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THE KANDIYOHI COUNTRY

AND ITS PEOPLE

A County History

In Short Sketches

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FOREWORD

When the author was a child living in a sod house in Dickey County, North Dakota, his grandfather was a rural mail carrier. In the course of his work he made daily trips to a small village. When he returned with his mail from town, strangers from the cities who had come to visit their friends in the country would ride with him to the farms where they were going ~~on the mail route~~. These strangers would often stop overnight at grandfather's homestead where the author spent much of his childhood, ^{and often} These strangers ~~when~~ they ^{told} ~~would tell~~ ^{showed} ~~and show~~ us children strange things.

On one of these occasions a stranger who came brought with him in a tiny round box little paper pills of different colors that were round and compact, about the size of a large pinhead. He gave us children a few of these pills and told us to put them into a bowl of water and see what would happen. We followed instructions and behold, after these pills had soaked for a minute or two in the bowl of water, beautiful multicolored flowers blossomed out of them. We were very much surprised and startled with what they turned out to be after coming in contact with a solvent. That evening gave us children much enjoyment and pleasure. When one pill would blossom ^{ad} into full bloom, ^{we got} ~~we would get~~ another from the stranger, ~~and~~ put it into the water, and await ^{ed} with great anticipation the unfolding of a new and more beautiful flower, ~~that would~~

blossom forth. In the course of the evening he told us that these little things were made in the Orient where wise men live, where civilization ^{is} ~~was~~ much older than in our country.

2 (Strange as it is, that the author does not even remember the man's name, nevertheless he remembers this incident of long ago and these sketches have been written, keeping the incident in mind as an underlying theme.

The attempt of the author in writing these sketches has been to unfold the essential things about the history of Kandiyohei County to the reader. It has been the author's endeavor to start ^{with} ~~from~~ some small ~~simple~~ thing or event and from it unfold the ~~main~~ important implications of history in a scientific way and as they seemed to appear after delving into voluminous material about the county.

It is important to understand that in these short sketches it has been impossible to record in detail all the happenings and events of the county. The intent has been to take some of the important events and things, unfolding them as the artificial marine blossom unfolds itself in solution. For the many details involved the author recommends the great work that has been done by Victor E. Lawson in his history of the county to whom we are indebted for much of the background and material in this manuscript.

Like the artificial Oriental marine blossom was to us children long ago a startling unfoldment of beauty and interest, So history is replete with startling implications which will unfold themselves when the solvent of reason and logic is applied to historic material. First it is necessary to grasp the essence of history. That history is a process of constant

See next page
Repetition of
phrasesology.

change, the change taking place according to how man makes a living and to what degree the means of production have grown and developed in the various historic epochs. Once the fact that all actions and deeds of man arise from, and are effects of natural and economic causes is understood, we are on the road to ^{our} understanding of history.

It is from the ^{point} of view on history that these sketches have ~~blossomed~~ ^{taken shape} forth. They are not intended to deal with all things and events of the county, which would be impossible in condensed form, but are to be considered as the little paper pebble that is the source of the artificial marine blossom. They are intended to serve as a starting point for the unfolding of the rich and colorful history of the development of Kandiyohi County and its great and courageous people who have struggled and labored to bring forth in the course of eighty odd years the Kandiyohi Community and all that it represents today.

The Author

KANDIYOHI COUNTY

CHAPTER 1. GEOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY

Name of County

Kandiyohi County derives its name from two Sioux Indian words, Kandi and Ohi. These words are said to mean "where the buffalo fish come." Legend tells us that the Indians ~~a long time ago~~ gave this name to the region of lakes from which three branches of the Crow River flows, because ^{they} ~~these lakes, streams and rivulets~~ were the source and spawning place of the buffalo fish and kindred species.

Location

Kandiyohi County is in south central Minnesota. The 45th north latitude parallel¹ line and 95 degrees west longitude cross in the southern end of the county. The northern boundary of the county is about sixty miles south of the geographical center of Minnesota. It is bordered by Renville County on the south, Meeker County on the east, Stearns County on the northeast, Pope County on the northwest, with Swift and Chippewa Counties on the west.

The total area of the county is 867.14 square miles. It is 36 miles in length north and south and 24 miles wide east and west. It covers an area of 554,969.04 acres, of which 57,867.69 acres ^{more} ~~was~~ originally covered by lakes and streams.

Willmar, the county seat which is located in the south

central part of the county, is less than one hundred miles from Minneapolis, Minnesota, the largest industrial and commercial center of the northwest.

Topography and Landscape

The general elevation of the region is over one thousand feet above sea level, rising on some of the morainic hills to thirteen hundred feet. The landscape ranges from moderately hilly to rough hills with some level terrain, marshes and peat bogs.

More than half of the southwest portion of the county belongs to the great block of prairie grassland of southwest Minnesota. The northeastern portion runs into what we know as the original hardwood forest area of Minnesota. The line of this original wooded area starts from the southeast corner running northwest to the Kandiyohi lakes and north from there around the east shore of Green Lake and again northwest into Pope County.

Within the boundaries of the county there were originally more lakes than in any ^{surrounding county} ~~other county~~ surrounding it. Now many of these lakes have been drained and ^{their beds} ~~are~~ used for agriculture purposes. ~~A distinctive feature of these lakes are their~~ slowly descending shores bordered by tall marsh grasses, rushes and sedges.

From the many lakes and the contour of the area natural drainage takes place in two directions. Hawk Creek and the Chippewa River are tributaries of the Minnesota River to the southwest, while the north, middle and south forks of the Crow River drain the eastern portion of the county to the

Mississippi.

Glacial and Soil Formation

The surface soil of the region although composed of irregular unstratified glacial drift in which is found boulders of granite, chrystalline schists and some limestone is rich and fertile. On the edges of some of the lakes are found ice-formed ridges, a ~~glacial~~ ^{still} phenomenon which yet today is in process of formation.

CHAPTER 2

KANDIYOHI REGION BEFORE THE WHITE MAN CAME

Natural Wealth

Although the eastern portion of the county originally belonged to the hardwood forest area of Minnesota, the natural and potential wealth of the region to the white man has always been its fertile soil and cultivable farm land. The timber that was found in the region by the early settlers was very soon used up for their own needs.

When the region was only known to the Indians, it was rich in large and small game, fish and birds. Deer and buffalo were abundant. The lakes and grasslands provided water and food for them, while the wooded areas provided shelter in severe winter weather. ~~Since the time that the white man came to the~~ ^{after white men came to the} northwest territory the Indians ~~did not~~ ^{have} ~~permanently~~ live in the region, ~~nor did they have villages there.~~ ^{permanently} They used it as a game preserve and hunting ground, ~~to where they would make their~~ ^{and it} hunting trips. ~~The region~~ remained in this wild state until the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Before 1850 the only interest that the white man could ^{had} have in this region was the furs and buffalo robes that ~~came from there~~ which the Indians traded with them for supplies that civilization had taught them to use.

At the present time ninety percent of the land of Kandiyohi County is in farms. Three fourths of the farm land is rich and fertile; the remaining one fourth is fair to poor for cultivation purposes. Eighty percent of the farm land ^{is tilled at the} ~~at the~~ present time, ~~is tilled.~~

Early Inhabitants

This region of beautiful lakes, woods and grasslands, partly a source of two great tributaries of the Mississippi, the "Minnesota" and the "Crow" was explored much later by the white man than many other parts of the State.

When the white man in quest of trade with the native Indians had already explored the large rivers, when Beltrami and others had already made portage from the Red River of the North to the Mississippi, when Kittson carts had already lumbered through, blazing overland trails in many directions to the west from Fort Snelling the Kandiyohi country remained unmolested, a hunting ground of the Sioux Indians.

The Indians had known the region a long time before the white man came, although they did not at the time permanently live there. It is believed that a long time ago, perhaps hun-

dreds of years before the white man came to the region they ^{the ancestors} ~~of the modern Indians~~ ^{or at least a people very much} ~~did live and have settlements and villages there.~~ Aboriginal ^{like them had} ~~like them had~~ earthworks that are found in the region indicate that this

belief is well founded. The most extensive of these earthworks

are located on the east shore of Green Lake about a half mile south of the outlet of one of the branches of the Crow River. These earthworks are mounds irregular in shape, some circular and some oblong from eighteen inches to six feet high. Two of the mounds are nine and twelve rods long. In addition to these mounds, evidences of aboriginal habitation, dating long before the white man came, have been found in shallow excavations. In the black soil on the west side of Green Lake, mixed with vertebrae of fish and other bones, chips of ornamented pottery have been found. It is believed that these evidences date back to a very early period in the history of the Indian ~~people~~ and are relics of ^{their} permanent habitats of ~~early Indians~~.

Modern Indians

The numerous Sioux ~~Indian~~ bands who lived west of the Mississippi when the white man came, were known as the great Dakota Nation, a league of different tribes of the Dakotahs, All of the Kandiyohi region was held and owned by ~~them~~ ^{in the Sioux} in common as a tribal hunting ground. To this region they made frequent hunting and fishing trips, returning to their settlement when the hunt was over.

CHAPTER 3. EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT

Early Explorers

In 1805 when (the illustrious) Lieutenant Z. M. Pike held the great council with the Sioux to purchase land for Military reservations and to bring peace to the Sioux and Chippewa tribes the white man knew nothing about the Kandiyohi region. Sometime between 1836 and 1841 Joseph Nicholas Nicollet

heard about the region and the source of the Crow River from Indians. The first white man to visit the region, according to the noted historian of Kandiyohi County, Victor E. Lawson, was the roving fur trader and Methodist missionary, Jacob Fahlstrom, who had lived among the Indians for many years. In Midsummer of 1856 the famous fur trader, Joseph ^{R.} Brown, sent a group of trail blazers through the region to select a route from the Red River Country to Traverse de Sioux. The people who made a wider exploration with ^{the expectation of settling} a view to settle the region were townsites promoters ^{mostly} from different white settlements in Minnesota. They reached the ^{region} territory later in the summer of 1856. Among these townsites promoters was an artist by the name of Edwin Whitefield who later brought great popularity to the region with his exhibition of paintings and lectures about the country. These townsites promoters were inspired by Jacob Fahlstrom and his description of the country with its great agricultural possibilities.

Reasons For Delay In Settlement

In all past history of mankind, until the time of our modern industrial and agricultural era, the migrations of people have followed the coastal waters, then along larger streams and only after that, ^{have penetrated more deeply} penetrating deeper into the hinterland. Before the modern industrial and agricultural development in America, the rivers and waterways were the routes which Indian and white man ~~like~~ followed in the conquest of new and unknown territory. Before inland settlements were established, bases were always first built along the larger rivers. Usually these bases were

established at the confluences and forks of smaller streams flowing into the larger rivers.

^{explanation}
The ~~reason~~ ^{is} for this ~~in the early days~~ was that people had a certain way of making a living which influenced their movements and migrations. ^{that} Hunting, fishing and fur trading ^{were} ~~was~~ the method with which the frontiersman secured his food, and clothing and shelter, as well as the riches that were to be had. ^{this influenced his movements and his migrations.} Agriculture and industry upon which modern life depends came later after the trader had prepared the way. With steam boats the early traders came up the Mississippi and other larger rivers as far as ^{possible} ~~they could~~. To go further upstream they used flat bottom boats and canoes. Along these waterways they built their trading posts.

At these trading posts, at ~~the confluences of the smaller streams~~, the parting of the ways of the white man and the Indian took place. It was caused by a ~~sort of~~ division of labor between them. The white people of the early exploration and fur trading days did not have reason to venture far inland. They remained at the trading posts ~~to~~ where the Indians brought their loads of furs. These posts in most cases were established by huge corporations and were built at convenient and accessible places. Many of the early explorers came to the Minnesota territory as agents of these corporations. ~~Seldom did~~ ^{seldom} the white men who were in charge of these posts ^{aside from} venture far inland from the main avenues of trade ~~outside of~~ portages made from one river to another. The fur trader was not ^{concerned as to} ~~so much interested as to~~ where the beaver and buffalo came from. His interest was ~~to~~

^{in obtaining}
~~get~~ the furs and pelts with least expense ~~on his own part~~ and to secure ~~for himself~~ the best price when they were sold in the eastern and foreign markets. X Thus it was that the Indian did the hunting, skinning as well as a great part of the transport^{from} of the furs. His labor drove him far along the small streams and deep into the forests, into the hinterland about which the early white man knew little and cared less.

The Kandiyohi region which is located ^{between} ~~betwixt~~ the Minnesota and the Crow rivers was and remained ~~such~~ a hinterland ~~to~~ where the early fur trader had little reason to go. It was after agriculture and industry began to replace trading with the Indians as a method of making a living, that interest was kindled among the white men regarding this region of beautiful lakes and rich cultivable soil.

The Townsite Promoters

The townsite promoters were people who went in advance of agriculture and industry into new regions and established claims to townsite lands in the expectation that when settlers arrived they would be able to enrich themselves by the sale of land in small lots to people who were bound to come later. They were a new kind of trader who came into being with agriculture and industry. They came from the fur trading past by remaining traders but trading in new things and values. As soon as land could be secured as private property they began to buy and sell it, as they had bought and sold furs and other good in the past.

At the time that the white man discovered the Indian, among them land did not belong to individuals as private property. ^{The land was not private property to the Indians who lived in primitive conditions.} The Indian lived in a primitive condition. Hunting and

fishing ^{were} ~~was~~ his sole methods of making a living. With the exception of some far western bands the Indians did not cultivate land as ~~do~~ the modern white men. The lands and the territory which they inhabited belonged to the people in common. They lived in a state of ancient tribal communism. They built villages for protection from their tribal and other enemies. Even the product of the hunt and the forage expedition, when it was plentiful, was divided among the band.

The white man's method of making a living was different. To the white man, every thing that he secured possession of was his private property, including the land.

After the government, through treaties, secured possession of the land from the Indians, ^{through treaties} an arrangement was made whereby individuals could in turn secure possession of it as private property. Under the preemption law they could stake out a claim of one hundred and sixty acres and by paying \$1.25 per acre to the government the land became their private property.

To secure a larger area of land in one plat, a number of people got together and organized townsite companies. The Kandiyohi Townsite Company was established in 1856. Its President was John Swainson of Chisago County. The other officers were D. M. Coolbough, Minneapolis, Vice President, Charles Hoag, Minneapolis, Secretary, and Dr. C. L. Anderson, St. Anthony, Treasurer. These men were the early promoters of Kandiyohi County and the forerunners of the land speculator who has since flourished in periods of agriculture boom and depression in all of the farming regions of the northwest.

Early Settlers

E. T. Woodcock, a farmer from Faribault, Minnesota, is said to have been the first actual settler in the region. He and two other young men, Jesse M. Ayers and V. L. Forsythe, ~~in quest of townsite possessions~~, journeyed into the Kandiyohi country some time in the summer of 1856. They established the Columbia townsite on the west bank of Green Lake. During the same summer a group of Virginians who had earlier come to Minneapolis, selected a townsite on the west shore of the same lake and named it Irving. Prominent among these early settlers were Eugene M. Wilson and A. J. Bell. On the north bank of Diamond Lake during the same year, John Masters, James Campbell and the McLeod brothers staked out the St. John's townsite. The St. John's townsite promoters came from St. Peter and they also established headquarters in St. Paul to promote their venture.

In the year 1856 five people had located claims for land in the region and filed their claims at the land offices. The dates of the filings were recorded as follows: Elijah T. Woodcock, August 11th, Valorous L. Forsythe, August 11th, William Kouts, September 20th, Samuel Holes, September 25th and James Campbell, September 27th.

In 1856 the Government had surveyed only the eastern part of the region. The next year, however, the surveys were extended westward so that it covered all the area that is now Kandiyohi County. When the survey was completed, the Government announced that it was ready for settlement. This second year of settlement had the greatest number of new arrivals of any

year during the whole period before the Sioux outbreak in 1862. The land office records show the number of filings for land as follows: 1857, ninety five, 1858, fifty five, 1859, twenty six, and 1860, thirteen. During this period there were *also* many people who settled in the region without filing claims at the land offices. They depended on their rights as squatters to hold the claims. ~~X~~ This was the beginning of the settlement of the county by the white man. Many of these people made permanent homes for themselves and their families in the region, but there were also many who did not stay, who left with their hopes shattered. They could not endure the hardships of pioneer life. Only the hardy and resourceful remained.

CHAPTER 4.

PERMANENT SETTLERS CONTRASTED WITH TOWNSITE PROMOTERS

Why Some Were Discouraged

The people who first came into the Kandiyohi region were not all real pioneers. The townsite promoters came with hopes of making a fortune quickly by securing land at a low price and selling it to newcomers at a high price. They did not come to work and build a community as the real pioneers did. They came to speculate with land values. From a long history of experience we have learned that such people are not builders of towns, nor do they give rise to thriving communities.

During the period from 1856 to the time of the Sioux outbreak, numerous farmers did settle in the region, but their farming operations were small. There were no railroads or transportation facilities in the early days, ^{and this} ~~which~~ discouraged expansion

of farm operation. The farms of the early settlers produced only what the farmer needed for himself and his family, ~~There was no surplus of farm products in the early period upon which all farm towns and villages are founded.~~ Thus it was that the townsites which were platted out by the promoters did not boom as quickly as they expected. Since the way of making a living for the white man in the Kandiyohi region depended on agriculture, no towns could be successful until the real pioneer, the tiller of the soil, settled there. The people who ^{arrived} ~~came~~ to speculate with land values could not help but become discouraged, ^{and left.} ~~So it was that many people left with shattered hopes and blighted expectations.~~ ^{Those who remained became the real pioneers of Kandiyohi County} Those who remained were hardy working people, the real pioneers of Kandiyohi County.

The Pioneer Was Also A Frontiersman

The real pioneers of Kandiyohi County were not only tillers of the soil, ^{but} ~~also~~ They were frontiersmen who founded a modern agriculture community. They took up claims along the lake shores where water, timber and cultivable soil combined to make it possible to build farms which were to be their future homes. They sought a better life than they had had before. Here they found freedom and an opportunity to hew it out of the wilderness according to their own pattern. There were many obstacles to overcome. The product of the land which they ^{Cultivation} ~~cultivated~~ with primitive means did not ~~in the beginning~~ suffice to ~~take care of~~ ^{for} all of their needs even though the fare was simple and the homes unpretentious. ^{so} ~~In the early days they were~~ ^{to fill the family larder} compelled to hunt, trap and fish, ~~to fill the family larder.~~

The only cash income of many of the early settlers was money secured from selling furs. This money in turn they used to buy clothing and necessities which they themselves could not produce.

Early Social Activities

In the early days there were no roads, making social activities very simple indeed. Long distances between neighbors made even visiting difficult in the days of the Ox-cart. Nevertheless occasional visits were made between neighbors. Most of life, however, was centered around the simple log cabins, the hearth and home of the frontiersman. Very few larger social gatherings took place in the early days. ^{for} The pioneers were busy people. They worked hard on their claims. ^{and were contented} They lived ^{with} in peaceful labor. ~~It is said that there was a large measure of contentment among them.~~

CHAPTER 5.

THE INDIAN AND THE WHITE MAN

Early Friendly Relations

The Sioux Indians to whom the region originally belonged, had been removed to the reservation on the Minnesota River. Up until the Sioux outbreak in 1862 the early pioneers lived in peace with the Indians. Occasionally the Indians would come on their hunting and foraging trips and camp on the shores of the many lakes. There was no reason for conflict with them as at that time there was an abundance of game and fish for all.

Growing Discontent Of Indians

There were, however, fears among the settlers that Indians would attack them. These fears were caused by disturbances

which took place in other parts of the northwest, and by the savage sorties carried on by the Sioux and Chippewa in their tribal warfare. There was also the ~~knowledge among~~^{also knew} the early settlers that discontent was growing among the Indians due to a long train of abuses and injustices ~~carried out against them~~ by the white men. The Indian people were never thoroughly satisfied with the division of land between them and the white men. When the treaties were made, ~~these simple children of nature~~^{they} did not understand all the implications ~~of these treaties.~~ They realized that they had been deceived only after the land had been ceded and they found themselves in a ~~position of disadvantage.~~^{helpless} From this grew and smouldered a desire and a hope among some of the Sioux warriors to win back ~~some day~~ their hunting grounds, the source of sustenance of their people.

During the many years of fur trading history a deep ~~conflict~~^{resulting from unequal trade} existed between the natives and the white people. ~~This conflict resulted from unequal trade between them.~~ The Indians were always taken advantage of ~~in the trade that was carried on.~~ ^{in fact} It is estimated by historians that profits ranged from one hundred to four hundred percent in Indian trade. In later years the trade was so unequal that the Indian people were driven deep into debt to the traders. When annuity payments were made by the government according to treaties, the trader collected the money from the Indian agency for these debts and the Indians themselves received nothing. Wm. Watts Folwell, the first President of the University of Minnesota and one of the ~~greatest~~^{foremost} historians of our time, ^{states} describes the Indian policy of the

Government as follows: "The central vice of that system was the negotiation of treaties with Indian tribes as with equal contracting parties and the violation of such treaties without cause and shame."

