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THE STORY OF LE SUEUR COUNTY.

Author's Copy as
edited by E. Hephurn

CHAPTER ONE. THE PRE-SETTLEMENT ERA.

It was the year 1700. White men were venturing into the uncharted domain of the Indians. In lonely canoes they paddled upstream, up a mysterious, unknown river. It was our Minnesota river.

They were dressed in fringed buckskin, calico shirts, and scarlet sashes. Their leader, Pierre Le Sueur, hunched upwards in the prow of his canoe, straining his eyes around each bend. (What was beyond? Fortune or disaster? Would he find fabulous mines that should make him rich and honored? ^{he thought} Perhaps the French king would ~~even~~ knight him ^{if he were successful.})

^{The Voyageurs.} Great limestone bluffs covered with scrub oaks towered above them. They must have felt a little frightened. Perhaps unfriendly Indians lurked there, ready to heave boulders down upon them or shoot deadly arrows.

For hundreds of miles in every direction there was nothing but wilderness. Waving grasses, shiny-leaved trees, rippling water, high hills, and blue sky---that was all. To the west one might walk for a thousand miles and see no white face. If they had perished here, no one would have known.

But Le Sueur urged them on, and on, for hundreds of miles up the river. The stream glistened like a polished ^{platter} apple in the September sunshine. The current often swirled close to white clay banks and around bluffs of handsomely-colored rock, limestones and sandstones. Some day those rocks were to be used to build houses and churches and public buildings. But ~~that~~ ^{at that time} ~~day in 1700~~ Le Sueur and his men were in search for richer treasure.

LE SUEUR COUNTY
WAS FORGED OUT
OF A WILDERNESS

Today the wilderness Le Sueur ^{found here} saw is a populous country. The Northwest he explored has been divided up into nations, states, counties, townships, cities, and villages. ^{this} The country he ^{primarily through} found in

1700 is now our state of Minnesota; part of the region eastward from those ^{limestone} ~~oak-sprinkled~~ bluffs is ^{now our} Le Sueur County.

Our county is in south-central Minnesota. ~~We are only~~ ^{of our 87 counties} ~~one in 87 Minnesota counties,~~ but ours is one of the most prosperous. ^{And} Le Sueur County was one of the first settled counties, too, ⁴ ~~one~~ of the oldest ^{our state.} ~~counties~~ in Minnesota.

^{the} This region was settled early because the river was a highroad for the west-bound pioneers. It was ^{hard and} dangerous ~~and difficult~~ to strike

(continue page 3)

^{through} out ~~into~~ unknown dense forests. ^{Compared to such journeys, to go} ~~But going~~ by boat up the river was ~~can~~ ^{settled,} ~~paratively~~ easy. And so they ~~came~~---those home-seeking pioneers, along the ^{valley of} ~~the~~ same river ^{up which} ~~valley~~ up which Le Sueur had ventured so many years before.

~~How did it all happen?~~ What do we know about the history of our County? ^{Some of it} ~~Much of the past has been buried forever, but some of it we~~ ^{lost, perhaps, but there is much we} ~~can dig out bit by bit...~~ ^{can discover} Forgotten episodes of our own neighborhood,---our own back yard! Such slices of the past flashed before us---are they not just as interesting, or more so, than the story of Knights in armour or foreign politics?

THE FIRST INHABITANTS

Long before the white men came to Minnesota or Le Sueur County an aboriginal or first people lived here. Where they came from nobody knows for sure, and they left only a few bones and broken bits of pottery for us to puzzle over.

Their descendants, the American Indians, likewise left scanty records. In Le Sueur County, ^{today} ~~today~~ the Indians are ~~today~~ almost forgotten. But a few are still living in Minnesota, and ^{some} ~~a few~~ of their ancient mounds ^{can} ~~are~~ still to be seen ^{today}.

INDIAN MOUNDS.

What were the mounds? Nobody knows that for sure either. Some were most likely used as burial grounds; others probably served as defense works, or as religious emblems. ^{may have} Some ~~probably~~ served all three purposes.

Though we often speak of them as "burial mounds," the Indians did not bury their dead as we do. They believed that the bones of a man were the ~~only~~ sacred part of ~~this~~ body. Therefore when a man died they ^{left} ~~put~~ the ^{body} ~~corpse~~ up in the air on a scaffold of sticks, or in the branches of a tree ^{for a time,} for the flesh to rot away. ^{and afterwards} ~~Then they~~ ^{buried} ~~carefully scraped~~ the bones and ~~buried~~ ^{probably} in the mounds, with a few of the dead man's possessions.

At one time there were hundreds---even thousands---of mounds scattered all over south-central Minnesota. But since the white man came they have ~~been~~ gradually disappearing, plowed up for farms, buildings, and ~~roads~~,---to make way for the white man's ^{way of life.} ~~culture.~~

When ^{our} ~~the~~ County was young, many prominent mounds were known here, especially near East Henderson. ^{there were} A few others were, ^{located} ~~about~~ ^{a mile and a half} ~~one and one~~ half miles southeast of Ottawa, on the bluffs above the river. The largest ^{of them} ~~was~~ ^{about 50 ft across + more than feet} ~~about 52 feet in diameter by 5 1/2 feet high.~~

Another group in the bottom lands south of Ottawa was washed away in the high water of 1881. But before that happened curious relics had been unearthed in them. ^{there,} Among the ~~human~~ bones ^{was} a silver wristlet with "Montreal" stamped upon it, ^{together with} copper ear rings, a string of china beads, pins, ^{and} a needle, a small pearl ornament, and a quartz arrow head.

Because we are of the white race, "The coming of the white man" is a phrase that sounds ~~strangely~~ grand to us. But to the Indians it ^{THE FIRST} meant something quite different. To ^{them} ~~the red race~~ it proved ^{WHITE MEN} to be a sort of ~~mark~~ ~~mournful~~ death knell.

Settlement did not begin along the Minnesota Valley until the middle nineteenth century. But long before that a few ^{daring} adventuresome white men ~~dared to explore~~ ^{up} the river, and camped on ^{its} ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ shore of our County. Perhaps there were ^{others} ~~some~~ we know nothing about, because they left no records.

OUR COUNTY-- The ~~daring~~ explorer for whom our County was named, NAMED FOR Pierre Charles Le Sueur, was the first known white man PIERRE LE SUEUR. to venture up the Minnesota River. Over 150 years before the pioneer fathers came to the Minnesota Valley, Le Sueur ^{paddled} ~~sailed~~ up our beautiful river, passing in his canoe the ^{present} ~~sites~~ of Le Sueur, Ottawa, and Kasota. ^{of course} ~~But at that time this~~ region was only a vast wilderness, populated by wild animals and roaming Indians.

LE SUEUR IN
MINNESOTA.

Le Sueur was a French-Canadian, and had visited Minnesota as early as 1683, at the age of 26, commissioned by the French governor of Canada to establish a post on Lake Superior. Later, about 1690, we think he came down the Wisconsin river, and then ascended the Mississippi as far as Sandy Lake. Thus he was also the first explorer on the upper Mississippi through central Minnesota. *exploring*

During a lifetime spent in the Northwest wilderness, Le Sueur established several military posts. Their exact location is ~~sometimes~~ *somewhat* uncertain. ~~One~~ *One* was ~~erected~~ *built* in 1694 or '95, on Isle Pelee, now known as Prairie Island, near the head of Lake Pepin, to maintain peace between the Chippewa and Sioux Indians. From there Le Sueur ⁱjourned to Montreal ~~in 1695~~ with the first Sioux Indians to visit Canada.

About that time he heard from the Sioux of a fabled blue-green clay along the banks of the upper Minnesota River. Obtaining a sample from the Indians, he sailed to France, where the blue earth was assayed and pronounced to be copper ore.

Immediately ~~Much~~ *elated*, he secured a license from the king to explore the copper mines, and *made ready* ~~prepared~~ to return to America. But in the next three years ~~Le Sueur was destined for many adventures, had the license~~ *he had* ~~revoked, and was~~ *his* ~~captured by the English on the high seas, before he accomplished his purpose.~~ *was* ~~he~~

LE SUEUR COMES
UP THE MINNESOTA.

Finally, in September, 1700, ~~Le Sueur~~ *The* (with a small party of men) started up the Minnesota River. They pushed as far as the Blue Earth river, near the present site of Mankato. Here they found the blue-green, shale-like mud that they thought was copper ore.

That winter they worked the mines and established "Fort L'Huillier," named in honor of the chemist who said the mud was copper. In the spring Le Sueur transported a rich load of beaver furs and several tons of the blue earth down the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers to the Gulf of

Another version of the original naming of the river ^{credits} ~~credits~~ ^{Keels is that}
Capt. Nicholas Perrot with ^{called} christening the stream St. Pierre, probably in
honor of ^{Pierre} Le Sueur. Perrot first saw the river between 1683 and 1689, near
its mouth. Holcombe, a prominent Minnesota historian, thinks it probably
that Perrot named the river before 1689.

~~At~~ ^{an obscure person} At that time, however, Le Sueur was in Perrot's employ as an
obscure person. ~~Fame had yet to come to him, and it is doubtful that Perrot~~
~~would name the river for~~ ~~Le Sueur~~ Pierre Le Sueur. In his journals Le Sueur
constantly calls the river the St. Peters without any hint that it was named
for himself. ~~Early records do not say for sure exactly how the name originated.~~
Another guess, ~~then~~, is that it ^{was} ~~may have been~~ named on St. Peter's Day, June 2,
in honor of the Apostle. ~~Perhaps the most logical explanation is that Le Sueur~~
~~gave himself named the river, as indicated above.~~ ^{However, it is perhaps most likely that -}
^{to name} ~~as indicated~~ indicated above.

^{But} Whether or not the Minnesota river was ^{at} first named for Pierre
Le Sueur, ^{were} ~~at least~~ we know ^{him} ~~that~~ a County and city ~~have been~~ named for Le Sueur.
^{In} In his journals we find that Le Sueur stopped at a "Pleasing and fair" spot
about "twelve leagues from the mouth of the Blue Earth river, where the shore
was level and receded gently to the upland of the east." This description fits
Le Sueur ^{pretty} ~~moderately~~ well, and is about ^{our} ~~the~~ only record ~~we have~~ of the famous
explorer ^{being in our} ~~stopping on~~ Le Sueur County soil.

Mexico, and across the ocean to France, ^{where} ~~Then, sad to tell,~~ the mysterious ⁽¹⁾ mud was found to be worthless.

Those left in charge of Fort L'Huillier had trouble with the Indians, and the site was abandoned in 1701. Soon after ^{Pierre} ~~that~~ Le Sueur himself died, ~~at the~~ ⁽²⁾ ~~end of an eventful life.~~

NAMING THE RIVER.

It seems Le Sueur ~~had~~ called the beautiful river he explored the St. Pierre, or St. Peter's, probably after himself or his patron saint. The early traders and settlers knew it by this name, but later, in 1852, it was officially renamed the Minnesota, from the ~~original~~ original Sioux.

From this river our entire State got its name. Minnesota was at first spelled in many ways and was given several meanings. Some say that Minnesota means "The sky-tinted water." Other writers explain that the Indian interpretation should be "River of the bleary (~~or~~ cloudy, muddy, or whitish) water." The Chippewa Indians to the north knew of the stream as "The river of the green leaf."

Insert here → CARVER. ^{you would later} In 1766, Jonathan Carver, a "Connecticut Yankee", ^{but} flying the colors of Great Britain ^{on} at the stern of his canoe, also explored the Minnesota river. Carver pushed upstream about 200 miles, ~~or at least that is what he claimed,~~ ^{to have done.} in a book of popular travels published later, If so, he, too, must have seen the wilderness that is now Le Sueur County.

At any rate we know that Carver spent the winter with the Indians about 14 miles upstream, near what is now Shakopee. At the end of April when Carver came back down the river, 300 Sioux accompanied him. He seemed to get along especially well with the ~~Redmen~~. Both Le Sueur and Carver found out many interesting things about the Indians. A few historians, however, think some of Carver's accounts were only "Storybook adventures."

PETER POND Only eight years later Peter Pond with a small party of men followed the same water route, ~~about 200 miles upstream~~ ^{on/in} past Le Sueur County to trade with the Yankton Indians. Peter Pond was an adventurous and influential fur trader. Fragments of his journals have only in recent years been brought to light. He had a post on the lower Minnesota river for two years, 1773 and '74. In '74 he stopped to see the hut where Carver spent the winter, and says, "It was a Log House about Sixteen feet long Covered With Bark--With a fireplace--But one Room and no flore."

These early explorers made way for later expeditions up the river. These, after 1800, (next page)

~~THE SELKIRK VOYAGEURS~~ ⁱⁿ
~~AND MACKINAW BOATS.~~

After 1800 expeditions up the river became more common. ^{In 1820} A party of Scotch Selkirk colonists

from near Winnipeg returned to their homes in Canada ⁱⁿ by way of Mackinaw boats, ^{by way of} on the Minnesota River in 1820. They had come down to Prairie du Chien in southwestern Wisconsin for a cargo of seed wheat, oats, and peas.

The Mackinaw or keel boats were ^{the usual} ~~a common~~ means of transportation whenever canoes were too small for the cargo or luggage. These craft, ^{and} were ~~usually~~ hollowed out of huge trees, ^{and} were from 20 to 50 feet long, 4 to 10 feet wide, ^{and} could carry 2 to 8 tons of freight.

The crew used both oars and poles. When the water was shallow, the men would push on their poles and run along a plank till they reached the stern of the boat, ~~then they started all over~~ again at the prow. Depending on the current, the mackinaw boats could make 5 to 15 miles a day.

OTHER
EXPLORERS.

~~Next~~ In 1823, the U. S. government sent Major Stephen H. Long up the river. Part of this expedition went by land and part by water. Twelve years later, ~~in 1835~~, three other explorers piloted their craft below the high wooded bluffs of Le Sueur County. Two of them were on their way to see the famous pipestone quarries in southern Minnesota. A third was the geologist, George Featherstonhaugh, who came to study the rock and earth formations. Later he wrote a book called, "Canoe Voyages Up The Minnaw-Sotar." ^(insert # below)

HOW LE SUEUR COUNTY
BECAME AMERICAN SOIL

^{Several times} As explorers came and went, as foreign governments prospered or declined, as wars were won or lost, our Minnesota Valley changed ownership ~~several times~~. ^{there were} At first, only the Indian tribes ^{to war with} ~~contested with~~ each other for the choicest hunting grounds.

In 1838 Two well known explorers, Joseph Nicollet and John Fremont came up the river to ^{on} ~~conduct~~ a geographical survey of the northwest country. ^{Five men} ~~Six men~~ were in the party. They came by land ^{up the valley by land} ~~up the valley by land~~ on the east side of the river, but crossed over to the west side shortly below the site of Ottawa. Nicollet's map published in 1843 was the first good map of Minnesota.

men came
But presently the pale faces arrived on the scene, and by rights of ~~con-~~
claiming for
~~quest white~~ nations across the Atlantic ~~claimed~~ the country they discovered.

In 1689 Nicholas Perrot claimed all the Minnesota region for France. His proclamation was made from Fort St. Antoine on lower Lake Pepin. Pierre Le Sueur was ~~among those present~~ *there and signed* and put his signature to the document.

at the close
Almost a century later, ~~by the reversals~~ of the French and Indian Wars in 1763, all lands east of the Mississippi belonging to France were ceded to England. ~~Just the year before this cession,~~ *Keep them from* to thwart the English, France gave her lands west of the Mississippi to Spain. *So although* That ownership was merely on paper, ~~but in consequence of it~~ *was decided* Le Sueur County was at one time Spanish soil.

through
Next, ~~by the Revolutionary War,~~ *in this country* English soil became American, *Rest were given back* and soon ~~after that~~ the Spanish possessions went back to France. Finally, by the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the United States bought from France ~~the~~ *these* lands west of the Mississippi.

still
Though all Minnesota was now American soil, ~~it still~~ the land ~~still actually~~ belonged to the Indians, *and* Therefore in 1805 the United States government sent Lieut. Zebulon Pike up the Mississippi to ~~secure~~ *get from them* a site for a military fort.

Pike obtained two small grants of land, one on the St. Croix and one *near* ~~about~~ the mouth of the Minnesota. For this land, now worth millions, he paid the Indians about \$200 worth of trinkets and 60 gallons of whiskey.

Nothing was done about erecting a fort till 1819. In that year Col. Leavenworth founded Fort St. Anthony (later called Fort Snelling) at the river junction. This fort was the first real outpost of *The white man* ~~civilization~~ in Minnesota. From Fort Snelling the long fingers of white civilization began to reach out into the Minnesota wilderness.

TRADERS AND
THE FUR TRADE.

Trade
The ~~lure of riches~~ in furs was also an important factor in exploration of the Northwest. Bartering with the Indians for pelts and selling the ~~furs~~ to eastern markets brought ~~for~~ *riches* ~~times~~ to many. The French from Canada were the first to develop our Minnesota fur trade. The colorful "Coureurs des Bois," or Messengers of the Woods, sometimes ~~engaged in trapping~~ *did* ~~themselves~~ *for* ~~but usually bargained with~~ *They traded for furs* the Indians.

A few lone adventurers came into the Minnesota Valley and built cabins before the land had been bought from the Indians and officially opened to settlement. These were mostly fur traders or missionaries. As far as we know there were no early mission stations ~~on trading posts~~ within the present bounds of Le Sueur County, but nearby stations ~~near the site~~ *were near the site* of Shakopee in Scott ~~this territory~~ County, and ~~for a time one~~ at Traverse des Sioux.

Many of the traders had obtained a government license to operate trading posts in the closed Indian territory. Others, mostly French and halfbreed traders, had been in the Northwest country since before 1800 and did pretty much as they pleased.

After this region became American soil what Frenchmen remained transferred their allegiance to the United States. Fur^s then were brought to the Mendota headquarters of the American Fur Company. From there they were shipped down the Mississippi, and eventually to New York, to be made into *beautiful robes and* ~~glossy caps, and fur coats,~~ *and many other beautiful garments.*

It is thought that the early fur traders may have passed up and down the river with packs of furs even before 1700. After 1800 such trips ~~are thought to have been more or less frequent.~~ *were made more often.* But ~~when~~ *often* a frontiersman leaves no ~~diary or~~ record of his journeys in a strange land, ~~his deeds are soon forgotten if they were ever known at all.~~ *so*

We know about a few of these.

Among those we know ~~anything~~ about is James H. Lockwood, the first American-born trader in the Minnesota Valley, ~~who~~ had a post on the upper river at Lac qui Parle and came up the Minnesota in 1816. Charles Le Page, a Canadian, came down the river from the far West in 1803 and went on to Fort Snelling. He was accompanied by a party of Sioux Indians.

Charles Patterson, ~~who~~ had a trading post on the upper river, far above Le Sueur County, as early as 1783. He, too, may have passed ~~by~~ our County. Joseph Renville, John Campbell, and Hazen Mooers were others ~~that~~ ^{who} had posts on the upper river, between 1826 and 1834, and *these men* quite probably made several trips down the Minnesota with ~~precious~~ loads of furs.

The traders, especially the French and halfbreeds, were ~~a~~ ^{fellows.} picturesque ~~lot,~~ They wore gay colored skin garments, bright shirts, and broad ~~waste~~ ^{waist} bands or ~~sashes~~ ^{sashes} in which they carried knives. In winter ~~the costume was a~~ ^{they wore} buckskin coat, and beaver cap.

Many of the traders and soldiers who came into this wilderness married Indian ^{girl} maidens. Before the country was opened to settlement ~~there were~~ ^{here, and} almost no white women ventured into the backwoods. It was natural, ~~then,~~ that the frontiersmen, isolated from the world of white people, should marry *among the* Indian ^{girls.} Many of the ~~resulting halfbreeds~~ ^{their children, whom people sometimes call halfbreeds} became famous characters ~~in~~ ^{of such marriages} Minnesota history.

Many children of such marriages, when people condemn call half breed, became famous characters etc.
Unfortunately, ~~many~~ ^{of} ~~some~~ traders made ~~it~~ ^{of} a business to take advantage of the Indians. Not ~~very many~~ ^{every trader gave} troubled to give the Indian a fair deal, ~~The Redmen~~ ^{and they} were at the mercy of ~~the shrewd whites.~~ ^{those who were + dishonest.} One trader ~~told~~ ^{said that the} a missionary that ~~he~~ took \$100 out of his profits every time ~~he~~ ^{was} taught an Indian to read. (2)

The animals trapped included muskrat, beaver, mink, otter, fisher, badger, marten, bears, wolves, rabbit, deer, and fox. Buffalo hides were very valuable in Minnesota, and thousands of ~~them~~ ^{buffaloes} were killed, but ~~the~~ ^{this}

MARTIN MCLEOD AND
HIS TRADING POST.

Another prominent fur trader in the Minnesota Valley and an ^{important} figure in the history of our State was Martin McLeod, ^{who} ~~At one time he~~ ^{once} operated a trading post in ~~the~~ what is now Le Sueur County, just across the river from Traverse des Sioux.

Martin McLeod was born near Montreal, Canada. Before he came down into the Minnesota Valley as a fur trader he was a member of "Dickson's army." Dickson, said to be an Englishman, ~~proposed one of the most fantastic, crazy schemes that ever took root on American soil.~~

^{was head of an} His expedition ^{which} set out from Buffalo in 1836, intent ^{ing} to go by way of the Great Lakes to the Red River Colony of the Hudson Bay Company near Winnipeg. ^{It was a part of his fantastic scheme,} ~~There~~ Dickson apparently meant to ~~get~~ recruit an army of half breeds, ^{There, who were} ~~ascend~~ ^{to the} ~~the Missouri~~ ^{Missouri} strike out across country hunting on the way, ascend the Missouri river and ^{go from there} thence down into the Rocky Mountains. Then, ^{final} ~~next~~, the object of the ^{the colony of} ~~entire~~ trek seemed ^{after which, wealth of} vaguely to be an attack on ~~rich~~ Santa Fe, ~~and with the loot~~ ^{Santa Fe behind him, Dickson would} gotten there, set up an ~~Indian~~ ^{Indian} kingdom in California, with himself as ruler.

