that period in American history from 1875 to 1920 which set the pattern of thought and action that has resulted partially in the present debacle.

Dr. Bowden, an authority on American history, particularly the social, economic and political phases of the last half-century, has done an enormous amount of research work the past four years in selecting the material that goes into this biography of Boies Penrose. A few finishing touches in re-checking data remains to be done, but the main body of the work is complete.

This will be the third published book for Dr. Bowden. The first one, "The Evolution of a Politician," was published some years ago. In 1931 he won the national Agar Award sponsored by the National Arts Club of New York for the book published that year which best set forth all the complicated phases of the American Scene. (The Macmillan Company of New York published that book and signed an optional contract for two more books by Dr. Bowden.) On the strength of the honor achieved by the above publication Dr. Bowden was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in the National Arts Club, one out of only eleven persons in the United States to be so honored. Besides the Macmillan Company, whose reading critics have given high praise to style and contents of this biography, another and newer publisher, the Greenberg Publishing Company of New York, this week offered him a very favorable contract for the book rights and serial rights.