Thus the great domain where their fathers and forefathers lived and hunted long before the white man came was lost to the Indians. They were given only a narrow strip of land in the upper Minnesota River Valley. When they ceded the land they were promised goods, money and protection, but these promises were never redeemed. They were removed to a small reservation, where poverty and restriction of freedom became oppressive to these roving people who made a living by hunting and fishing. As this oppression increased, the more impatient of the warriors, sometimes driven by poverty, began to molest the white settlers. The annuities that they were to receive were attached by the traders and withheld by the Government. *took many men from Minnesota,* The Civil war was going on at the time *and in their absence the Indians grew bolder and more vindictive,* ~~to where many men from Minnesota went to fight for the Union.~~ This made the Indian bolder and more vindictive. Finally in August 1862, under the leadership of Little Crow, the Sioux warriors decided to rise in arms, to avenge the injustices, and to ~~realize the hope which had been smouldering for a long time to repossess the territory which they had lost in the march~~ *to the* of the white man, westward.

Beginning of Outbreak

The beginning of the Sioux outbreak was the attack by ~~the Indians~~ on the lower Sioux Agency on the Minnesota River about six miles below the mouth of the Redwood. This attack *at*

took place on August 18th, 1862. Several people were shot
~~down in this attack~~ and the stores of the agency were pillaged.

On the same day small bands of Sioux warriors went into Renville
County ^{and attacked} attacking the white settlers there. The people ^{who} that were
able to flee ~~these attacks soon~~ reached Fort Ridgley with the alarm ^{and}
Captain John S. Marsh was immediately dispatched to the scene
with 46 ~~enlisted~~ men. Shortly after arriving at their destina-
tion they were ambushed by the Indians from across the river,
and Captain Marsh, who attempted to escape with the remainder of
his men was drowned. This incident has come to be known as "the
battle of Redwood Ferry" ^{was} and the second of the Sioux attacks
later in the day of August 18th, 1862.

The alarm soon spread among all the settlers adjacent
to the Indian territories. The defenseless people were panic ^{larger}
stricken and made preparations to flee to the larger population
centers, ^{tried to flee towards the more populous} ~~but many were massacred in the flight,~~
~~Many were overtaken by the Sioux Warriors and massacred.~~
At that same time sorties were dispatched by the warring Indians
deeper into the hinterland and ~~into~~ new settlements.

Indians Come To Kandiyohi County

On August 20th ~~the~~ ^{down} Indians swooped upon the helpless
settlers of Kandiyohi County, ^{and} fourteen people from the Broburg
and Lundburg families ^{murdered} near West Lake were massacred by them.

^{this first} From ~~this first scene of the~~ massacre in the Kandiyohi
region the Indians carried off several wagon loads of plunder
and some money. ^{Shortly after this} ~~Soon after this,~~ near Foot Lake, a caravan
of refugees from Green and Eagle Lake was overtaken by the
^{near Foot Lake and two of the settlers, Backlund and Lorentsen, were murdered.}
Indians ~~and Backlund and Lorentsen were murdered by them.~~ On

this same day ~~a bachelor by the name of~~ Berger Thorson was also killed. At the cabin of Oscar Erickson a group of settlers who had learned of the outbreak were preparing to leave for Green Lake, ~~with a view to make an armed defence against the Indians with their neighbors.~~ They, however, did not get started before the Indians came. Here they shot Carl Carlson in a potato field and severely wounded Mr. Foot. With their families Swanson, Erickson and Foot shut themselves up in a cabin and fought off the Indians. Erickson and Foot were severely wounded. They sent their wives to Green Lake for help during the course of the battle. After Foot had wounded a couple of the warriors they withdrew and went northward. On their way they killed Carl Carlson's father, Olaf Haugen and his wife and son. At Solomon Lake they killed Lars Endresen and his son, Endre Endresen, wounding ^{severely} Endresen's other son, Ole. From the Endresen settlement they carried away the two oldest daughters, Guri and Brita. Mrs. Guri Endresen with her youngest daughter, Anna hid in a cellar and thus escaped. After the Indians withdrew, Mrs. Endresen and little Anna started for Eagle Lake but were lost on the way; afterwards they returned to the home cabin where they found Ole Endresen still alive. With a yoke of mismatched oxen they started out to Erickson's cabin who was her son-in-law. That evening ^{but} they did not dare to go into Erickson's cabin because they heard ^{dared not in because they believed that the moans they heard came from Indians hidden inside.} moans, thinking that there were Indians in the cabin. They stayed out in the open that night and came back in the morning to find Mr. Erickson and Mr. Foot wounded. Mrs. Guri Endresen's

but they did not get started

Swanson Erickson Foot

first act was to administer to the wounded as best she could, after which she placed them into a wagon and ^{took} transported them to Forest City, ~~to get care~~. The Endresen girls, Guri and Brita, ~~soon after their capture~~ escaped from the Indians and also made their way to Forest City.

This has come to be known as one of the heroic episodes of the frontier people in the State of Minnesota. With her heroism and resourcefulness Mrs. Guri Endresen has made a place for herself in the hearts of all men and women of the state.

Putting Down Of Uprising Begins

By this time, with the help of those Indians who ^{with the assistance of friendly Indians} did not support Little Crow in the uprising, the settlers ^{for} began to move from their frontier homes as best they could to larger population centers, ~~of the white men~~. The organization ^{for} ~~defence~~ ^{defending} of the frontier soon took form and the ~~putting down of~~ the rebellion ^{steps were taken to quell} was begun. At the battles of Fort Ridgley and New Ulm the Indians were defeated with heavy losses, ^{for} Hundreds of the Sioux warriors gave their lives in their unsuccessful attempt to recover their lands. ~~After these battles they~~ ^{defeated and harassed they} began to retreat and ^{by Governor Ramsey to} were driven west by General Sibley and his forces who were charged ^{Early in the} with putting down the rebellion ~~by Governor Ramsey~~. Before the middle of the winter many of the Sioux warriors were captured by the authorities and 38 were hung at Mankato as a result of the findings of a Government Military Commission.

Sioux Warfare Was Fiendish

According to the rules of ancient tribal warfare of

the Indians, bravery was measured by the number of scalps and eagle feathers that the warrior possessed. These were acquired ^{from the heads of vanquished enemies} by the warrior according to the number of enemies he had vanquished. To these primitive people, an enemy was an enemy regardless of age or sex. When they went on the war path the fiendish traits of savagery were whipped ^{high} up by war dances and ~~ancient~~ tribal rituals. Perhaps ~~to their simple way of thinking,~~ ^{they thought that} the fiendish massacres would terrorize the settlers to the extent that they would ~~of their own accord~~ leave their settlements, ^{or} Perhaps the atrocities were a result of a ^{desire} ~~feeling that had grown~~ in their savage breasts to avenge all the past injustices and injuries of the white man. That the attacks were fiendish and atrocious no one can question.

Sioux Were Brave Warriors

Because of the brutality of their warfare there is often a charge made that the Sioux were cowardly people and that their uprising was altogether uncalled for. These charges, however, cannot be true. The attacks on Fort Ridgely and New Ulm, where they were repulsed with great losses, forever dismisses the charge that the Sioux people were cowardly, and that their cause was ignoble and uncalled for. Primitive men do not risk and give their lives in such large numbers unless there is some nobility in the venture and some cause that they deem just in their own minds.

All historians agree that there was impoverishment and starvation among the Sioux people at the time. When they made a plea for help from the white men they were told to eat grass. From the correspondence of Little Crow and historic

To be deleted if cutting is necessary

facts of the time, there can be no question but what the Indians were driven into the uprising, which from the start was doomed to fail, by the most elemental of all passions, hunger. That it was their only recourse and noble to those who participated in it.

Reasons For Quick Defeat Of Sioux

The Sioux rebellion of 1862 would have resulted in a very serious situation and yet bloodier conflict had it not been for the ~~way Minnesota had been settled earlier and the fact~~ that the migration of the white man toward the west in Minnesota formed a very irregular frontier.

Raddison, Grossiellers and other early voyageurs came along the great lakes and journeyed to the western extremity of Lake Superior. Father Marquette and Jolliet following ~~journeyed~~ southward from Lake Superior to the Mississippi ^{and} The Rivers and portages that these early voyageurs traveled were later used by the fur traders. While they traded with the native Indians they established the foundations of the early settlements from which the Indians were pushed back into the hinterland. After Fort Snelling was established, the settlements of the white man drove a salient through central Minnesota west and north culminating with communication with Pembina in the Red River Valley. This salient had much to do in subduing the Indian tribes. It separated for all time the Dakota nation of Indians from the Chippewa tribes by driving ~~by driving~~ them to the southwest and leaving the Chippewa surrounded in the north.

Even though there was much talk and rumor that the

Chippewa were going to help the Sioux in the uprising of 1862 ^{would have happened had they not been separated by the white settlers and their towns.} this ~~could not happen under the circumstances because~~ they had been driven so far apart in distance and between them was the white settler with his towns and population centers. No doubt if they had been free to do so, without the settlements of the white man between them, they would have buried the hatchet of tribal warfare and united to drive out the people who had taken their lands.

Kandiyohi is one of the counties close to the Sioux Reservation from where the rebellion spread. Thus it was that the early settlers of the region paid dearly in human life before it was put down. Twenty four civilians ^{white people} and one soldier were killed by the Sioux ^{in 1862} within the borders of what is now Kandiyohi County, ~~in 1862.~~

CHAPTER 6. EXODUS AND RENEWED SETTLEMENT

Retreat of Frontier

So great was the terror of the Indian outbreak that within a very short time all of the white people from Kandiyohi County retreated from their frontier homes to the ^{larger towns} ~~larger population centers~~ farther east. The country was left ^{to} ~~into the hands~~ of the Sioux warriors. These retreats were hurried and were conducted while the Indians many times ambuscaded the caravans. ^{Vainly a few groups of men returned hoping to salvage their cattle.} In a few instances the settlers sent back groups of men to salvage ^{only to see them being driven away by large bands of Indians.} such things as were left behind, such as cattle which were left ^{behind} ~~astray~~ in the panic. Very little, however, was saved in this way. When these men would come to the settlements they could see the Indians driving away the cattle and nothing could be

done about it against the much larger number of armed Indians. Thus the frontier retreated until the time that the Indian outbreak could be put down. It was only after the Indians had been driven from the region that the people came back. Many of them had to start anew with but one advantage, that of knowing the region which was new to them previously.

Settlers Come Back

Soon after the native Indian was vanquished and driven out settlement began to take place with new vigor. The march of the white man westward, even though momentarily retarded by the Sioux outbreak, continued to gain momentum. The motto of Minnesota, so well described by Mrs. Seth Eastman, now became ~~a~~ living reality.

"Give way, give way, young warrior,
Thou and thy steed give way-----
Rest not, though lingers on the hills
The red suns parting ray.
The rocky bluff and prairie land
The white man claims them now.
The symbols of his course are here,
The rifle, axe, and plough."

Homestead Law

Already during the time of Jefferson free land had become an issue in American Politics. For many years a group of people, among whom was Galusha M. Grow, Father of the Homestead Act and congressman from Pennsylvania, ^{and Speaker of the House} who during Lincoln's ^{of Representative during Lincoln's term,} term of office as President was the speaker of the house of representatives, had been working on a proposition whereby land

distribution among the increasing population could be improved. In 1862 the Homestead Act was finally enacted into a law.

The immigrants who had come to the eastern industrial centers from foriegn lands were harassed by low wages and periodic depressions. To escape from the hard times in the industrial east they sought free land in the west. Encouraged by all kinds of inducements put forth by the growing industries in the west they migrated in large numbers. These immigrants from foriegn lands ~~in most cases were freedom loving people.~~ They had come to America to seek freedom and liberty which they did not have in their home countries. When they worked in the mines, mills and factories in the east they soon learned that life was much the same ^{as} ~~that~~ it had been in the old country. From this they wanted to escape. A homestead in the west was a golden opportunity.

Soon the ^{young cities} ~~larger population centers~~ of the west were teeming with the life of newcomers. Railroads were being built. The lumbering industry flourished, flouring mills and manufacturing plants were constructed. Settlement was encouraged to supply the needs of the new industry. Every man found his place in the new freedom of the west. Some became railroad builders. Others built steamships to transport the increasing goods. Some became manufacturers. Each could follow ^{his} ~~a~~ calling most suited from among the many things to be done, ^{but} ~~↑~~ The great majority of the people chose the life of the ~~hardy~~ pioneer Farmer and settled on the lands that had been made available by the Homestead Act, ~~to become a fountainhead of wealth for the great growing Commonwealth of Minnesota.~~

It was during this time that Kandiyohi County was

and the foundation was laid for its growth as one of the
 permanently settled ^{from which it has grown to be one of the}
 most important agriculture counties of the state.

Early Settlers Were Foreign Born

As is true of nearly all new early settlements in Minnesota the great majority of the settlers of Kandiyohi County were foreign born. ~~The figures of the Federal census of 1870 show that within the boundaries of Kandiyohi County lived 668~~ ^{were} native born and 1092 ^{were} foreign born ~~people~~. The foreign born ~~people of the county~~ came from many parts of the world bringing with them their native culture, customs, and traditions. Most of them came from the Scandinavian countries, ^{while} ~~and~~ a lesser number ^{came} from England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Austria and ^{elsewhere} ~~other~~ countries.

How People Were Induced To Come To The Frontier

In the 1870's the railroad companies became an important factor in the settlement of the frontier. ^{As the railroads were built} ~~When they built the~~ they ~~campaign~~ ^{simultaneously} ~~to settle the land to gain traffic~~ ^{for their lines} ~~wealth to be transported, as without something to transport the~~ railroads were of no value. Under the management of James J. Hill the St. Paul and Pacific Railway Company carried on an intensive campaign of recruitment of new settlers. In 1879 this railroad company printed ten thousand English, five thousand German, and three thousand Norwegian pamphlets to induce new settlers to come to Minnesota. In this pamphlet the following was said:

"The whole surface of the state is literally begemmed with innumerable lakes...their picturesque beauty and loveliness, with their pebbly bottoms, transparent waters, wooded shores and sylvan associations, must be seen to be fully appreciated.

There is no western state better supplied with forests....
 The assertion that the climate of Minnesota is one of the

healthiest in the world, may be broadly and confidently made.....

Minnesota...may now justly boast of possessing the most magnificent endowment for educational purposes of any state in the Union."

In addition to this circularization, land exploration tickets were issued by the railroad companies in 1871 to induce people from the east to come to the settlements. These tickets were contracts with the railroad company providing that if a person purchased one of these tickets and ~~would thereafter~~ ^{thereafter} within sixty days ~~prurchased~~ ^{prurchased} at least forty acres of railroad land he ~~would be credited with the price of the ticket~~ ^{would be credited} on his down payment. The contract further provided that the remaining members of the family could get free fare to ~~where the land was situated.~~

To induce the settler to bring with him as many of his tools and other supplies ~~which he needed~~ ^{as were needed}, the railroad companies allowed the amount of freight paid to be applied on payment on land purchased from them. ~~This the railroad companies could do~~ ^{the} ~~because through the land grants the Government gave them huge tracts which were of value to them only when the settlers could be brought to exploit them.~~ ^{afford to do}

this for the huge tracts which the government gave them

A great amount of promotion work was done by the railroad companies after 1870. This promotion was relayed to the eastern states by their agents, newspapers, pamphlets and various other methods and means. Through the State Department of Immigration the literature was distributed to ~~the various nationalities.~~ ^{countries}

~~The railroad companies sent agents even to the European countries~~

and agents were sent to get ~~new~~ people to come. They established foreign agencies

of the railroad companies who carried on recruiting.

The hardy conditions of the frontier were immeasurably better ^{for many, and they, in turn influenced their friends and relatives} than they had in their former homelands to many of the ^{to join them} immigrants. Here they had freedom, plenty fertile land and they had great hopes of working out their destinies. Many of the settlers wrote letters to their relatives in their former homelands describing the great opportunities.

~~In order~~ ^{and} ~~To~~ expand their operations they needed more labor. They would often, through correspondence, persuaded their relatives to come to America, and sent the newcomer the ^{the fare was sent and later it was} fare. This fare was then repaid by work at so much per month or day in the shop or on the farm by the immigrant.

CHAPTER 7. COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND RAILROAD

County Government Organized 1859

Soon after the townsite promoters came to the region the Civil Government of the County was organized. Previous to this the Kandiyohi region had been a part of other counties. The region at some time had been a part of the following counties: Dakota, Pearce, Davis, Meeker, Renville, Stearns and Monongalia. The State legislature on March 20th 1859, authorized by legislative act the organization of Kandiyohi County. At that time the territory embracing the county composed the twelve townships of the southern half of its present area. On the north was Monongalia County which later was made a part of Kandiyohi through consolidation.

The first Commissioners of Kandiyohi County were James

C. Bright, John Johnson and Magnus Anderson. The first meeting of the County Board was held in Kandiyohi Township, April 6th, 1859. ^{for several years} During a number of years ~~to come~~ there was no county seat, ^{and} The Board meetings were held at the cabins of the settlers. Elections in the early days were held very irregularly. Thus the County officers were sometimes appointed and sometimes elected, depending on the circumstances. It was not until the fall of 1872 that the first County building was constructed to house the County offices.

As has been the case in many counties, a competition for the location of the county seat took place ~~also~~ in Kandiyohi County. The two locations where this competition was the strongest was Kandiyohi station and Willmar. In this competition Willmar became the victor owing to a number of reasons, but chiefly because it was the ~~Railroad terminus~~ and center of trade of the community.

Coming of the Railroad

The greatest factor in the early development of the Kandiyohi region was the coming ~~in~~ of the railroad in 1869. Previous to this, ~~settlement as well as the methods of making a living~~ developed very slowly. When the railroad came through it opened up new possibilities which did not exist previously. It brought the markets for farm products closer to the producer. This resulted in numerous new settlers, ~~coming to the county~~. It encouraged those ^{who} ~~that~~ had already settled on the farms to expand their operations ^{as a market was now available} ~~so that now they could become not only~~ producers for their own needs but for the market as well. It was the avenue through which the settlers were able to send

their products to the ^{growing centers of} ~~great population centers~~ which were growing, such as Minneapolis and St. Paul. In turn it became possible for them to get manufactured goods, machinery and other needs in abundance, ~~which had been difficult before~~. From the early settler who made his living by only producing for himself and hunting thus began to develop the modern farmer, who finally made of Kandiyohi County what it is today.

In the fall of 1869 the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company had completed ^{their} ~~the laying of~~ tracks as far west as Willmar. The traffic on the railroad during the ensuing winter was irregular. Snow hampered the movement of trains to the extent that merchandise had to be hauled by beasts of burden from Litchfield. The next year however brought improvement in railroad traffic and the growth of Willmar which is now the largest city of the county gained new impetus.

City Of Willmar

The city of Willmar was founded the same year that the railroad came by the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company. The town was platted by a Railroad Company engineer on railroad land, ^{and} It was named after Leon Willmar who was a foreign agent of the company's bondholders residing in London, England. The town in the early days was completely controlled by the railroad ^{who sold the land to the townspeople} company. ~~It owned the land which it sold to the townspeople.~~ It even owned the only elevator which was where the farmer had to sell his grain. So complete was the domination of the town by the company that even the village council meetings were held at the railroad depot from the spring of 1875 until a year later.

Later, however, Willmar became a free city and its

growth was rapid. As soon as the ^{farmers} ~~tillers~~ of the soil had created the foundation for the community, new enterprises sprang up. In 1876 Locke and Bunker erected a Flouring Mill which was large enough to mill the flour for the settlers, ^{and} ~~At~~ ready as early as 1871 the Republican Gazette had been established. In 1879 four hundred thousand bushels of wheat had been shipped out of Willmar. ^{In 1885 Willmar was a city of 1500} ~~In 1885 the population of the town was 1500.~~ ^{and} By this time already the train dispatcher's office was located there. The railroad company had a roundhouse and a machine shop in the town giving employment to a number of people.

Distinction Between Willmar And Other Towns

All the ~~other~~ towns of Kandiyohi County, with the exception of Willmar, never grew to ^{be} more than trading center of the farmers. They grew to what they are today because there was a great number of farmers around them who brought their surplus products there. The traders or business men built these towns from the wealth that the farmers had produced. If there had been no farmers around them there would not have been any towns. Their source of income was entirely dependent upon the farmers.