^{As a beginning} Giving various versions of his purposes, Dickson gathered together in Buffalo a band of young adventurers, whom he commissioned as officers in his "army." In the ~~final~~ California kingdom, ~~it seems~~, they were to be his statesmen. Martin McLeod ^{appears} ~~seems~~ ^{went} to have gone along in this group ^{perhaps more} merely as an ^{for the chance} opportunity ~~to see the country, to gratify a long-standing desire to journey into the vast unknown Northwest.~~ In fact, he says of Dickson ~~at one point in his diary, "But if I may judge from so short an acquaintance, he is somewhat visionary in his views."~~

^{in travel} The story of the expedition, ~~of dangers by drowning, starving, and freezing to death,~~ ^{skimboke tale.} reads almost like a bit of fiction. They reached Fond du Lac at the head of Lake Superior on Oct. 22, 1836, and started up the St. Louis river by canoe. ^{in fact they had} Before the freeze-up ~~the band~~ got about as far as Lake Winnibigoshish, ^{from there they had to travel} and set out ~~to cover the rest of the way~~ by foot. Finally, on ^A Dec. 20, a remnant of the expedition straggled ~~into~~ ^{to} Fort Gary, at what is now Winnipeg, ^{on December 20th}

(2)

That seemed to be the end of
~~At that point Dickson's mad dream seems to dissolve, and~~ *for*
~~nothing further came of his project.~~ *and it* It is said that Dickson himself
 wandered off among the Indians.

But - one of the survivors.
 On Feb. 26 ^{on February 26th} Martin McLeod, started southward down the Red River
 Valley. As far as Lake Traverse he travelled by foot, and ^{he went} then from there by
 cart down the Minnesota Valley to Traverse des Sioux, and then by canoe to Fort
 Snelling, ^{He got there on} where he arrived April 16, 1837.

Soon
 Shortly after ^{ward he} coming to the Fort, McLeod entered the employ of
 Benjamin F. Baker, a well known fur trader, ^{staying} and remained with him from '37 to
 '39. ^{making} He made several trips down the Mississippi to St. Louis. During this
^{time} period, probably about December, 1838, he married an Indian wife. Although his
^{which can be read at} diaries, now in possession of the Minnesota State Historical Society, do not
 mention his wife, it is known that he was married ~~to~~ to a Dakotah woman, while
 living among the Sioux as a fur trader.

McLeod spent
 The winter of '39-40 was spent on the St. Croix river. And then
 On Nov. 2, 1840, he came up the M "St. Peters" to build a trading post in Le
 Sueur County. By the 13th, the ^{full} small cabin, 15 by 20, was ready to move into.
^{The interpreter's Indian wife} There, with an interpreter, and his ~~son~~ and two noisy children, a dog, a gun,
 a few books, and considerable patience, he made ready to settle down for the
 winter. ^{McLeod} It is not known whether ^{also} he had his own Indian wife along with him here. *leaving*

From an entry in his diary written that November we find the
^{comment on} following enlightening account of the life of ^{an} trader: "There is no life more dull
 and monotonous than that passed by the Indian traders during the winter season."

^{diversion} His main diversion in dull moments seems to have been reading. Among the authors
 and books ^{His books} ^{and works of} he chose to read were the Bible, Byron, Scott, Dickens, and Locke. Some books, he
^a says, he read for the hundredth time at least. Byron was his favorite author,
 preferred even to Shakespeare.

On Nov. 24th he wrote, "-----feel somewhat unwell myself. Want of exercise for the past week. Sedentary habits would soon kill me. Must fast, 'tis a 'sovereign remedy' in my case."

An entry ~~on~~ Dec. 7 notes that, "Went to an Indian encampment of seven lodges near Prairie la Flech, eight miles distance^t, and returned at 3 p.m." McLeod's "Prairie la Fleche was most probably along a river of the same name ~~in our County~~, now known as Spring Creek.

Several weeks later, during the coldest part of the winter of 1841, he made a journey overland to the mission station and trading post at Lac qui Parle. On the way back his party of nine persons had all they could do to keep from freezing to death.

His notes on this journey contain the following comment: "David Faribault and myself were obliged to dismount from our horses every mile or two to run and thereby keep up a circulation, and although we had buffalo robes wrapped around us, still we could not keep our bodies warm. As for my hands, it was with great exertion that I saved them. On our faces we had buffalo robes ~~make~~ masks, and yet got our noses, ears, and cheeks frozen."

The winter of 1840-41 was the only year spent at his post in Le Sueur County, but the best years of Martin McLeod's life were passed as a fur trader in the Minnesota Valley. Later he played the role of a statesman in developing the new State of Minnesota.

Among other things, he was influential in stimulating immigration from Canada. He was a member of ~~four~~ Territorial Legislatures, and was ~~the~~ elected president of the 4th. He worked hard to establish in Minnesota a sound educational system. Eventually one of our 87 Minnesota Counties was named in his honor. In 1860, Martin McLeod died, at the early age of 47, with a promising future still ahead of him.

McLeod was a colorful figure in his day. It is important for us to remember him as an Indian trader, the first known white man to build a cabin in Le Sueur County.

creature of the prairie
~~animal~~
the buffalo probably never ranged as far east as Le Sueur County. In return ^①
for ~~these~~ pelts the traders gave the Indians blankets, guns, ammunition,
tobacco, knives, kettles, looking glasses, colored cloth, flints, and whiskey.

TRADERS IN
LE SUEUR COUNTY.

Extensive trade with the Indians of the middle
Minnesota valley was established about 1830. In 1829 the
American Fur Company sent Louis Provencalle, a French Canadian, to take
charge of a post at Traverse des Sioux, just across the river in what is
now Nicollet County.

tell us that -
Old documents of the company ~~state~~ countrymen of Provencalle ^②
went into
~~penetrated~~ the Big Woods east of the Minnesota river in search of furs. They
trapped along our lakes and streams and pitched camp within Le Sueur County,
but there is no record of [^]permanent settlement ⁱⁿ from this period.

MC LEOD'S
TRADING POST

(To Be Inserted)

(Insert here)

next page

THE INDIANS IN
LE SUEUR COUNTY

Who were the Indians in Le Sueur County with whom
the fur traders bargained? We have said that Le Sueur in
1695 sought to make peace with the Sioux and Chippewa Indians. Both of
these tribes ranged the Minnesota country, and both were constantly seeking
the other's scalp.

But by 1800 the Sioux were mostly confined to southern and western Minnesota, while the Chippewa ^{lived in} inhabited the north country. The Sioux family was composed of many divisions, ^{and} a strain of Redmen that once ^{they moved} ranged from the Mississippi nearly to the Rocky Mountains, ^{almost} and south to ^{and} as far as Arkansas, with ^{lived in the} other branches East and South, in the Carolines, in Virginia, and Mississippi.

The ^{who} branch of Sioux which inhabited Minnesota ^{were called} are the ^{and of these there were} Dakotah Indians, which within themselves comprised several divisions or sub-tribes. But in Minnesota "Sioux" has generally been understood to mean the same as "Dakotah," ^{There were} as distinguished from ^{in Minnesota,} other tribes and families, ^{such as among them} such as the Chippewas, and the Winnebago Indians.

The Winnebagos were a peaceful tribe, really members of the Sioux family and usually on friendly terms with the Dakotahs. The Chippewas or Ojibway Indians ^{were} are members of the Algonquin family, who had wandered westward from the region of Lake Huron. They called the Minnesota peoples Nadawaysioux, meaning enemies, and thus arose the name, Sioux.

THE DAKOTAHS.

"Dakotah" is a word that means freely a "Union of friendly tribes." Tradition says that the Dakotah peoples once lived in northern Minnesota and about Lake Mille Lacs. But long before the white men came to Minnesota the Chippewa began to drive the Sioux out of the ^{their} ancestral hunting grounds.

^{and} ^{when} ^{around} ^{beginning} Later the traders about Lake Superior supplied the Chippewa with "thunder sticks," ^{and} the Dakotahs ^{without guns} were rapidly driven south and west. Some pitched their tepees along the Minnesota Valley. About 100 years before the white settlers came ^{here} into Le Sueur County, then, the Dakotah camp fires ^{glowed here in Le Sueur County, where} glowed here.

^{such as the Iowas} Before the Dakotahs moved into ^{southern Minnesota,} the Minnesota Valley other ^{were} tribes ^{lived in what is now Le Sueur County. Among these are the Iowas,} lived in what is now Le Sueur County. Among these are the Iowas,

The Iowas were ^{and} another division of the Sioux family, ^{The Iowas are supposed to have wandered} as far north as the Minnesota Valley, ^{before they} and were finally driven out by the Dakotahs. ^{But} the Dakotahs were the Indians found in our County by the first white settlers.

SUBTRIBES OF THE
DAKOTAHS IN
LE SUEUR COUNTY.

^{One branch of} ~~the Dakotahs, several subtribes probably knew~~
~~the region about Le Sueur. Through the upper Cannon~~
~~Valley and west to the Blue Earth river was the hunting grounds of the~~
^{had a} ~~the Wahpekutes, One of their principal bands or villages was located at what~~
~~is now Faribault's now.~~

^{Another branch,}

^{lived near} ~~To the west and south at one time were the Sissetons, with~~ ^{had their}
^{around} ~~headquarters about Swan Lake (now dried up) and~~ ^{at near} Traverse des Sioux in Nicollet
^{Sisseton} County. One of their chief villages was ~~also~~ ^{Two} at Mankato. ^{Famous Sisseton}
^{Chiefs about} ~~Traverse des Sioux, included Red Iron and Sleepy Eyes.~~
^{To the north} ~~Northward~~ a band of the Wahpeton Indians had a village at

the Little Rapids, on the west side of the river near what is now Carver.

A little farther down stream were the Indians of Chief Shakpe, a band of the M'dewakanton, or Spirit Lake peoples, one of the most famous subtribes in Minnesota.

^{were wandering tribes}
~~But all of these various bands were more or less migratory,~~
^{did not stay} ~~and were probably not located at any one place for~~ ^{long.} ~~any length of time.~~

^{It} ~~Though we do not know for sure,~~ it is possible that all of these subtribes at one time had villages or bands in Le Sueur County.

CHIEF
WAHKANTAHPAY

In 1805 among those present at Pike's council with
Dakotah chiefs on what is now known as Pike's Island at
the mouth of the Minnesota was an Indian chief known as "Le Boucasse", or
"Le Boccasse." This should probably be written "Le Bras Crasse," which is
French for "The broken arm."

Leaves out
his entire section?

~~These~~ In a sketch of the Indian chiefs present at Pike's council the St. Paul Daily Democrat for May 4, 1854, has this to say of "Le Boucasse": "His Indian name was, I believe, Wah-kan-tah-pay, and as late as 1825 he was still living, at his small village of Wahpaykootans, on a lake near the Minnesota, some five or six miles below Prairie La Fleche, now Le Sueur." (Though in our County. The "Prairie La Fleche" referred to ^{was} probably farther south than Le Sueur.) Wahpaykootans is just another way of spelling Wahpekutes, a Dakota subtribe.

~~But~~ ^{but} Wahkantahpay was known also as Chief Wahkantape, or even Chief Weakaote, but his village is somewhat in doubt. It is known chiefly by the reports of William Keating and Giacomo Beltrami, who were with Major Long on his expedition up the Minnesota in 1823. Wahkantape's village

was ^{called} known by the French ^{said to be} as "Batture Aux Fievres," and was somewhere above Shakopee on the east side of the river. ^{It may have been on Lake Washington}

^{A hundred years before the meeting on Pike's Island, Le Sueur wrote about another} In 1700 according to Le Sueur, however, another Wahkantape,

presumably of the same lineage, ^{who} was chief of a "Mantanton" ^{probably} village, thought ^{to mean the} M'dewakanton, Spirit Lake Indians. (Some historians think that

Wahkantape was the father of Wabasha I. The Wabashas were the most famous

Indian chiefs in Minnesota, chiefs of the "Kiyuksa" band that later lived

at Winona. (It is recorded that in 1700 these Indians were afraid to go

through the territory of the Iowas in order to reach Le Sueur's Fort

L'Huiller on the Blue Earth River.)

THE WAHPEKUTES → It is entirely possible that the Wahkantape

mentioned by Le Sueur and the Wahkantahpay of Pike ^{at council} were successive chiefs

of the same lineage, although the first was said to have been a M'dewakanton

and the second a Wahpekute. ^{Before} Just previous to 1700 ^{these} the two closely related

subtribes ~~both~~ lived near each other at Mille Lacs, and were often classed

together.

After the Wahpekutes separated from the M'dewakantons and made

A hundred years before the meeting on Pike's Island, Le Sueur wrote about another Wahkantape, possibly of the same lineage, who was chief of a "Mantanton" - M'dewakanton or Spirit Lake - village

omit this entire section?

their hunting grounds about Faribault, the Cannon Valley, and Le Sueur County, they seem to have gotten a bad reputation. Pike characterized them as "The smallest band.....and the most stupid and inactive of all the Sioux."

Major Long ^{also} said in a similar vein, "This tribe has a very bad name, being considered a lawless band of men." Later the more lawless element of the Wahpekutes quarreled with others of their band, left them, and went west into the Dakotas. A remnant of these ^{western,} Dakota ~~Wahpekutes~~ Wahpekutes under Chief Inkpaduta committed some horrible massacres in southern Minnesota in 1857. Both Indians and whites ~~had~~ organized a man hunt for Inkpaduta, but he was never captured.

At least the Wahpekutes had a pretty name. In English it means "silent shooters," or "shooters in the leaves." The Wahpekutes around Faribault seem to have been peaceful ~~enough~~ enough. In 1800 all the Wahpekutes probably numbered 200 warriors or 800 ~~souls~~ ^{persons}.

INDIAN Before the white men came the Dakotah Indian led a ~~heavy~~ ^{simple, rough} ~~life~~ ^{but self-} ~~life~~ ^{sustaining} ~~but independent?~~ ^{life}.

His home was ~~only~~ a lodge of poles and bark. His meat was roasted over a fire on a dirt floor, while a hole in the roof permitted smoke to escape. (Skin tepees were used in warm weather.) Stone or bone knives were the only utensils, arrows and spears the principal weapons, skins their ~~only~~ clothing.

The ~~braves~~ or warriors customarily wore a breech cloth, sandals, and a fur blanket. The squaws generally wore jackets, short skirts, a head band, and sandals. In summer the children wore nothing at all.

After the traders came in, some of the braves wore trousers and cloth jackets. Young and old were fond of gaudy colors, bead necklaces, and bright paints. The squaws often embroidered intricate designs on their skirts or petticoats. Moccasins were beautifully decorated with beads and ~~colored~~ ^{died} porcupine quills.

I think it would be better to omit this entire section, from p. 13

^{did not}
An Indian brave usually scorned to do any type of physical labor, ^{or} providing for the family, aside from ~~the~~ ordinary hunting and fishing. A story is told that one Le Sueur County farmer one year raised over 400 bushels of potatoes, for which there was at the time no market. Rather than have them ~~tubers~~ go to waste he offered them to a party of Indian braves that came by ~~his~~ cabin.

But ^{away with them} the braves would carry ^{only} one potatoe each. The next day the ^{warrior} party came back with their squaws, who put the potatoes in blankets, ^{and carried them on their backs} and suspended them on their backs by headbands. ^{Thus loaded down, the Indians} ~~Behind them marched the braves~~ set out homeward. Behind the ^{warrior} squaws ^{worked} ~~the~~ file of braves, each ~~one~~ again carrying one potatoe.

Wild rice was gathered by the Indians from several lakes in Le Sueur County. ^{This, too, was the work of women,} ~~Here again the squaws customarily did all the work.~~ They ^{marshes and knocked} ~~usual method was to paddle a canoe through the ripe rice fields, knocking the~~ kernels of rice into the canoe, with ^{hooked sticks.} ~~wooden paddles.~~ Sometimes the ^{had the} green canes ^{the rice when} were tied in bunches to keep the birds from eating ^{after} the kernels ripened.

Young ~~six~~ Indian girls ~~early~~ had to learn to cook, dress furs, and bring in wood, for ~~all~~ the work ^{except for fishing, hunting of fighting} was done by the squaws. Sioux boys learned to use the bow and arrow, went hunting, fought make-believe battles, and were taught ^{to endure shows} that they must never give expression to pain ^{without a sign}.

When a young brave wanted a wife, he had to ^{buy her} purchase one. The average payment was a horse, four or five guns, ^{and} six or eight blankets, or a total value of around \$30 to \$40. Insert here

INDIAN SPORTS

Among the braves ~~athletic~~ games such as La Crosse were not infrequent past times. La Crosse was a sort of ball game played with crookt sticks tied across the end with deer strings. The ball was either a round ^{piece} of wood or clay covered with hide. The object was to carry the ball beyond certain set goals.

Sometimes entire villages participated in friendly La Crosse games, with two or three hundred braves ^{men on the field} on the field of combat. Those on the sidelines usually bet on the game ^{outsome people bet} just as we often do on football. ^{valuable} Sometimes property ^{probably of great value} worth thousands of dollars ^{in our money} exchanged hands during a single game. ^{changed}

In other ways, too, the Indians ~~showed that they were~~ ^{fond of} great gamblers. "Plum stones" was a game in which marked plum stones were shaken in a bowl like dice. ^{when} If the marked ones turned up, ^{the} some stake was won. Another ^{betting} game was played with kernels of corn.

Footracing was also ^{another amusement} fairly common. And of course, there ^{ceremonial} were many rituals and dances, ^{to the beat} the dog dances, fish dances, and scalp dances, reeled off to the drone of tom toms. The ~~weird~~ scalp dance was almost a sort of Dakota national anthem. Pony fights for amusement were ^{quite common} fairly common, and often added to a general hub bub.

SUPERSTITIONS AND GOOD MEDICINE.

Anything ~~new or wonderful~~ that he couldn't understand, the Dakotah Indian called "Wakan," and was

ready to worship. He had many gods. Any object, such as trees, stones, plants, or rivers, or the sun, rain, and thunder, ^{any of these} might be sacred to him. Almost every Indian had his own particular good luck gods.

4 Thus the Dakotas called their medicine doctors "Wakan men". ^{There were} But they had two ways of doctoring the sick. One was ~~by~~ by treating wounds and illnesses with certain herbs or roots. The Indians had learned the medicinal value of a great many ~~wakan~~ ^{and used them} plants, and often could treat themselves with good results. Most Indians preferred such treatment.

The other method of ~~administering~~ ^{Some Indians} to the sick was entirely ~~very~~ different. Fewer Redmen when they became ill called the Wakan man, who was really a sort of professional fakir. ^{His ceremonies,} For a sufficient payment he would shake a gourd-seed rattle, ^{leaping or dancing,} jump around mysteriously, and utter ^{very} horrible noises over the patient. ^{Probably he believed in his own healing power.} ~~Probably he believed in his own healing power.~~ ^{seem strange to us, though perhaps}

Usually each ^{medicine-man} doctor also had some special ritual of his own. If the sick man died, ~~it was~~ ^a simply that the demons responsible for his sickness were not to be pacified. If he lived, of course the wakan-man was given the credit. ^{Many people think of Indians as men of}

THE ARDUOUS LIFE.

^{noted for their} Indians have been famed for their outdoor prowess and powerful physique, have been supposed to live unusually long. But

Samuel Pond, a famous missionary to the Dakotas at Shakopee, who knew the ^{Dakotas} Indians as well as any white man, said that when it comes to long life ^{the Sioux Indian did not compare} Indians seldom class with white men. ^{For this there was}

~~But Most Indians never became very old for very good~~ reasons. ^{no #} Constantly ^{+ storm,} exposed to the elements, hunger, and cold, without any medical care or knowledge of proper hygiene, their death rates ^{was} were high, ^{among them,} even before the white man ~~came~~ ^{brought} Many died in childhood. When white men brought in new diseases, ^{such as} like small pox, ^{to take a fearful toll.} the death toll was sometimes terrible. ^{no #}

~~And Furthermore, they were almost constantly on the war path~~ ^{at} ~~with the Chippewa. As long as these two tribes remained in Minnesota they~~ ^{their bitter enemies, the Chippewa.} ~~were bitter enemies. If a hunting party of Dakotah encountered any~~ ~~Chippewa, hunting scalps became the order of the hour. Captives were~~ ~~sometimes burned at the stake, horribly.~~

~~Later, although the government made an attempt to discipline~~ ^{later} ~~the Indians for outrages upon the whites, its agents were never inquisitive~~ ^{punished any Indian} ~~in killings among the Indians themselves, for many years the Redmen con-~~ ^{little attention was paid to} ~~tinued to practice upon their enemies the most horrible means of torture.~~ ^{and the bitterest, most}

INFLUENCE OF THE WHITE MEN UPON THE INDIANS.

~~even afterwards, the Indians raised very few crops, and~~ ^{Even after} ~~little corn, pumpkins, and squashes were about all. The Indians would eat~~ ^{came with} ~~pumpkins as we eat apples, grunting in pleasure.~~ ^{Before} ~~besides a little corn, pumpkins, and squashes were about all. The Indians would eat~~ ^{not much}

~~After the fur trade got under way, the Indians came to de-~~ ^{comes, as game became scarcer,} ~~pend on the whites more and more, bartering pelts for food, clothes, and~~ ^{trading furs} ~~ammunition. As the game became scarce, the Redmen only became im-~~ ^{Indian} ~~poverished. They also traded their furs for the~~ ^{unfortunately,}

~~The Indians are also great mimics, they tried to do as the pale~~ ^{were} ~~faces did. At one frontier post a great many Indian couples were once~~ ^{and} ~~seen strolling in the moonlight, arm in arm, as they had watched the white~~ ~~lovers do! And it was from the white men that they learned to drink the~~ ^{helped destroy them.} ~~whiskey that hastened their downfall. Once they tasted "firewater," many~~ ~~of them seemed to live only for the next drink.~~

~~And after the white men came, the Indians also became great~~ ^{For money} ~~beggars, At mission stations they never tired of reminding the missionaries~~ ^{turned into} ~~that they had come to do good, and therefore should not hesitate to share~~ ^{would}

anything they had.