Willmar from the very beginning became a different kind of a town. While its main source of wealth was also the great industrious farm population, it attracted to itself another wealth producing element, the workingpeople who are employed by the Railroad Company. Being a division point of the railroad, ~~in addition to being a farm trade center,~~ it has railroad yards, roundhouses, ^{and} machine shops, which employ a considerable number of people. ^{It is the only one in the County} This makes of it an industrial town, ~~distinctive~~.

~~from all other towns in the county.~~

CHAPTER 8. HOW THE EARLY PIONEERS LIVED

Location of Home

To the early pioneer of Kandiyohi County the first problem ~~to be solved~~ was to secure fertile cultivable soil. The grasslands of the region were ideal for the purpose. ~~Then there was the question of building material, water supply and a myriad of other problems to be solved to start building their farmsteads.~~ In order to build their log cabins and secure the timber for the purpose, they platted out their farmsteads either in the woods or very close to the wooded areas. The buildings which they put up were hewn from logs and constructed in a very simple way. Usually the ~~main part of the living house was a~~ ^{house was a} one or two room cabin. The early barns and animal sheds were also made of logs ~~perhaps~~ more crude in construction than the houses.

Why White Men Built Log Cabins

The Indian people were hunters and fishermen so they did not build cabins and houses like the white man. They built wigwams and tepees which were not intended to stand for many years as were the houses of the white men. They made a living by fishing and hunting so they moved from place to place ~~frequently.~~ Their life depended on the abundance of game and fish. When the game and fish were depleted in one region they moved into another.

The early white settlers had a different purpose when they built their homes in the wilderness. ~~They came to stay in one place for a long time.~~ They came to build a farm and to

~~cultivate land.~~ Once they took up a claim under the homestead act they intended to live on it permanently. The log cabins which they built were to be their permanent homes until a time that they could build something better on the same site.

out
The tepee of the Indians was very easy to build compared to the log cabins. They were crude round tents constructed by lashing poles together at the top and spreading the lower ends in a circle and then covering them with bark of trees, cloth or skins. They were easily built and just as easily taken down when the Indians wanted to move from one place to another.

out
The early settler's cabins required a lot of hard work to construct. There was first the cutting of the logs in the woods, hauling them to the building site. For a good sized cabin with two rooms required many logs. They were heavy so to lift them onto the walls required skill and ingenuity.

How Log Cabins Were Built

Frontier life taught the early settler how to protect himself and his family from the elements in many ways. They learned how to build many kinds of ~~shacks, shanties, cabins and shelters.~~ They learned crude shelter construction from the Indians and log house construction from many generations of American pioneers.

In building a log cabin, the first thing to be done was the sorting and measuring of the logs. The longer ones were picked out for the sides and the shorter ones for the ends. ~~When a house is built we know before we start what it is going to be like. For this purpose we make drawings and plans. In-~~

stead of having elaborate written drawings and plans the early settler kept them in his mind. He proceeded with construction preparing the timber as the building proceeded. He first laid out the sill timbers, squared the corners and levelled the base. On the sills he built the walls log by log notching them to lock the corners. When the walls became high he placed two long poles one end on top of the wall and the other end on the ground and rolled or hoisted the logs into place. After the walls were built he made the rafters from poles and constructed the roof. Then he chinked the walls by splitting small trees into four quarters and on the inside of the cabin spiked them into the crevices of the log walls. On the outside he filled the crevices with clay to keep out the cold winds, and to make them weather proof.

Many of the early settlers of Kandiyohi County, however, were not satisfied with this crude construction. They wanted something better, so they did the additional work of hewing the logs square and dovetailing the corners. This required a considerable amount of additional work but the cabins were better in appearance and more weather proof than the ones constructed from round logs.

Very few of the early log cabins had cellars or basements under them as we have in our modern homes. The early settlers built outside cellars for the storage of their root crops. These cellars were pits dug into the ground close to the cabins with a thick roof built over them of wood and earth, having an opening at one end. Here the root crops were stored over the winter and during the summer they were used as coolers.

In this way the pioneers built their shelters. There was no end to back breaking work but the ideal of freedom and the prospect of economic independence spurred them on.

The Pioneer Household

In the years that Kandiyohi County was settled, Grand Rapids, Michigan had not yet become the great furniture center of America as it is today. The furniture industry throughout the country was yet in its infancy. Even if there was furniture to be had in the larger industrial centers the early pioneers of Minnesota did not have the money with which to buy furniture and transport ~~them~~ ^{it} to their frontier homes. The furnishings of the log cabins were mostly hand made with the crude tools that were available to the frontiersman. Compared to the modern household the cabins of the settlers were crude indeed. Beds in which they slept were made of wood. The pioneer women tried to make them as comfortable as they could with straw and hay filled mattresses. Some of the more fortunate settlers who had money were able to get simple household necessities which made life a little more comfortable.

Water

Water is an essential need wherever man or animal lives. Their body needs it as all living things need moisture. Water to man is an element without which he cannot live. While in leash, water like fire is one of man's greatest friends. It performs useful tasks. It puts out fires. Streams of water in our rivers carry and transport huge loads. Waterpower gives us light. Water gives us an endless amount of benefits but the most essential thing about water is that man, animal or plant

cannot survive without it. Water, like fire, can also be dangerous to man. It can cause floods and destruction. When exposed to the atmosphere at certain temperatures billions of deadly bacteria can grow in it dangerous to the health of man.

Thus it is that man for a long time past has sought a water supply for his drink from below the surface of the earth or running springs through which the water has been filtered.

In some regions of the earth such as the large desert and arid plains underground, water sources have been hard to find. Before the extensive knowledge of geology which we possess today people devined sources of water. These deviners were called "water witches." They claimed the ability to locate water veins below the surface of the earth with devine methods. One of these methods which yet survives among some of the older people of today is witching water sources with a willow. This is done in the following manner. A forked branch of a willow is cut about the thickness of a finger.. It is cut into a shape of a wishbone or a short handled fork with two prongs. One of the branches of the fork is grasped with the right hand and the other with the left with the thumbs outward and the back of the hands toward the ground, the twig then spread with the handle of the fork pointing upward. Then the person walks up and down and across the area where water is being searched. The explanation is that the handle of the fork will itself turn toward the ground should the person walk over an underground water vein.

In the Kandiyohi region underground sources of water

being close to the surface
 were not so difficult to find, as on the arid plains. In the
 region the water bearing sands and gravels, through which water
 filters, are close to the surface. Thus the early settler could
 find cool and clear water without much effort. The early wells
 were dug with a spade. At a depth of from 20 to 60 feet plenty
 water could be found. The early settlers drew the water out of
 the wells in many ways. Some had only a simple rope and bucket,
 some had learned the old oaken bucket method of lifting the
 water to the surface, others had pulley wells and wooden pumps.
 Later came the iron hand pump and as the resources of the settlers
 increased, they secured windmills to pump the water for them.
 Windmills have thus come into extensive use in the county.
 Still later, drilled artesian wells have been made on some of
 the farms, which are many hundred feet deep and flow by themselves.
have been made on some of the farms

Now And Before

planted the first
 It is not definitely known who ~~the first planters~~ of grain
 and other crops were in the Kandiyohi region. But we do know that
 at that time the iron plough and the crude harvester had already
 been invented. We know also that at ~~the time that~~ ^{this} the region
 was settled the ox and the horse were generally used as draft
 animals. After 1790 several men in the country had made crude
 iron ploughs that were better than the wooden ones used earlier.
The iron plow was was invented in 1790 but
~~but~~ When these first iron ploughs were made, some people
 had an objection to them. They said that the earth stuck to
 the iron mold board so that they would not scour. A superstition
 was also widespread that the iron would poison the soil. Usage
 and experience, however, overcame these objections. Machinery
 as need arose for it came into use, sweeping away all superstitious
 objections.

At the time that the Kandiyohi region was settled, ^{the} ~~there~~ ^{early inventions were being used in the east} ~~were already in use in the states farther east, the iron plough, reaper, header and many other crude farm implements.~~ But before the railroad came they were not available to the Minnesota Frontiersman. Some settlers brought with them a walking plough with which they broke up the first land. Some land in the beginning was spaded to make the seed beds. Reaping was done by hand, first with the sickle, later ^{with} the scythe and cradle were used, ^{and} still later came the reaper and binder. Most of the farm tools of the early days, however, were made by hand, ~~out of materials at hand.~~

^{The early settlers brought their livestock with them.} Animal husbandry was begun immediately by the early settlers when they came. ^{essential for dairy products, while} Cows were brought to give milk. Beef cattle ^{took the place of buffalo and venison that had vanished with the Indians.} and hogs were also brought to give meat as the buffalo had gone westward with the Indians.

Animal husbandry at that time came into being as a vital necessity to give meat, milk, cheese and other products for the frontier home. ^{Animal husbandry was secondary in value to the growing of grain which became the source of wealth} At the time it was to be secondary to grain growing. Raising of grain crops was to be the source of riches ^{when the land was cleared} and wellbeing just as soon as land could be opened up and ^{were} ~~transportation~~ ^{and} transportation facilities arranged. For a time in the early days of agriculture in the county this became the order of things. The production of livestock and dairy products was only a means to ^{cattle were} ~~an end.~~ It was a means of food and provisions for the farm family, who were engaged ^{as} in grain growing ^{was} as their main occupation.

Time and history have wrought a change into this order however. In the slightly over eighty years since the first set-

^{Today} ~~timers came~~, livestock and dairy production ^{have} ~~has~~ become dominant. Now livestock and dairy production provide ^{ing} ~~more~~ than half of the total income of the farm population in the county. Through the process of diversification livestock and dairy production ^{have} ~~has~~ become the primary calling of most of the farmers. Grain growing in the course of time has given way to animal husbandry in Kandiyohi County as in many other southwestern counties of Minnesota.

CHAPTER 9.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JACOB FAHLSTROM
(By Ben Phillips)

A youthful sailor, shipwrecked on the coast of England, where he enlisted in the service of the Hudson Bay Company, became Minnesota's first Swedish settler. He was Jacob Fahlstrom, who was born in Stockholm June 28, 1793.

Fahlstrom figured prominently in the pioneer history of the state. Ten years before Colonel Leavenworth established Fort Snelling, Fahlstrom was at the mouth of St. Peters. As a roving fur buyer he traveled all over the northwest, exploring great sections of the country where no white man previously had set foot.

Converted to Methodism at the first Methodist services in the state, he became an "exhorter" and missionary of that sect, participating in the organization of the first Methodist Episcopal church in the territory. Throughout the remainder of his life he was an enthusiastic practitioner of the type of religious observance which has become identified as "shouting Methodism," and many are the stories of his strenuous worship.

He spent his later years on the St. Croix in what is now Washington County, where he combined farming with missionary work.

Fahlstrom was but nine years of age when he went to sea on his first voyage, signing as cabin boy on a vessel, described as a "steamer" which was commanded by his uncle. After the wreck on the English Coast, the boy and his uncle made their way to London where they became separated. In London, young Jacob became attached to Lord Selkirk's enterprises and was sent to the Hudson Bay region in the employ of the great fur company. He knew how to read and write his native tongue and soon learned the French of the bois brules and Iroquois. Transferred to the Red River settlement, he switched allegiance to the American Fur Company, and was sent to the junction of the St. Peters (now the Minnesota) and the Mississippi. For seven or eight years he acted as a traveling buyer, constantly on the move through the northwest. After the establishment of Fort Snelling he was employed for several years in the quartermaster's department. He also served as the mail carrier between Prairie du Chien and Fort Snelling, covering the distance on foot, and playing a desperate game of hide and seek with the hostile Indians.

Fahlstrom had carried a Swedish Testament with him during his years of wandering over the northwest and frequently conversed with the missionaries at the several stations among the Indian tribes. From the Presbyterian missionaries at Lake Calhoun he first learned of the intended establishment of a Methodist mission. He inquired closely into the nature of the new sect, and was told by the Presbyterians that although the Methodists were good and

sincere people they made a very strenuous business of their church services.

When Jacob King, the Methodist missionary arrived at Fort Snelling in 1837, Fahlstrom was at hand to participate in the first service, held in a building which Major Plympton had loaned for the purpose. Major Plympton had provided a pulpit, but it proved too frail for the purpose and collapsed under King's pounding. Fahlstrom, however, was converted. He joined the missionary and accompanied him to Little Crow's village at Kaposia, about 10 miles below St. Paul, where a station was established. He remained at the mission for some time and was "licensed" as an "exhorter."

Fahlstrom, his wife and three daughters are listed as members of the first Methodist Episcopal church organized in 1839 at St. Peter's Mission station.

In 1840, Fahlstrom settled at Lakeland (Afton Township) in what is now Washington County. He loaned his home for a mission school, conducted services at Hudson on Sundays, and industriously spread the gospel among the Chippewa and the loggers of the St. Croix country.

In 1850, Fahlstrom removed to another homestead at Valley Creek in Afton Township in Washington County where he remained until his death in 1859.

Fahlstrom was married in 1823 to Margaret Bungo, a half negro-half Chippewa woman. Nine children were born of this marriage. Mrs. Fahlstrom has been described "as a woman of a fine mind." She died in 1880.

CHAPTER 10.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ELIJAH T. WOODCOCK

Elijah T. Woodcock was a native of the state of New York. He was born in Alleghany County, New York, January 15th, 1833. He is believed to have been the first actual white settler in the region that is now Kandiyohi County. His wife was the first white woman to come to this frontier. To them was born the first white child to be born in the county. Although they were the first settlers they left the frontier in 1859 and lived in Urbana, Ohio where Mr. Woodcock became a grain dealer.

Mr. Woodcock left his native state of New York ^{for} to the far west, as the frontier was termed at the time, in the spring of 1855, ~~coming to Iowa~~. From ^{Iowa} ~~there~~ he came through southern Minnesota and located, as he says in his reminiscences, near Faribault on a "quarter section of beautiful prairie land." After remaining there for a year and making some improvements on the land he sold his interest "advantageously." On April 20th, 1856 he left Faribault with V. L. Forsythe ^{for} to the Crow River Country. They went by way of Owatonna, Mankato, Henderson, Glencoe, Hutchinson and Cedar City. To make the journey they had equipped themselves with a camping outfit on a light wagon with a pony. At Cedar City they met Jesse M. Ayers and another man who had already explored the region before and located a townsite on the west side of Green Lake. Mr. Ayers at the time was on his way there. He persuaded Woodcock and Forsythe to join him in the townsite enterprise. From Cedar City together they proceeded to ~~make the journey to~~ Green Lake. Mr. Woodcock says the following in his reminiscences about their

arrival at the townsite. "The inspiration caused by the first sight of the beautiful lake seemed to bring out all the admiring qualities which we possessed and we were captivated by this beautiful spot of nature's production."

Then and there the group of them decided to ~~resolve~~ ^{form a} ~~themselves into~~ a townsite company and selected three hundred and twenty acres of prairie and timberland which they named the townsite of Columbia.

Of this time Mr. Woodcock further says: "Those were days of great anticipation. We thought a glorious future was in store for the Green Lake country--a great city would grow up and steamboats would ply on the beautiful waters. Laboring under this hallucination I hastened to my native state and took to myself a wife to share the joys and griefs of a western home."

On October 16th, Mr. and Mrs. Woodcock arrived from New York state at the ~~rude cabin of J. M. Ayers~~ which was their ~~destination.~~ ^{and} ~~At this cabin they~~ started their first frontier housekeeping ^{at the cabin of J. M. Ayers.}

During that fall the three hundred and twenty acre tract of land was incorporated into a townsite company and surveyed into broad streets and avenues. Reservations were made in the plat for public buildings. Everything was made ready for a great boom. The future looked hopeful with the prospect of new settlers coming. Of this Mr. Woodcock says: "All looked magnificent on paper." The plan of the townsite Mr. Woodcock kept for many years after in memory of his frontier life.

The first winter spent on the frontier by the Woodcocks was very severe. ~~There was a lot of snow and it was cold.~~ The bad weather drove away the fowl and beasts of the woods, ^{and} ~~thus~~

hunting could not be depended upon for provisions. The deep snow made it even difficult to procure fuel for the cabin. Bands of insolent Chippewa Indians molested them in their home. But the greatest worry was the threat of starvation. In March the stores of provisions which were put away in the fall had already been exhausted. By April first the last flour was used ^{for} ~~up for~~ bread. At this time outside assistance became necessary. From Union Grove, about sixteen miles from their frontier home, they secured flour and other provisions from the neighbors. Thus was averted the starvation which loomed.

When the spring thaws came, game became abundant again in the woods and fish filled the streams and lakes. In May, J. M. Ayers, who had left during the winter arrived ~~back~~ from the east with a good supply of provisions. Again the prospects became more hopeful.

During the summer of 1857 many new people came to the settlement. When they came their usual destination was the Columbia Townsite and the cabin of the Woodcocks. The early settlers remember Elijah T. Woodcock especially because of his hospitality. The first days of frontier life by many of the early settlers ^{were} ~~was~~ spent at the Woodcock cabin.

The years of 1857 and 1858 passed quietly in peaceful and ardent labor on the frontier. New settlers arrived one after another, dispersing in all directions to build their frontier homes. During this time, however, the affairs of the Columbia Townsite became complicated. ~~Due to the neglect by the company~~ ^{file} ~~to make a filing~~ ^{and} at the land office, the land of the townsite reverted to the railroad company.

The company neglected

Elijah T. Woodcock hoped to achieve his dream as a pioneer through a growth of a town on the Columbia Townsite lands. His hopes, however, were soon shattered. The surveys of the railroad company differed from his plans, ^{and} ~~The railroad company~~ ^{that} did not take the route ~~for the railroad where~~ Mr. Woodcock ^{had} ~~expected it.~~ The Columbia Townsite ~~was left far away from~~ ^{becoming} where the first railroad was built. ^{and having} ~~Being~~ discouraged with the railroad survey ~~as well as suffering~~ the many hardships of the earliest frontier life, the Woodcocks left for the east in 1859. An added factor contributing to the discouragement was an endless litigation with regard to the land that they had staked out for themselves. The enactment of the homestead law which had been a problem of endless discussion had been delayed and the settlers did not have the money for the preemption cost of the land. Of this matter he writes: "All the early settlers had flattered themselves that the first homestead bill ever passed by our Congress, introduced by the venerable Galusha M. Grow of Pennsylvanis, would apply to our homesteads located under the preemption laws. The historic James Buchanan was then President of the United States, and when the bill came to him for approval and signature he promptly vetoed it, and claimed that the Congress ~~had~~ had no right to give away the public domain to actual settlers. He did not remember that he had approved of the extensive ~~land~~ land grants to the Railroad Companies of a solid strip six miles along the lines of the railroads mapped out through Minnesota. "

Waiting for the enactment of the Homestead Law the early settlers were confronted with the problem of paying \$1.25 per acre for the claims that they had staked out at a time when they

had no money to do it, with. If they could not pay the land would revert back to the government. As one of the settlers confronted with a situation of this kind, Elijah T. Woodcock, was compelled to take a loan on his land giving a first mortgage and a note bearing 36 percent interest annually to pay for his land. The loan was ^{\$160.00} ~~one hundred and sixty dollars~~ on which he was obliged to pay \$57.60 interest annually. Naturally he resented this usury but it was the only way out. It was a question with him as with others of getting the money or losing the land.

After securing possession of the land they were confronted with a prospect of another winter for which they were not well prepared. In face of this they decided to sell their chattels, rent the land and go to New York until a better time. They rented the place to a Mr. Thomas who lived on it up to the time of the Sioux outbreak. After leaving the frontier subsequent events developed which prevented the Woodcocks from ever coming back to their early home in Minnesota. The civil war broke out. Then came the Sioux outbreak which depopulated the Kandiyohi region. Of this Mr. Woodcock in his reminiscences says: "To go through a second term of pioneering my ambition failed me, and I later sold the land to the late J. W. Burdick for five hundred dollars. Thus ended my career as a pioneer."

CHAPTER 11.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF SOLOMON R. FOOT

Solomon R. Foot is one of the hardy pioneers often referred to as the Daniel Boon of the Kandiyohi region. He was a sturdy man of English and Scottish descent, born in Dover, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, May 30th, 1823. His parents had come to Ohio from Massachusetts and Connecticut and settled on the banks of Lake Erie west of Cleveland, Ohio in 1816.

When Solomon R. Foot was twenty five years of age he engaged in the lumber business in Toledo, Ohio. From there he moved into La Porte County, Indiana. At the age of thirty ¹⁸⁵⁷ four he came with his wife and four children from Indiana through Chicago, Madison and Hudson, Wisconsin to St. Paul.

He had ~~already visited~~ and staked out his claim and built a log cabin ~~on it~~ in the Kandiyohi country earlier in June of the same year. With a lumber wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen he arrived with his family in St. Paul in the fall of 1857. On their arrival in St. Paul they were greeted by a severe snow storm which compelled them to ^{stop} ~~lay up~~ in St. Paul for three days. Mrs. Foot and the four children were a bit disappointed by the blizzard as Mr. Foot had represented the Minnesota Country to them earlier as the "Eden of the west." From St. Paul they continued their journey to Minneapolis, Shakopee, Young America, Hutchison and to Cedar City. Here again they were overtaken by extremely cold weather and snow. The weather was so bad that they were compelled to apply at Cedar City Tavern for a night's lodging. Owing to the bad weather the stables had been engaged so they had to leave their oxen outside for the night. There were no

rooms left in the tavern so they were obliged to sleep on the floor and cook their own food. According to Mr. Foot the owner of the tavern was rude and unfriendly. One Mr. Gates did not have sufficient funds with him to pay for his stopover so the owner of the tavern made him leave a box of goods for security. The next morning the Foots continued their journey through snow drifts to Acton. Here they were met with a hospitable and kind reception by Mr. Jones who kept a station there. Staying overnight at Acton, the next morning found them on their way to Diamond Lake.

It seems that the further they got to the outposts of the frontier, the more friendly the people were. From here the final lap of the journey was made plodding through snow and cold weather with tired oxen and a heavy load to Columbia Townsite, where they arrived on November 19th. At the Columbia Townsite, Foot's wife and the four children remained at the Woodcocks who had settled there earlier, while Mr. Foot and Mr. Hollister, his wife's uncle, proceeded to Eagle Lake where Mr. Foot had staked out his claim. The Woodcocks were very hospitable people and the family stayed there until the cabin was in such shape that they could move in.

It was six weeks from the time ~~that~~ the family ~~had~~ left Indiana ^{until} ~~that~~ they finally moved into ^{their own} ~~the~~ cabin of ~~Mr. Foot~~. The winter of 1857 was very moderate which was fortunate for the Foot household. The first winter was spent in sawing logs and making furniture and other useful things for the household. In 1858 there was an early spring. The ground thawed ~~already~~ in March. ^{and} After the thaw many species of fish came into the streams and lakes, ~~in abundance~~. The shortage of food which worried the

pioneers in the winter was now overcome. As the spring thaw came, with it came the new grass. The trees began to bud. The magic touch of the warm sun stirred into life all living things. The "Eden of the west" began to show its charms. Life became joyous, worth all the hardships that the Foot family had experienced on their journey to the frontier.

Solomon R. Foot was a sturdy pioneer with great determination, common sense and ^{the} ingenuity typical of all of those early settlers who came to stay and work out their destinies. It is not by accident that he is now referred to as the Daniel Boon of the Kandiyohi Country. In the early days he was always armed. His rifle was always a few steps from where he worked. ~~He knew how to use his gun. In him was combined a man of the rifle, axe and plow.~~ He worked hard to break up land for cultivation, but like with other early pioneers this did not bring enough to take care of the growing family. He had to hunt deer and other game to get "meat for the babies" as he exclaimed when he brought down a deer in the woods. The funds that Mr. Foot brought with him when he came from Indiana were soon depleted. Soon after he came to the frontier he was obliged to borrow money and get credit from the merchants. To pay the bills an immediate source of revenue had to be found. Like many other early settlers he became a trapper. This was his first source of cash income with which he could pay the bills incurred and provide simple necessities for the household. ~~He became a trapper widely known among the pioneers.~~

With the Indians Solomon R. Foot was always on friendly terms up to the time of the Sioux outbreak. His early experience with ^{them} ~~the~~ Indians first frightened him but he soon learned their habits and their nature. In his reminiscences he describes an

incident with Indians which happened after the Inkpaduta Massacre.

"Late one afternoon while Stewart and I were making shingles we heard halloos from a distance. Supposing that some land inspector or settler wished to see us and, being anxious to get news, we hurried toward their camp. I carried in my belt a Colts/ revolver and my rifle was always a few steps from where I worked. I had as yet little knowledge of Indians, but I had heard of the Inkpaduta Massacre. With gun on shoulder I advanced and had gone some distance when there suddenly arose two stalwart Indians. To me their appearance was so sudden and unexpected that I stopped as quickly as if shot. My gun involuntarily swung to a position of firing, when the reds hailed us with hands outstretched and exclamations of "How how" accompanied by a derisive laugh of satisfaction for having so scared a white man. We shook hands with them and after they had begged some tobacco they went to a nearby grove where their party camped. They were on a hunt for Chippewa scalps and game. This was my first fright from Indians and I resolved then and there that they should never see me frightened again."

From this experience he learned that one should not let the Indians frighten one regardless of what the circumstances are. Further on in his reminiscences he says the following regarding the matter:

"From my experience and general observation I learned that whenever the Indians met with firm resistance to their begging and peremptory demands they were as civil as the same number of transient white men would have been. But on entering a house if they saw the least fear, which they were quick to detect, they

would take the last morsel of food."

Mr. Foot, like a great many of our early pioneers, had experienced the difficulties of frontier life from a very early age. While he himself was a pioneer in Minnesota his parents before him had pioneered in Ohio. Like the great majority of our early settlers he loved freedom and liberty and understood what it meant to be a free man. From his reminiscences published in the illustrated History of Kandiyohi County edited by Victor E. Lawson we can come to only one conclusion that in ~~we realize that he was a~~ Mr. Foot was combined a considerate father, a hard working agriculturist, a proficient hunter and trapper, ^{and} ~~in~~ a courageous frontiersman who militantly executed his decisions in all circumstances. He had tasted of the free life of the west. For it he was ready to fight at all times. He was severely wounded in the Sioux outbreak of 1862 defending with arms his family and other settlers. In his reminiscences he gives moving examples of what this freedom meant to him. After describing how the early settlers would ~~take~~ ^{went by} to their ~~crude~~ sleds in cold winter weather to ~~go to~~ parties in his own cabin and other gathering places on the frontier he says;

"Arriving at the places of rendezvous we would be welcomed and ushered into a room by a warm fire and, partaking of hot coffee and tea and more solid refreshments, all were soon engaged in social converse, games or the dance, to the tune of "Roaring River" or "Arkansas Traveler," rendered on the violin by Masters and Parsons. Thus the night would be whiled away, hours seeming like minutes in congenial enjoyment. No sectarian prejudices, no political

differences, no sectional interests ever marred these assemblages. All met on the same broad platform of "Equal rights to all." None were rich, none were poor; all were American citizens and had a united vital interest in the welfare and prosperity of the country and its people."

Further describing an early Fourth of July celebration he says the following:

"We had no flag, but near us was a tall oak tree in the top of which two eagles had a nest, where annually two eaglets were raised. The eagles were recognized as emblems of American freedom. We saluted them with the firing of guns and patriotic cheers as they soared in the sky above. They recognized the salute with screams of defiance to all enemies of liberty."

In 1863 Solomon R. Foot moved to St. Cloud and operated a fruit bazaar there. Soon after this he moved to Melrose, Minnesota where he operated a hotel and was the first postmaster there. In 1888 he relocated in Minot, North Dakota, ^{and from there} ~~from where~~ he ~~removed~~ to San Pedro, California to live with his children. He died March 16th, 1903. His first wife was Adeline D. Stocking, born in New York in 1826. She was one of the brave pioneer women who was by his side in all the trials and hardships until her death in Melrose in 1879. To this union were born eight children. After the death of his first wife Solomon R. Foot was married again to Julia Foot, widow of Silas Foot. His second wife died in 1886.

CHAPTER 12.
GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE 1876 AND 1877

Settlers unprepared

~~The early settlers~~
After ~~they~~ had hewn out their homes in the wilderness, broke up the prairies with oxen, making the fields fruitful, raised their herds of cattle; after ~~they~~ had ^{and resisted} suffered the ravages of the Indian massacre, another catastrophe overtook ~~the settlers~~ ^{them} which they were not prepared to combat. In 1876 and 1877 a plague of grasshoppers, called Rocky Mountain Locusts, swarmed their fields and destroyed their crops.

Methods of Destroying Pests

In these early days the people were not prepared to ~~effectively~~ fight ~~these~~ insects so the crops were lost, bringing on tremendous suffering and want among the tillers of the soil. The people appealed to the government for aid. John S. Pillsbury was Governor of the state of Minnesota at the time. He gave elaborate instructions ~~to the farmers on how to~~ ^{for} destroy the insects, ~~setting~~ ^{and even} aside a special day of prayer, April 9, 1877, to appeal to God for deliverance from the affliction and the destruction of the pests.

Faced with destruction of their crops the people invented many crude methods to combat the pests. Planks were drawn over the meadows in an attempt to drive them away. A long trough with wheels at both ends, the bottom of which was smeared with tar, was drawn over the grain fields to trap the insects. Ditches were dug and other methods were used to catch and destroy them. On March 1st, 1877 the Minnesota Legislature passed a law authorizing a payment of a bounty on

grasshoppers and grasshopper eggs. The bounty was paid per bushel for grasshoppers caught and destroyed, and by the gallon for the eggs.

All of these efforts, however, were ~~uneffective~~ and the crops were destroyed for two years. It was only after Nature itself destroyed them that the people were free from the scourge which had brought them tremendous hardship.

Brought Hardship & Suffering

The following poem written by some one in 1877 describes the condition which prevailed in Willmar, the largest ^{town} ~~population~~ ~~center~~ of the county, as a result of the invasion of the region by the locusts.

"I'll sing to you of Willmar town,
In these Grasshopper times,
In Willmar town;
Of noisy loons and long, lean hounds
That in every street and lane abounds--
In Willmar town.
Of lightning bugs and bull frogs' songs
Grasshoppers with their wings so long
Mosquitoes with their bills so strong--
In Willmar town
And how the people look forlorn,
And wish that they were never born,
For they can get no wheat or corn
In Willmar town
How they sit about from day to day
And growl and fret and never pray

And how they live no one can say---

In Willmar town.

One "Uncle Gabriel" in a newspaper ended his discription of the situation in the following manner.

"No money, no meat, no flour, no credit, no---not even potatoes, what is to be done for the poor? Where are the good samaritans? Autumn's blasts and famishing storms of winter will quickly come. Shall steps be taken for the physical salvation of the poor and needy? We submit the question to a Christian people."

These writings of the early people describe the suffering of the large majority of the population of the county, but not all suffered equally. The business men, although their profits perhaps were smaller, did not suffer dire need as did the farmers. An early issue of the St. Paul Globe had this to say at the time.

"In spite of hard times they have yet to record the first instance of mercantile failure, and of the numerous business houses here, not one is the least particle shaky. Drawing their trade from a wide area they have thus far a sufficient cash trade to keep their paper good and have at last outridden the gale."

During the time of the locust plague the people made common cause in order to get aid. A great number of meetings were held among the farmers. So great became the pressure by the people that the state finally had to take some action to assist the farmers. Much was written about the situation in the newspapers of the time. The State Legislature authorized through legislative act the bonding of counties to make seed loans to the farmers. On March 1st, 1878 a vote was taken among

the people of the county to issue bond for the purpose. This vote carried by a 436 majority. The county thus loaned money ^{to 915 farmers in 1878.} ~~to get seed in 1878 to 915 farmers.~~ ^{the seed purchased by this money} With these seeds 41,340 acres were sown.

1878 was a good crop year but the prices of farm products were low. During the grasshopper plague the farmers were compelled to go into debt. These debts were unpaid. The taxes were delinquent. Many of the farmers had to mortgage their properties in order to live through the Grasshopper years when all the crops were destroyed. Thus in spite of a fair crop many of the farmers continued to suffer want. This generated a great amount of dissatisfaction among them. It was not their fault that the prices were low. This they knew and subsequently began to search for an explanation to their poverty stricken situation.

CHAPTER 13. THE FARMERS ORGANIZE

The Grange

The early farmer of Kandiyohi County very soon learned scientific farming and animal husbandry. Many brought this knowledge with them from the old country and the older eastern settlements of America when they came. They knew what to do to "make two blades of grass grow where one grew before." They knew how to plow and raise their crops. Better ways and methods were taught to them by experience from day to day. In this way they increased production of farm products so that soon they became producers not only for themselves but for the market.

When they reached this stage they had reason to expect

a rapid improvement in their lives. Now they were able to produce a surplus above their own needs which they intended to trade for new machinery, building material and manufactured goods. The future looked promising indeed. It spurred the early farmer to new efforts. In the years past these expectations were always near achievement. All the obstacles of the past were overcome with these hopes of a new day when the hard working farmer was to become a great independent "country gentleman" who would know no need.

But all of these hopes were in time shattered with the realization that in spite of the many good crops ~~instead of reaping a harvest of wellbeing~~, their farms remained mortgaged, their debts remained unpaid, their taxes were delinquent, they were confronted with insecurity and want. They soon found that the surplus products which they had produced disappeared, leaving themselves empty handed. They awoke to the fact that the monopolies and the moneyed interests were piling up wealth while they suffered hardship. They had adopted the most advanced methods of cultivating the soil and making the fields fruitful but that did not seem to help. They now began to band together to give battle to the looming monopolies who had brought all of their tedious efforts and great hopes to naught.

The movement of farmers called the "Patrons of Husbandry or the Grange" was started in St. Paul, Minnesota and soon spread into all of the agriculture communities of the state. The beginning of the movement in Kandiyohi County was at a meeting near Diamond Lake, May 23rd, 1876 at which T. A. Thompson, the State organizer of the Grange spoke. In a characteristic manner he

ended his speech with the following words: "We have been ground down long enough, monopolies and their agents have sponged from us too long. Let them till the soil. They are no better than we are. All are invited to join the Grange and get acquainted with its system."

After this, numerous Grange locals were established in the county. The militant purpose of this early farmers' movement met with ready response among its people.

The Farmer's Alliance

The ten years preceding 1880 were hard years for the farmers. Although there had been the grasshopper plague, all of the ^{difficulties} ~~fault~~ could not be attributed to nature and its caprices. The pinch of poverty was not only felt by the farmers of Minnesota, ^{but} It had become general throughout the farming areas of the country. On this wave of dissatisfaction the Grange movement had grown but it did not suffice to bring the desired improvements. Further banding together of the farmers took place on a nation wide scale. New and additional efforts were made by them to improve their conditions. Owing to the fact that monopolies, milling interests and the railroads had become opulent with wealth while they suffered, the farmers demanded the same kind of treatment from Government and county as the business interests had. To accomplish this an organization called the Farmers' Alliance was established. Owing to the ^{badly depressed} ~~poverty stricken~~ conditions, this movement spread very rapidly to nearly all of the agriculture states in the union. Its strongest organizations were in the midwestern and south central states. At one time it claimed millions of members in the nation including a large number of

negroes in the southern states.

The early settlers of Kandiyohi County with their experience in organization in the Grange very readily became a part of this great revolt of the farmers. Their grievances were similar to those of the farmers in other parts of the country. From the time that the railroad had come they had substantially improved their means of production. They now cultivated larger areas. They raised larger herds and milked more cows. Both in grain growing as well as animal husbandry they had become producers for the market. They expected and had a right to expect a rapid improvement in their lives. They wanted better machinery. They wanted better buildings to live in. They hoped for at least some measure of comfort in their homes. Being producers of the wealth of the land they wanted at least to have the same measure of comfort in return for their backbreaking toil as the merchant and the townspeople.

These things they were, however, unable to get because prices of farm products were so low that they were not even able to pay their debts. They learned too the peculiar principle in trade which prevails to this day. When they went to market to sell their products, always the buyer named the price. When they wanted to buy, the seller named the price. Among the farmers of the county, therefore, a method of improving their conditions *such* as the Alliance offered, found great response. From the time that it was organized they flocked under its banner in great numbers. To this movement, which overcame all national, religious and other barriers, uniting a great number of people, must be partly attributed the progressive sentiments of the people in

Kandiyohi County which prevail to this day.

The Farmers' Alliance established the first local chapter in the county in Burbank Township in 1881. This chapter (which was known as Local 51) continued to carry on the struggle of the farmers of the community for 12 years. The last local to be organized in the county was that of Fahlun Township in 1892. The largest locals of the county were the Lake Lillian and Dover chapters among the Scandinavian people. At one time during the period from 1881 to 1892 the Farmers' Alliance in Kandiyohi County numbered about a thousand members.

The Farmers' Alliance was a militant and progressive organization of the farmers. It wanted the Railroad Companies to pay their just share of taxes. It wanted lower freight rates which at the time absorbed a big part of the product of the farm. The membership wanted extension of democracy in Government. They were for temperance. They denounced the use of money to control elections. They understood that they were not the only people ^{who} ~~that~~ suffered because of the greed of the wealthy. Because they were predominantly foreign born, and offspring of foreign born parents, their sympathies extended across the oceans into other countries of the world. They could remember and appreciate the hardships and the suffering of the people in their former homelands. They gave aid to the needy whenever and wherever it was needed. In the Farmers' Alliance they sponsored collections for famine sufferers in foreign lands. A collection was once taken for the needy people of Sweden which netted over two thousand dollars in cash. In 1890, sponsored by the Farmers' Alliance, a campaign was conducted to aid the Russian famine sufferers. 75,735 pounds of flour

were given to the needy people of Russia as a result of this campaign.

In 1891 the Farmers' Alliance established a newspaper called the "Alliance Standard" which continued publication under very difficult conditions for a couple of years. Its editorial policy was the advance thought of the day. The great progressive statesman and pioneer political leader of Minnesota, Ignatius Donnelly, was one of its editorial contributors. Under the editorship of ~~a member of~~ able progressives it carried on for "Economic Justice" as the farmers chose to call their struggle at the time.

Early Cooperatives and Progressive Political Action

The Grange and the Farmers' Alliance were the forerunners of the Equity Union and the various co-operative organizations in the county. The Alliance and Grange locals were the forums where the co-operative movement and other farm problems were widely discussed. Very early in their organizational efforts the farmers learned that there were two methods with which to achieve their aims. One of these methods was political action. To make the Governmental authorities more friendly and sympathetic to their needs as farmers. The other was to improve their conditions through co-operation.

In 1890 at a convention of the Farmers' Alliance held in Willmar, they declared that the old political parties were corrupt, ^{and} that it was necessary for the farmers to take independent political action. From this followed the long and colorful political activity of the Peoples party ~~in the country~~ which was a part of a national movement to give the farm population a place

in American political life.

In 1896 the Whitefield Township Farmers' Alliance took the initiative in organizing the Farmers' Alliance Elevator Company and a Farmers' Grain Elevator was subsequently built at Willmar. This enterprise has continued to the present day, now operating under the name of Willmar Co-operative Elevator Company. After this, many successful co-operative enterprises among the farmers ^{were} ~~have been~~ organized.

The early interest of the People of Kandiyohi County in the co-operative movement can be accounted for by the fact that the population was predominantly Scandinavian and they were experienced in co-operation which they had learned in the hardy conditions of their homeland. Thus ~~a variety of~~ co-operative activity has ^{been responsible for the} ~~for a long time~~ taken place in the county. Cream-eries ^{that} have been built in the countryside, ~~in this way~~. The people have co-operated to establish telephone communication and other worthy enterprises ^{have likewise been achieved.}

CHAPTER 14.

IGNATIUS DONNELLY

His Fruitful Career

When we speak of the struggles and organizations of the farmers of Minnesota, such as the Grange, Farmers' Alliance, The People's Party and the Co-operatives, there is one personality whose name is interwoven into the fabric, ~~who at the time was the greatest leader of the people of Minnesota, towering above all the rest.~~ This name and personality is Ignatius Donnelly. He was a great author, orator and progressive political leader of the time. In and out of office, through his work in ~~the~~ varied

fields of activity, Donnelly's influence was felt not only in the state of Minnesota but throughout the Nation.

His famous speech on Reconstruction of the south, January 18th, 1866, ~~as a Congressman from Minnesota~~ in the United States House of Representatives, has become a classic of our progressive political history. In this speech with all his force and superb oratory he espoused the cause of equal rights for the negro people of the south, lashing out at those people in the Congress who, after the Civil War, wanted to disfranchise them. With his great passion for freedom and equality he rose to defend the rights of the negro people who had been freed from bondage through the bitter Civil War. In the course of this speech he declared:

*all of this should be cut
standing is necessary*

^{are}
"There ~~is~~ but two forms of Government in the world; injustice, armed and powerful and taking to itself the shape of king or aristocracy; and, on the other hand, absolute human justice, resting upon the broad and enduring basis of equal rights to all. Give this and give intelligence and education to understand it and you have a structure which will stand while the world stands, anything else than this is mere repression, the piling of rocks into the mouth of the volcano, which sooner or later will fling them into the skies."

In this great speech his withering fire on the foes of liberty and equality rang around the whole country. His potent arguments pierced the armor of hypocrisy of his opponents. He gave two alternatives for the reconstruction of the south.

"Shall it be by the August rule of the Declaration of Independence; or shall we bend our energies to perpetuate injustice, cruelty

and oppression; and make of this fair Government a monstrosity, with golden words of promise upon its banners, a fair seeming upon its surface, but a hideous and inhuman despotism within it;" As our pioneer progressive political leader, as a writer, orator, Lieutenant Governor and as Congressman from Minnesota in ~~the halls~~ of the United States Congress he never forgot the essence of the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal", that they must have equal rights and opportunities.