~~their worldly goods. Sometimes they threatened the white man who dared~~
~~not grant his~~
~~turn down their petty requests.~~

So ~~But~~ With the coming of the white ^{men} everything ^{changed for} about the Indian.
 was changed. A new ^{world} empire was being built, ^{- one that -} and it had little use for ~~the~~ ^{his}
 ancient ^{ways.} culture of the Redmen.

~~Everything changed for the Indians with~~
~~the coming of the white man - A new world~~
~~was being built; one that~~ ^{had little use for} ~~their~~
~~ancient ways.~~

Chap II Early Settlement Era The Beginnings

Although our Minnesota River region was one of the first to be fully settled by white men, actually the settlement of our state began in the Valleys of the St. Croix and the Mississippi, on the land Pike bought from the Indians in 1805. Perhaps if the military post at Fort Snelling had not brought the center of early settlement to St. An Falls, a very large city might have grown up, say at Mendota. As it was, the Twin City area became the early center of population.

Yet through the fur traders, frontiersmen and explorers, people heard of the beautiful valley of the fertile lands in the Minnesota River ~~valley~~, and then came the steam boats to hasten exploration and settlement of the upper valley, including LeS County.

Substituted for
1st # 151 p. 20

The Beginnings.

first
~~earliest districts~~ ^{Although the Minnesota River region} was one of the
 populated by the white man in our state,

The actual settlement of Minnesota began ⁱⁿ about the lower St. Croix and
 Mississippi valleys, on the land that Pike had bought from the Indians in
 1805. The Twin City area became the center of population almost immediately.

If it had not ~~have~~ been for the Fort Snelling military reservation about St.

Anthony Falls and the mouth of the Minnesota river, a big city might have

grown up at the site of Mendota. As it was, St. Paul became the first important
 city in Minnesota.

Yet - though the
~~From a few~~ fur traders, frontiersmen, and explorers, ^{people heard of the} rumours of the
 fertile lands ^{in the} and beautiful valleys ^{of} the Minnesota river ^{were carried out} had sifted down to
 civilization. A few ^{and of the} adventurers began to cast ^{hopeful} longing eyes up the
 Minnesota Valley. ^{And then came the steam boats} About that time another factor came into play, ^{to} vastly speeding
^{baden} up the exploration and settlement of the upper Minnesota ^{River including} and Le Sueur County.

EARLY STEAMBOATING ON THE MINNESOTA RIVER.

^{when} While Minnesota was still very young steamboat traffic ^{had been} was ^{churned} established on the Father of Waters. In 1823 The Virginia came puffing and
^{up the Mississippi to} churning ^{if this} into the mouth of the Minnesota at Fort Snelling, ^{it was} the first steam-
 boat on the upper Mississippi. ~~It was~~ Not until 1842, however, ^{did} that a steamer
 ventured up the Minnesota, ^{to} to astonish the ^{Indians} Redmen and disturb the age-old peace
 of the ~~quiet~~ river. That first boat was The Argo, an excursion steamer that
 went only as far as Shakope's village, ^{where} on the site of modern Shakopee, ^{now stand}.
^{It was} After that, ^{there was} several years ^{and regular} elapsed again before any further
 navigation of the Minnesota River, Regular steamboat traffic was not really
 begun until the summer of 1850.

The first vessel that year, on June 28, was another excursion
 boat, The Anthony Wayne, ~~pilot~~ piloted by Capt. D. Able. The Wayne had come up
 the Mississippi from St. Louis, and ^{at} St. Paul took on ^{other} ~~still~~ more gay ex-
 cursionists. At Fort Snelling the ~~happy~~ party was joined by a military band,

and thus ^{so} provided with music and ^{aboard with provided} plenty to eat and drink ^{the boat} in the galley, proceeded upstream, on a pleasure jaunt. All were eager to see the famous valley of the Minnesota, a ^{of} region whose beauties were ^{they had heard} still only vaguely known. With little effort, ^{perhaps} they could imagine themselves explorers, ^{though} exploring in the comfort ^{+ safely} of the ship's deck.

On that first voyage the Wayne ^{went} proceeded no farther than the site of Carver, but she proved that the river was practical for other craft than keel boats. News of her successful voyage spread like ^a prairie fire in dry grass, and ^{started} set off a competition to see which boat could go farthest.

Two weeks later The Nominee steamed three miles farther up the river with another excursion party. ^{about a week later the A. W., not to be} Not to be outdone, the Anthony Wayne ^{came} again pointed its prow up the river ^{again} about a week later. This time the Wayne was the first steamboat to pass the oak-covered bluffs of Le Sueur County, and ^{reached} went almost as far as the site of Mankato, and kept going nearly to the site of Mankato.

^{Again} Within a week another boat, The Yankee, ^{set out} entered the competition, determined to outdo them all. ^{tried} As before, this ^{voyage} was also an excursion party, and many gayly-dressed women were aboard. ^{Some of the passengers danced,} On the second night out, there was dancing on the grassy prairie, ^{among some of the passengers.} for those whose principles permitted. Orchestration for the dancers was only the low thrum of the river, the chit-chat of night birds, ^{until swarms} and the booming of mosquitoes — a ^g stirring sort of serenade that finally forced ^{The passengers} them back to the boat.

Before sunrise on the third day the Yankee passed ^{the} a marker staked ^{showing how far up river} into the bank — the farthest point reached by the Anthony Wayne. ^{had come.} There was jubilation on board then. No other boat before them had been so far up the river. That night they ^{Yankee} anchored a little above the site of Judson in Blue Earth County, ^{upon} still intent to go farther. ^{They intended to go on,}

But the temperature was about 104°, Clouds of mosquitoes made sleep almost impossible; the crew was worn out, and ^{food supplies were} there was ^{dwindling} some shortage in

in food supplies. And so the next morning plans were changed, and the steamer ~~headed about~~ ^{headed about} ~~going no farther than~~ the mouth of the Cottonwood river, ~~they~~ ^{some} had proceeded about 300 miles upstream but insects pests and hot weather finally conquered their spirits. ~~Twenty seven years before~~ Major Long had suffered the same torture near the same place. ^{omit or enlarge (ref. on p 7)}

At one ^{place where} point the Yankee had stopped for ^{fuel} wood, and the Indians came galloping up on their ponies, painted and plumed and sweating. They were ^{quite} angry because the white men had cut wood from their lands, and ^{to} pacify them, the voyageurs gave them some sacks of corn and treated them ^{to} whiskey. ^{It is said} The Redmen could not ~~understand~~ understand what led the pale faces to navigate a stream that they did not own,---because at this time, of course, all the Minnesota Valley still belonged to the Indians.

After ~~the~~ 1850 steamboats on the Minnesota river became ^{quite} common ^{fairly common} almost at once. ^{many of} Nearly all the prominent people of the Minnesota territory and many eastern visitors ^{as well, went on these excursion trips} took part in some excursion up the river. ^{to show to more people the} Such publicity focused attention on possibilities of settlement, and hastened ^{highly} to bring about some agreement with the Indians.

INDIAN TREATIES

At Traverse des Sioux just across the river from Le Sueur County, ^{were} and also at Mendota ^{was} negotiated the famous treaties of 1851 with the Dakota Indians. By these pacts all the Minnesota territory west of the Mississippi was opened to settlement.

In exchange for all these lands the Indians were to receive a cash payment and grants of money. Only a strip ten miles on each side of the upper Minnesota river commencing in the vicinity of New Ulm and extending to the Yellow Medicine river was reserved for the Indians.

A few of the chiefs were opposed to the treaty, but ^{it was hard for them to} ~~most of them~~ could not seem to conceive of fenced in farms and villages, or land used for any purpose other than ~~to support wild game for hunting~~. They did not ~~seem to~~

understand that it would eventually mean their complete exile from the land of their ancestors. ^{Very likely} They were ^{more} interested only in the immediate payments, ~~to come,~~ perhaps the bright colored blankets, trinkets, and "fire water" that they could ^{purchase} ~~buy~~ with their money. ^{they bought}

The treaties were ratified in their final form in 1853, and not until ~~that~~ ^{then} year did the Indians really move out. Their departure ~~for the~~ reservation ~~then~~ was in a sense voluntary, ^{yet} but most of them left sorrowfully.

A NEW ERA To the white men the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux was vastly important, an event that was to change the complexion of the entire valley. Now they were free to come in and settle, ~~as picking out~~ ^{choosing} the ~~choicest~~ ^{best} land that they could find. The fur trader ~~age~~ ^{days} was passing. A new kind of frontiersman was ~~to come~~ ^{pushing} into the wilderness.

The new pioneers ^{were seeking permanent homes. They} were interested in establishing ^{schools, churches,} homes, stores, and towns. They ^{wanted} ~~wanted~~ ^{came with their} and children and ^{start a new community.} ~~started~~ a family of white children.

Easterners ^{some} had begun to ^{migrate} ~~cast~~ ^{westward} longing eyes in our direction, and soon other the peoples from foreign lands ^{would} ~~were~~ to come too. ^{many more} White settlers ^{would soon} ~~were~~ seen to be

^{began to push} ~~swarming~~ ^{and} up the river, ^{pushing} into Le Sueur County, ~~building cities and~~ ^{fields} setting the plow to virgin soil, hewing farms out of the ^{woods}, building cities and villages. ^{where the wilderness had been.}

THE FIRST SETTLERS IN LE SUEUR COUNTY

^{History usually tells about} The man who does ^{something} ~~something~~ first, ^{will} ~~usually~~ go down ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ history, and often it is deserved immortality. We are ^{hard} quick to ask, "Who was the first settler in Le Sueur County?" But it is difficult to answer such a question ^{with certainty} without a shadow of doubt. Few of the pioneers left ^{or left any} ~~any~~ records or kept accurate account of their ^{affairs.} ~~doings.~~ They had ^{other things to do} ~~more pressing~~ matters to attend to if they were to gain a foothold in the new land. ^{in order}

KASOTA

At least we know for sure that the first settlement ^{were} ~~was~~ along the river valley, at Le Sueur, Kasota, and Ottawa. Reuben Butters, for many years the oldest inhabitant in the upper Minnesota Valley, claims to have been

Insert on page 25.

Insert D.

When Babcock platted Kasota, the ~~township was then a part of~~ ^{village was then within} ~~Blue Earth County~~ ^{Babcock} territory. ~~He~~ ^{was} instrumental in having Kasota made a part of Le Sueur County in 1855, hoping to have it made the county seat. One half of the former Kasota township remained in Blue Earth County, and the other half became part of Le Sueur County. ~~Babcock's dream of having Kasota village made the County seat never took form.~~

^{It is} Very probably ^{the} rise of St. Peter just across the river, ^{being} kept Kasota from ^{growing} into the city it might have been. St. Peter had the advantage of being near the site of the famous old Traverse des Sioux trading post, known throughout Minnesota and the Northwest, ^{and the plans of} ~~The~~ ^{one sometimes} ~~visions of~~ ^{as a factor} ~~townsite founders frequently must play second fiddle to economic and geographic factors.~~ From an early portrait of Babcock one assumes that he was ~~very~~ a handsome man ~~and~~ of striking appearance.

→ Kasota never became the county seat, ^{Probably} ~~and~~ its importance was overshadowed by the growth of St. Peter, across the river, which was nearer the well known site of the trading post at Traverse des Sioux, (follow by insert C)

in 1853
 In an ~~early~~ account of a voyage up the Minnesota ~~river~~ ^{aboard}
^{on} the steamer West Newton we find the following ^{comment on} interesting account ~~of~~ Kasota:
 "A few miles farther up, we passed Babcock's Landing, and presently the place
 where Kasota is to be. We understand Mr. Babcock has his sawmill in fine order and
 running, and that houses are forthwith to be built in Kasota with lumber there-
 from.....(the mill) is termed an over-shot wheel and muley saw---which is
 rapping away in fine style at the rate of 8000 or 9000 feet a day, with some 500
 logs on the ground, ready for a brisk summer's business. Basswood, and different
 varieties of oak, huge cottonwood, plenty of black and white walnut, with hachberry
 and ash, are his principal timber, and there's plenty of it."

The description ~~of the new town~~ continues enthusiastically: ".....the
 new town of Kah-so-tah has just been laid out, on a most beautiful site; and as
 it commands an extensive back country, with convenience of access to it, and
 facilities ~~for~~ a fine ferry, and the best point I know of for a bridge in case the
 railroad from Dubuque should ever come in this ~~direction~~ direction. I think it will
 grow into a town of some importance equal to Le Sueur, below it,.....Its
 convenience to Babcock's mill will facilitiate its growth; for the difficulty of
 obtaining lumber is the most serious drawback generally experienced by new towns
 in their early starting.....We understand also that some eight or ten of the
 Northampton colony have settled in the vicinity of Kasota, and are much pleased
 with the country."

ists emigrated ~~The group~~ ^{they}
 The colony referred to ~~came~~ ^{emigrated} from Northampton, Mass. ~~It~~ ^{they} had been
 organized by the Minnesota Claim Association, ^{intending} ~~and was~~ to settle in Minnesota as a
 at St. Paul
 unit, but on their arrival broke up ^{they} instead into several ^{smaller groups} small bodies. One of
 these came to Kasota.

Babcock's claim on ~~the north edge of~~
 Chankaska Creek at The North edge of Kasota was known
 as Babcock's Landing.

Insert E

(A)

Considerable dispute later ^f arose over the ownership of Le Sueur City property, due to Thompson's forced expulsion. Those ^{who} ~~that~~ came into the Minnesota Valley before the land was legally open to settlement were sometimes called "Sooners." The "sooners" had to rely on public sentiment to protect their interests, and often asserted their rights through newspaper announcements.

Exactly such methods were resorted to by J. E. Christy. For more than two months from May 14, 1853 he ran the following notice in the Weekly Minnesotian :

"In February, 1852, Henry M'Lean and myself came to Le Sueur for the purpose of engaging in the Indian Trade. A Land Claim was made by us jointly for ~~the same~~ that purpose.. The trading was abandoned, and he (M'Lean) left---never made any improvements, nor expended any money thereon, nor has he ever had possession of ~~said~~ said property.

On the other hand, I have resided on the claim at Le Sueur; held possession of the property both before and since the ratification of the treaty; have expended my means in improvements, and consider that according to all rules of Claim Associations, my right is singly and indisputably good, which I shall maintain to the last, as well in resisting encroachments, as defending my rights.

J. E. Christy, Le Sueur."

one of the first three white men to come to Le Sueur County ^{permanent} ~~as settlers.~~ Butters was a Yankee, born in Maine in 1816, ^{and} ~~At 12 he was clerk in a store, and continued~~ in a similar line of work ^{came} till coming to Minnesota in 1851, ^{the fall of}

^{Coming} Why he chose Le Sueur County we do not know, ~~But in the fall of~~ '51 he came up the river by steamboat. Two other men, George W. Thompson, ^{and} James Lindsey, were with him. They brought ^{some lumber with them,} ~~with them~~ a quantity of lumber, and that fall built a one-story house, the first board house in our County. It was on the site of Kasota, ^{being} They were probably 50 miles from the nearest white settler.

^{this is all Kasota} ~~Butter's claim to be the first man on the site of Kasota is~~ sometimes disputed. J. W. Babcock is ^{also said} ~~said to have~~ also been here in 1851. It is probable Babcock and Butters came about the same time. Babcock ~~had operated~~ a ferry across the river to St. Peter, ~~and in 1852 built the first sawmill in~~ Le Sueur County, ^{in 1854,} and ^{later,} in 1854, ^{he} operated ^{use}.

^{also} ~~Still later~~ Babcock was the first to develop the handsome pink building stone known as "Kasota stone." He became known as the "father" of Kasota ^{with} and its stone quarry industry, and in 1854 ~~he~~ had the townsite surveyed and platted.

^{Insert D} ^{Insert C} The first hotel in Kasota was the "Old Nick" house, a log structure with a frame addition. Here ~~the second~~ ^{is son} Babcock was born, who was to carry on the stone quarry industry in his father's footsteps. ^{Insert E} Milling also early became important ^{in Kasota, upon} here, utilizing ~~water power~~ to grind the ~~grain to~~ flour. The Kasota Mill completed in 1868 was at one time ~~ranked~~ ^{one of} the most complete water mills in the State. Its water wheel measured 24 feet from top to bottom.

^{James Lindsey moved away from Kasota in 1855.} Of the three first pioneers in Kasota, Reuben Butters was the only one to remain there permanently, becoming an influential man in the Minnesota Valley. He was a member of the first State legislature, and served seven terms.

He was also County Commissioner and held several other public offices.

^{Another early industry in the Kasota locality was a} lime kiln, manufacturing lime from the Shakopee limestone found there. Thus Kasota village was at first for a ~~time~~ short time known as "Lime."

THE CITY OF
LE SUEUR.

Babcock Thompson & Lindsey
spent that first
~~James Lindsey moved away from Kasota in 1855. The winter of~~
The Three Men
1851-52, they ~~spent~~ *they built* together, but in February ~~erected~~ a log house downstream, *and this was*
(1852)
the first house in Le Sueur. That spring Thompson went to the new location and took a claim. This claim, *was* the first on the site of modern Le Sueur, ~~was in an~~
~~area that now includes the Minnesota Valley Canning Company. There is also some~~ *near where we believe*
~~basis to suppose that Le Sueur camped in the same vicinity when he came up the~~ *journeyed*
river in 1700.

staked
~~But at the time Thompson ~~staked~~ out his claim, the Treaty of~~
Traverse des Sioux had not yet gone into effect, *so* ~~and he had no legal right to~~
~~his claim.~~ *also* Soon after ~~his coming~~, three other men arrived ~~on the scene and~~
wanted the site for themselves. They were Henry McClean, John Christy, and
John Cathcart, *and they had* ~~who came armed with a government license to trade with the~~
Indians in that territory).

Some The Indian traders erected their own log house and forced
Thompson to vacate. *their* ~~One version says that this log house was the first in~~ *log house*
However Le Sueur. ~~But many of the town records were destroyed by fire in 1866, and~~
so it is hard to know some of these things
~~not all of the facts regarding early town organization are therefore available.~~

then
Thompson ~~made the best of the situation and went~~ about a mile
upstream, where he ~~staked~~ out another claim. The log house ~~which~~ he built there
was for many years a landmark.

In June, of 1852, J. M. Farmer, James Kern, and Alexander Ray
came into the new country and purchased two thirds interest in Thompson's claim.
~~Therein~~ They then laid out a village and called it Le Sueur.

In the meantime the three Indian traders downstream had also
surveyed their plot of land for a town and *they also* ~~called~~ likewise chose the name
Le Sueur. But the developers of Thompson's claim got *ahead of* ~~the jump~~ on their rivals
So
by *having* ~~getting~~ their town recorded in the official records, *and* the McClean-Christy

(B)

*same of the voyage of the West Newton*In the ~~same account referred to above in describing Kasota~~
~~account picture~~

we find a ~~similar description~~ of Le Sueur: "We journey along finely, and are soon at Le Sueur City. This beautiful and eligible town site we have frequently alluded to during the past months, and right glad were we to approach it, now that it has donned the habiliments of civilized life and business. It is a place that must ever gladden the eye of the traveler as he passes from the thick and monotonous foliage of the 'Big Woods' which skirts either side of the river for miles and miles below. Le Sueur again comes out to the river's bank after we pass a bend of bottom land of a mile or two in extent. It is only $\frac{1}{2}$ half a mile, however, across the prairie from the lower to the upper landing, and eventually the extremes, like the upper and lower ends of St. Paul, will meet, forming one continuous town. Both landings exhibit the most encouraging ~~sings~~ signs of progress and business ~~active~~ activity. Settlers are rapidly taking up good farming ~~at~~ claims in the vicinity; all going to show that Le Sueur has a 'sure thing' of becoming a place of note."

reference to Le Sueur state;
~~In other early volumes we find similar further interesting~~
~~reference to the budding village:~~ "At the head of the Big Woods is La Sueur,
 a place which the capital and enterprize of merchants in St. Paul have already
 made attractive; situated on a slope rising gradually from the shore, in the
 midst of a fertile and lovely country." ~~To say~~ ^{that} the enterprize of St.
 Paul ^{merchants were} ~~had been~~ responsible for making ^{- their town} ~~Le Sueur~~ attractive, however, would probably
 have been ^{denied} ~~much~~ resented by the early citizens ^{of Le Sueur.}

~~Here is still another comparison: "The town is situated on a
 sloping prairie gradually rising from the river, not very unlike the site of
 Peoria, Illinois."~~

~~Atxomextomex~~

~~About this time, in 1854, it was proposed by a group of German
 colonists to found a settlement just across the river from Le Sueur. The
 colonization society sent out scouts from Chicago to seek a suitable site to
^{settle} ~~located~~, and the first location proposed was that directly opposite Le Sueur.
 But in the end the Germans did not seem to be satisfied with this choice, and
 went on up the ^{Minnesota} ~~river~~ to the mouth of the Cottonwood river, where they founded
 the flourish^{ing} village of New Ulm.~~

It is probable that if the German colonists had followed their
 original intention and located across the river from Le Sueur a rivalry would
 have sprung up that would have ~~in both places~~ been injurious to Le Sueur.
 By such chance circumstances the procession of history is often shaped.

omit - to shorten

^{new} outfit changed the name of their town to Le Sueur City.

Not content with two Le Sueurs, another group of pioneers laid out a third townsite between the first two and called it Middle Le Sueur. This third attempt did not ^{do} prosper so well, but for many years ^{there was} a keen rivalry existed between upper and lower Le Sueur. ~~Considerable dispute arose over the ownership of Le Sueur City, due to Thompson's forced expulsion.~~ In 1867 the rivals finally united, and ~~from then on~~ grew up as one ~~city~~ town.

Insert A

Thompson, the founder of Le Sueur, did not remain long in our County. About 1854 he went to St. Anthony, and the next winter was accidentally shot ~~in the pine woods~~. Mc Lean, Christy, and Cathcart all left in the later fifties; Christy was killed by Indians in Nebraska, and Cathcart ~~lost~~ in ~~his~~ life in the Civil War. Only Butters and J. M. Farmer were still in Le Sueur County three decades later.