In the course of his career he became the leader of many movements of the people who were oppressed by the growing financial interests. He was the champion of the people in the fight against "Plutocracy" as the people chose to call their enemies and oppressors at the time. In the beginning many of these movements were very unpopular but they grew to influence the course of the people not only in ^{this} ~~the~~ state but in the whole nation. He was one of the founders of the Grange movement among the farmers. He became the President of the Farmers' Alliance of Minnesota. He was the leader of the Peoples Party of Minnesota ^{and directed} ~~as well as~~ the national convention of that Party held in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 1891. He was a collaborator of General James B. Weaver who was candidate for President of the United States on the Peoples Party ticket in 1892. As early as 1872 he ~~already~~ presided at the National Anti-Monopoly convention which nominated Peter Cooper for President.

Like Thomas Jefferson, who came to be known in his time as the "sage of Monticello", so Ignatius Donnelly was often called by the people of Minnesota the "sage of Ninninger." This name his opponents used in an attempt to belittle him but to the

people it had a totally different meaning, a meaning of love and respect.

The career of Ignatius Donnelly was a very fruitful one. His energies were unbounded. His works were published during the time that he lived and even today are widely read. In his colorful life he had time to write on Economics, Politics, Money Reform as well as a great amount of fiction. *In the latter field* Among his ~~fictional work~~ ^{his} is the widely read book "The Golden Bottle." Other works are "The Great Cryptogram", "Atlantia, the antediluvian world", "Ragnarock", "Caesar's Column" and "American People's Money."

He contributed to many newspapers and magazines in Minnesota and other states. One of the Newspapers was the "Alliance Standard" of Willmar, referred to before. His name appeared in the forefront in progressive political movements. Very early in the settlement days it appeared on the ballots in the Kandiyohi region. He addressed meetings of the farmers in Kandiyohi and adjoining counties.

All that was for the advancement of mankind and the interest of the great masses of the people of the time Ignatius Donnelly supported and espoused. His main concern was always the cause of the people who produce the wealth of the world, the farmers and the working people. He fought for the people's rights. He struck out at those who would betray the people's interests.

In one of the early issues of the ALLIANCE STANDARD of Willmar he wrote, borrowing from a poem called "A Psalm Of Life" by Longfellow, ^{to set} ~~setting~~ forth his militant ideals:

"In the world's great field of battle,
In the bevouac of life,
Be not like dumb driven cattle
Be a hero in the strife."

CHAPTER 15.
FARMER LABOR PARTY

Grew From Other Organizations And Economic Change

The beginning of the Grange in 1876 marks the starting point of progressive politics in the county. Here it should be understood that throughout the history of farm life in America experience has proven that regardless of what purpose the larger and more influential farm organizations have originally had, they have finally resolved and culminated in co-operative activity in the economic field and ~~politics and~~ political struggles in general. This characteristic and trend has always existed among farm organizations and still exists. This has been true in Kandiyohi County as well as in other counties. First there was the Grange movement arising from an economic condition where the farm population was in want and burdened with debt while the monopolies and the rich grew to great power. Great fortunes were made by the owners of the industries, railroads and marketing monopolies while the farmers suffered want. Due to this ~~kind~~ of economic condition, the Grange movement grew to protect the interests of those who produced the wealth. It brought a number of benefits and a general advancement to the farm people. It left to posterity many valuable experiences in knowledge and value of organization and collective effort. The seeds of the co-operative movement and progressive political action were sown by the numerous

early Grange locals. But because the Grange failed to keep pace with the changing social conditions, becoming conservative in relation to great social problems, it waned. Like life itself it grew to maturity and declined to be replaced by new efforts on the part of the farmers.

In its place and from it sprang ~~a~~ a more progressive and advanced movement, the Farmers' Alliance, which captured the imagination of the farm people. The Farmers' Alliance was a much broader organization. Its program conformed to the needs of the time, ^{and} it was a new and better organization in the opinion of the farmers, ~~generally with which they had not been able to accomplish with the Grange.~~ During the stormy existence of the Farmers' Alliance it again left in its wake the seeds for new movements among the people and a greater knowledge as to what had to be done in the future. In the extant social conditions of the time it gave birth to new ideas, new leaders and new methods to attain the ends sought. The Farmers' Alliance locals gave rise to new co-operatives and enterprises of general welfare. It nurtured the understanding among people to unite together not only locally but on a nationwide scale. The Farmers' Alliance gave rise to the brilliant and colorful political struggle which took place under the leadership of the Peoples Party during the nineties. From it grew the early Equity Union co-operatives and central organizations.

Economic Change

In the course of time the methods of making a living ~~of the people~~ had changed. When we remember that Minnesota first was a fur trading region, then it became a region ^{followed by} where agriculture ^{and} was the most important means of making a living, now it is an

agriculture as well as an industrial state, we can appreciate the significance of this change. ~~Moreover, in this process of change the people have become different from what they were before.~~ In the early period of Minnesota history we had the fur traders and the Indians. After this came the tillers of the soil during which period there existed the farmer and the fur trader, the latter gradually turning into a trader in farm products and industrial commodities. Now we have a state of farmers and industrial workers with the traders still remaining. The modern trader, however, does not trade in furs as his main occupation as he did in the early period. He now trades in new things and values, industrial and farm products.

Owing to this change in the economic condition of the country, with which the Farmers' Alliance failed to keep pace, it grew to maturity and declined. On the turn of the century there was a considerable time of organizational inactivity among the farmers but the experiences and knowledge gained in the Farmers' Alliance and other progressive movements was not lost. Through these tedious efforts and many times discouraging defeats, the basis and foundation of the Minnesota Progressive political movement was built.

After the Homestead law became operative on a broad scale and under it new land and settlements were made available to the people, if a farmer failed in one locality he could go farther west and settle on new land. During the beginning of the twentieth century the farmer chose to solve his problems, not by organization, but by increased production and migration to a new locality if necessary. They momentarily forgot the

great struggles of the past as well as the organizations which they had built. Owing to the improvement in machinery and the processes of agriculture, many farmers were able to make some headway and improve their condition during this time.

The Nonpartisan League

The first decade of the twentieth century, however, had no more than passed when indebtedness of the farm population, low prices of farm products, the growth of machinery, packing and market monopolies had ^{an} ~~created a new~~ economic situation which called for new efforts on the part of the farmers in their struggle to defend themselves and to improve their life.

In North Dakota the Nonpartisan League was organized in 1915. This organization in a very short time captured the State Government. It had as its program the continuation of the struggle against the growing monopolies which ~~struggle~~ had ~~been~~ started in the early days by the Grange, Farmers' Alliance and the Peoples Party. It considered the Republican and Democratic Parties corrupt and outworn, ^{and} but had a new method of approach to the political problem. According to the theory of the Nonpartisan League, political power could be achieved by capturing of the ~~the~~ machinery of either of the old parties in the various states. Owing to the peculiar composition of the people of North Dakota and the condition there at the time, they succeeded. As a result of the success in North Dakota the movement spread rapidly into other states and found great response, especially among those elements who had previously participated in the Grange, Farmers' Alliance, Equity Union and other liberal organizations which advanced political sentiments. Soon after 1915 the

Nonpartisan League spread and came into Minnesota. Political campaigns were conducted under its leadership among the progressive people, thus paving the way for the Farmer Labor Party.

After the many experiences in the Peoples Party and the many political campaigns the progressive people of Minnesota had learned that an attempt to capture the old parties was futile, ~~that in that way they would fail to achieve their aim.~~ They understood that in order to achieve political power they would have to separate company with the old parties completely. They soon learned that they could not continue to use the method of the Nonpartisan League. They decided that independent political action of farmers, workers, intellectuals and the progressive professional and businessmen was necessary to accomplish their aim in Minnesota. This sentiment grew because the trade unions became interested in political reform and soon became the dominant factor in progressive politics. Thus from the Nonpartisan League grew and took form the Farmer Labor Party.

While the Nonpartisan League has long been on the decline and is now extinct in many of the states where there were powerful League organizations the Farmer Labor Party has forged ahead, growing into a dominant political party in the State of Minnesota. Since its achievement of political power under the governorship of the illustrious Floyd B. Olson and now under the governorship of Elmer A. Benson it has brought many benefits to the people. It has put into practice many laws and measures for which our early progressive political leaders had fought. It is carrying forward the high ideals and traditions of our great leaders and statesmen of the past, such as Ignatius Donnelly, Lindbergh and

others.

Farmer Labor Party In Kandiyohi County

Owing to experience in the past in the Grange, Farmers' Alliance and the Peoples Party, Kandiyohi County has long been a stronghold of the Farmer Labor Party. Harold L. Peterson, a farmer's son from the town of Svea, Kandiyohi County, is the present secretary of the State Committee of the Farmer Labor Association of Minnesota. The Association has a strong organization and a large membership in Kandiyohi County. In the elections of 1936 the plurality for the Farmer Labor candidate for governor was over three thousand five hundred votes, ~~over the~~ ~~Republican candidate.~~

CHAPTER 16. FARM HOLIDAY ASSOCIATION

Economic Reasons For Its Growth

From the time of the settlement of the frontier there has existed a constant struggle of the farmers to achieve security and to improve their life already described before in connection with other farm movements. This struggle has existed from the time that the first farmers came to the region and continues to exist to this day.

Here we must remember that the hope of the tillers of the soil when they came to the frontier was to own a tract of land, to have security ~~of life~~ on this land. According to their plans the settlers intended by hard work to make themselves independent individual farmers so that they could live by themselves with their families in freedom and liberty, ~~only having~~ ~~anything to do with others when they so desired.~~

has Sometimes in the long course of farm history, independence did seem possible. When harvests were good and prices of farm products reasonable, this striving for independence increased. When crops were poor and when hazards loomed they made common cause through organization.

The very basis of our modern farm economy impelled the people in agriculture to desire independence. According to this philosophy, farm economy was to be organized in such a way that there would be a great number of individual farm families owning their own farms, ~~fee simple absolute~~ ^{and} doing as they themselves desired, ~~composing that part of the nation which produces the foodstuffs for the people.~~ In the early days, ~~to the great majority of the farm population,~~ this seemed possible ^{to the great majority of the farm population.}

Very early, however, in the settlement days some of the farmers already learned that this "independence" was illusory; such an ~~understanding~~ ^{understanding} which gave rise to the banding together of the farmers in the great farm movements that we have had. Conditions would recur ^{and again} and recur again (that impelled some of them to find a solution to their problems in common action. Engaged in these common efforts they soon learned that at no time was it possible to achieve this independence desired in a social system of which the basic characteristic, from the time of the beginning of industrial growth, has been and is an ever greater dependence of every individual upon each other.

The Grange movement and the Farmers' Alliance, as we remember, were organized against the robbery of the monopolies and the trusts. All the following struggles have been against

these same interests even though the forms of struggle have been different. In the early days the organizations and their efforts were simple. Knowledge of the basic issues involved was meager. But as time passed each organization during its struggle has enlightened the people so that today ~~what was~~ ^{possessed by} ~~the~~ knowledge of a few individuals in the early days is knowledge possessed by many. As the struggle of the people for justice and their rights has continued, their organizations and their methods of struggle have changed. Step by step from the early Grange movement, through the Farmers' Alliance and the Populist movement, has emerged the powerful forces of the people that we have today. The new forces are the powerful Farmer Labor Party ⁱⁿ ~~on~~ the political field, the trade and industrial unions among the workers, the farmers' unions and the co-operatives among the farmers.

Other Organizations Of The Farmers

In the course of this evolution of social organization each period of stress has brought into being different forms of struggle in addition to these mentioned above. At one time there was an organization among the farmers that was called the "Wheel." There has grown in the past a great number of different kinds of protective associations of the farmers. The United Farmers' League in recent struggles played a very important part, especially in northern and western Minnesota. During the periods of stress even the business men have become interested in the problems of the farm population. Thus we have the Farm Bureau Federation which was begun by business men in Broom County, New York.

Holiday Association Grows From Economic Crisis

From the crisis which began in 1929 an important farm organization emerged, which for a time superseded all farm organizations. This organization grew very rapidly because at the time it was the only one which represented the needs and demands of a great number of the farmers of the country. In the economic crisis of 1929 the small man generally was the hardest hit.

The workers in industry were thrown out of work ~~terminating~~ their security. ^{while} The farm prices were such that the farmer could not meet his obligations. A wave of foreclosures and dispossession of the farm population was begun by the bankers and creditors.

Because at no time had the farmer received ^{compensation} recompense for his work in proportion to the value of his labor during many years past, debts had piled up. In order to continue to work their farms they were obliged to mortgage their properties. It was these debts that the bankers collected by foreclosure.

From a condition of this kind the Farm Holiday Association was born. Being a militant organization which began to defend the farmers, it spread very rapidly to all the Farm States. From among its membership soon emerged ^{leaders} a leadership who were determined to keep the farmers in possession of their homes. During the most severe period of the economic crisis when the great masses of the farm population were threatened with dispossession it and the United Farmers' League were the only organizations in the country which were willing to take effective measures to defend the farmers. Under the leadership of the Holiday Association the farm population discarded all legal technicalities and raised the slogan of "human rights before

property rights." The Holiday Association adopted a new method of struggle conforming to the needs of the great mass of the farm people and thereby grew to be momentarily one of the most important farm organizations in the country.

When a foreclosure took place and a mortgage sale was held under the leadership of the local Farm Holiday Association the neighborhood gathered together and made "penny sales" out of them. This was done by holding a Holiday meeting before the sale where it was decided that only a committee was to bid when the sale took place. This committee would bid a few cents for the properties sold and after this the property was turned back to the owner. In this way they cleared their neighbor of the mortgage. When this was done a few times in a neighborhood, the mortgage holders found that it was not profitable to hold mortgage sales. When a member of the Holiday Association was threatened with dispossession of his land and eviction from his home, the farmers gathered together and by mass action prevented the sheriffs and other civil authorities from carrying out their legal processes. In this way the Holiday Associations in various parts of the country saved thousands of farm homes, ~~the only means of life of farm families, for the farmers.~~

John Henry Bosch

This movement very soon came into Kandiyohi County and found ready response in the existing conditions ^{here,} there.

John Henry Bosch of Kandiyohi County, who is now the National President of the Farm Holiday Association, soon became identified with the movement as one of its national leaders. He was vice president of the National organization at the time of Milo Reno's

^{Reno}
 death, who was the first president of the Farm Holiday Association.

^{settled in}
~~came to~~ Kandiyohi County in November 1895. John B. Bosch, his father, was a successful farmer who bought his farm land in Holland Township near what is now Prinsburg in the southwest corner of the county. John Henry is one of nine children of the family.

For John Henry Bosch to become one of the national leaders of this great militant farm movement, there were more reasons than the economic condition with which they were confronted on their farm. Before him he had a father who was a cultured man receiving his schooling in his native Holland. Articles on sociology and science written by his father can be found in the Willmar Tribune ~~already~~ in the early days. Mr. John B. Bosch was known among his neighbors as a student who took a deep interest in public affairs and social conditions. In his home he had a good sized library dealing with social, economic and political problems.

It was in this atmosphere of learning and culture that John Henry Bosch was ^{reared,} ~~brought up and attained manhood~~. This background as a farmer in his own right, with access ~~already~~ early in his life to advanced knowledge, gave John Henry Bosch the possibility to contribute so greatly to the Holiday movement and its leadership.

CHAPTER 17. RELIGION AMONG THE PEOPLE

People Were Deeply Religious

The early settlers of Kandiyohi County were deeply

religious. Numerous religious faiths came into the community with the various nationalities which came from different countries. Among those who came were Baptists, Episcopalians, Catholics, Evangelicals, German Lutherans, Norwegian Lutherans, Swedish Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians and Druids. The last named is one of the oldest faiths known, found by Julius Ceasar among the Gauls, ^{and} dating back to ancient times long before the Christian era.

Each nationality, as their settlements grew, established their congregations and built their churches. From these again through separation new congregations were born. In the early churches there were many doctrinal disputes which caused these separations, a part of the congregation leaving the old church and building one of their own so that they could worship in their own way. Law suits took place in some instances over the church properties resulting from these separations.

Church Pioneer in Cultural And Social Work

The early church organizations were pioneers in the cultural life of the people of different faiths. While church services were irregular in the early days they, nevertheless, had their influence in molding the public mind. Church meetings were numerous. Sunday schools were held for the children. Parochial schools were established. The women of the community were gathered together in the aid societies. The churches were the institutions around which early social life grew.

Many Faiths And Tolerance

In spite of the many faiths represented in the various church organizations friendly relationships prevailed among the

settlers. On the many important civic affairs they worked together. Toward each other's faith they had a tolerant attitude. In their everyday lives they applied the great American principle of "Freedom of Conscience", the right of each individual to worship ^{his} ~~their~~ God, or not to worship, which is guaranteed in the Bill of Rights in our Constitution of the United States. In their community and civic affairs care was taken that religion ~~will~~ ^{should not} become an issue in dispute. A good example of this is when they built the town hall of Arcander. At an annual meeting of the town hall they "decided that the hall should be open to political, literary, farmers' and temperance meetings, but not to religious meetings, dances or balls."

People Acted Together For Humanity

While it is true that many religious faiths in a community always tend to keep people apart, ~~thus retarding the fullest co-operation and understanding of each other by the~~ people, the pioneers of Kandiyohi County made common cause when ever necessary. ^{were} ~~When~~ help was needed by a neighbor he was given it regardless of his faith. In great common efforts they acted together and in unison. Newcomers were always welcome in the early days to stay at the settlers' cabins ^{until} ~~so long~~ that they could build their own. In the Sioux outbreak, Protestant, Catholic and the unbeliever alike made common cause to escape the massacre and to defend themselves with arms. In the great benevolent activities such as the relief campaigns for famine sufferers all doctrinal differences were forgotten. The churches and other organizations were all involved in these great humanitarian activities. The temporal and spiritual institutions

worked in unison on all great humanitarian causes.

From the small congregations of the early settlers has grown a great number of churches in the county. There is not a township where a church cannot be found. In some of them there are several, ^{for} The church has become a part of the landscape and life ⁱⁿ of Kandiyohi County, ~~just as its hills, lakes, meadows and rolling grain and corn fields.~~

CHAPTER 18. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

No Schools In Early Days

~~When the early settlers came,~~ ^{in the early frontier days} for many years there were no public schools. The education of the children and younger generation was very meager. Their fathers and mothers taught them the simple rudiments of knowledge at the frontier homes, ^{and some of the} The church congregations held Sunday schools where ^{they} ~~some~~ learned to read and write. From 1856 and for many years after, the only effort on a wider scale to educate the children was that of the churches. Literature and books were not distributed among the people as they are now, ^{and there were few} ~~(Public libraries even in larger towns were few.~~ Culture and education in the early settlement days ~~could not be secured as easily as we do today.~~ There were no public schools with compulsory enrollment, ^{and} Only those who had money could acquire a higher education. This condition prevailed more widely on the frontier than in the population centers. First the homes had to be built on the frontier. The early settlers had to ~~first~~ create the means with which to make a living before they could think of schools and educational institutions which are a necessary part of our every day lives in modern times.

First Public School

It was in 1866 that the first country public school was established in the Kandiyohi Country. This school was in Roseville Township, Monongalia County. The first year the school term was held only three months during the winter. Miss Ellen Bennett taught the school at a salary of twelve dollars per month. Soon after this first beginning the counties were divided into the various school districts and public schools began to grow, making available an education for the children of the settlers, ~~the public school becoming an established insitution in the community.~~

Schools Were Crude

Many of the school houses of the early days were simple log cabins similar to the log cabins that had been built for homes. Later the schools were built of sawed lumber and as the resources of the school districts grew the facilities were improved. In some of the early towns the new generation grew so rapidly that in some instances lodge rooms and halls were used as class rooms. In the early schools, texts, maps and other things necessary to carry on school work were inadequate. It was only after the turn of the century that free books for the children in the country schools of the county became an accepted principle.

In the early school houses, which were long structures with poor ventilation, the health of the children was in constant danger. This was due to the meager knowledge of health protection among the school authorities of the time. Thus it was that in the early narrow and long one room school houses there was usually a large stove in the center with direct radiation, ~~with no circulation of the heat.~~ The school room could be divided into heat zones on cold winter days. There was a frigid zone at both ends

and a torrid zone in the center and midway between the frigid and torrid zones was the temperate zone where most of the children were seated.

As the new generation and the number of children of school age increased, new school houses were built apace. With the new schools came improvements in their structure as well as the sources of knowledge. Although the improvements were slow to come, as all new things tend to be, the center stove with its direct radiation has been replaced by a system of heat circulation even in the one room school houses. The abundance of ~~text~~ and sources of knowledge have been increased in all of the schools in the course of years. Even though they are not adequate for the needs of the modern day they are many times better than the facilities of the early settlement days.

Modern Public School System

From this beginning of one little schoolhouse built in 1866 an elaborate ~~Public School~~ system has grown in Kandiyohi County. It has become a great public institution with an enrollment of over five thousand students. At the present time there are one hundred and fifteen school districts with one hundred and eighteen school buildings in the county. In contrast to the early days when there were only a few teachers, the school system of the county now employs ^{more than} well over a hundred teachers. In a few of the larger towns in addition to elementary education there are, at the present time, four year high schools ~~where higher learning is made available to the growing generation of the county.~~ The whole school system is co-ordinated in the office of an elected superintendent of public instruction at the county seat. The public school system of the county with its many subdivisions and local school boards brings now to the growing generation a knowledge of life, science, art and literature that ~~the early pioneers could not dream of.~~ From its humble beginning

was undreamed of by the early pioneers.

it has grown to an institution which is a part of the very life of the community.

CHAPTER 19. COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION

Their Importance

Communications and transportation have played a tremendous role in the development of mankind throughout the ages. If the modern communication and transportation system were suddenly stopped it would result in general chaos ~~to the way in which we live~~. Communications and transportation too, like all other utilities, are a growth. They have grown with society, one form replacing another as need and necessity have dictated in the various epochs of the development of man. Moreover, the means of communication and transportation have always been in constant flux and change.

The early communications and transportation were simple indeed compared to those of the modern day. The old ox cart, the horse and buggy are far distant from the streamlined vehicles on our railroads and highways of today.

In the very early period man walked or ran from one place to another. The simple things that he needed to take along in his movements he carried on his back or in his arms. To communicate his thoughts to others of his tribe he used the simple sounds of his voice from which modern speech has developed. When he tamed animals to serve him as beasts of burden they became very useful to him and were a great advancement in his development as well as a great help in making a living.

In the settlement days of Minnesota the stagecoach, the oxcart, and later the horse and buggy were the means of communication

and transport. When we speak of communications and transportation today we speak of a very complex problem that has grown out of these primitive methods.

Today communications and transportation are thought of as Railroads, Busses, Tramways, Highways, Steamships and steamship lines, Canals, Telegraph and telephone lines, the Postal service, the Radio and many other ways of contact in our relations with each other.

The coming of any one of these complex means of communication has naturally had a tremendous effect upon our lives and the ways in which we make a living. Thus it is that the coming of the railroad into the Kandiyohi region ^{had} was a tremendous effect upon our lives and the ways in which we make a living. Thus it is that the coming of the railroad into the Kandiyohi region was a tremendous event which changed the whole countryside and the ways of life.

Building Of Railroad North And South

We have already found that the first railroad to come into the county was built in 1869 by the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company. It is a road that runs east and west through the southern half of the county. This had a tremendous effect and increased the tempo of settlement of the region.

In the next twenty years, however, a need for another railroad arose. Agriculture had grown to where the bulk of the products raised on the farms were shipped to market. The north end ^{end} of the county did not have railroad service and they were far from the line in the south of the county. The farmers ^{by this time} ~~already by this time~~ had learned that a great part of the products which they marketed was absorbed in freight rates. The rates which

were charged seemed to them unreasonable and unjustified. In the 1880's there was a general demand among the early settlers for reduction of rates on the railroads. The railroads, however, had already grown into powerful monopolies and did not heed the demands of the people.

Element of Competition To Reduce Rates

In Kandiyohi County the people decided upon a method which they thought would force the railroads to be more lenient. In ^o these days it was generally believed, and it ^{was} ~~is~~ true to a degree, that the population would be benefited by competition. When ^{there was} ~~they had~~ only one railroad in the county ^{it} ~~they~~ could make any kind of rates and the people had only one way out and that was to accept them. But if there was another railroad there would be competition between them so the rates would have to be kept within reason. ^{As a result of such a condition} ~~Resulting from a condition of this kind,~~ public interest was created for the construction of another railroad through the county.

On April 7th, 1883, the Superior, Willmar and Dakota Railroad Company was incorporated to run a line across the county north and south. The officers and main promoters of this railroad company were J. M. Spicer, President, A. E. Rice, Vice President, H. R. Gale, Secretary, and B. F. Jenness, Treasurer. Under their direction a survey of the road was immediately begun.

The promoters of this enterprise were very energetic men. They ~~caused to be carried out an election among the people of Kandiyohi County to issue sixty five thousand dollars worth~~ ^{for the issuance of \$65,000} of bonds with which the county was to buy stock of the new Railroad Company. The issue in the campaign for bonding of the county was that the new railroad would create competition

and thereby reduce railroad rates. With this issue the sponsors were able to create sufficient interest that the people voted for it and the bond issue was passed by a small majority.

Soon after this the railroad was constructed. But as soon as it was in shape to operate properly and serve the people it was sold by those who controlled it to the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad Company which owned the other railroad built in 1869. This company later, through consolidation, became a part of the Great Northern system which now controls the main railroads in the county.

The sale of the railroad immediately to the railroad monopoly of course destroyed all of the element of competition which the people of the county expected to accomplish. It brought, however, a railroad to the northern end of the county which was a great benefit to the population. It made possible the growth of ~~other~~ small towns ^{other than} ~~into farm trade centers~~ besides (Atwater, Kandiyohi, Willmar and Pennock which are on the line east and west. Now a railroad came to served Raymond, Spicer, New London and Hawick.

Other Railroads

Other railroads were built later. One of these, the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault St. Marie Railway, penetrates the northeast corner of the county in Roseville Township. Another railroad which was built much later, ^{and is} known as the "Minnesota Western", crosses the extreme south end of the county and serves the towns of Lake Lillian, Blomkest, Roseland, Thorpe and Prinsburg.

CHAPTER 20.
RAILROADS AND LABOR

Railroads A Source Of Wealth

From the time that steam came into use on the railroads their development was very rapid. Railroad building became very profitable for anyone who had the means to get a good start. Once a beginning was made the Government was very liberal in assistance through the land grant laws. Huge tracts of land were distributed ^{at little cost} to railroad companies throughout the settlement areas, ~~costing them very little, which they could~~ ^{there were sold} ~~sell~~ at fabulous profits to the new settlers. Thus it is that great fortunes were accumulated by various individuals who later became the captains of our transportation system. The need for transportation facilities to ^{carry} ~~transport~~ the growing surplus of farm and other commodities created a new source of wealth to the railroad builders. When the railroads were built and put into operation riches continued to flow into the coffers of the owners from the high transportation rates which they charged. The growing agriculture and industry of the west had become a producer for the market and the products could be partly absorbed in transportation, thus creating a seemingly never-to-end flow of wealth to the owners of the railroads.

Drive To Increase Profits

To pile up new fortunes and to increase this flow of wealth the owners of the railroads were confronted with two basic problems. One of these was to keep the transportation rates high and the other was to keep the wages of the working people who operated the transportation system and the industries

connected with it as low as possible.

So in 1893 and 1894 while the farmers and frontiersmen were demanding lower freight and transportation rates the railroad companies with the other industries were making a drive to reduce the wages of the workers in the shops, railroads and factories. As a result of this drive to lower the living standards of the farmers and working people there was a wave of organization among the farmers as well as the workers throughout the country to maintain previous standards and to better their conditions.

As a result of the drive to lower the wages of the workers in the transportation system, the American Railway Union, under the leadership of the illustrious Socialist, Eugene V. Debs, and other leaders, began to grow and spread very rapidly. Hundreds of locals were organized throughout the country so the railroad workers could defend themselves against the wage cutting drive of the railroad companies. Soon the American Railway Union had thousands of members and hundreds of locals, especially on the railroads west of Chicago.

The Railroad Brotherhoods had ~~already~~ been in existence for a considerable time but the workers felt that they were ineffective in carrying on the fight for them. This proved to be true in the many instances where the company ignored and broke agreements with them.

Strike In Willmar

A strike of railroad workers began in Willmar, April 17th, 1894. Here, ^{along with} ~~like~~ at other railroad centers, the company had broken faith and the agreement to settle disputes with the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen. The railroad company cut the wages of the

Willmar railroad workers and they refused to accept the cut. Even though it had been agreed between the company and the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen that cuts should not take place until the workers could consider them in their meetings, new wage schedules were posted on April 1st. The cuts in the wages were drastic. In a press report of the time it is said that "many of the employees here have been paid only a dollar a day--a very meager sum on which to live and support a family."

After many meetings and a thorough consideration of the matter the strike was declared by the American Railway Union. The railroad men left their jobs to a man. By this time the American Railway Union had ~~already~~ hundreds of members on the Brekenridge division. The men knew what they wanted and they had only one way in which to win their demands and that was to stop the operation of the roads through strike action. The workers of Willmar went into the strike with the knowledge that it was the only way in which to win concessions and reinstatement of their wage schedules from the powerful railroad company. In their deliberations they came to the conclusion that they must fight it out. Their sentiment was that "If the strike is a failure, organized labor in the west, at least, will stand no chance in any future contest with capital." as they said. They were, as always the worker in strikes have been, against any violence but they warned the Company from the start that if "scabs are shipped in there is no telling what might happen." The great majority of the people of Willmar were mobilized by the American Railway Union through meetings in support of the strike. Through the meetings the people were kept informed ^{regarding events} ~~about what was happening~~ from day to day. The Railroad Company attempted to provoke violence by sending the United States

Marshall and a great number of deputies to intimidate the workers. This scheme of the Railroad Company, however, ^{failed} failed. The strike continued solid and unbroken.

Excitement In Connection With Strike

On the week of April 23rd, 1894, there was great excitement in Willmar in connection with the strike, provoked by the United States Marshall and Mr. Winters, the superintendent of the Railroad Company. On this week J. Adam Bede, the United States Marshall, and Mr. Winters, with a large number of deputies, made a determined effort to break the strike. They mustered all the legal arguments that could be found to scare the strikers. They told the strikers that it was the Government that they were striking against because the stoppage of the trains meant interfering with the mails. The strikers, however, learned very soon that it was the company that interfered with the transport of the mail. When the trains ^{arrived at} would come to Willmar, the strikers and the people would gather at the station and uncouple the cars and push them onto the sidings. They would separate the mail cars and attach them to the locomotive, giving them permission to proceed. When this was done they found that the Company was unwilling to proceed with the mail. During this week a few fist fights and arrests took place, provoked by the superintendent, Mr. Winters. Dick Jackson and "Slim" Olson, leaders of the strike, were arrested and taken to St. Paul. Other arrests were attempted but without success. Mr. Winter tried to make up ^{trains} with the help of the deputies but he did not succeed. ^{for the cars were uncoupled immediately} When a train was made up and was ready to proceed the people would uncouple the cars. Mr. Winter physically attacked some of the strikers but soon found that he himself

suffered the most bruises. In spite of all of the efforts of Mr. Winter and the United States Marshall ~~the breaking of~~ the strike, ~~failed~~. They did not understand that no matter what is done, without workers, trains will not move and that workers, with the support of the people of such a town as Willmar are able to stop all trains.

Strike Won By Workers

Through the militant action of the strikers and the people of Willmar the strike was won by the workers and the old wage schedules were restored. The conference to settle the strike was held in the Twin Cities. At this conference ~~Mr.~~ James J. Hill and his associates ^{represented} ~~were representing~~ the Railroad Company, ^{there who} representing the American Railway Union were Mr. Debs and Mr. Howard, President and Vice President respectively, of the Union, and an arbitration committee, composed of business men of both Minneapolis and St. Paul. It was on the basis of the findings of this business men's committee that the strike was settled and the wage schedules restored.

During this year a great number of strikes took place in America on the railroads as well as ⁱⁿ other industries. They resulted from the wage cutting campaign of the growing and greedy monopolies. The Willmar strike was a forerunner of the great Pullman strike in Chicago which took place in May and developed into a general boycott and strike throughout the country against the Pullman Palace Car Company in midsummer of 1894.

CHAPTER 21. ROADS, HIGHWAYS, AND AIRWAYS

Historic Background

Since the time that man has moved about from one place to another he has left marks of different kinds, just as in geologic strata we find fossils and marks of yet earlier life. In the course of time nature has obliterated many of the evidences that he has left of his travels but enough ^{remains} ~~has been left~~ to give us some idea as to how he traveled in the various stages of development. There are in existence many relics and marks of man's paths and roads along which he traveled from one point to another dating back to ancient times. Thus we find in Italy, bridges and ancient Roman highways which are even today used by people. In other parts of the world there are many evidences of different kinds of ancient highways and byways that people traveled. These routes of travel have always grown and developed in relation to the ways in which mankind makes a living. They have changed as new productive forces have developed, making new needs for transportation and communication.

From Path To Road

When man first traveled by foot or rode on the back of animals, paths were beaten in the form of a single rut. These paths were necessarily winding because in the woods he went around the thick underbrush or on the plains he avoided hills which made his travel more difficult. The single path on the earth's surface is therefore the forerunner of our modern highways and our modern system of highway travel.

When the ox cart and the yoke of oxen came into use on our frontiers, the marks which were left were two paths running

parallel, winding around the hills and avoiding the thick woods and underbrush. These paths were made by the wheels of the cart and the feet of the beasts which were used to haul the carts. There are still to be found on the plains of Minnesota and the Dakotas in many places around the hillsides, ruts beaten by the wheels of the covered wagons, stage coaches and the ox carts which were made many years ago.

When light vehicles such as the one horse cart and the one horse buggy came into use, these byways on which the pioneers traveled changed so that the prairie roads finally became winding pathways with three parallel ruts. Usually the two side ruts were deeper than the center rut because the wheels would wear the ground faster than the feet of the single horse in the center. And besides this the two horse vehicle and the ox cart did not go out of use with the advent of the one horse light buggy, just as the buggy did not go out of use immediately after the first automobiles ^{were sold.} ~~came into use.~~

Thus in Kandiyohi County ^{as well as} ~~like~~ in all other grassland regions of the State there was first the single path, then the two and three rut roads, followed by the leveled ^{road,} and finally by graded and surfaced highways.

Early Roads in County

When the settlers came to Kandiyohi County in the early days they struck across the country to ^{whatever their destination might be.} ~~wherever they had to go.~~ These early settlers beat paths which were followed by others and they remained routes of travel for many years.

Perhaps the first people to inaugurate the highway system of Kandiyohi County were the trail blazers of Joseph Renshaw Brown when they were seeking a route from the Red River Country

to Traverse De Sioux. The route that they blazed has been forgotten after the coming of the railroads and the modern highways. The change in the system of our highway travel has been so great that there is very little resemblance to the old method of travel. About the only thing that remains the same as in the early days is that people travel and move about as they did then. The difference today is that people travel with greater speed and with much greater ease.

The highways and roads of the modern day have grown and improved as life generally has grown and improved. The improvement was caused by the necessity to supplement the railroads. The road from farm to town was the result of ~~the~~ need for such after the farmers had settled and built their farms in the countryside. The primary need for them arose from the fact that they ^{had} needed to have roads to transport the surplus products which were produced ^{and} to the market and to ^{carry} transport manufactured goods which they needed from the railroad to their homes. ^{at} First the roads were few in number but as the population grew new ones were built. Thus from the early paths has grown a veritable web of highways and roads covering the whole county from one end to the other.

At the present time there are three kinds of roads and highways in the county. ^{most important are} First is the State Trunk Highways running through the county east and west and north and south.

Then there are the secondary roads called State Aid roads. ^{of these} Of these roads there are a great number in the county, among them being the old Little Crow Trail ^{is one of them.}

The third kind of roads are those which connect the farms

with the larger roads and highways. There are many of these and they usually follow the surveyed section lines around the farms and fields. In the region where there are numerous lakes in the central part of the county these roads wind around the lakes and do not run in straight lines as they do in the southwestern prairie grassland section.

The maintenance of the Highway system is handled jointly by the State Highway Department, the county and the various township boards, ~~as in other counties of the state.~~

The Modern Picture

When one goes into Kandiyohi County the roads and highways are a totally different scene than in the days of the ox cart and the stage coach. Now on the highways travel large busses, trucks and speedy automobiles. On the fields by the roadsides one will observe the tractor which has replaced the horses and the oxen. Only occasionally will one see a horse and buggy on the country roads. Hardly a day passes ~~in the modern day but one~~ ^{when one does not} will hear the drone of an airplane overhead, ~~which does not need highways.~~ With the aid of the radio beam and the signal stations their course of travel is charted through space from one landing field to another. In Willmar there is one of these landing fields.

All of this great advance in transport is a result of a growth of many years. The essential difference that has been wrought between the old and the new in these years is that the new forms of communication and transport are infinitely more complex, much faster and more convenient than the old. These new means of travel and transport are a result of change which ^{have} ~~has~~ taken place in the life of man, essentially a change in the

ways in which man makes a living. In this long process man himself has changed. In the early days it was human nature to jump into the ox cart or the back of a horse to avoid the drudgery of walking or running. In the modern day it is human nature to take a train, ride in an automobile or board a speedy ~~a~~eroplane to avoid walking or running when going from one place to another.

CHAPTER 22 POSTAL SERVICE

Historic Background

The postal service that we have today has grown out of a system of communication dating back to ancient times. A postal service is known to have existed in the old Roman Empire. In essence it is a form of communication which has evolved from the early courier in ancient civilizations. The art of conveying ideas in written form combined with a carrier of the written letter or communication forms the basis of the postal service system. In the beginning postal systems were only conducted among the nobility and the ruling classes. Very early it became a system of governmental communication. For certain reasons since the inception of Governments, they have always been connected with the postal service. In England even though the postal service was operated more or less by individuals ~~yet~~ the Government of Great Britain supervised it. ~~It was a means to know what was happening among the people through the postal censorship.~~ In the early days it had a two fold purpose. On the one hand it was a form of censorship for the government and on the other a means of communication of the people.

In England in 1591 Queen Elizabeth prohibited carriage of letters to and from overseas, "except by messenger duly authorized by the master of the posts." In Cromwell's time nearly three quarters of a century later the postal service was used for the purpose of promoting trade and preventing "wicked designs" against the "peace and welfare of the commonwealth." After this for a long time in the postal services of the world ~~the~~ censorship was forgotten. But during the World War ^{at} again the censorship was revived. In 1653 Louis ~~the~~ XIVth ~~the Fourteenth~~ authorized the establishment of a postal service in Paris. In 1680 a London merchant by the name of William Dockwra established the "Penny Post" of London which was later taken over by the British Government. In 1784 a mail coach line was established between London and Bath in England. After this these lines multiplied rapidly.

Postal Service in United States

The postal service patterned after the one in England was started here sometime before the end of the 17th century. In 1692 one Thomas Neale was granted a patent by the English Government to establish post offices in North America. Immediately after this a post office was established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1707 the Colonial Government took over the Postal service, ^{and} Benjamin Franklin became Deputy Postmaster General of this system. Later in 1753 he became the chief executive of the Postal service. From this office he was dismissed in 1774 as a partisan of the colonists in the approaching crisis with the British Government which finally resulted in the ^W War for ^T Independence from England. ^{Since} After the ^W War for Independence the United

This should be cut

States Postal service has ~~always~~ been in the hands of the federal Government, administered by a Postmaster General appointed by the President of the United States. It has grown into one of the most efficient systems of communication of the world. During depressions as well as times of prosperity it has always operated in an efficient way. In the early days it was a system of offices where mail ~~would be~~ ^{was} delivered. Now in all the large cities there is house to house delivery and the countryside is a veritable web of rural mail routes. In 1789 there were 75 post offices in the United States. In 1928 the figure had grown to 49,944. In 1790 there were 1,875 miles of postal roads. In 1928 the mileage had ~~already~~ grown to 1,776,396.

As a part of this postal service system the rural free delivery routes and the great number of post offices in Kandiyohi County have grown. The pioneer in this field of activity in the county in the early settlement days was Joseph Renshaw Brown whose son was one of the first mail carriers in the region. Since then post offices have been established in all the towns and hamlets. Deliveries from these are made to the rural communities in all directions.

CHAPTER 23 TELEPHONES AND THE RADIO

Primitive Communication Contrasted With Modern

As a part of the system of communications the development of the telephone has played a very important part. The distance that the Indian could communicate his thoughts and ideas when found by the white man was in the range of his voice or as far as he could see. When the early settlers came to the Kandiyohi

region their system was not much better. Conveying ideas or thoughts to others was equally difficult for them. When the early settler wanted to tell his neighbor something he had to proceed there on foot, horseback or by ox cart. When the telephone came it released him from this drudgery and changed his relationship with his neighbor. Now he could at will convey his ideas to his neighbors, his merchant and even ^{my} on long distance to talk to people far away without leaving the home.