In a letter written 1893, a J. H. Swan relates that he and his brother, W.W. Swan, and cousin, Otis Young, came to Le Sueur in April, 1851. Historians have thought it more probable that this date was supposed to be 1852. It seems we may safely assume, ~~at any rate~~, that Kasota was the first point of settlement in Le Sueur County, closely followed by the city of Le Sueur.

Insert B

Insert C

EARLY GROWTH OF LE SUEUR.

~~Among~~ ^{an} other early settlers at Le Sueur was Patrick

Cantwell, who came here in the spring of 1852, when there was only one shanty on the village site. Patrick Cantwell and his brother Henry operated a ~~simple~~ saw mill that made lumber for the buildings ~~that grew up~~ in Le Sueur.

In 1853 George Risedorph took a claim near here and operated the first hotel business in the new town. Continuing ~~the tradition~~ ^{the} of doing ^{of} things ^{by three} ~~in three~~ ^{soon} ~~some~~, ~~xx~~ K. K. Peck and Ira Myrick followed his lead ~~some~~ afterward ~~and~~ built two other hotels in Le Sueur. They did a prosperous business, as speculators, promoters, homeseekers, and steamboat crews were constantly

^{H.} stopping at the village. ^{From 1867 to 1869} Le Sueur's chief hotel was the famous Excelsior ^{House}. This hostelry of 23 rooms was erected just in time to accomodate the many excursionists who visited Le Sueur in 1867 with the coming of the first railroad train. After ~~The~~ Excelsior ~~house~~ ^{soon} went up in flames in 1869 it was replaced by the 3 story brick hotel known as The Higgins House.

The first wedding in Le Sueur is said to have been that of a couple who were among a flatboat load of German immigrants who got frozen into the river below Le Sueur. The settlers of Le Sueur took them in, and they remained all winter.

The bride and groom were supposed to have been engaged for 17 years, but as the groom had been a soldier in the German army, they had not been able to wed before. When spring came, the couple decided the time had come and they would ^{no} wait any longer.

Even in those days, it seems, what the bride wore was a matter of prime interest. The accounts ^{tell us} that have come down to us say this first bride in Le Sueur wore a linen skirt, cotton stockings, a calico waist, a white handkerchief folded around her neck and shoulders, and daintily carved wooden shoes made for the occasion.

*Must to
shorten*

business places

Among the first ~~enterprises~~ in Le Sueur, today the largest city in our County, were several stores, a blacksmith shop, wagon works, and a cooper shop. The first hardware store was operated by Charles Sheffler. W. H. Patten an early merchant and later a State legislator, came here in 1854. H. C. Smith, another ^{early} pioneer merchant, came in 1855. *His general store on the corner of Main and Ferry streets was for many years one of the best known pioneer stores in our County.*

K. K. Peck, appointed the first postmaster of Le Sueur in 1853, was also the first postmaster in the County. His daughter, Mary Le Sueur Peck, was the first white child born in Le Sueur County. *The first election was held in the open air in the fall of 1853 near Peck's house.*

Insert here Among other notable figures, we should mention George M. Tousley, ^{of Le Sueur} ferryman, landowner, sheriff, and C. M. Cosgrove. Cosgrove was founder of the Minnesota Valley Canning Company, and later was called "Le Sueur's greatest citizen." *The old Tousley home built about 1855 now ranks as the oldest residence in Le Sueur.*

OTTAWA

Kasota and Le Sueur, then, were the first points of settlement in our County. Both towns ~~trace their origin to a time just prior to the~~ ^{have had} *began before* the great rush of immigration, ~~an influx of settlers~~ that turned our County from a wilderness to a populated country-side in a few short years.

Therefore ~~Before we ex~~ ^{tell of} recount the tale of further settlements, we must want to know what made these immigrants come, and ~~examine briefly the inducements to immigration and the describe our County as~~ ^{something of} the settlers found it.

CHAPTER III. EARLY SETTLEMENT ERA.

Inducements to Immigration and Natural Setting.THE LAND
CRAZE.

By the time the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux had been ratified in 1853, town sites had been staked out ^{for hundreds of miles} all along the Minnesota Valley ~~for hundreds of miles~~. From the ~~riverside~~, land-seekers pushed inland, and ⁱⁿ a half dozen years ^{each section} ~~later all parts~~ of Le Sueur County had received its share of settlers.

^{Some} At first a great deal of the land was ^{seized} ~~grabbed up~~ by real estate ^{instead of being taken for homes,} ~~speculators,~~ ^{Also, people seemed to get} Men became drunk with the idea of land speculation. The "townsite mania" ~~also flourished~~, and many villages were founded by men who had no intention of living on the land.

Cheap land ^{attracted} lured the Eastern ^{as well as the} and ~~foreign~~ ^{from overseas.} immigrants. By the "Pre-emption Act" a settler could take a claim to 160 acres of land by merely driving stakes around his plot and plowing a little ground. When he was able, he could "prove up" by paying \$1.25 an acre, and become owner of the land. The best land was ^{taken} ~~naturally snatched up~~ by those who got there first, and desirable ^{sometimes these} ~~were re-~~ ^{claims} sold for anywhere from \$200 to \$2000.

^{The} In 1857 ^{of 1857} a financial panic ^{slowed up} ~~pricked the bubbles~~ of speculation for a time, and many ^{real estate traders} ~~speculators~~ were forced to get out on their claims and raise corn to keep alive. After that the ^{land was} ~~claimants~~ were more often ^{taken by those} ~~prospective~~ farmers who actually intended to ^{mean-} ~~stay on the land~~ and ^{settle} ~~settle down~~.

In the early days land was ^{easy to come by.} ~~never hard to get~~. Government land ^{were made} grants to schools, railroads, and war veterans ~~were available at a song~~. In 1862 The Homestead Act was passed, ^{providing that} ~~by which~~ an immigrant could get land merely by living on the ^{it} ~~property~~ and paying a small fee.

CLAIM
JUMPING

Most of ^{were usually made at a} these transactions took place at a centrally located government land office. Ordinarily the immigrant would chose his piece of land ^{from the} on a map at the land office, and then ^{move on it.} settle down. But sometimes he ^{risked} took a chance of settling on the land first without filing his claim ^{any} at the land office. This was called "squatting."

In the ^{struggle} ~~mad~~ scramble for the best farm lands and favorable building sites one squatter would sometimes drive another ^{out-} out, or ^{take possession} sneak in while the ^{first man} other was away. This was called claim jumping, and

Not infrequently ^{it} claim jumping led to ^{bitter} ~~violent~~ fights. Often the claims were staked out by merely building a shanty or breaking a furrow of soil. Or in ^{some} other instances the "cabins" put up were only an armful of sticks.

THE IMMIGRANTS TO
LE SUEUR COUNTY.

Who were the ^{settlers} newly arriving immigrants, where did they come from, and why did they come? The answer to that question could be ~~made~~ a long story. They ^{were of} ~~settlers~~ ^{settlers} drew from nearly every nationality group and ~~represented nearly~~ every walk of life. In Le Sueur County ^{records} we have ^{shopkeepers} records of settlers ^{with} from such widely different trades as ~~farming~~ and whalers, gunsmiths, ~~dressmakers~~ and clergymen, dressmakers and miners, ^{although}

In spite of the much land speculation going on all around them, ^{who came intended to make their homes on the land.} the majority of immigrants were interested only in getting out on the land and settling down. Most of them had pulled up stakes and ventured far from their old homes, and ^{and only} the surest way for most of them to make a living was to ^{coax} wrest it from the soil.

Among the first settlers were ~~always~~ many Yankees from the Eastern United States, and closely following them, German and Irish immigrants. A little later other European elements came in, ~~including~~ especially ~~a certain~~ class of Bohemians and Scandinavians. Many of these foreign immigrants knew no other life than farming.

(Today foreign immigration to the United States, of course, has

see this # on p. 32, at the end of the material on the immigrants

practically ceased under restrictive immigration laws, and a new generation of native born is growing up, leaving fewer and fewer of the original immigrants. In Le Sueur County today only about 8 percent of the population is foreign born, the ninth lowest average in the State.

The predominating nationalities ~~that came~~ represented in immigration to Le Sueur County were the German, Bohemian (or Slav), and British. German immigration was also the heaviest to the United States as a whole in the nineteenth century. At first ~~the German immigrants to America in the nineteenth century included many liberals and political refugees fleeing the~~ ^{first part of} ~~country~~ after the revolutions of 1830 and 1848.

Later, in the 50s, ^{there was a steady flow of} German immigration to America became a regular ^{steady} flood. Small farmers, tradesmen, and day laborers all flocked to America's greener pastures to improve their living conditions. The lure of cheap land, a flood of propaganda from America, and letters from friends already abroad, had a tremendous drawing power. This was the immigration most important to Minnesota.

If the German government had not tried ~~so~~ desperately to keep its people at home, the German immigration might have been still heavier.

BOHEMIAN IMMIGRATION The Bohemians, from a province of Czechoslovakia, are another people who helped to settle element prominent in settling Le Sueur County, especially in the north, and about the city of New Prague, ^{in the vicinity} ~~and~~ ^{Montgomery} ~~Though closely related to the Slavs,~~ the Bohemians have a higher literacy ratio than other peoples of the Slavic States.

For long ^{many years} ~~ages~~ the Bohemians had been Germanized, but still aspired, they longed for their ^{together with other Slavic peoples,} ~~freedom.~~ In 1848 when all Europe was in turmoil, they finally rose ^{when} ~~up~~ in rebellion. But the Pan-Slavic revolt was ^{crushed} ~~crucially~~ suppressed by Austrian troops, and many exiles fled to America. ^{to America also} ~~Other~~ Bohemians came for religious freedom, as well and many from the agricultural districts came to seek higher standards of living.

as to find ways of making a better living for themselves + their children.

I had him in at first, then decided to cut

at the end of this section.

outside of the many Yankees from eastern U.S.

they had heard of the cheap land and the opportunities in America offered.

OTHER
IMMIGRANTS.

desire to improve low standards of living conditions
 In general, ~~economic causes~~ ^{overshadowed} all other motives of immigration. This is true also of the British and Scandinavians, ^{less} ~~there~~ ^{of whom} ~~are not so many~~ ^{are not so many} important in Le Sueur County. ~~Of the Irish, however, political oppression was~~ ^{many came because trouble at home} ~~a contributing factor, and among the Scandinavians were a great many natural-born~~ ^{all the foreign people some} ~~adventurers. The Swedish element so important in Minnesota as a whole and in~~ ^{significant - so large throughout} ~~nearby Nicollet County is relatively unimportant in Le Sueur County.~~ ^{small.} The greatest numbers reside in Kasota and the city of Le Sueur.

CONDITIONS OF IMMIGRATION
AND THE SPIRIT OF THE
IMMIGRANT.

insert from 30 -
 During the Minnesota settlement period a common characteristic of immigration was the large migration of family groups. In the last 30 years single persons have come in a ~~grx~~ much greater proportion.

From the time they arrived,
 Many ~~of these~~ ^{from} foreign families were exploited and duped because they could not speak nor understand ~~Before they~~ ^{of their ignorance} of our language. ~~By the time they reached Minnesota they had~~ ^{been through much, and some of them arrived with almost nothing.} already survived many struggles. Promotion agents, transportation companies, and port sharks all were glad to take the immigrants' money in return for ~~exxx~~ exaggerated promises.

Until the sixties the railroad ended in Illinois, near the Mississippi river, and from there the immigrants came up to Minnesota by steamboat. ~~A few journeyed inland by prairie schooners,~~ ^{Some branched} ~~or large wagons with a~~ ^{which were} covered, tent-like top. Ten or fifteen miles a day was the average journey by ^{a good} covered wagon, ^{over the hard} ~~a dangerous, difficult~~ ^{inland} trails.

There has never been, so far as history tells, a
 No movement of peoples as great as the ^{rush from Europe to} ~~immigration~~ ^{Many of} America has been recorded before in history. Whether he realized it or not, the ^{men & women} emigrant who left his native land ^{too the new world were} ~~was at heart a nonconformist,~~ ⁱⁿ ~~people, in who were~~ ^{in things} ~~other words, he was not content to abide by all the customs and habits and ways~~ ^{thought - as they are.} ~~of thinking of his countrymen.~~ ^{Such men & women,} ~~And so in coming to America, and finally to~~ ^{= and some to them} ~~Minnesota and Le Sueur County, he created here a new land of liberal ideas and~~ ^{are the ones who helped create here} ~~new principles~~ ^{physical} ~~new land both in setting and spirit.~~ ⁱⁿ

NATURAL
SETTING

The best ^{and} ~~lands and~~ richest ^{lands} ~~resources~~ naturally ^{people, and many} ~~were~~ attracted ^{drew} ~~attracted~~ the most immigrants. ~~What then were natural features~~

^{to} of Le Sueur County ^{which} ~~that~~ drew the prospective settlers

The chief resources of this region were timber, rich soil, building stones, and brick clay. Above all the ^{the} ~~first~~ immigrants were seeking ^{first of all} ~~for~~ ^{good} ~~fertile~~ farm land, ^{and the land of Le Sueur County was rich & fertile} ~~and they found it here~~, although nearly all of the County was ^{at that time} ~~once~~ covered with dense forests. ^{earliest} ~~The first~~ settlers ^{did not believe} ~~actually thought~~ the great western prairies ~~were~~ ^{clear} ~~suited to farming~~, and preferred to ~~cut~~ ^{clear} their fields out of the ^{from} ~~timber lands~~ forests.

THE BIG WOODS.

The heavy forests that covered this region were known as the "Big Woods." These woods were a southern lobe of the great wooded region of Canada, ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{about} ~~area~~ about 100 miles north and south and 40 to 50 miles wide. The trees of this forest, ^{were not evergreen} ~~unlike~~ those of Canada and northern Minnesota, ^{but} ~~were~~ mostly deciduous trees, ~~or trees that shed their leaves every autumn~~. Le Sueur County ^{was} ~~was~~ in the southeastern part of the Big Woods.

The largest and most ^{common} ~~plentiful~~ trees ^{of the Woods} ~~here~~ were the basswood and white elm. ^{There were also} ~~Others included~~ the sugar maple, soft maple, black and white ash, red elm, ironwood, yellow birch, paper or canoe birch, poplar or aspen, cottonwood, and rarely, the red cedar. ^{as} ~~Among~~ the smaller trees, ^{the Woods had} ~~were found~~ the wild plum, ^{and} ~~the various~~ red ^{cherry} ~~cherry~~, black cherry, American crab apple, junberry, ~~and~~ prickly ash, and willows. ^{Some of} ~~Probably~~ ^{in the forest} ~~The most common shrubs were included among the smooth~~ sumac, frost grape, virginia creeper, climbing bitter sweet, red and black raspberries, wild rose, ~~chokes~~ ~~cherry~~, gooseberries, black currant, cornel, wolfberry, honeysuckle, elder, sweet viburnum, high bush cranberry, hazelnut, ^{and} ~~and various~~ ^{Wild fruits of} many ~~wild~~ kinds were abundant. The wild strawberries were sometimes as big as small cultivated berries, and the early settlers ^{gathered} ~~picked~~ many gallons ^{of them} ~~for~~ the table.

Settlers were attracted to

LAKES AND
RIVERS.

^{natural} Like much of Minnesota, Le Sueur County ~~was~~ ^{is} a place
land of beauty, of trees and water and waving grasses. The settlers
found it a picturesque setting for new homes. About 60 ^{with its some sixty gleams of} blue green lakes, ^{it woods} ~~glistened in the natural setting,~~ ^{these lakes were} all well stocked with fish ^{that were} very welcome to
the palates of the settlers. The largest ~~lake~~ in Le Sueur County is Lake
Jefferson; and Lakes Washington, Tetonka, and German all have over one thousand
acres of water surface. Sometimes fishermen came up from Iowa to fish here, camping ^{for months.}

Three-fourths of Le Sueur County is drained by the Minnesota
river, and the remainder by the Cannon river toward the east. Principle
tributaries of the Minnesota river in ~~our~~ County ^{are:} Chankaska Creek,
~~Cherry Creek, and Le Sueur river.~~ ^{include Chankaska, Cherry,}
~~Le Sueur, and Little Le Sueur rivers, and White Water and Sand Creeks.~~

LAND SURFACE Only along the Minnesota Valley were there ~~formerly~~ any true
prairies in Le Sueur County. Bordering the river is a range of bluffs, partly
covered with scrub oaks. The bottom lands, about 200 to 225 feet below the general
level of the County, vary in width ^{from} from nothing at all to half a mile. One of the
widest stretches along the entire river is in Le Sueur County, just north-east of
St. Peter, where the rich bottom lands are about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide.

In the Minnesota bottoms are to be found some of the most fertile
farm lands in Minnesota. These lowlands are ~~mostly~~ from 5 to 20 feet above the
river, often flooded in the spring of the year and built up of fine, silt-like soil.
~~In 1881 one farmer near Ottawa had 3 feet of soil washed from the surface of his land,~~
~~but the remaining surface was every bit as rich and productive.~~

^{rich of} While the soil ~~in~~ ^{the} bottom lands may vary to a depth of ten feet,
the general surface soil of the County has a depth of about two feet. It is a black
clay loam, with a little sand and gravel, colored black by vegetable decay. Below
the surface soil is a yellowish, gravelly clay for about ten to twenty feet, and
below that a darker and bluish clay to a great depth.

^{of}
All these various layers of soil to a depth of 150 feet or more are part of the "drift sheet" or "glacial till," the masses of soil and rock pushed along and crushed ^{up} by very ancient glaciers that once covered most of Minnesota. Through these glacial deposits the Minnesota river, perhaps once much larger than now, it is ~~nowhere~~ cut a channel and exposed the still more ancient bed rock.

The terraces of bed rock exposed near Ottawa and Kasota were from the very first a most noticeable feature, and today are the basis of an important industry. The rock exposed, about 75 feet above the river, are known as Jordan sandstone and Shakopee limestone, named after their places of first discovery in Scott County.

The limestone layers are on top, now worn down in most places to a thickness of only from 10 to 25 feet. Below the hard, buff-colored limestone is a somewhat softer white or gray sandstone. Both have been found to be excellent for building purposes. In hollows and crevices of the limestone is often found a white clay that is ideal for making bricks.

The "Kasota terrace" is about three miles long, averages ^{nearly} about half a mile in width, and is ^{approximately} about 150 feet above the river ^{and} ~~or~~ 75 feet above the general upland back of the river. The soil above the bedrock here is more sandy and gravelly than that country which was covered by the Big Woods. The "Le Sueur prairie" five ^{four} miles long and two to ~~five~~ miles wide is of similar composition.

~~Finally,~~ ^{At} About four miles ^{back} from the river, the bluffs and terraces give way to the ~~general~~ ^{quitting rolling} upland we have mentioned, the region that was once covered by the Big Woods, and whose top soil is now the decayed leaves and tree trunks of ancient forests. ~~The surface here is level to slightly rolling.~~ ^{175 ft.}

The highest parts of Le Sueur County are in the southeast, where many centuries ago some glacier stopped ^{its} southern advance (for a time), melting and leaving behind it a mass of piled up ridges called terminal moraines. These

hills ~~much strewn~~ with boulders have been called the Elysian moraine. ~~They~~ ⁹ reach from Waterville and Elysian northwesterly by Lake Jefferson and Lake Emily toward the Minnesota Valley. In total height ~~they~~ ^{they} are not ~~overly~~ ^{so} impressive, averaging only about 50 to 75 feet above the surrounding area, ~~which makes them~~ ^{or} about 1,100 feet above sea level. The most prominent ~~hills~~ are south of Lake Sakata, east of Waterville.

Many years ago a piece of copper weighing about a pound was reported found in the boulders near Ottawa. It is thought the nugget was brought down to Le Sueur County in some very early glacial age, as the last ice sheet came from the northwest, ~~and~~ ^{and as} the only known copper deposits in this vicinity of America are to the northeast. Fossil specimens, ~~other~~ ^{and} relics of the dim past, are ~~usually absent~~ ^{not numerous} in Le Sueur County, ~~but~~ ^{from some} are found imbedded in the rock ~~layers~~ ^{of} in a few localities.

WILD GAME. Fur bearing animals, fowl, and wild game of all kind were plentiful. ~~Abundance of game was of course very welcome to the early settlers,~~ ^{on a farm} hunting and fishing who relied on ~~what they could~~ ^{large} for a significant part of their food supply. The Wild passenger pigeons ~~in those days~~ gathered in such enormous flocks they broke the branches of trees and literally obscured the sun. It was possible to knock the birds out of the air with clubs or rakes, or shoot as many as 30 with one shot.

Trapping was also a common activity among the Big Woods farmers ~~also did~~ ^{some trapping} ~~Many relied on trapping to a certain extent to take in a bit of income during the winter months.~~ ^{this far as small their} Mink, weasels, skunks, deer, foxes, racoons, and muskrats ~~were~~ ^{in the region} generally abundant throughout this area.

MINNESOTA WEATHER. ~~At one time the opinion in many parts seemed to be that~~ ^{for a while outsiders seemed to regard} Minnesota ~~weather~~ ^{our state} was a region of ice and snow and perpetual cold, ~~The settlers~~ ^{and the} were anxious to ~~impress prospective immigrants~~ ^{prove} that Minnesota was not a polar

region ~~at all~~. ^{of that day} ~~Early~~ ^{carried} Books and newspapers printed many weather discussions of, extolling Minnesota as a health resort, life-giving to invalids, curative to the sick, ~~and~~ tonic to the adventurous. Minnesota climate was promoted as a sort of patent medicine, ~~and of course such~~ ^{propaganda} ~~propaganda~~ had a stimulating effect ^{and all of this helped to increase early immigration,} on immigration.

In reality the first settlers were probably so ardent in defending Minnesota weather only ^{that} ~~so~~ more settlers would come in, and thus their own villages and enterprizes would prosper. A growing population meant business opportunities and a chance for investors to make money.

CHAPTER IV. EARLY SETTLEMENT ERA.

Expanding Settlement.

EARLY TRAILS AND ROADS.

As settlement began to spread into the back country away from the river, the settlers had to follow ^{the} a few century old trails or blaze their own. In the early '50s there were few roads; and the old Indian trails were the best routes of travel inland.