Invention of Telephony

In 1875 a Scotchman by the name of Alexander Graham Bell, whose profession was teaching of the deaf, invented telephony. The telegraph had been in use before whereby code signals were sent over metal wires. Alexander Graham Bell's studies and discoveries now made it possible ~~not only to send code signals~~ ^{to send} but the human voice over the wires. In 1876 for the first time in history ~~over metal wires~~ he transmitted the following spoken words: "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you." ~~These words are said to be the first human voice to be conveyed along metal wire to another person. Thus through a diaphragm that records the vibrations of the human voice, transmitted by a small electric current over a metal wire to another receiving diaphragm which again turns it into sound was accomplished by Bell.~~ Telephony now became a practical method of communication. All it needed was a spread of lines and the perfection of the instruments to cover all the settled parts of the country.

^{not} Within the thirty years ~~following~~, like the railroads and the highways, the telephone became a common necessity in the

towns as well as the country. At the time of the turn of the century telephone lines ~~already~~ connected the frontier outposts with the larger population centers. Soon the lines were extended across the country beyond the western frontier, establishing telephonic communication with the far west. From the small beginning made by Alexander Graham Bell has grown a veritable network of telephone lines criss-crossing the whole country at the present time. Cables now extend across the bottoms of the oceans on the east as well as the west coast, making possible telephone communication not only with the people of our own country but with people of foreign lands. ~~Anyone of thirty million people who have access to a telephone is now within range of our voice from the Pacific to the Atlantic ocean and from Canada to Mexico.~~

Telephone Comes to County

A little over thirty years after Bell invented the telephone it came into Kandiyohi County. The first telephone system and line in the county is said to have been established in 1897. ^{After companies developed rapidly until} ~~the taking into use of this convenience was very rapid.~~ Telephone companies came into being one after another. In 1897 one company was organized. In 1898 another. In 1900 ~~three companies.~~ In 1901 one. In 1902 one. In 1903 two. In 1904 five, and 1905 six. ~~At the present time most homes in town and country have telephone service.~~

Modern Picture

As a continuation and growth of the communications system which started from a ^{be} ~~simple~~ telephone, further progress and advancement has been made. Now the human voice is conveyed to

distant points on radio waves without wires. By a turn of a knob on a modern radio we hear the news from all over the world, from wherever we choose to listen. In less than a second we can know what is happening in London, Berlin, Moscow, New York, Shanghai, Tokio and other distant parts of the world. Millions of people today listen to each other over the radio, the marvel of the modern age.

Not only can we listen but in the last ten years mechanisms have been perfected whereby images of the persons broadcasting are sent over the radio waves. In the past decade television has become practical and proven.

For a number of years pictures have already been sent over wires from many parts of the world ~~after which they have~~ ^{and are} ~~been~~ printed in our large newspapers with a few hours after they have been taken. We see them in our papers labeled "Wirephoto."

CHAPTER 24 EARLY LARGE SCALE FARMING

Paul Willmar Farm

In 1870 Leon Willmar, the Foreign agent of the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Co. ~~had~~ secured possession of a section of land northeast of the city of Willmar. The land, with the exception of a small part covered by Lake Willmar, was ~~very~~ fertile and was considered ~~very~~ desirably located in relation to market and other necessary needs of a large scale agriculture enterprise. This land Leon Willmar turned over to his son, Paul. The Willmars had accumulated money through ownership of railroad stocks so Paul had ample funds for improvements on the land.

The first thing that was done on this land was the erection

of farm buildings valued at twelve thousand dollars which was considered ~~as~~ a great sum of money at the time by the other settlers. Willmar himself, unlike the other settlers, did not do the heavy work on the farm. The labor that was performed was done by hired help. In addition to this he employed the other settlers, whenever they had time, with their oxen to break up the land. For the work he was always known to have paid liberally. Like many other sons of rich parents, Paul Willmar with his ample funds became a popular figure among the early settlers. He kept well bred horses on his place. When he moved about he always had several fine dogs ^{with him} along.

Because of his wealth he made many friends. He was also a man of the world who had traveled widely in Mexico and other countries. Being financially secure with an inclination toward adventure he lived a carefree bachelor life. On the farm he entertained his friends quite lavishly. ~~His friends would come to the farm and stay for extended visits, and it is said that in his cellars there were at all times wines and liquors to make the stay of his friends pleasant and congenial.~~ ^{when they came}

Farm Was Not Successful

Within ten years, however, he ^{went} left back to his native Belgium without making a great success of his large scale farm enterprise. The equity he had in the farm he sold to Peter J. Dale. Mr. Dale attempted to operate the farm on ^{an equally} the same big scale with the addition of raising pure bred stock, thus making it more diversified than before.

Mr. Dale was a hard working farmer but in spite of all the hard work, within fifteen years he was compelled to sell the place.

After this it was secured by ~~Mr.~~ D. N. Tallman of Willmar who made his fortune in the early days as President of the Minnesota Central Telephone Company, a public utility which grew very rapidly when the telephone came into use in the county and the surrounding communities.

With his resources Mr. Tallman turned the place into a purebred stock farm. During this time there arose a demand for better stock among the farmers throughout the new settlements so Mr. Tallman operated it with considerable success until very recent times. Breeding animals were sold from this farm to many people among the early settlers in Minnesota, the Dakotas and Iowa.

Another Attempt Fails

W. D. Washburn of Minneapolis owned 2,560 acres of land, in what is now Holland Township, in 1877. Under the direction of Gilbert Clough a large scale farm enterprise was set up. Half a section of the prairie was broken in the summer of 1877. Cattle sheds were built. But from the very beginning the enterprise was a financial failure. Some years later good buildings were put up on the place, ^{for it} ~~The farm~~ was to be a blooded stock farm operated on a large scale. The farm ~~finally after many difficulties~~ ^{after many difficulties} passed into the hands of one Frank Little and he parceled it out ^{in sales} ~~and sold the parcels~~ to several people.

CHAPTER 25.
GATHERING THE HARVEST

Farm Work Is Tedious

When the farmer plows his land and prepares the seed bed where he grows the grain it is only the first half of a tedious process of labor in grain growing. After this has been done if there is a crop it must be harvested and threshed. This was a twofold task in the early days requiring two separate processes, first the cutting of the grain and after that shelling it from the heads.

Primitive Method of Threshing

When the early farmers began planting grains in Europe and even in America it was done without machinery. The grain was planted by broadcasting it on the small fields, by hand. To harvest the grain in the early days they used the sickle. To shell the kernels from the head they pounded the grain with a flail. After this the grain and chaff ^{were} ~~was~~ taken into the wind and poured from a height of several feet into a container on the ground or tossed into the air. With this process the grain was separated from the chaff. In this way the winnowing was done.

During the settlement period of Kandiyohi County, threshing machines came into use in the United States. They were run by horse power. The horses ^{ed} ~~would~~ walk around in a circle and transmit ^{to} the power to the machine through a system of pensions, shafts and cogwheels. In this way the power was furnished to propel the machinery of the early thresher. The threshing machine separator did, however, apply the main principles of the machines that we have now, the cylinder, concave and the winnowers or shakers.

First Thresher In County

The first thresher of this type run by horsepower was brought into Kandiyohi County by Louis Larson and Erick Peterson Sr. in 1860. With this thresher the grain crop was garnered that year, not without difficulties, however. Because of the crude construction the early machines ^{broke frequently} would break down and it was sometimes weeks before replacement parts and repairs could be secured for them. These early machines were fed by hand and were very slow compared to the modern ones. They were, however, a great improvement over the old flail and wind method of threshing.

Steam Power

The steam engine as the source of power evolved from the old horse power. This was a great advancement. With it came the self feeder and the wind blower, increasing the efficiency of the machines greatly. Like all other machine development, improvement in construction of threshers took place rapidly once they were proven useful and necessary. ^{Even} ~~Already~~ in the first decade of the twentieth century, ^{of using} threshing machines were so improved that no one would think ~~about~~ the flail or horsepower. The threshing rigs at that time ~~already~~ were efficient and fast, operated by strong and powerful steam engines. Later they have been further improved by the great engineering skill that we possess today. The ~~source of power which was steam~~ ^{power which was used} a few years ago has now been replaced by internal combustion oil burning motors and tractors.

The Combine Harvester

In the past it was necessary to first harvest the grain

with the sickle or a binder. After this it was threshed with the flail or threshing machine. Thus the garnering of the crop was a two fold process only a few years ago. Now these two processes of gathering the grain crop have been combined. The modern "combine" harvester is a machine that cuts the grain and threshes it at the same time. ^{This machine} They ~~are~~ drawn over the grain fields with powerful tractors. From the conveyor platform the grain is fed into the cylinder. From there the grain and the chaff pass onto the winnowers and sieves. The straw is ejected from the back of the machine onto the field while the grain passes through a wind blast cleaner and into the hopper from which it is taken into trucks and hauled to the elevators in the farm towns or the granaries at home.

Thus from the crude flail our modern method of harvesting crops has evolved. ²Where~~in~~ the old days three persons could harvest and thresh a few bushels of grain in a day. Now three men can harvest many hundreds of bushels. ~~of~~ In the past there were two tedious processes. Now these processes have been combined.

It is in great part ^{the} ~~due to this~~ constant improvement of farm machinery that has made possible the increases in agriculture production which in turn ^{have} ~~has~~ made it possible for Kandiyohi County to grow into ~~what it is today,~~ a modern agriculture community.

CHAPTER 26 COUNTRY CREAMERIES

Points Of Interest

When one goes into Kandiyohi County now numerous objects of interest around which present day life of the community is woven will be found. These were not there in the early days but have grown with time. ~~First there are~~ in the countryside ^{there are} the numerous modern farms and farm buildings surrounded by fields of wheat, corn and other crops. ~~Numerous~~ ^{many} herds of both beef and dairy cattle ~~will be~~ ^{are} found in the pastures in place of the buffalo and deer which roamed there before. Hogs ~~will be~~ ^{may be} seen rooting around in the barnyards.

Then there are the small farm villages with the tall grain elevators, merchandise establishments, hardware stores, garages, gas stations, the stockyard, the drug store, the bank and other institutions which cater to the needs of the farm population.

~~Then~~ Along the roadsides in the country will be found the many country schools and the country churches. To complete the scene there is yet another institution which has grown with time and has become a part of the very life of the community, the farmers' creamery in the countryside. Of these there are many located at convenient and accessible places in the county.

These creameries are of great interest because they are a part of the means of production upon which depends the livelihood of the population. They are simple manufacturing plants built by the farmers out of their own resources ~~to~~ where they bring their dairy products to be processed for the market.

In the Kandiyohi region early in the settlement period the people ~~had already found~~^{learned} that they could not depend alone on the grain and other crops for a living. From the very beginning of settlement, ~~keeping of~~^{more} stock and dairy cattle ~~was~~ necessary to give them meat and milk. As time went on they learned that a surplus of dairy and meat products was produced in the same way as they produced grains above their own needs. The surplus of beef cattle they could ship to the packing centers, but the dairy products had to be processed before they could be conveniently marketed. For this reason the farmers built their creameries at convenient locations with proper machinery to transform the cream and the milk of their cows into butter and other manufactured dairy products.

Here it should be remembered that as time has elapsed diversification of farming has changed the economy of the county to the extent that at the present time dairying and stock raising ~~has~~^{have} become its predominant industry. 38.34% of total value of production of the crops marketed today is sales of livestock. 31.94% marketed is livestock and dairy products. Thus the bulk of the farm income of the county or 70.28% is from livestock and livestock products. Only 16.70% of the cash income of the farmers is from grain crops.

Where in the early days grain growing and selling was the main means of livelihood of the people now it is dairy production. The county in the course of time has changed from a grain county into a dairy county which accounts for the many creameries in town and country.

Dairy Production Requires Much Work

Before the farmer can turn into money his labor from dairy and stock raising, making dairy products and meat available for our use, it requires a great amount of effort and a long process on his part. First he must raise his stock with care, providing forage and feed for his herd. He must provide pasture for them in the summer and stored hay, grain and silage for them in the winter. In early settlement days he depended for the forage crop and pasture on the wild grasslands. In the modern day of diversified farming he grows the bulk of the hay as well as his pasture on cultivated land. Tame grasses, such as alfalfa, timothy, clover and corn, have replaced the wild grasses as food for stock.

In order that the cows ^{may} give a maximum amount of milk and butterfat the farmer must feed them ground grain feeds and other concentrates. These he must provide ^{by} either growing the grain himself and grinding it or getting bran, shorts, middlings or manufactured dairy rations from the flouring mills.

~~In the summer time~~ ^Q during the hottest season in July and August he must cut and put up the hay for the winter. Later in the summer and fall he fills the silo with green forage which he feeds the cattle in the winter.

In order to produce milk the cows must be housed in warm, clean and well ventilated barns. This in itself is a tremendous expense. In many states there are laws which require a certain standard in light, cleanliness and health tests for dairy cattle before the farmer can produce for the market.

In addition to all of this the cows must be milked

morning and evening. The cream from the milk must be separated. Some farmers do this themselves and others take the milk to the creamery where the separation is done by large separators.

The Cream Separator

In the early days before the cream separator, separating the cream from milk was a long process. After the milking, the milk was left in a cool place to stand for many hours. Because the Butterfat in the cream is lighter it rose to the top of the pail or container. The early farm woman would ^{manually} skim the cream off the top and store it until a sufficient amount was gathered so that it could be taken to market or made into butter.

In the modern day the separation is done by a machine called the cream separator, and is done in a few minutes where ^{as} ~~with~~ the old process ~~it~~ took hours and days.

The cream separator is a machine having an exactly balanced bowl which revolves at a high rate of speed. When the milk flows through it while it is revolving the heavy substances and liquids are separated from the lighter substance cream, by centrifugal force. In the rapidly revolving bowl the heavier liquids are thrown to the outer edge while the butterfat and other substances in cream remain in the center. The bowl is made in such a manner that the lighter and heavier substances flow out of it separately from different apertures. Thus it is that when milk is put into the tank of the cream separator, and is let through the rapidly revolving bowl, it comes out of the separator as cream and skimmed milk.

Butter Making

Although a lot of cream and milk is used as such for food, the essential thing about dairy production is that a great portion of all the cream and milk goes into the manufacture of butter which

is universally used in all civilized parts of the world.

This again is a process of separation of substances of a different nature in cream. This separation is done by agitating ^{at} or churning the cream ~~XX~~ a certain temperature after it has been bacteriologically prepared for the purpose. The cream is agitated or churned so long that the fat globules are separated and solidified as butter from other substances in cream. The butter is then worked to reduce the moisture to a certain minimum required to protect it from becoming rancid, after which salt is added and worked in.

Now the butter is ready for market. It is packed into tubs or prints and shipped to be sold or stored to the great population centers of America and other parts of the world.

CHAPTER 27 SIBLEY STATE PARK

Historic Background Of Parks

From an early period in American history National Parks and Monuments have been set aside in various parts of the country. This has been done to preserve unusual scenic beauty, natural phenomena and important natural and historic objects for the enjoyment of the people.

Similarly, the various States have also set aside lands and regions of historic or natural interest for the benefit of the people.

Thus it is that Minnesota has a State Conservation Commission and has been a pioneer in the development of State Parks and playgrounds. Of the numerous State Parks established by the State of Minnesota one of them is ~~an~~ ~~XXX~~ area of about three hundred and sixty five acres adjacent to Lake Andrew in north Kandiyohi County, called the Sibley State Park after the first Governor of the State, Henry H Sibley.

Location And Administration

The Sibley State Park is located on highway No. 4 between St Cloud and Willmar ~~Minnesota. It is centrally located as regards~~ the population of the State. It was created in 1919 by the State Legislature in the passage of Chapter 463 under which the Park was put under the supervision and care of the State Game and Fish Commission.

On March 26th 1919 the Board of County Commissioners of Kandiyohi County passed a resolution under the terms of which the County is to maintain the Park forever. The County Board of Kandiyohi County thus superintends the Park with the State Game and Fish Commission. The State Legislature has empowered the County to make appropriations and levy taxes for the purpose of maintenance of the Park area.

Recreational Facilities

The original appropriation of the State Legislature for the purchase of the land was ~~twenty five thousand dollars~~ ^{25,000}. The County appropriated ~~two thousand five hundred dollars~~ ^{2,500} and an additional ~~eight hundred dollars~~ ⁸⁰⁰ was raised by popular subscription to build roads and make other improvements.

The Park at the present time has facilities for camping and picnicing. There is a supply of pure drinking water, fire places, picnic tables and a bathing beach with a bath house and toilet facilities.

The principal point of interest is Mount Tom, a high morainic hill less than a quarter of a mile from the northern boundary of the Park area. The Park area is a beautiful region of varied elevation composed of morainic hills, swamp and woodland. Virgin hardwood and red cedar cover the hills. On the south it

is bordered by ~~the~~ beautiful Lake Andrew.

Since it has been set aside as a Park a road has been built from the shore of lake Andrew north passing between the two points of interest, little Tom and Mount Tom in the north end of the area. Near Lake Andrew the road forks in two directions and follows the shore, one fork running to a southeasterly direction and the other making an acute angle running to the northwest.

The public picnic and playgrounds are on the north shore of the lake at a place called "Cedar Hill"

CHAPTER 28 STATE CAPITOL LANDS

Capitol Controversy

For a long time after Minnesota became a State there was a controversy as to the location of the State Capitol. ~~This matter~~ Although the Legislature met in St Paul ^{this matter} was an issue in many political campaigns.

There were a number of places which were proposed for the Capitol site. St. Peter ~~Minnesota~~ was so aggressive that already a Capitol building was erected ~~in~~ there in the territorial days. Another proposal for a Capitol site was Nicollet Island.

In 1858 the session of the Legislature authorized the first Governor of Minnesota, Henry H Sibley, to appoint a committee to select Capitol lands authorized by Congress in the previous year. Governor Sibley appointed James D. Skinner of St. Paul, W. C. Johnson of Stillwater and Robert Boyle of Hastings as his committee for the purpose. In the performance of their duty they secured about six thousand four hundred acres of land for the purpose in Kandiyohi County.

Although the land had been secured by the Governors committee the controversy continued among the ~~Legislators~~ Legislators and the people.

Later in the session of the 1858 Legislature the matter was again aired. This time a proposal was made to place the Capitol

on Nicollet Island near the falls of St Anthony. This attempt was defeated however.

In the session of 1861 a Mr Kennedy introduced a Bill to locate the Capitol on the lands selected for the purpose in Kandiyohi County. The Bill passed in the house of representatives but was defeated in the Senate.

For the next eight years there was a lull in the controversy in the Legislature but in the Counties and localities contending for the site the issue continued to be alive among the people.

Final Disposal Of The Matter

In 1869 the issue arose again in the Legislature when a real determined effort was made by a group of Legislators to remove the Capitol to Kandiyohi County. The measure passed in both the House of Representatives as well as the Senate, but Governor Marshall vetoed it. ~~XXXXXX~~

In the next three years yet another attempt was made by a Mr. Ketchell, the representative from Chippewa County, to locate the Capitol at Stanton, Kandiyohi County. The Bill was referred to a committee and thereby defeated.

In 1891 Senator Glader From Kandiyohi again raised the issue but it was disposed of in what was called by the people a characteristic "parliamentary way" so that it has been unreported to this day.

CHAPTER 29 FARM TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Towns Built Where Trade Centered

When the townsite promoters came into the Kandiyohi region they were very hopeful that the land which they procured would become the trading centers of the new settlers. This would have increased the value of the lands which they possessed.

The development of the country however did not take place according to the hopes and expectations of the townsites promoters. The townsites that they platted out did not become towns. Towns and trading centers of the farmers could only grow after the farmer had settled and begun to produce for trade or the market.

Thus it is that the present towns are not located where the townsites were platted. The only town in Kandiyohi County that is located approximately on a townsite is the town of Spicer. Here, originally, was the townsite of Columbia.

The development of the farm trading centers are dependent on a number of factors. ^{The} First of these factors is the way in which settlement took place. Here it must be remembered that trade was carried on

~~before any of the towns grew up in the County with the population centers outside of its boundaries. Litchfield, Forest City, Hutchison and other points east were the first trading centers of the early settlers of Kandiyohi County.~~ ^{towns} ^{with} ^{before the towns of Kandiyohi County had grown up,} For a number of years these towns east

of the County were the trading centers ~~from~~ ^{purchased} where the early pioneers would get their manufactured goods and where they would go to the ^{took their grain and corn} grist mills to grind their grain and corn. ^{To be ground at the grist mills,} (A trip to town with Oxen)

Even though the distance was not great, took many days and often weeks.

Some trade was carried on in St Cloud and even as far as Minneapolis by the early settlers of the County.

When the means of transport such as railroads and other roads came into the County, permanent trading centers began to grow ~~in~~ within its borders. For a time after the railroad reached Willmar it became the trading center for all of the people living west, north and south of it. When the railroad was built to Breckenridge, Pennock began to thrive. Up until that time the main centers of trade were Willmar, Kandiyohi Station and Atwater.