A few of these trails had been used by ^{the} fur traders, and later by the plodding Red river carts, ^{carrying} which carried rich loads of furs from the Red river valley to Mendota. These clumsy, two-wheeled ox carts were the first overland important means of transportation within Minnesota. Their drivers were usually ~~the~~ buckskin clad, halfbreed "Bois Brules," so called from the "burnt wood" color of their skin. ~~The creaking and noise of wooden wheels scraping against wood could be heard for three miles.~~

^{often} Later ~~the~~ Indian trails and trader's wagon routes became the first surveyed roads, and ^{some of them have even become} ~~still later were frequently the route of modern~~ highways. ^{included} The most important early trails through Le Sueur County were the one that came down along the east side of the Minnesota river from Mendota, and one through ~~Le Sueur~~ ^{The} County east to west ~~enroute~~ from Red Wing to Travers des Sioux, at St. Peter.

The first road authorized through Le Sueur County was the old Dodd Road, sometimes called the Mendota-Big Sioux Road, ^{which} ~~This route~~ was authorized in 1852, ^{and} surveyed in 1853, ^{though} but the first section ^{was} not opened until 1855. The course followed was from Mendota ^L through ~~Lakeville in Dakota County~~ to the Little Cannon river, and thence ~~north~~ westward across to St. Peter, upstream to Mankato,

and from there southwestward toward the Big Sioux River.

In 1852 several settlers of the lower Mississippi, ~~not to be~~
~~outdone by a road constructed westward from the foot of Lake Pepin, laid out~~
 for themselves a road from Winona to Mankato. ^{This road went} The route followed was westward
 near or through the sites of Rochester, Owatonna, and then northwestward,
~~then~~ through Le Sueur County, to connect with the Dodd Road just east of Kasota.

The next important road, ^{to go through Le Sueur Co} whose construction was provided for by
 the Territorial Legislature in 1854, was a road from Red Wing to Fort Ridgely.
~~Enroute to the Fort, (just west of St. Peter in Nicollet County), this road also~~
~~passed through Le Sueur County.~~ By 1860 ~~several other connecting lines had been~~
~~built, and the County was fairly well criss-crossed with~~ ~~crude~~ wagon trails.

Early vehicles ~~of transportation~~ ~~on these roads~~ ^{were almost as} crude as the
 roads they ^{traveled} ran on. Settlers cut wagon wheels from solid blocks of wood, hewn
 out of logs. Sleigh runners were made by ^{using} small bent trees. The first
 factory-made wagon or buggy caused great excitement. ^{as late as} Even 35 years ago there
 was little travelling, except by salesmen, stock buyers, or mail carriers, and
 35 miles a day was considered a very good day's travel.

^{Passable} Road facilities ~~in~~ were always an important consideration, ~~lack~~
~~determining the success or~~ of roads resulted in the failure of many townsites. Improved, ^{and surveyed} roads and branch
^{came} routes developed slowly. In travelling through the woods toward their ~~private~~
 claims the settlers followed the lines of least resistance, ^{going} ~~meandering~~ around the
 lakes, swamps, thickets, and gullies. "Corduroy" roads of logs were laid across
 the ^{muddy} ~~wet~~ places.

SETTLEMENT ADVANCES.

As the Indian trails became roads, ^{As} the fame of the
 Minnesota Valley spread, and more and more immigrants were
 attracted to this region, the home-seekers pushed farther and farther inland, ^{until each of}
~~Finally all 15~~ ^{The} townships of Le Sueur County ~~had~~ ^{their} ~~the share of white men,~~ ^{had it}
~~settlers.~~

LE SUEUR COUNTY
TOWNSHIPS.

Ordinarily a township contains 36 square miles, ~~or~~
~~six miles on a side.~~ ^{except where river} Sometimes, due to county borders or ^{one is}
~~geographical features,~~ ^{other} a township may be much smaller. Le Sueur County has
several such under-sized townships along the Minnesota river.

Le Sueur ~~Township~~ ^{township} in the northwest corner of the County is the
smallest ~~township.~~ The others, ~~from west to east and then north to south,~~ are
Tyrone, Derrynane, and Lanesburg; Ottawa, Sharon, Lexington, and Montgomery;
Kasota, Cleveland, Cordova, and Kilkenny; Washington, Elysian, and Waterville.

The interior townships, such as Cordova, Kilkenny, and Montgomery,
were generally the last to be settled, about the year 1856. ~~It would be possible~~
~~to trace the early history of each township, but more interesting is the~~
~~settlement story of Le Sueur County's chief towns and cities, and a few other~~
~~historic sites.~~

OTTAWA

After Kasota and Le Sueur the earliest settled section of our
County ^{was} is at Ottawa. The first settler near here was Antoine Young, a Frenchman,
who built a sawmill and grist mill on Cherry Creek in 1853. ^{His} This mill is some-
times ^{referred} ~~claimed~~ to be the first mill in Le Sueur County, but this claim is generally
discredited in favor of the mill at Kasota. Antoine Young ~~later~~ moved away to
Yellow Medicine in 1860 and was the first man shot in the Indian outbreak.

Crawford and Jones in 1853 surveyed and platted ^{the} a townsite ~~here~~
and called ^{it} the new village "Minnewashta", meaning "Good water", ~~in reference to~~
^{because of the} many ~~excellent~~ springs of water in the vicinity. In 1856 the town was resurveyed
and called Ottawa, for a tribe of Indians ^{closely} ~~nearly~~ related to the Chippewa. Tim
Fuller, Robert and William Winegar were the first settlers, after Young, in this
^{section} ~~part~~ of the County.

In 1854 a Col. Pratt of St. Paul was to act as agent for purchasers of 12 lots in Ottawa. But the bill of sale provided that no liquor was to be sold in the new town. The purchasers objected and the sale fell through. After that ^{The} value of lots declined from \$500 to \$10, but nevertheless a number of settlers later came in, and ^{for a} ^{hoped} some time Ottawa thought itself destined to become "a leading place."

^{at least} Ottawa was a lively place as late as the 1880s, and its trade territory once included what is now Le Sueur's. But its vision of becoming the chief city in Le Sueur County was never realized. ^{It's} The quarries ~~there~~ were once very busy; the building stone mined there was formerly known as "Ottawa Rock."

Brick making was once the chief industry here, and Ottawa was also a popular wood market, even though there was more prairie in Ottawa Township than in any other Le Sueur County township. Ottawa had a good two-story stone school house at a time when many villages had only a one room frame building.

MONTGOMERY

After the city of Le Sueur (population 1,897 in 1930), the largest towns in our County are, of course, Montgomery (pop. 1,570), New Prague (1,543), Waterville (1,419), and Le Center, (948). We shall take up each one in the order named.

Montgomery Township was first settled by August Richter, G. Augst, and others in 1856, and Richter established a general store not far from the present city of Montgomery in 1859. But the town ^{site} remained a dense forest ^{and was not even} until ^{platted} 1877, when the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad came through. In that year the new town was platted, and named in honor of General Richard Montgomery, who was killed in the American Revolution while leading an attack on Quebec.

Again A. Richter opened the first store on the new site. T. W. Sheehy & Co. followed immediately with another general store, a furniture store was opened by Frank Havlicek, and a hardware store by L. Schrauth. The next year

Joseph Chadderdon established the "Montgomery Standard," an independent weekly newspaper.

When the mills in ^{other} small towns began to be discontinued in ^{due to} favor of centralized Twin City milling, the Montgomery mills were still going strong, ~~doing a larger business than ever~~. The war time capacity was about 3000 barrels a day, ^{with an} ~~and its~~ elevator capacity ^{of} was 600,000 bushels.

The Montgomery flour mills were at one time ~~said to be~~ the "Pride of southern Minnesota," and in 1916 were ^{said to be} ~~boastfully claimed~~ "Equal to any flouring mill plant in the State." Today flour milling is ^{even} ~~still highly~~ important ^{in this town} ~~here~~. The 1929 capacity was 3,500 barrels, with 125 employees working on a 24 hours a day schedule, drawing an annual payroll of \$222,000.

→ Insert A. Among the early settlers ^{around} in the vicinity of Montgomery were a great many Bohemians. This ~~had led~~ ⁱⁿ more recent times ^{the city has it} to the annual "Kolacky Day" celebration, when thousands of "Kolacky" Bohemian buns made with dry fruit and spice fillings are served to visitors. Since the inauguration of Kolacky Day Montgomery has ^{come} ~~left~~ into greater prominence, ^{and is} ~~and is~~ sometimes known as "The Biggest Little City in Southern Minnesota."

NEW PRAGUE

The city of New Prague lies ^{about} ~~almost equally~~ in Scott and Le Sueur County; Main Street is the dividing line. Its business, likewise, is about equally divided among the two counties. Official name of the early village post office was first Orel, then Praha, ^{that our capital} ~~which is the Czech word for Prague~~, Nova Praha, ~~Prague~~, and finally New Prague, ~~in honor of the European city~~.

The first settler was Anton Philipp, a native of Bavaria, who was directed up the Minnesota river by Bishop Cretin of St. Paul. Later in that same year, ~~1855~~ 1856, a group of about four Bohemians also applied to Bishop Cretin for advice. He headed them toward St. Cloud up the Mississippi Valley, but they lost their way, and ~~after a weary journey finally~~ arrived instead at the site of New Prague.

Insert instead of paragraph crossed out
on page 42.

The mill

Insert B

The milling industry early became important in Montgomery. Starting from a small beginning in 1884-85, an ~~early~~ grist mill prospered and became eventually the James Quirk Milling Co. A boiler explosion in 1896 was called a "major disaster" in Montgomery, but business improved steadily in the successive years. In 1911 the industry was taken over by the Commander Milling Company of Minneapolis. The capacity then was about 1000 barrels per day.

A

* Among the first regulations passed by the ~~newly elected~~ village officers of Montgomery was an ordinance dealing with travelling shows. Perhaps ~~It may seem a bit queer to think of such rules being necessary~~ ^{It may seem ~~a bit queer~~ ^{strange that} to think of such rules ^{should} being necessary} in a newly-founded Big Woods settlement, but ~~even~~ in those days no backwoods village was too remote for barnstorming troopers. All "caravans, circuses, concerts for pay, or theatrical performances" were required to procure a license. The ~~cost~~ ^{fee} was \$1 to \$15 at the discretion of the council.

Also among the first official acts was a notice to ban hogs from wandering at large on Main street. ~~Another~~ ^{One early} ~~law~~ local law decreed that no person should run, or drive any vehicle faster than six miles per hour on the streets of Montgomery. ~~Still another~~ ^{still another} ordinance prohibited the discharge of firearms on Sunday. and ~~one~~ provided a \$75 license fee for saloons or anyone selling spirits.

The village fathers of Montgomery, it seems, were an ambitious lot. At an early date the Montgomery Board of Trade ~~of~~ was formed, and one of the first things they did was to advertise in widely circulated magazines, "Wanted, Captialists," to build a sugar beet factory. Several inquiries were received, but it seems nothing every came of the search for capitalists.

^{Early} ^{settlers}
~~Among the first Bohemians to arrive~~ were Vrtis, Borak, Hanzel, Stepka, and Bruzek. Other Germans and Bohemians followed their countrymen up the Minnesota, and others came up from Iowa. Without waiting to survey the townsite, Philipp began selling lots, and the location was rapidly settled.

The St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church organized in 1856 became a center of community life. ^{the first building was a} ~~A log church without even any seats was built at first, and later~~ ^{constructed} when this burned, a new brick church ^{was built} erected in 1863. The first school was conducted in Anton Philipp's log cabin, taught by Mary Chalupsky. The first postmaster walked 24 miles to Shakopee once a week for the mail.

A first, or at least an early store, was owned by Michael Simmer, followed closely by the Vrtis store. Two short-lived brick yards made huge bricks about 18 inches long, 8 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. In 1877 the railroad reached New Prague, and the village grew more rapidly, ^{It was} ~~to be~~ incorporated as a city in 1891 ^{its} ~~with a~~ population ^{about} ~~at that time of~~ 1200.

In early settlement times New Prague was heavily timbered, ~~dotted~~ ^{and} ~~along main street with huge stumps.~~ ^{was large} ~~A small creek poured its overflow waters into~~ ^{and} ~~a swampy area of the street, and rough planks were laid across the wet and~~ ^{lower part} ~~muddy places. A misstep meant a mud bath.~~ ^{and}

Stores and ^{houses} ~~homes~~ were built above the ground---as many a five or six steps---to escape floods. Branches and straw were strewn on Main Street ^{high} ~~to help the~~ teams ~~could wallow~~ through. Even then ox teams often became bogged down. ~~To a~~ ^{awfully} ~~great extent~~ Such street conditions were typical of ~~all the most~~ early Minnesota villages before the era of pavements and concrete.

Due to its Bohemian heritage ^{is a community with a great deal more than the average} ~~of musical talent~~, New Prague has had ^{musical life} ~~an especially colorful musical background.~~ The Smisek brass band, the Sery band, and the Komaret band ^{all} ~~all flourished in the order named, and all were famous in~~ ^{and the Sery band was known of far beyond the community as} this vicinity, John Sery was ~~also~~ a composer ~~and high order, even to being called~~ ^{all} ~~a genius.~~

~~With the good music and a hospitable welcome as a drawing card, New Prague~~
A town of music and warmth of welcome, New Prague

attracted the pleasure seeking
also became a popular ~~mecca~~ ^{city} for dancers. Young people travelled ^{for many miles} as far as
30 miles to attend dances ^{the New Prague} here.

In spite of music and dancing, however,
But amusements were of course secondary matters. Conditions were
often so hard that ^{many} ^{some} of the newcomers ^{might} ~~would~~ have gone back to Bohemia, had it
they the fare. The young wives, ^{had} ~~it~~ ^{their} used to the quaint European customs, were all
but frightened by the rough appearance of Minnesota backwoodsmen. ~~The buckskin-clad~~

A son of Anton Philipp, the founder of New Prague, was nursed by
an Indian squaw when his mother became ill. In later years, grown to manhood, he
once ~~exclaimed~~ ^{said}, "I have always claimed for that reason that I bear a sort of in-
direct relationship to Sitting Bull. The squaw gave me my first bath in the cold
waters of the creek."

Like Montgomery, New Prague is also an important flour milling
city. ~~The story of how the mill at New Prague was developed reads almost like a~~
~~Horatio Alger tale.~~

(over)
About 1875 Thomas Suchomel and James Bisek built a steam operated
mill just west of the present mill. In 1882 it was taken over by Michael Simmer.
By 1896 the New Prague mill had a daily capacity of about 250 barrels, And then
at that point F. A. Bean came on the scene.

Bean had gone into the milling business at Faribault way back in
1870. He prospered, ^{and} other [^] mills were added at Morristown and Northfield. They
too prospered, and Mr. Bean became a very wealthy man. Then came the time when
small town mills in Minnesota could no longer compete with the huge Minneapolis
industries. His enterprizes failed, he was fifty years old, and owed \$100,000.

But Bean was not down for long. Coming to New Prague he took over
the mill there, and started all over. The mill he leased was sold by court order,
but the citizens of New Prague raised \$30,000 so he could build a new plant.

That was in 1896. Slowly he built up the ϕ new mill, determined

The story of milling in New Prague is also the story of an upright citizen. New Prague's first mill was built by Thomas Suchomel and James Bisek in 1875, and taken over by Michael Simmer in 1882. In 1896, when the mill had attained a daily capacity of 250 barrels, Mr. F. A. Bean came in to the mill.

Mr. Bean had begun milling in 1870, at Faribault. After he had established additional plants at Morristown and Northfield, and become a wealthy man, his business, due ~~partly~~ largely to Twin Cities competition began to fail, and at fifty he had failed completely and had debts amounting to \$100,000. In 1896 he came to New Prague and took over the mill, and when the plant was sold by court order, the citizens of the town raised \$30,000 toward the building of a new mill. This time Mr. Bean decided to depend on the local market, and by careful management he built the business until it became a chain of mills, organized as the International Milling Company, ~~and~~ From plants in Canada, Iowa and New York, as well as Minnesota, his flour was shipped ~~to all parts of~~ ~~countries~~ everywhere. And then, in 1912, he began to pay back his old debts, with interest in full, although they were long since outlawed and not legally collectible. He did not stop until every penny was paid.

Today the International Milling Company which he founded is still an important concern, and New Prague flour is still shipped to all parts of the world.

to seek only local business and not compete with Minneapolis mills. But under his shrewd management, the one lone mill soon became a whole chain of flourishing mills organized as the ~~INTER~~ International Milling Company. From plants in ~~Sandax~~ Canada, Iowa, New York, and Minnesota his flour was shipped all over the world.

And then Bean did ~~the story book act~~ ^{something unexpected.} In 1912, although his debts had long since been outlawed and he ~~wouldn't have needed to~~ ^{I was unnecessary} pay them, he went out to find every one of his old creditors. Selling ^a part of his ^{investments,} interests, he paid with interest every bit of the debt, a sum that amounted to about \$200,000.

Today the International Milling Company is still flourishing, sometimes though its builder is now dead. New Prague is known as the City of Bread and Butter, New Prague because of its prosperous creameries and flour mills... ~~its~~ flour is shipped to all parts of the world.

WATERVILLE.

Not ~~as~~ much has been written about the early history of Waterville, but we know that the city dates from 1856, when it was platted as a village. ~~A few settlers had come to the surrounding region, but apparently the first townsmen of Waterville did not arrive until 1856-57.~~

A Tidball and L. Z. Rogers were among the first. Tidball built the first frame building on the present town site, and both men opened general stores soon after their ~~af~~ arrival. An early hotel was built by Jacob Dawald.

At ~~Near~~ Waterville are two of the most attractive lakes in Le Sueur County, Lakes Tetonka and Sakata, ~~and it was in reference to these beautiful bodies of water that~~ ^{from} the town received its name. Nearly a dozen other states have villages or townships of the same name.

It is said that during the Indian wars of 1862 Waterville ~~o~~ was one of the few towns that felt safe from attack, and put out no guards. An old history of the Minnesota Valley, written in 1882, adds that "She, however, claims the honor of ~~being~~ having taken the last Sioux scalp, for which a liberal bounty

*Waterville claims as another
distinction*

was received." In the ~~same~~ ^{same} light of later years it is doubtful how great an
"honor" ~~it~~ ^{was} to have taken the last Sioux scalp. *may seem a desirable honor.*

Major Jacklin was R. W. Jacklin, who came to Waterville in 1870 ~~was during~~ ^{during the Civil War}
the Civil War a brevet major in command of a battalion of sharp shooters. *Major and*
~~Jacklin was the man who received the flag of truce for the surrender of General~~
Lee's army by order of General U.S. Grant.

LE CENTER **--- THE COUNTY SEAT FIGHTS

Originally called Le Sueur Center, the County Seat
of Le Sueur County was renamed Le Center only within
the
recent years. It is in almost exact geographical center of the County, ~~and for~~
having been ~~that reason it was~~ ^{the} cut out of a dense forest in 1876 ~~for the express purpose of~~
for becoming the County seat, ending a series of County seat squabbles that had been
going on ~~lasted over~~ since the County was organized in 1853.

The city of Le Sueur was first designated as the County seat, but
as it was not centrally situated ~~due to its uncentralized location~~ ^{try to have} other towns in the County soon began to express
the office moved ~~their dissatisfaction~~. In 1858 an attempt was made to move the ~~capital~~ to
Cleveland, a thriving village ~~that had been founded in 1857~~. ~~Several times there-~~
more than once ~~after Cleveland received a majority of the County votes in her favor, but each~~
vote was overruled ~~time through some legal formality the verdict was thrown out.~~

In 1859 ~~when the second attempt was made to move the County seat,~~
the village of Lexington also entered the ~~fray~~ ^{fight}. The ~~County three-sided fight be-~~ ^{question}
acute ~~came such a hotly discussed question that farmers would halt their oxen in the~~
~~fields or stop grubbing stumps to talk it over.~~ The matter went to court, but
again Le Sueur won ~~out~~.

the people's ~~But~~ ^{so aroused} *haha* ~~By now Cleveland was thoroughly indignant and decided to take~~
~~things into her own hands. A company of about 100 armed men was organized and~~
intending to take ~~the County effects by force.~~ *record & properties*
began a march on Le Sueur, ~~bent on seizing the~~ ^{were} But the
Le Sueur townsmen ~~had been warned of the approaching battalion, and hid the~~
documents in a store filled with armed men.

all that the
~~Thus were the~~ citizens of Cleveland ~~failed once again.~~ All they
 could find to bring back with them ~~was~~ a few maps, a very few of the County papers,
 and an old desk. *Retreating* ~~Retiring in good grace~~ toward their hometown, *they found not* a party of
 Le Sueur patriots ~~tramping~~ *+o* trooping along ~~beating~~ a tin pan accompaniment.
afterward this ~~Thereafter this event was referred to as~~ the "Rogue's March."

The next winter, however, (1860) Cleveland was ~~granted the~~ *allowed to*
~~privilege of entertaining~~ the County officials for one session, *but with this exception* ~~at~~ *After that*
 Le Sueur ~~held supreme sway until 1875.~~ *remained county seat until 1875* After another ~~county~~ *majority* vote in which a
 majority of the ballots were cast in favor of Cleveland, ~~the~~ Supreme Court
 finally ~~handed down a decision to remove~~ the county capital to Cleveland.

But ~~this change did not halt all~~ *there was so much* ~~grumbings~~ of dissatisfaction,
~~that~~ *and* after only one year, the seat of *county* government was again moved, this time ~~from~~
 Cleveland to Le Sueur Center.. George M. Tousley was president of the townsite

*Insert
2 91
here* company that platted the new village and erected a substantial brick courthouse.
 And so Le Center, grubbed out of the woods in 1876-77, is now our County seat,
 an
 but ~~the~~ infant among Le Sueur County towns.

AN ACT OF VIOLENCE.

North of Le Center is the little village of Lexington, founded
 in 1857. In 1858 a regrettable affair occurred ~~xxx~~ here, a happening
 rare in our northern States, and not a credit to those who were responsible.

A Charles Rheinhardt and a Frenchman ~~from~~ *omit* ~~xxx~~ named Burdell were
 boarding in the same hotel. Rheinhardt seemed to take an interest in the French-
 man, escorting him around to inspect the land.

One morning they started out as usual, but only Rheinhardt came
 back, saying that his companion had decided to return to Milwaukee. Later, when
 Rheinhardt also disappeared, the townsfolk became suspicious, and organized a
 searching party. They found Burdell in the willows along a lake shore.

The supposed murderer was caught up with near Winona and brought

It was Michael Doran, ^{a political leader} ~~said to have been the head of a miniature~~
~~Tammany Hall~~ and instrumental in the third nomination of Grover Cleveland for
president, who ~~took the lead in~~ ^{headed} this new move. After a majority had signed the
petition he ~~had~~ ^{found that} circulated, ~~supposedly~~ ^{named} to have the County seat moved to Union
Center, it was discovered the site ~~indicated~~ ^{indicated} was a section of land in
the heart of uncut timber, surrounded by swamp--- ^{and the land was Doran's!} ~~Doran's land!~~ It has been
^{also} said that the ~~xxxx~~ section number of the land had gotten mysterious altered.

At first there was some attempt to ^{contend} conflict the new act. But
Doran was ^{to be} ~~not at all~~ deterred, and proceeded to form a townsite company, with
George M. Tousely as president. This company platted the new village and
^{put up} ~~erected~~ a substantial two-story brick court house. ^{this building} The structure was ~~erected~~
leased by the County for ten years, then later purchased and taken over. ~~And~~
~~so Le Center, grubbed out of the woods in 1876-77, is now our County seat, but yet~~
~~an infant among Le Sueur County towns.~~

So Le Center, one of the young ^{Le Sueur County towns}
became ^{our} county seat and is to this day.

back to Lexington. A storm of excitement swept over the small town, but Rheinhardt dramatically denied his guilt, even after the dead man's watch was found in his pocket.

The accused man was placed in a log jail, but a frenzied mob soon came to get him. ^{omit or enlarge} Rheinhardt used the leg of an old stove and defended himself like a demon, but the crowd then only cut a hole in the roof and poked him with poles till he was exhausted---then rushed the door. ^{ever} He was hanged on a scrubby oak tree. His execution was the only one to take place in Le Sueur County, but it is not a deed to be proud of.

OTHER ORIGINS----

Derrynane and Kilkenny townships were both named after places in Ireland. Derrynane is a typical rural unit with no important villages, but ^{has} as a prosperous farming region. ~~When the Irish came here they found a few Yankees on the ground before them and the township called Ruggles.~~

~~But the Yanks were mostly adventurers who did not intend to stay, while the Irish planned to settle down on the new land. Therefore they wanted a name suggestive of an Irish background, and chose Derrynane, an old Irish Gaelic word meaning "oak and ivy."~~ ^{Derrynane is} ~~Soon~~ ^{some have since come} ~~A~~ great many Germans also began to come into this region, but western Derrynane Township is still an Irish stronghold.

Sharon township, at first called "Young Town," is another section of Le Sueur County without a railroad or an important village, but ^{in one} ~~one~~ of the most prosperous agricultural regions. ~~As far back as 1880 it was said to be one of the wealthiest and populous divisions of Le Sueur County.~~

^{most} Sharon, along the fertile Minnesota river valley, was appropriately named after the fertile plain of Sharon in Palestine. ^{for such} ~~It is said to have been so named by one of the Welsh settlers because it "flowed with milk and honey."~~ ^{supposedly} ~~Another Welshman is said to have claimed, "We have reached the promised land."~~ ^{devout Welshman} Philip Dressel, who was one of the first settlers here in 1856, ^{who came to the township of St. Paul,} ~~had been a~~ was at one time printer on the "Staats Zeitung," the first German paper in the state. ^{became} Minnesota, published in St. Paul. ~~Later he was postmaster of the little village of Dresselville, now not even on any map of Minnesota.~~

Called in the Promised Land

Tyrone Township, ~~originally named Hillsdale~~, is another ~~title~~ ^{place name} title of Irish origin, ~~the little hamlet of Heidelberg~~ ^{while} was named ⁱⁿ to honor ^{of} the German university city. Elysian is a word that traces its origin back to the classical Greeks, ~~to whom it meant a dwelling place of happy souls, after death.~~ ^{and} Cordova bears the name of an ancient Moorish city ⁱⁿ of Spain, ~~splendid and famous in the middle ages.~~ Kasota, ~~whose beginnings we have already related,~~ is a Dakota Indian name meaning ~~it~~ "clear, or cleared off," ~~in reference to the~~ ^{for} prairie plateau south of ^{the} town. Other places in Le Sueur County, such as Lexington and ~~the names of Lexington, Cleveland, and other centers.~~ ^{So} Cleveland, have names of strictly American origin. ~~are wholly American.~~

Thus we see that the place-names of Le Sueur County ~~take their~~ ^{can have} origin from many sources. ~~Some do homage to the Bohemian, German, Irish, French, Spanish, and Classical Greek tradition, others to the American and Indian background.~~ ^{ancient Indian & can}

Like Dresselville, a few one-time villages of Le Sueur County ^{the} can now be found on no up-to-date map. ~~Examples of these are Chehaliso, Caroline, and Okaman.~~ ^{are a few of these such} ~~Nearly every county in Minnesota has its vanished villages. "might have been" that never grew up, sometimes due to mere chance.~~

Many townsites were made or doomed by the railroad---whether or not ^{dependent on} the rails came through the new site as hoped or planned. ^{and} Some of the new towns ^{were deserted almost as swiftly} ~~vanished almost as rapidly~~ as they had grown---leaving only the open fields and ^{the} green waving trees, ^{with} or perhaps a deserted shanty ^{as two as monuments} ~~as memories to someone's ambition.~~ ^{lying}

Okaman, on the northeastern end of Lake Elysian, ^{lying} ~~lying~~ partly in Waseca County, was such a village. Okaman is a Sioux name, from "hokah" and the "man", meaning heron nests. The name was also applied to Lake Elysian. But ~~the~~ ^{the} village platted here ~~in 1857 failed to prosper, and by within ten years was only a farmer's field.~~

Caroline was about three miles south of Kasota on the old Mankato road. A post office here was discontinued about 1900.

Hardships of Pioneer Life
CHAPTER V. ~~EARLY LIVING CONDITIONS AND CUSTOMS.~~

We ~~have seen~~ ^{know} unmistakable signs that frontier life was not easy. We shall now examine more closely just how ^{went through many} the settlers lived, what hardships and trials ^{in the founding of our country and our state,} they went through in order to survive.

~~BUILDING A HOME.~~ ^{the first thing} Somewhere along the way to Minnesota the immigrant learned ^{had to} how ~~was how~~ to build a log cabin. This was important, because ~~when by steamboat,~~ ^{he had to have some} ~~or just walking~~ he finally reached his wilderness claim, ~~a first consideration~~ must always be a place to live.

In the Big Woods cabins were built of notched logs, chinked with sod, clay, or mud. Usually they contained only one room, about 12 by 20, and 8 feet high, ^{with} brush and sod ^{was} piled ^{on} over poles for a roof. ^{not}

Sometimes the roof was made of ^{basswood} bark, ~~especially basswood bark,~~ ^{cut} but from small trees and slit in half lengthwise, ~~the~~ the edge of one piece rested in the hollow of another. These bark roofs were usually fairly waterproof, but not at all snake-proof, ^{and often make a bad worse} ~~the walls, and into the cabin floor.~~ ^{Reptiles, many ants, wigglers, through the bark roof, down}

The floor was either of dirt or split logs. The door was made of split poles pegged to cross bars, opening inward on leather hinges. A piece of cloth was often the only window ~~opening~~ covering. The fireplace, where all the cooking was done, was made of logs smeared with clay. A narrow loft under the roof was ~~reached by a ladder~~ and used by the children as a bedroom.

^{such a} Furniture in ~~this crude~~ cabin was usually home made, ~~At the best~~ ^{through} a cabin might contain a factory-made bed, ^{and} a table, ~~or a few chairs.~~ Tables and stools were ordinarily made of split logs. Beds were fashioned of poles with ropes for springs and straw or feather ^{trick} mattresses. *P.V.*

50

Insert after page ~~51~~.

~~As a means of illumination, in these pioneer cabins~~ ^{For light} the commonest lamp was ~~only~~ a tin cup partly filled with grease or sperm oil. A burning rag that reached down into the oil gave ~~forth~~ ^{for} a dim, smoky light. When deer were ^{killed} shot, the tallow was saved ^{for home-made} ~~to make home-made~~ candles, ^{which} These usually gave a ^{slightly} better light, ^{and} ~~than the tallow lamps.~~

~~TYPICAL HARDSHIPS~~

Many old settlers recall that ~~all through~~ those first winters, they were never really warm. The Wind whistled through the chinks in the cabins, and the small wood-burning stoves were not ~~always~~ ^{able} to ~~heat the small cabins.~~ ^{combat the cold.} Sometimes settlers had to walk many miles for supplies, and even Winter travel by ox team ~~over winding trails through the woods~~ ^{high snows down.} ~~was not easy journey.~~ Those who had no oxen often had to walk many miles to town for food supplies or seed. ~~Many of the immigrants lacked a knowledge of our~~ ^{found} ~~climate, and therefore one not infrequently lost his life on that account.~~ ^{an especial hardship. All suffered during} The famous blizzard of 1873, ~~three days and nights of raging fury~~ ^{which took} was especially terrible. It snuffed out the lives of scores of Minnesota settlers, especially along the western and southern Minnesota counties, Le Sueur County, too, felt its icy grip. ^{insert}

~~THE FIRST FARMING.~~

The first crops were raised between the stumps in tiny clearings. ^{over} A meager food supply that could be grown thus was supplemented by game and wild fruits. Later the stumps were grubbed out, and gradually fields as we know them today came to be cultivated.

At first everything was done by hand. There were no labor saving devices of any kind. Some of the first immigrants had not even the tools with which to work by hand. Somehow they procured axes and grub hoes, and then as soon as they could bought a yoke of oxen. The children learned to help at an early age, and the boys were soon doing a man's share of work.

Besides the ~~problem of keeping warm~~ ^{in winter, in summer} ~~and dry and getting enough~~ to eat, the settlers sometimes ~~even~~ ^{have} had to contend with fire. At one time the inhabitants of Elysian township were thrown into a ~~fray~~ ^{panic} by a prairie fire that ~~was supposed to be approaching from the southwest.~~ ^{fortunately} It so happened that a chain of lakes stretched nearly across the township, ~~and~~ ^{and} the settlers in great haste raked ~~dry leaves,~~ ^{and raked leaves} plowed ditches, and burned strips of land between

the lakes.

They were able to stop the fire from spreading beyond these lakes
~~They were just in time. The fearsome flames were stopped. But~~

~~a few settlers on the south shores of the lakes were not so fortunate. Many had to take refuge in the center of plowed fields, and were all but smothered by the heat and smoke. Some lost their homes, stock, and hay supplies, and ^{hardly} saved themselves~~

~~Work in the fields or woods was the daily diet for everyone. But backbreaking work didn't trouble them, because when they came here they hadn't expected an easy time. They came with an unconquerable ambition and optimism.~~

~~Even after regular fields came to be developed, farming then was much different than we know it today. ^{Both ways and tools} Methods and implements were primitive. ^{in the early days} ~~Plowing~~~~

~~Grain was sowed by hand, harvested with a cradle, threshed with a flail. Plowing was done with crude home-made plows towed by ^{drawn} plodding oxen.~~

~~It was a pretty sight to see a man sowing grain. A canvas-lined basket holding about a bushel was fastened over the shoulders. The experienced sowers used both hands, ^{sowing the seed} sowing in wide sweeps. Good sowers often hired out, ^{for} made as much as \$1 a day--- ^{which was very money} considered good money in those days.~~

~~WORKING IN THE WOODS.~~

~~In the winter the men and boys ^{Big Woods} all went into the woods to cut timber. Out of the Big Woods they cut cordwood for fuel and lumber for building purposes, ^{and after the railroads came, railway ties.} After the railroads came through, tie making became ^{most of the early settlers did} ~~importantly a common occupation.~~~~

~~Though the rewards were small, "working in the woods" became an ^{some "working in the woods."} important industry. Men became experts with ax and saw, and ^{strong and able} young men were as anxious to excel with the ax as many boys today are eager to be acclaimed on the gridiron. Those backwoodsmen led no easy life. Getting up before daylight was ^{were developed and prized, as both were required for felling,} the usual program. Splitting and trimming ^{timbers}, rolling and piling logs ^{required} real physical stamina.~~

like "snuffed out" p. 51
That goes for some others
It's no comprend pas - it's high time they're learning it!

^{other} A few of the Big Woods farmers also ^{turned trappers} resorted to trapping in the winter time to earn a little extra money. Bartering and trading ^{were} common in those days, but cash money was exceedingly scarce. ^{and they had to have money} Therefore any money they brought along or could acquire afterwards found a ready use to buy implements, ^{as well as for} for taxes, postage, and oxen, dress goods, ^{to} to "prove up" on their claims, or for various other needs.

^{One other} Another common way of earning a little extra money in our County was by digging the Ginseng root. This ~~was~~ herb grew abundantly in many parts of Le Sueur County, and the settlers ^{could sell} scoured the valleys and hillsides for all they could ^{find} gather. The dried root was exported to China, where it is ^{esteemed} ~~highly~~ ^{valued} as a heal-all medicine. ^{the settlers were paid} To the settlers it brought from six to 25 cents per pound, often ^{and} Entire families made a business of gathering the root, which

^{said} One settler has been quoted as saying, "It was a Godsend to some of us, as it brought ready money and enabled me to buy my first stock. I had three children who went into the woods with me, two looking up the plants and showing them to me, when I chopped them out with my grub hoe and the third picked them up and shook off the dirt."

STORES AND FOOD SUPPLIES

At first most of the food supplies had to come from what the settlers were able to wrest from the soil or woods, ^{be it} ~~as~~ Stores and food supplies were many miles distant. ^{In those times,} and wild fruits were ^{foods} wild game was ~~therefore~~ ^{and} an important item on the menu, but ^{quite} usually very easy to get.

Wild ducks settled upon the lakes in huge flocks---sometimes so many that their flight sounded "louder than a train of cars." Every pioneer boy knew how to hunt, but ~~as~~ ammunition was expensive, ^{he} often loaded ^{his} their guns with dried peas, ^{in hunting} for prairie chicken, quail, and pigeons, dried peas were just as effective, ^{as bird shot,} ~~as~~ ^{the settlers} they discovered. The passenger pigeons were killed by the hundreds and their ^{breasts} ~~dried~~ ^{put here} for winter. Today there are no passenger pigeons at all.

By 1854 stores began to be established ^{were} at a few ^{points} parts of Le Sueur ^{and other wild fruits, and wild honey, and cranberries picked in the woods were} ~~important additions to the settlers' larder.~~ Dried apple sauce or pumpkin sauce ~~was~~ ^{with corn} bread was a frequent diet. ~~Salt was scarce at first.~~

County, and ^{it was not long before} ~~before long~~ they ^{were} ~~became~~ fairly common. The first stores, like the first cabins, were crude ^{rather} ~~affairs~~, ^{built} ~~and were~~ generally constructed with a wooden porch on the front.

• ^{and} Only the barest necessities were stocked in these first stores. ^{them.} The ^{common} ~~only~~ breakfast foods ~~handled~~ were oatmeal and cornmeal; the ^{grogs, salt, coffee, tea,} ~~only~~ canned goods, one or two fruits, ^{canned} ~~and~~ sardines, ^{For these the settlers traded} ~~butter and eggs, were traded in for merchandise.~~ One family sold butter at six cents a pound. Food was generally traded for food, though ^{sometimes} ~~but~~ farmer's wives often traded butter for dress goods or other cloth.

Sugar, salt, and coffee were the staples; nothing fancy was demanded.

(During the hard times of 1857-58 some settlers lived through the winter on coffee was sometimes made from corn meal crusts. Many settlers seemed to prefer nothing more than corn meal ground in old fashioned coffee grinders. tea, though both tea and pork in those days sold at a tremendous price. On the

other hand, about 1880 potatoes sold for as little as 14 cents a bushel. Settlers who had no ^{cattle} ~~cows~~ often ate lard on their bread, though an Indian would not touch ~~lard~~. Eggs of prairie chickens were another delicacy. Fancy groceries, and all

varieties of canned goods have become ^{common} popular only within the last 25 years.

CLOTHING.

Clothing stores came in much later, though some ^{wearing apparel} ~~articles of clothing~~

was always handled by the early general stores. When it came to clothing the pioneers ~~were~~ ^{for} ~~also~~ largely self-reliant, or at least ~~so~~ the first years.

The mother in a household ^{usually} ~~often~~ made all the clothing for the whole family, including her own dresses.

Clothing ^{those days} ~~in those days~~ as made ^{chiefly} ~~in the home~~ was designed only for warmth and protection. Most of the women and girls wore woolen stockings knit at home, perhaps cotton or lisle in the summer. The country boys wore ^{heavily lined pants} ~~no under~~ clothing, but their pants were heavily lined, and if it was cold, they wore more shirts. ^{and in colder weather} ~~if it was cold~~, they wore more shirts. ^{From time to time} ~~Everybody~~ wore boots in those days, oxfords and overcoats were ^{alike} ~~most unknown~~. ^{in winter} ~~the settlers seldom wore hats~~ ^{and kept} ~~most unknown~~.

Yet even on the frontier a dash of color and style was not entirely

Overcoats were almost unknown. Everybody wore boots in colder weather, but in summer it was common to go barefoot.

Insert on page 54.

Insert A.

^{in those days}
~~The principle articles handled by a hardware store of this~~
^{handled} period were pitch forks, carpenter tools, nails, tinware, and building materials. Besides these, the hardware store ^{owner} proprietor often handled ~~tinware~~ stock ~~of~~ of tubs, kettles, pails, etc. made by himself. ^{in his own} tinmith shop.

Yet even in those early days, color & style were not unknown. lacking. Many of the immigrants from the eastern United States had ^{come} from cultured homes and brought their ^{good tastes} refinements with them. A few young women ^{came} from the East ^{with} brought ^{along} trunks of pretty dresses, ^{with} ^{full} and wore them, ^{too}, in the backwoods, as though they were on the streets of New York.

Others ^{considerable} from the East brought ~~plenty of~~ money with them, only to be ruined by the panic of 1857-8. But in good times a few young ladies wore the best there was to be had. A ballroom in Kasota was a popular gathering place ^{for} such elite ladies; and ^{M. Butnam's} a dry goods store at Kasota owned by a Mr. Butnam was also said to carry as fine a line of silks and woolen fabrics as could be purchased anywhere.

SANITARY CONDITIONS AND DOCTORS.

As so much time and energy must be devoted to

obtaining food, shelter, and clothing, it is natural that there ^{little attention was paid at} were at first no sanitary refinements. ^{These were small, and crowded,} Living conditions were crowded and ^{and since} non too hygienic. ^{families of 11 to 13 children were not at all rare,} Only after the settlers had been on the land for several ^{sanitary} years ~~next~~ had they any time to look to such considerations.

An old book published in 1871 has this to say of the Minnesota Valley: "While it is most attractive in scenery and most fertile in crops, it is not quite as desirable for the invalid. Though Shakopee, Le Sueur, St. Peter's, and Madelia are not very objectionable in a sanitary point of view." ^{Such a} statement is not very flattering to Le Sueur.

^{no} ~~7~~ Pioneer homes were ^{often} very crowded, as families of 11 ⁺¹² Hospitals and modern medical science were still a thing of the children ^{and} future. ^{and} ~~Even~~ the Doctors were often ill trained, insufficient in number, and ^{were not} much suffering was due to the lack of proper medical care. ^{me} But a country doctor ^{important} in those days ~~in spite of the hardships he must undergo~~ was a romantic ^{and almost heroic} figure, looked upon as a superior man and trusted unswervingly by his ^{who was always ready to make} patients. ^{or horse back, anywhere,}

Long trips by ox team ^{so few of them} was the constant lot of an early doctor. ^{Because there were too few doctors to bandage} reach around, ^{at} laymen through any kind of ~~storm~~ weather.

To find Please see one on this page. 56.

there were not enough
 Because doctors, ~~so~~ lay physicians and
 healers were often consulted in illness. *often there used*
 practitioners or healers became common. Sometimes their methods were patterned
 after ~~the~~ those of the Indian herb doctors. ~~Anaesthetics were almost unknown,~~
 and what little surgery was practiced was often ~~almost~~ *simple, healable* ~~brutal.~~

It was well that-
 But the pioneers were ~~of~~ vigorous stock, leading ~~a~~ rough and ready
 lives, *and without* ~~and usually did not have much time to worry about their health.~~ *illnesses.* One
~~of the first, possibly the first death in Le Sueur County~~ *this was in autumn* was caused by an
 accident. ~~This was in the fall of 1852, when an~~ *We do not know the man's name.*
 excavating for the Babcock mill at Kasota. ~~The victim's name has not been~~
 recorded.

Another early death and the first funeral in Le Sueur was also
 that of a laborer, known only by the name, Jake. There was no clergyman present
 to officiate at his funeral, and Patrick Cantwell took it upon himself to say a
 few words in honor of the dead. ~~His brief sermon is a most whimsical eulogy.~~
 "Friends, Jake came among us a stranger. He reached to us an ever
 helping hand, and with a kind generous heart ever had a pleasant word for all.
 May we, when the trumpet sounds, be as well prepared to go as he. And now,
 Jake, we bury you with all your faults, and will only remember your noble deeds."

One of the first doctors in our County was Dr. Otis Ayer of Le
 Sueur. Dr. Ayer was born in New Hampshire, *and* educated in the East, *he* and came to
 Minnesota in 1856, *and* during the Civil War ~~he~~ was surgeon for the Second Minnesota
 Infantry, *Ayer* and played a dramatic role in rescuing victims of the New Ulm massacre.
 With a gun in one hand and ~~the~~ a medicine kit in the other, *he* went out to care for
 the wounded.