New Railroads, New Towns

When the railroad was built north and south this gave rise to ^{growth of the} the towns of Raymond in the southwest corner of the County and Spicer, New London and Hawick to the northeast of Willmar. After the Minnesota Western railroad was built Thorpe, Lake Lillian, Blomkest, Roseland and Prinsburg also became trading centers of the farmers in the southern part of the County.

Yet another factor in the development of the small farm towns which determined what they were to be, were the roads and public highways. When the roads were improved across the county in different directions as well as from farm to town they had a lot to do with the growth of the farm trading centers.

Farm Towns Change In Character

In the early days the farm towns were different than they are today. In the settlement period the buildings and commercial establishments were crude structures, ^{and the} ~~Streets in the early towns~~ were not paved, ~~as they are today~~.

The goods and necessities with which trade was carried on were simple. When one visited an early grocery store, ~~on its shelves~~ one would find kerosene lamps, lamp chimneys and crudely packed food-stuffs. When one goes into the stores now the picture is different. ^{There} ~~Now they~~ are goods of a streamlined age, products of a high technical skill, ^{and} such as electric appliances. ^{today} ~~The foodstuffs which we find on the shelves~~ are products of great manufacturing plants, ~~packed in neat sanitary packages~~.

On the streets of the early towns there were no gas stations. In the place of the machine shops and garages that we have today there were blacksmith shops and livery stables, ~~in the early days~~. In place of the automobiles and trucks that stand on our streets there were horses and oxen tied to the hitching posts. The old watering trough ~~for the beasts of burden~~ which had a prominent place on the

streets of the old country town^y has been replaced by the gas pump or the gas station.

With the constant change in the character of the towns a change has also taken place among the inhabitants. Those people who have kept abreast with changing time and have grasped and welcomed the new, have become the important people of the community. The fur trader has been forgotten in relation to our everyday life, so have other important callings of the early days.

The way in which people make a living even in the small towns has changed, this again has changed the nature of the people who inhabit them.

CHAPTER 30 MERCHANTS AND THEIR ENTERPRISE

Importance of The Merchant

After the breakup of the feudal order of society in the world, merchant princes rose to great eminence in the new social order that followed. In the early period of our modern industrial society traders in many instances became more important than the feudal lords and barons. ~~In many cases~~ In the towns and trading centers that grew in England, Continental Europe and America, merchants grew to be a class by themselves, and from that time ~~on~~ they have been an important factor in the development of the various countries. From among the merchants have grown the early manufacturers and later the great captains of our modern industry.

The first white people ^{who came} ~~to come~~ to Minnesota were the Frenchmen Grosselliers and Raddison. They were traders and agents of the great fur merchants of the east and European countries. They came here motivated with a desire to find a route to "Cathay" as China was called at the time. ^{we interested in this} ~~This~~ they ~~wanted to do~~ because they wanted to trade with China and thereby profit the people who^{ny} they represented.

So it has been that traders and merchants, since the dawn of our modern industrial social order, have coexisted with the producers of the wealth of the world, the agriculturists, the husbandman and the working people.

In certain periods during the settlement of the frontier the merchants were a very important factor in Minnesota. ^{However,} The essential thing ~~however~~ to understand about the merchant during frontier life is that although he played an important role his role was not the most important. It must be remembered that the merchant could exist only in relation to the growth of the means of production. Thus there could not have been traders or merchants if it were not for the Indians and later farmers and industrial workers who produce the goods, ~~to trade with.~~

The merchant and trader therefore while doing a useful task in distributing commodities to the frontier was not himself a producer of the wealth although he rose to ~~great~~ eminence and great influence..

Due to the fact that Kandiyohi County ~~since the white man~~ ^{settled there} has always been basically an agriculture and dairy County the merchants and trading people have not grown into great merchant princes as they have in some of the large cities. The towns in which they live have remained trading centers of the farmers and the people in them have remained close to the farm population. Since manufacture ^{of goods} ~~has been very small~~ ^{unimportant} in the county the towns have remained small, their growth depending on ^{the} amount of production of the farmers in the surrounding country.

Willmar is the only exception in the towns. Some manufacture takes place in Willmar. The railroad shops and yards there employ a considerable number of people, ^{and} From this arises the fact that in

1935 the wage income of the county was approximately four hundred thousand dollars.

First Merchant

Perhaps the first merchandise establishment was the Grocery and provision store opened at the Columbia townsite in the spring of 1857. ^a ~~From this follows that~~ Mr Arnold who established the enterprise was ^{probably} ~~perhaps~~ the first permanently settled merchant in Kandiyohi County. Since then ~~after the coming of the railroads and improvement of the highways~~ many towns and farm trade centers have grown along these trade routes ^{with the development of the railroads and highways.}

While the farmers in the County have suffered many hardships, in the ups and downs of alternating prosperity and depression, the upward growth and prosperity of the merchants and the townspeople has been more sustained and steady. The mercantile business in the Kandiyohi region ~~ever since the settlers began to arrive~~ has been generally successful and the number of enterprises catering to the farm population has increased in ratio with settlement.

Merchant Organization

In Kandiyohi County as in other Counties surrounding it, the merchants and the townspeople have been alert and enterprising in defence of their interests. Long ago, simple organization was to be found among them. In the County now there are a great number of commercial organizations and Clubs into which the merchants and business men ^{have} ~~are~~ united. The larger ones, of course, are in the larger towns.

These organizations ~~have and now~~ keep up a constant activity for the promotion of the towns and through their affiliations with State and National organizations ~~hold~~ ^{exert} a considerable influence in the community.

Among the townspeople and the merchants there are also a great number of lodges and fraternal organizations, ~~which~~ with the ^{these} churches ⁱⁿ make up the center ~~for~~ social life and activity of the towns and hamlets.

For ^{many years} ~~a long time past~~ political interest and organization ^{have} ~~has~~ been a major activity among the commercial class. This has been especially true in Willmar which is the county seat.

CHAPTER 31 Willmar Fair And Harvest Festival

Ancient Background

In very early times after trading among the people had grown in Europe, Fairs and Markets were held to increase trade. Usually ^{they} ~~they~~ were held annually in the growing towns where people could gather to buy and sell from each other.

Some of these early Fairs and Markets have existed in ~~some~~ European countries for centuries and up to the present day. Thus it is said that ~~for instance~~ in Nijni Novgorod ^{Russia} now called Gorky after the world famous novelist, ~~Russia~~ a Fair or Market has been held at more or less regular intervals since the seventeenth century, attended each year by thousands of people. On the continent of Europe, England and the far eastern countries the basic purpose of the Fairs ^{has} ~~have~~ always been the increase of commerce and to facilitate trading among the people.

Some pleasure Fairs have also existed in Europe among the rich people for hundreds of years. The essential thing ~~however~~ ^{however} about European Fairs is that they have grown motivated by trade.

American Fairs

Inherited from this ^{remote} ~~this~~ European past Fairs were brought into ^{our} ~~this~~ country by the early settlers. Here they have grown into elaborate

and large institutions. In the American Fair the European Market and pleasure Fair are combined with an additional purpose, that of ^{educating} ~~educ-~~ ^{enriching} ~~improving~~ ation and ~~improving~~ of the culture of the people. The American Fairs differ from the European type chiefly in that they have always been organized on a basis of education and have spread knowledge both in ~~agriculture~~ agriculture and industry, where in the European countries the chief purpose has been promotion of trade.

Minnesota Fairs

Although Agricultural Fairs and expositions in the United States have slightly declined in number in recent years, ~~yet in 1927~~ two thousand Fairs were held in different parts of ~~the country~~ ^{in 1927.} the country. In Minnesota we hold the widely known State Fair each year in the ~~Twin Cities~~ ^{Twin Cities} as well as numerous County Fairs and Festivals ~~in the various Counties.~~

In the early agricultural communities of Minnesota, Fairs were very important. They were institutions which once or more times a year brought the people of town and country together. For the Farm town merchant they gave increased Fair time trade. The farmers were shown a variety of new things each year at the county Fairs with which ~~they~~ ^{their} could improve ~~his~~ life. Through the expositions and the ~~various~~ awards the Fairs encouraged the farmers to improve their crops and their stock. The latest farm machinery were displayed and demonstrated encouraging the farmer to improve his means of production.

This resulted in added trade from which both the farm town merchants and the farmers benefited.

Willmar Fair

In Kandiyohi County the first "Street Fair and Harvest Festival" was held in Willmar in the latter part of September 1901. The three day Fair was considered by all concerned a great success.

The whole countryside for many miles around attended. Awards were given to the exhibitors of the best farm and household products. Streets were decorated and ^{well known} ~~important~~ people made speeches fitting to the occasion. ^{Since this time} ~~After this each year~~ a Fair has been held in Willmar. ^{every year} These ~~Fairs~~ ^{events} have always been ~~occassions which have~~ added to the culture, education, trade and enjoyment of the people.

CHAPTER 32 THE KANDIYOHI COUNTRY NOW

Days Of Indians Have Passed

Over eighty years have passed since the first pioneers set foot on the soil of the Kandiyohi region. These pioneers have left for the succeeding generation their work, from whom the present generation has again inherited the country. In this process the people of the various generations have always ^{risen} ~~rose~~ to the occasion to cope with the problems confronting them.

The day of the Indian, the ox cart and the stage coach have passed. Since then time has wrought a new and different economy with its highly developed industries, communications and agriculture. With ^{these} ~~this change in the economy~~ man himself has become a different kind of a creature than before.

The history of people ~~no matter where they live~~ is a transformation of one epoch into another, the picture changing according to how the people produce a livelihood for themselves, this again depending on what kind of tools and machinery of production they have.

As an example. The Indians ^{made} a living by hunting and fishing. They built movable homes. They used the bow and arrow. They traded furs for guns to make their hunting easier. Their life depended on a very simple economy. ~~Their heaven was a "happy hunting ground"~~

The early white settlers were somewhat advanced from the Indian people. They built log cabins. They were cultivators of land and built permanent homes. In addition to the use of the gun, they used the plough and other implements with which to stir the soil and make it produce food and other necessities. ~~Their paradise was the "Garden of Eden"~~

Later when the modern agricultural and industrial era came into full bloom the transformation of one form of life into another ^{was} ~~became~~ much more rapid. In the course of time the new ~~Moreover the process~~ has obliterated the old. If the early settlers were to wake up from the dead they could only find relics of the things that they knew, the things that existed in their time. They would be startled indeed with the modern way of life, with the great change that has taken place.

Only One Thing Same As Before

Only one thing they would find the same as before ^{and that is} ~~That would be that~~ the struggle for existence and the advancement of mankind continues as before. ~~That~~ ^{the problem} this struggle has been made a little easier ^{ultimately} and ~~ultimately~~ possible of solution with the modern means of production, but ~~that~~ ^{there are} to this day the struggle exists. They would find that today as before ~~the~~ ^{and} forces in society which retard progress, that the only difference ~~today~~ is that these forces are called by different names. To appreciate this it is necessary to see the modern picture of the Kandyohi Country.

Progress Made

In the course of a little over eighty years the people of the Kandyohi country have worked and labored to bring into being a modern agriculture community. Through scientific farming and diversification they have made the region fruitful. In these long and tedious years they have produced wealth in grain and livestock products far beyond their own needs.

A part of this wealth has gone into the building of the

towns, villages and farmsteads which are immeasurably better than in the early days.

Another part of it has gone into the establishment of public institutions such as schools, Government and government services which too are better than before.

And yet another part has gone into the improvement of the life of the people, into securing the everyday needs of the population.

But in spite of all this progress, the most important problem, the security of life for the vast majority, still remains unsolved. This is true not only of Kandiyohi County but ^{of} society in general.

Present Condition Of People

In Kandiyohi County there is now a population of over 23,500. Out of this population fifty out of every thousand people were on relief in 1935. At the time of settlement of the County each farmer owned his own land. Through the Homestead act land in the early days could be secured with little cost. Instead of remaining owners of their farms a great portion of the farmers have lost their land in the past few years. Fifty two percent of the farm land in Kandiyohi County was worked by tenants in 1935. Drouth in recent years has parched the fields thus aggravating the situation for the farm people.

Cultivated acreage in the County for the past five years has remained nearly stationary. The individual farms however have become smaller in size, while the number of farmers in the County has slightly increased.

The acreage in corn has increased more than doubled since 1910 while wheat production has dropped to very little. Egg, poultry, swine and dairy production has consistently increased with the process of diversification.

In spite of the great progress that has been made and the improvement of the means of production, life in Kandiyohi County

remains a desperate struggle for the vast majority of the people.

The means of production and the methods ^{by} which we produce our food, clothing and shelter have grown to the extent that now man can produce much more than he needs himself. In this a great advance has been made by the people.

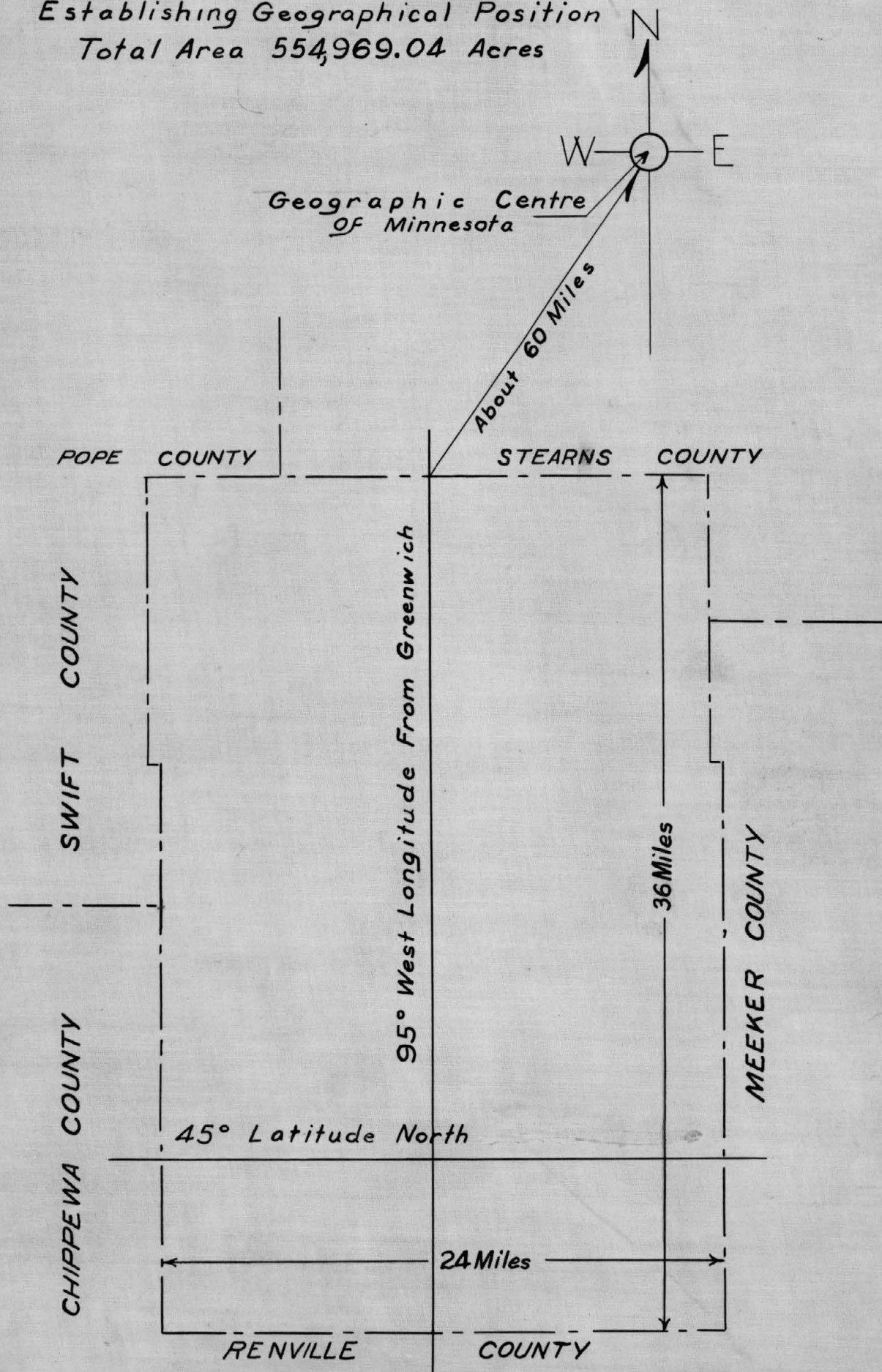
The great problem yet to be solved however is the same as the one our forefathers attempted to solve. That problem is the organization of society in such manner that all who work by brain and hand shall be secure in the future. Once this problem is solved other problems become possible of solution.

To awaken a desire to solve the great social problem among the people these pages have been written.

KANDIYOHI

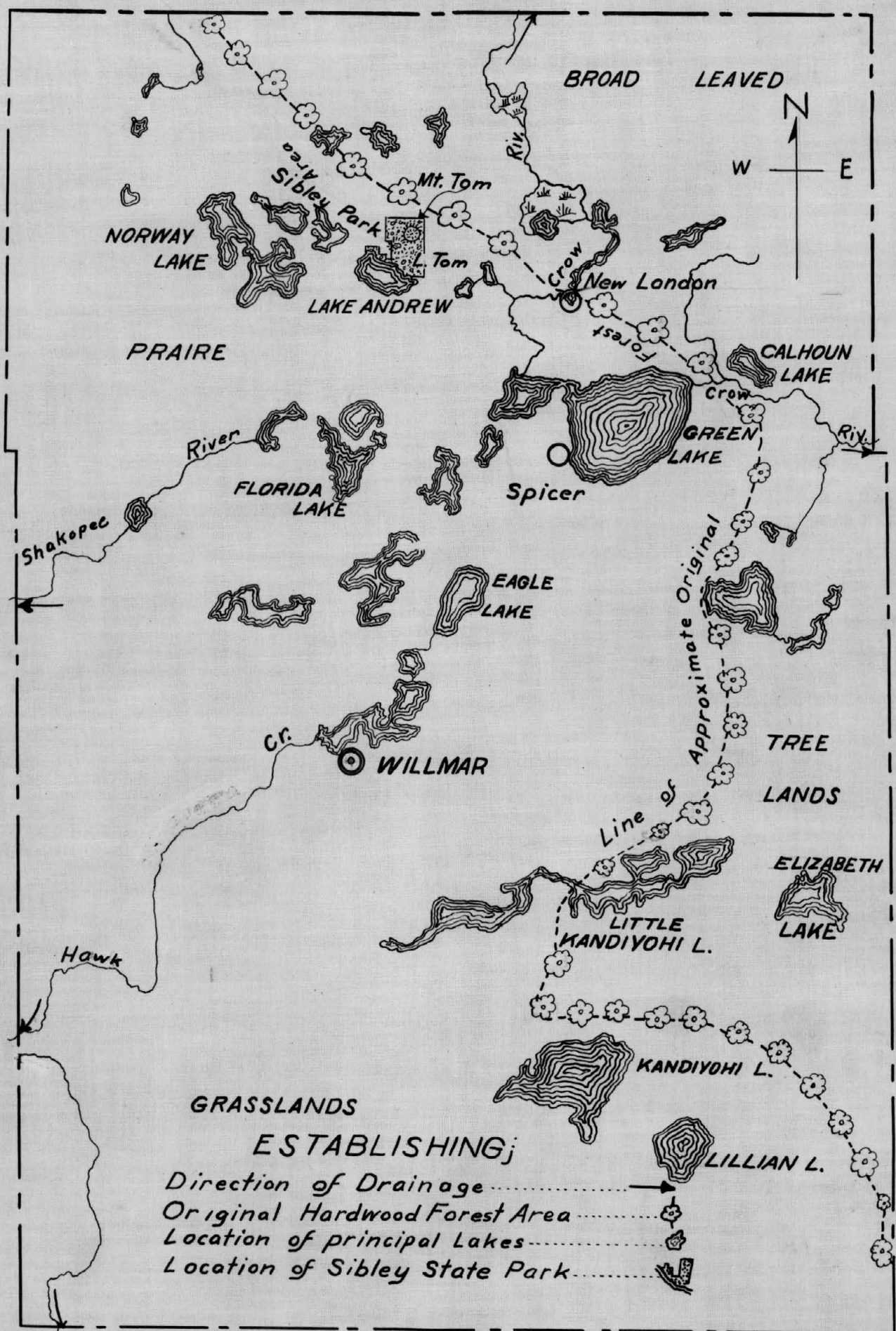
COUNTY

*Establishing Geographical Position
Total Area 554,969.04 Acres*




KANDIYOHI

COUNTY



KANDIYOHI

COUNTY

Establishing Location of
Churches  Schools  Creameries 