Insert about Dr. Woods, p. 57 first,
 But the most famous medical figures in our County were the Mayos. *then*
 Dr. W. W. Mayo, father of the famous widely known Mayo brothers, Dr. William J.
 and Dr. Charles Mayo, was himself a doctor, born in England. *about*
 In 1845 he came to *the*
 America, studied medicine, and in 1854 emigrated to Minnesota. After a brief
 stay in St. Louis County he came up the Minnesota river to the town of Le Sueur. *Mayo*

The Mayo residence built in Le Sueur in 1858 while Dr. Mayo senior was still a country doctor, is still standing today, a historic landmark. It was here that William J. Mayo was born in 1861. The next year, during the Indian uprising, Dr. Mayo went up to New Ulm to help ~~the~~ defend the whites there. The mother stayed in Le Sueur.

About this time the father got possession of the body of Cut Nose, a Sioux Indian known as a savage killer. Dr. Mayo buried the body, then later dug it up and wired the bones. The skeleton was ~~thus~~ used for careful medical studies by the younger Mayos, soon to become famous doctors in their own right. In 1863 the Mayos moved to Rochester, Minnesota, and there grew up eventually the renowned Mayo Clinic, now known around the world.

and
Dr. W. H. Woods, who lived for a time at Le Sueur ~~at~~ later practiced in Montgomery, was the physician who attended the Younger brothers, members of the notorious Jesse James gang, after their ~~wounding and~~ capture near Madelia ~~xxx~~ in 1877. He kept as relics six ~~s~~ teeth from the mouth of James Younger and the clothing of Charles Pitts, who was killed in the capture.

Insert B
BUILDING A
CHURCH.

temporary
~~But taking care of their temporal wants---providing for their food, clothing, shelter, and care in physical welfare and guarding against bodily ills---was not all that concerned the pioneers by any means. Though they had less time, perhaps, to devote to such things, the cultural side of life---education, religion, and social life---contacts---was never forgotten.~~

a first
~~One of the earliest~~ considerations was ~~usually~~ a church. If

nothing else could be managed, a log house ~~costing no more than \$50~~ was put together to *serve* as a place of worship. *The settlers had little money, but they* ~~The immigrants were mostly poor people, and mostly their contributions consisted of labor and materials for the church.~~ *coved give timbers their*

Later, in the '70s or '80s, larger and better churches were *built* usually constructed, and these *are most lasting of all the buildings from pioneer days* ~~early stone churches are among the most lasting of pioneer structures.~~

But the ^{outstanding} ~~most famous~~ medical ^{man} ~~figure~~ in our County was Dr. William W. Mayo, father of the ^{famous} ~~widely known~~ Mayo brothers, Dr. William J. and Dr. Charles Mayo. Dr. Mayo, Sr. was born in England, and ~~paid 60 cents an hour to~~ study ⁱⁿ chemistry under John Dalton, the English scientist ^{who was} ~~very~~ famous for his discoveries ^{in different} ~~about~~ gases. Dalton advised the young ^{Mayo} ~~man~~ to become a doctor, and ~~the young~~ Mayo soon decided to follow his advice.

In 1845 he immigrated to America, ^{and} studied medicine, ~~and~~ in 1854 ~~he~~ came up to Minnesota on a river boat, ^{and} on the way ~~he~~ helped combat a siege of cholera that broke out on the boat. After a short stay at St. Paul, he set out to walk to Duluth with a pack on his back. ~~The journey took him a week.~~ Duluth was then wild country with very few cabins, ^{nevertheless} ~~but~~ the young doctor ~~brought~~ ^{and brought} ~~his wife up there~~ went back for his wife, and they lived ^{up} there until about 1856.

~~After that~~ ^{then} ~~And then~~ Dr. Mayo left ~~the north country~~ ^{the northern state} and came up the beautiful Minnesota river to the town of Le Sueur. At first he tried his hand at farming, ~~and it seems the first year found the couple across the river from~~ ^{on a farm} ~~Le Sueur.~~ In 1857 or 1858 he moved into Le Sueur, and in 1858 built himself a home ^{there} ~~in Le Sueur.~~

As a farmer Dr. Mayo did not do so well. It is said that during the winter of 1857-58 he had to give all his horses to G. M. Tousley of Le Sueur, as he had no feed for them. About this same time he ^{also} ~~even~~ engaged in steamboating on the Minnesota river with James J. Hill. That, too, did not succeed very well.

During the Indian uprising of 1862 Dr. Mayo went up to New Ulm to help care for the wounded ~~there~~ ^{at}. About this time he got possession of the body of Cut Nose, a Sioux Indian known as a savage killer. Dr. Mayo buried ~~the body, then later dug it up and wired the bones,~~ ^{I was that} ~~The skeleton was used for~~ ^{and made a} ~~that~~

~~careful~~ medical studies by the ^{sons} younger Mayos, soon to become famous doctors in their own right. In 1863 the family moved to Rochester, Minnesota, and there father and sons eventually developed the ~~renowned~~ Mayo Clinic, now known around the world.

In 1932 the Mayo brothers presented the old family home to the town of Le Sueur to be used as a library, and a historical marker was ~~erected~~ ^{placed there} by the Minnesota State Historical Society. ~~It was in this residence, built while Dr. W. W. Mayo was still a country doctor, that Dr. William J. Mayo was born, in 1861. In great part the house was built by the old doctor himself. As he was not a tall man, he built the rooms unusually low, so that a taller person must almost stoop to enter the doorways.~~

Insert this ~~A~~ page 57

(B)

For one year, 1869-70, a few Le Sueur County ~~doctors~~ doctors formed the Medical and Surgical Society of the County of Le Sueur, one of the earliest organizations of its kind in Minnesota, to protect the public from fraud in the practice of medicine. The resolutions of this group were ~~later~~ repealed, and no definite standards of medicine were laid down by law until 1883, when a few regulations were passed by the state legislature.

Fees, payments, or collections were all very uncertain ~~among~~ ^{much} in a pioneer settlement, and the country doctor was usually as poor as his immigrant neighbors. Often he made no attempt to collect fees. The variety of treatment and drugs available ~~available~~ for proper medication were correspondingly limited. Writing of the '80s, a druggist in the western part of Le Sueur County has said that for seven years his prescription file averaged only one prescription in 7 days, and that drugs were usually bought in 5 cent lots." Pity the druggist, then, too, if his business was no more than that.

Among the religious groups less common in Le Sueur County were two or three Welsh organizations. The first Welsh settlers started ^{westward} from St. Paul with three wagons drawn by 4 yokes of oxen in 1853. ^{Many more came in 1856} Their ^{church} first services were held ^{in 1856} in the Big Woods cabin of Edward Evans, in Sharon township. A church was organized the same year ~~xxix~~ by Rev. John Roberts, and a log church built in the spring of '57 was used until the '80s. The Welsh ~~organization~~ ^{church was} was formerly Calvinistic Methodist ^{thru long they} until in 1917 ~~this~~ became a branch of the Presbyterian. Another Welsh group built a church in the southeastern corner of Ottawa township in 1859.

It has been said of the Welsh that they are very religious, and from the ~~very~~ beginning they were ardent church goers. But the first winter that most of them spent in the Minnesota Valley, the winter of 1856-57, one of the coldest in history. For 60 consecutive days the temperature went below zero, and the Welshmen were ill prepared for such weather after ^{being} used to the milder winters of Wales and then later southern Ohio.

One pioneer that first winter---so the story goes---wanted to save his only pair of shoes and stockings. And so when he went to church ~~Sunday~~ morning he tucked the footwear under his arm and dashed ^{barefoot} through the snowdrifts ~~barefoot~~ for half a mile. But that was pretty cold, he found out. Therefore the next Sunday he wound each foot and leg as far as the hips with hay. On arriving ^{at} church, he calmly unwound the hay leggins inside the church, put on his shoes and stockings, and entered the pew.

Some of the Welsh farmers southeast of Le Sueur have lived on the same farm and attended the same ^{church & Sunday school} Sunday school for more than seventy years. ~~in many of the early churches, the men and women of the parish~~ ^{came} ~~kept to entirely~~ ~~separate seating arrangements.~~ For about 12 years, until the coming of the railroads, Welsh ministers used to walk nearly 30 miles from the settlements near Mankato, to hold ^{church} service in the Le Sueur County Big Woods.

Before the churches could be built, early days

~~Very is never used in such an account as you use it here~~ Very true

In the very beginning services were often held ~~services~~ in the settlers' cabins, in stores, or almost anyplace available. It is said that In Kilkenny Township the first meeting was held in the ~~timber~~ ^{forest} -- "God's first temple."

Travelling clergymen ~~who~~ journeyed hundreds of miles every month to preach the ~~sent out the first call to worship~~ of gospel. Services conducted by Father Somereisen ~~from~~ Mankato in the home of

Patrick Cantwell in 1854 were among the ~~very~~ first if not the ~~very~~ first in the county.

From 1855 to 1858 occasional services were held by mission workers of several denominations. Those who came to Le Sueur to preach as early as 1855, included Rev. C. C. Kidder, representative of the Methodist Episcopal faith from Red Wing; Rev. John Schnell, a German Methodist mission minister from St. Paul, and the Benedictine fathers of the Catholic missions, ^{were also early visitors in Le Sueur County.}

Inland settlers in the early days often travelled to the river towns to attend church, because ~~therefore~~ the river settlements were the first ~~to~~ ^{most} easily reached by the mission clergymen. The Methodists in Le Sueur and Lexington, and the Catholics in New Prague were among the first denominations

to organize church units, all in 1856. These were followed closely by others, ^{The first Lutheran church is thought to have been a log structure built in Lansingburg such as the Baptist and Lutheran about 1858-59. A township about 1856.}

Among the ~~later~~ ^{denominations} ~~organizations~~ organized in Le Sueur County at an early date was a Welsh organization. This group built a church in the southeastern corner of Ottawa township in 1859. By 1881 there were about 40 churches founded in our County, representing over a dozen denominations, ^{these were} and by 1915 about 50. Today, due to ~~centralizations~~ ^{of sects} and various unions, there are probably ^{not more than} about 37 churches. Of these the Catholic and Lutheran predominate, ^{over} ~~early~~ one third being Catholic.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION.

Another ~~early~~ ^{concern} consideration of the settlers was the problem at that time of schooling. Though education was considered a rare ^{thing} privilege not usually ~~meant~~ ^{were anxious} for the ordinary man, in any great doses, the pioneers wanted to ~~give~~ ^{elementary} their children at least a smattering of knowledge of learning.

The first schools, like

Just as the first church services, were often held in private cabins, stores, or town halls, ~~so too were the first schools.~~ ^{known school} The first ~~schools~~ ^{was} known to us in Le Sueur County ~~were~~ ⁱⁿ organized in 1856. As early as the winter of 1856 a school was opened in a private home at Lexington. About 20 students attended, taught by S. J. Baldwin. That same year ~~ix~~ a private school was organized by Miss Prude Bacon, with classes held in a small log cabin just back of the town site of Ottawa.

The first school in Le Sueur was taught by Silas Myrick in the winter of 1857. Classes were ^{held} taught in a small frame house built the previous fall. ^{I insert} The next year Miss Mattie Pearson took charge of this school for a year, ^{but} and who ^{about twenty students attended this school, also} succeeded her is not recorded. ~~From 18 to 33 students seemed to have been the~~ ^{than these} ~~average attendance.~~ Earlier classes may have been held in the settlers' log cabins in Le Sueur or Kasota, but if so we have no record of their existence.

In Kasota the first known school was taught by Elizabeth Hunt, in 1858. This, too, was in a private home. In the same year Cleveland ^{held} organized a school in the town hall, with about 50 pupils. ^{attending} Rev. A. Montgomery was one of the first ~~of teachers.~~ The first school in Cordova township was opened in a ^{building, one intended for} building log structure ^{and had} built as a store. Miss Kate Hess was the teacher ^{of} only seven pupils.

^{students.} Closely following these first ~~the~~ ^{were founded throughout} humble backwoods schools, others ^{and} institutions of learning sprang up all over the County, and log ~~the~~ ^{school} cabins ^{gave way to neat frame, and later to} were gradually supplanted by frame school houses, ^{schoolhouses.} and then by fine brick buildings.

^{also} Also ^{built} in 1857 classes were held in a small log building in Elysian township, and Waterville ^{frame} erected a small frame building ^{where} for school purposes. ^{about} Miss Davidson taught ^{pupils.} the Waterville school ^{students} of 13 scholars. In Kilkenny township 15 scholars were taught in a log house school, beginning in 1858.

insert on page 60, about 1 page

The first school in New Prague was conducted in the log cabin of Anton Philipp and taught by Mary Chalupsky. The first ~~general~~ public school, ^{built} ~~erected~~ here in 1865 ^{was then described by} is perhaps typical of early schools. An old timer has described it thus: "The chinks between the logs were daubed with plaster; there were two tiny windows and one homemade door. It looked more like a barn than a school to me....."

Mary Chalupsky was only 18 years old when she conducted her first classes ^{at New Prague.} here. In her days teachers often ^{started out} ~~were~~ very young, but ~~exceeded~~ an experience that happened to her was rare even in her ~~dayxx~~ time. One day Mary was late for school, and someone notified her father, a settler living nearby. Promptly Mr. Chalupsky came over and gave his daughter a whipping---in front of the whole school.

Robert Kure The early schools ^{had} were usually fitted out with home made, straight backed benches ~~set against the wall.~~ ~~Factory-made or "patent seats"~~ were considered very fine or extravagant. The ventilation was usually bad. In winter the room ^{was} was often bitterly cold, and ~~both~~ ^{said around} students and teacher ~~most~~ ^{sat} huddled around the stove for warmth. ^{Pupil} The children had to trudge many miles to school, carrying their lunch in little dinner pails.

The school term was usually about three to six months, ^{and} teachers were ^{very} hard to get, and almost anyone who could read and write ~~or who had a high school education~~ was acceptable. The daughters of American immigrants usually served ~~as teachers.~~ ^{automatically} ^{usually they} These young pedagogues ~~boarded around~~ in the families of their young charges, ^{pupils} and thus came to know their pupils after class hours.

Though an educated man was highly admired, a good education was ^{common} ~~not~~ usually the vogue. ^{The teaching methods in style then did much} (Perhaps a lack of color in educational methods helped ^{to} discourage thoughts of a higher education.)

Insert from p. 59

Montgomery was the first town in Le Sueur County to introduce the more practical branches of learning to its high school, ^{thus} getting away from the traditional classical education. Among the modern forms of training introduced were home economics, manual training, and agriculture.

A comparison of educational statistics for 1873 and 1915 will show an interesting trend, ~~and development~~. In the former year reports showed 86 ~~school buildings~~ school buildings, of which 52 were log, 30 frame, and 3 stone. By 1915 of 115 buildings none were log, 101 were frame, and 14 brick.

Similarly, in 1873 ~~these~~ 86 Le Sueur County schools were taught by 58 male teachers and 32 female. ^{In} 1915 the ratio was 165 female and only 21 male teachers. By 1934 this had become 141 lady teachers to 17 men.

In those early schools, and even much later, laboratories, manual training, commercial departments, and gymnasiums as we know them today were hardly dreamed of. Vocational instruction and the teaching of "practical knowledge" was rare, but instead a great deal of emphasis was placed on memory work--learning long passages of prose and poetry by heart. Switches and stout rods were symbols of authority frequently put to severe use.

Local history, civics, useful arts, and sometimes even physiology were almost entirely disregarded. The "Three Rs," Reading, 'Riting, and 'Rithmetic were the classroom standbys. Books were scarce and often ^{had to be} furnished by the teacher. A little history, geography, or physiology completed the curriculum. Spelling in a sing song voice and group recitation were the common practice. McGuffey's Reader was a text used almost universally.

Insert here *below after paragraph from pg 59 - Unit insert entirely.*
 Toward the turn of the century academies became numerous, ^{indeed,} much more common than they are today. An academy was a ^{managed} sort of privately run high school, ^{which} charging a tuition fee to ^{ed} its students. ^{and} They supplemented grade school education, ^{and sometimes gave very good courses in music and some of the arts. To be an} then just as Junior college today is the next step after high school. Academy graduates in those days ^{carried} ranked high in social and business standing.

~~not~~ But to a great extent the children of the early settlers had to be content with very little formal education. For a girl ^{fragile} Much schooling was not ~~thought to be~~ considered becoming, and a boy was expected to go to work very early. At about 12 years of age boys were "bound out" or apprenticed to learn a trade or ^{experience} business from the ground floor up.

~~Eventually all these boys became craftsmen or specialists of some sort or another, learning their trade by ~~experience~~ experience rather than from books. Many simply remained on the ^{land} soil and took over the serious business of farming where their fathers left off.~~

Interesting work.

L.V.

EARLY JOURNALISM.

became a settled community,
As the Minnesota Valley ~~took on the marks of civilization,~~
need was felt, that of
another ~~early consideration was often~~ a newspaper. ~~Man is always curious to~~
~~know what is going on around him. At first the settlers had to depend on their~~
heard only community news, passed from one neighbor to another.
~~own eyes and ears, and in such circumstances, of course, their "nose for news"~~
~~did not reach very far.~~

~~not~~ Even after the first newspapers were organized the ~~pioneers~~ often
had to wait ~~for~~ weeks to ~~learn~~ ^{get} the State and National news. ~~Outside tidings~~
which had to
~~must~~ come in by the existing means of communication, ~~by the river,~~ ^{by} narrow muddy
by the scattered
roads, or later, ~~a few fledgling railroad systems.~~ Naturally the news was slow
in arriving.

Some sources say that the first newspaper in our County was published at Le Sueur in 1865. But records of the Minnesota Historical Society show that this honor must go to the village of Cleveland, where Thomas M. Perry established the Cleveland Leader in 1858.

Before coming to Cleveland Mr. Perry ~~had~~ ^{was} been in the publishing business at St. Peter. From July, 1858, to sometime in 1860 he published the Leader, then returned to St. Peter to print the Little Giant. But once again he moved to Cleveland, and established the Cleveland Herald. After a few months he sold the equipment to Monroe Edwards, who took the presses to lower Le Sueur and started the Le Sueur County Gazette, which he ran until ~~he was~~ ^{Edwards was} killed in the Indian rebellion of 1862.

Another Minnesota journalist came across the river to Le Sueur County from St. Peter. This was James J. Green, who had ~~been~~ published the Minnesota Statesman at St. Peter. In 1865 he moved his paper to Le Sueur, where it was destroyed by fire. ~~This is sometimes said to be the first paper in~~ ^{his was referred to as the}
his is also
Le Sueur County.

A year later M. R. Prendergast and Felton Vollmer founded the Le Sueur Courier. In 1866 this was the only newspaper in our County. As ~~the~~ ^{store} trading facilities in our territory at that time were ~~still comparatively undeveloped~~ ^{small and scattered}, the St. Paul ~~stores~~ ^{merchants} used to advertise ~~as freely~~ in the Courier as ^{much as} did the Le Sueur stores---and ~~they got~~ ^{did} plenty of business, too. About this time the editors of the Courier ^{used to} complained ^{of the} that high water ^{which} often held up the circulation of the paper, as the stages could not get across the river for several days.

After his ~~first unsuccessful~~ venture at Le Sueur, James J. Green ^{was} ~~was in~~ ^{at} turn editor of journals at Winona, St. Cloud, and Minneapolis. In 1873 he returned to his old ~~stamping grounds~~ ^{place and} to found the Le Sueur Sentinel, ^{an eight column} a Democratic, ~~8 column sheet~~ weekly. This became one of the most influential and successful papers in southern Minnesota, and its publisher was for many years an important figure, ~~in Minnesota history~~ ^{He was once the} and ~~was one-time~~ ^{and became} mayor of Le Sueur. In 1911 the paper he organized was moved to Waterville, ~~to become~~ the Waterville Sentinel.

In the territorial and early settlement period of Minnesota many small weekly papers ^{were founded} ~~sprang up~~, ^{Some of them were published only} to flourish for a few weeks or months, ^{Some kept going for} sometimes even years, but ~~soon~~ ^{soon} died out. The Le Sueur County ^{was} ~~papers~~ ^{journals} we have just mentioned ^{indeed} were among the earliest, ^{though other Minnesota newspapers had} but the ~~very first~~ ^{first} Minnesota papers had preceded them by almost ten years.

~~no~~ The Cleveland Leader, apparently the first paper in our County, was the 78th Minnesota weekly newspaper to be organized; ~~the Cleveland Herald~~ ^{Of the weekly papers} was the 146th. ~~But~~ ^{one} of 151 journals started before the end of 1862, only about 12 ^{remain} ~~are now alive~~, ^{The seven} Of ~~7~~ ^{seven} daily papers ~~started~~ ^{published} up to 1858, only one ^{is being} ~~published now~~ ---the St. Paul Pioneer Press, first newspaper in Minnesota, founded in 1849, ~~is now alive~~.

Name of

Thus we see that Le Sueur County's ~~first short lived~~ papers

~~merely~~ only followed the general trend. Many were swept away by the panic of 1857.

Of a total of 173 journals started before 1866, only 16 are now ~~alive~~ ^{being published} and ~~of~~

9 dailies began ~~1858-65~~ ^{between 1865} only one, a Winona paper, now survives.

Following ~~these first pioneer papers~~ ^{The Le Sueur County many} others sprang up. ~~Among~~ ^{Between 1877} and 1900 there were at least ~~nine others~~ ^{nine new ones}. These, in Le Sueur County, we find the following early papers:

~~The Montgomery Standard, organized in 1877 by Joseph Chadderdon. Nothing further is known of this sheet.~~

~~The Le Sueur News, established by E. P. Huntington in 1879, now merged as the News-Herald~~

~~The Waterville Advance, established as a Republican paper in 1884, and later absorbed the Waterville Journal and (in '86) and the Waterville Gazette (in 1895).~~

~~The Montgomery Messenger, organized as an independent paper by Joseph Cahdderdon in 1888.~~

~~The New Prague Times, a Democratic organ established by W. E. Taylor in 1889.~~

~~The Elysian Enterprise, founded by William K. Wilcox, in 1893 as a Republican sheet.~~

~~The Le Sueur County Leader (1895) and the Le Sueur County Democrat (1900), which consolidated in 1907 as the Leader-Democrat.~~

Most of these pioneer papers devoted considerable space to national and foreign news, ~~but~~ ^{and} paid comparatively little attention to local happenings.

Feature material such as ~~selections~~ ^{large dailies} from famous authors, wise sayings, and even continued stories were popular. Editorial ~~articles~~ ^{newspapers} were often reprinted from the big city papers. And papers in those days were much more informal ^{word} than today, rival editors ^{more banane} often engaging in public editorial battles that sometimes actually resulted in physical combat.

Though the papers of those early ^{years} ~~days~~ were much different from today's great metropolitan dailies of telephoto pictures and radioed news, they

probably had a comparable influence on the ^{readers} public pulse. News sheets then carried ~~many~~ advertisements on the front page, and were not too careful to avoid running publicity for fake schemes that sought only to ~~flummox~~ ^{fleece} the public. But as ~~the~~ ^{the} whole they had the development and growth of their community ^{truly} genuinely at heart, and did ^{a good deal} much to advance civilization in the Minnesota backwoods.

BACKWOODS CULTURE.

~~To a certain extent the early newspapers, and other social early~~ ^{Besides the} agencies took the place of a higher education ^{there were} for those who were not able to get much schooling. ~~The late fifties many literary societies, debating clubs, and singing schools sprang up everywhere to develop local talent.~~ ^{developing throughout the new settlements} ^{raising} Husking bees, quilting bees, and ~~building~~ ^{raising} bees brought the settlers together, to ~~and gave them a chance to~~ ^{and gave them a chance to} help each other and discuss the latest news ^{of the day}. ~~In their spare hours the young people~~ ^{fancy dress balls and speed downs.} folks often gathered for dancing parties, taffy pulls, and sleigh rides, ^{loving} fun just as do young people today.

~~By 1857~~ ^{By} billiard tables and bowling allies had already been introduced. Travelling troupes of ~~dramatists~~ ^{players} occasionally came ~~to town~~ ^{through the} with a ~~stage~~ ^{or a} show. ~~Travelling animal shows, fancy dress balls, and "Panoramas", were other~~ ^{fairly common} entertainments.

~~The~~ ^{unrolled} Panoramas were large paintings on canvas, a sort of forerunner to the movies. Huge rolls of the canvas were ~~unfurled~~ ^{unrolled} before the ~~spectators~~ ^{audience}, or ~~displayed in a large circle already unfurled.~~ ^{displayed in full in a large circle.} Usually the paintings were a series portraying ~~a~~ ^{some} story or event in history.

~~Especially~~ ^{Especially} among the Irish a wedding was ~~an~~ ^{the} occasion for ~~rousing~~ ^a celebration. Friends ~~and~~ ^{and} relatives came from miles around for the feasting and dancing. ~~And~~

~~They~~ ^{to} united, too, when it came time to bury the dead, or minister to the sick.

Both the Irish and ^{the} Bohemians who settled here were especially fond of dancing. Settlers often travelled ten to twenty miles to attend a dance. ~~Most popular were the quadrilles and round dances. Usually the dances were held~~

~~During the winter, for in summer there was little time for pleasure. Long sleigh rides were made with the thermometer hovering below zero, but the fun-seekers were well bundled up and didn't mind.~~

~~Many of the dances were held in the settlers' cabins. Gracefulness was not always characteristic of these early dances. More important was just to get together, to laugh and talk and be happy. Weeks of seclusion in the woods made human companionship doubly sweet.~~

~~no H~~ ^{With such a} ^{took} ^{giving & coming} ~~Until horses began to replace oxen, the round trip often consumed nearly two days. Sometimes the merry-makers sang most of the way. Life was not as fast then, and people had no need to hurry.~~

~~Many customs once common in our County are now almost forgotten.~~

~~Once it was considered bad form to ask a person's name. Rather one should say, "What might you be calling yourself, stranger?" When poultry was killed for the market, the feathers were always preserved for ticks and pillows; and nearly every farm kitchen had a turkey wing, used as a sort of whisk broom.~~

~~Other annual activities once much more popular was the manufacture at home of sausages and head cheese, making a yeast preparation from hops gathered in the woods, and cooking maple syrup. In the early spring gathering the maple sap from the Big Woods trees was very common.~~

~~Unfortunately, among the settlers, as among us, all of course, everything was not harmony and industry and good~~

^{will:} ~~fellowship. In any frontier settlement the methods and manners are apt to be none too nice. There is apt to be a certain rowdyism naturally follows the frontier. Saloons were usually plentiful, making preservation of the peace a lively task. Street fights~~

~~were frequent. Along with the homesteaders were always a few drifters and adventure-seekers, who helped make the frontier a bit rowdy.~~ ^{and} ^{fight} ^{were not uncommon.}

~~And at that point the frontier had use for the first lawyers and judges. Judge A. G. Chatfield, who was the founder of Belle Plaine in Scott~~

County, was the first in this part of Minnesota to practice law or preside over court. He was what was known as a travelling or circuit judge, and held the first courts in nine Minnesota counties: ~~including Hennepin and Winona~~

In our County the first court was held on September 26, 1853, at Le Sueur, Judge Chatfield officiating. The grand jury sworn in by Chatfield brought ^{it} the first indictment against one of its own members, Charles Gadwa. He was charged with selling liquor to the Indians. ~~Just how the accused one happened to be a member of the jury is very mysterious, but many irregularities slipped by in those early days that wouldn't be allowed today.~~

Perhaps the earliest lawyer to take up his residence in our County was A. W. Bangs, who came to Le Sueur about 1861. In the sixties (about 1864) also came Francis Cadwell, son of Edward Cadwell, who was with George Washington when he crossed the Delaware.

Another early lawyer was Judson Jones, who came to Le Sueur about the same time as Bangs. ^{The community always thought} Jones ~~was always thought to be~~ a bit odd. Among other ^{strange deeds,} things, he fixed the date of his death ^{twenty} 20 years in advance, and ~~then~~ had a monument ^{put up} ~~erected~~ with dates upon it ^{erected} during his lifetime. ^{However, he} ~~But his predictions were~~ not fulfilled, and he died when about ^{in only} ~~only~~ half of ~~the~~ allotted time had passed.

Insert
here

XX

~~standards~~
 As was true in the practice of medicine, standards of the ~~law~~ ^{legal} profession in those ~~early~~ ^{also} days were not by far as strict as they have become, as an ~~amusing story told by~~ today. A tale from the recollections of Judge Charles E. Flandrau aptly illustrates this point. ~~shows.~~

Judge Flandrau was a prominent figure in early Minnesota, ~~known~~ as a lawyer, judge, writer, and Indian fighter. In the early fifties a Scotchman named Tom Cowan came to Minnesota, ~~attempted to~~ ^{he did} Cowan was an intelligent ~~chap~~ ^{and fellow} with a ready tongue, ~~but could not~~ ^{do very well} succeed in the fur trading business. As lawyers were scarce, he decided to study law with Judge Flandrau. After about six weeks of hard study, Flandrau admitted him to the bar. ~~His knowledge of law was limited, but he made up for that in dash and oratory, and got along splendidly.~~ ^{his limited knowledge of law}

One day Cowan came up to the judge and ~~exclaimed~~ ^{said}, "Judge, I am going to try a suit at Le Sueur tomorrow that involves \$2,500. It is the biggest suit we have ever had in the valley, and I think it ought to have some Latin in it, and I want you to furnish me with that ingredient."

To which Flandrau replied with a chuckle, "Tom, what is it all about? I must know what kind of a suit it is before I can supply the Latin appropriately, and especially as I am not very much up in Latin myself."

~~As the~~ ^{low} suit in question involved an insurance policy contract, ^{so} the quotation decided upon was, "Non haec in federe veni," which means freely, "I did not enter into this contract." ~~Cowan was delighted with the choice.~~

But in crossing Le Sueur prairie on the way to the ~~trial~~ ^{insurance policy} ~~in~~ ^{proposed} ~~the pair~~ ^{they came across} encountered a man who was under arrest for booting a fellow man out of his house. The defendant claimed the accuser had insulted his family, and wanted Cowan to plead his case. ~~As the case in Le Sueur was postponed,~~ ^{and} Cowan ^{began} set about to defend his new client that ~~very~~ ^{same} afternoon.

The plaintiff proved the action, and then Cowan proceeded to explain the provocation. If there was no criminal intent, and the act appeared

to be justified, he claimed, there could be no crime. And then, wrote Judge Flandrau, "Casting a quizzical glance at me, he struck a tragic attitude, and thundered out: 'Gentlemen of the jury, it is indelibly recorded in all the works of Roman jurisprudence, Non Haec in federe veni, which means there can be no crime without criminal intent.'The effect was electrical; the jury acquitted the prisoner, and we drove home fully convinced that the law was not an exact science. "

Development of Transportation
CHAPTER VI. MIDDLE PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT.

A DEVELOPING TRANSPORTATION---
 RIVER TRAFFIC.

An important factor in the progress of

any new country is ~~always its~~ transportation facilities.

It was
 Because Le Sueur County ^{*bordered*} ~~was situated along~~ the Minnesota river, ^{*-that*} it was settled before ~~many other~~ ^{*the*} inland counties. At first the river was the only means of transportation, and for many years remained the easiest and most important high-way to the frontier settlements of the Minnesota valley.

Passenger and freight traffic on the Minnesota had its hey day between 1852 and 1871. By 1858 there were nearly 400 ^{*boat*} arrivals at St. Paul from the Minnesota river. In 1859 one steamer, the Freighter, even tried to pass up the Minnesota into the Red River of the North, but ~~got~~ ^{*was*} stranded about ten miles below Big Stone Lake and ~~was~~ left there ~~to rot~~. In years of very high water ^{*such as*} ~~it might have been~~ ^{*things*} ~~is possible, that feat might have been accomplished.~~

Le Sueur ^{*was*} ~~became~~ an important steamboat stop. ^{*at this time*} ~~on the river.~~ At one ^{*then*} time merchants of the river towns depended on the steamboats for practically all of their supplies. At the end of ^{*the*} navigation ^{*season*} or in drought years when some ^{*carriers*} boats failed to get through, prices ^{*would rise*} ~~were apt to go up.~~ ^{*e*} The years 1858 and 1862 were the ~~banner years.~~ ^{*traveled*} Many boats were bound for destinations far upstream from Le Sueur County, ^{*news*} ~~but vessel movement and any lore of the river was news and gossip to all the river towns.~~ ^{*and news of first importance in all the river towns*}

no it Just above Carver the "Little Rapids" were ~~often~~ treacherous, ^{*and often*} ~~keeping boats~~ kept vessels from passing upstream in times of low water. ~~Therefore a stock~~ ^{*such times*} question along the river seemed to be, "How are the rapids?" During low water only the smallest boats could pass, and only the most daring pilots risked their vessels. *"How are the rapids?" people would ask, all along the river.*

In dry ^{seasons - the} years when steamboats could not ^{pass} get up the river, barges were ^{used} resorted to, and became common about 1863. The first ones were simple lumber barges, or rafts, with no motive power. But these were soon improved to carry ^{heavy loads} all bulky materials, such as lime, grain, and rocks, ~~and~~ were towed ^{up} the river by small tug boats.

~~One~~ One string of barges hooked together carried 30,000 bushels of wheat. By 1866 there were over 175 barges in use on the river, ^{of them} some were very large. One was 142 feet long, 25 feet wide, and capable of carrying 114 tons. That same year wheat shipments from the Minnesota valley totaled 688,641 bushels. Of this amount, 22,000 bushels were shipped from Le Sueur, and 5,000 from Ottawa.

~~The establishment of~~ ^{the establishment of} Setting up the Sioux Indian Agencies, and Fort Ridgely on the upper river in 1853 gave an added impetus to steamboat traffic. When the boats reached the Redwood Agency, ^{At the Redwood Agency} the Indians would run out shouting, "Nitonka-pata-wata-washta," -- "your big fire canoe is good." In 1856 the steamer Clarion took 150 tons of government supplies from Le Sueur to the agency. ^{In 1857 one hundred} pounds of freight could be shipped from St. Paul to Le Sueur for forty cents.

Of the many steamers employed in the Minnesota river traffic, comparatively few were built in Minnesota. One of these few was the Albany, a boat of very light draft (about 42 tons) built during the winter of 1860 at Ottawa by Capt. Davidson and sold to Capt. John Webber.

The Albany ^{was} had been built expressly for low water conditions in ^{being of very light draft, about 42 tons} the Minnesota river. In 1861 it was the first boat of the year up the river,

leaving St. Paul March 30 and arriving at Mankato on April 1. ^{although} ~~that spring was a~~ flood year. Old traders and Indians claimed that the river was higher than since 1821. ^{but by June the waters had shrunk so much that only the smaller boats} ^{the little} could go upstream past the Little Rapids. ^{twenty-two} and the Albany made 22 trips that year, ^{as far as Mankato} as far as Mankato -- more than any other boat.

^{she}
 The ~~next year~~, in 1862, ~~The Albany~~ was once again the first boat up the river, arriving at Mankato ~~on~~ April 3. That year she made 19 trips to Mankato, while her closest competitor made only 13. From 1860 through 1866 the Albany saw strenuous service. In the years of dry weather she made many trips just between the rapids and points above.

In January, 1865, the State Legislature appropriated \$3000 to improve Minnesota river conditions. Capt. ~~Jennex~~ John Webber of ^{Ottawa} ~~the Albany~~ was appointed one of two commissioners to oversee the work. The river was cleared of snags and other improvements ^{were} made, ~~with~~ which aided navigation considerably.

Steamboating days on the Minnesota ~~was~~ were glamorous ones, ^{and the} Pilots, captains, ^{important people} and mates were heroic figures. All the boys of the Valley dreamed of becoming rivermen when they grew up. At the ^{aboard} haying sound of the whistle, young and old ran to the levees, and farmers ^{along} near the water front ^{women} gathered to watch the paddle wheel boats churn by.

^{with} After a long winter, the first boat bringing supplies and news was ^{met with cheers} naturally a big event. During the Indian scare, steamers anchored at night in midstream. ~~One captain arriving at Saver found the~~ ^{to} Steamers often had to stop ^{while} ^{was cut} to cut fuel from the forests, and the passengers would help. Smokestacks sometimes tangled in over-hanging branches; sand bars, snags, and low water were common ^{hazards} ~~in~~ obstacles. When a vessel struck a snag, the damages would often have to be repaired on the spot, while the passengers sat on the banks eating wild strawberries or hunting in the woods. Average progress upstream was about 14 miles a day, but downstream the speed was much better. One of the fastest boats steamed from Mankato to St. Paul in 15 hours.

River traffic began to wane after the railroad was built to Mankato in 1868. ^{fast dwindled} When in 1871 the Northwestern road reached New Ulm, and navigation on the Minnesota ^{In the ten years} slumped rapidly. From 1876 to 1886, and from 1886 to 1897, no

steamboat was seen on the river, ^{and} In 1897 an excursion boat made a final voyage to Mankato. ^{So} Steamboating on the Minnesota began and ended with an excursion.

DELIVERING THE MAIL**-STAGE LINES.

^{During the time of river} Since transportation at first was dependent on the ~~river, water conditions often interfered with the delivery~~ ^{was not as regular as certain, and} of the mail, and service was very irregular. But before long horse drawn stages began to take over the mail business along with inaugurating a regular passenger service.

^{regular stage} The first satisfactory mail service, ^{which came} making deliveries twice a week, was a privately owned system established by J. C. Burbank. This was in the middle fifties; ~~but a few isolated routes had been operated much earlier.~~ In 1849 there were only four land mail routes in our entire State. ^{six years later} By 1854 there were 25, and by 1856 these had increased to 49. In the next two years the number again doubled, till in 1860 most of southern Minnesota was criss-crossed with a network of stage lines.

In the ~~triangle~~ of territory lying between the Mississippi and the Minnesota river in southern Minnesota, the first stage line^s was established in January, 1853. This ~~route~~ line followed the route of the old Government Road, now roughly U.S. highway 169. Coming across the Minnesota river by ferry at Bloomington, the stages followed the south side of the river, through Shakopee, down into our County, through Le Sueur, across to St. Peter, and then up to Mankato and Fort Ridgely.

By 1855 a line had been organized from Winona to St. Peter, and the next year a similar line connected Red Wing and St. Peter. Both of these lines were ~~also~~ a great boon to the settlers of Le Sueur County. ~~The early stages sometimes failed to keep their schedules over bad, wilderness roads, or sometimes lost a parcel when mishaps overtook them on the trail,~~ ^{but} But the stages were usually

Insert

In the first years of settlement mail contracts between nearby villages were sometimes let out to private ^{parties} ~~parties~~. For example, between M Montgomery and Wheatland ~~the mail was~~ a blacksmith of Wheatland ~~had~~ ^{who} ~~been~~ granted the contract. ^{ago} His son and daughter took turns carrying the mail ~~back and forth~~ ^{each way} the six miles between the two places. Today Wheatland has ^{not} ~~disappeared~~ from the map, ^{on} but Montgomery can be found in any United States Postal ^{Guide} ~~directory~~.

Not infrequently mail was also brought from village to village within the County by horseback. Usually ~~those first years~~ the mail traffic was not ~~very~~ heavy, and could be easily handled in such a fashion. Between some of the small villages five or six letters to ~~carry~~ was considered a large ^{delivery} ~~number~~, and of course there ~~were~~ ^{of course, there were} at that time very few newspapers or magazines.

~~very conscientious servants of the public. In a few instances there is even record of their making free delivery of the mail.~~

Insert here

The Burbank company operated several other mail routes radiating from St. Paul, and a line from Galena, Illinois to Dubuque, Iowa. Another stage operator, perhaps the most prominent mail stage operator in Minnesota, was M. O. Walker. At first the stage companies clashed over trade, establishing rival routes, and in competing with each other passenger fares were at one time reduced almost to nothing.

The stage operators also staked out many new roads and built many bridges at their own expense. During the winter of 1863 one company was using about 200 men and 700 horses. But springs on ^{the} ~~these~~ coaches were crude, the cushions were mere pads, and even in the coldest weather the cabs were not heated. The drivers rode outside. Travelling by stage coach was a far cry from the Pullman comfort ~~of~~ of today.

After the first railroad came through the Valley in the late sixties, the stage business dwindled. ~~From then on until regular rural mail routes were established, contracts were let for short distance "Star Routes."~~ These were short connecting lines between railroads, serving two or three ~~that~~ ^{then} rural post offices. ~~The settlers had to call for their mail at the established stations.~~ ^{which the settlers might call}

P.V. 3/4

THE CIVIL WAR.

Barely had the settlers of Le Sueur County become established in their new homes, founded log churches and schools, and hewed a few crude roads out of the Big Woods, when the outbreak of the Civil War brought new problems. Men of Minnesota were the first to volunteer for service. Many departed almost at once for the southern battlefields, and left their wives at home to cultivate the soil and provide for the family.

Columbus Brock, whose father was one of the first settlers in Kilkenny township, was the first man from Minnesota to fall in the Civil War. He was killed at the battle of Bull Run, a member of the first Minnesota infantry.

One of the most remarkable escapes was that of Jonathan H. Robbins, later a resident of Cordova township. At the battle of Chickamauga he was struck by shot six times. Three times the next man at his right fell dead, and once the soldier at his left. When he himself was finally carried off the field of battle wounded, his knapsack, and also the coffee can which hung on his belt, were found to have been pierced by many bullets.

INDIAN TROUBLES. Hardly had the Civil War begun when a new threat burst upon the Valley settlements---Indian massacre. Even though some of the settlements had been warned by friendly Indians, the average Big Woods pioneer did not even dream of an Indian rebellion. How then did it come about? Let us look back briefly on the story of Indian-white relationships.

In early settlement times the Dakotah Indians were more or less friendly to the whites, but yet resented any of their traditions being upset by the pale faces. There were occasional Indian scares among the settlers, but most of these proved to be merely rumors.

Sometimes the Indians set fires which spread to the white men's hay meadows, and burnt their feed supplies. After moving to the reservation in 1853, many of the Redmen refused to stay at their new homes, but came back to

sometimes they set fires which spread to the white men's
 camp on their old hunting grounds. *Wahpekute* All of this was bound to cause ~~some~~ *many* friction
 between the two races. *meadows.*

In 1857 a band of outlaw ^{Wahpekute} Indians under Chief Inkpaduta massacred
 42 settlers in northern Iowa and southern Minnesota. Inkpaduta was ~~supposed~~ *rumored* to
 be advancing on Mankato and the Minnesota Valley, *and* Le Sueur County was thrown
 into a panic. ~~But~~ *nothing* ever came of this scare, *and* Inkpaduta ~~he~~ *fled* escaped to
~~other parts.~~ *the west.* Friendly Indians and white soldiers were ~~sent~~ *after* in pursuit of him,
 but he was never captured. *It may be that* ~~Perhaps~~ his escape ~~served~~ to weaken the Indian's
 respect for the white man's authority.

Wandering groups of Indians habitually walked into the settlers'
 cabins without knocking. Some of them were ~~great~~ *would* thieves and terrorized the
 women and children. ~~Window pecking was their common practice.~~ *On the* But as a whole, *however,*
~~the red men and white men got along well.~~ *meeting* The Indians weren't usually the "Red
 devils" they have been ~~pic~~ *meeting* pictured. More often the vicious Indians were ones
 which had been ill treated by the whites.

no # As the ~~Indians and whites~~ *usually* could not understand each other's
 language, they ~~customarily~~ *used to* conversed by gestures or sign language. In many
 localities the whites treated the Indian as a neighbor. A few ~~even~~ had in-
 timates friends among the Indians. *A pioneer who lived as a boy in Sharon*
township has expressed This friendly attitude of the settlers ~~is typified~~ *his* in the following
 recollections of a pioneer who lived as a boy in Sharon township: "The country
 was full of Indians when I was a boy. They were everywhere, and we never
 knew when they would appear at our cabin. There was one large camp near St.
 Thomas and another on the shores of Rice Lake. The braves spent their time
 hunting and fishing or staging their ~~tribal~~ dances, and other ceremonies. They
 did not molest the whites, however, and we got along nicely with them. In

fact, Indian boys were my playmates, and I had a great time with them. We used to shoot small game with bows and arrows and I became as proficient with the bow and arrow as most of the Indians boys. I never feared them, and it seemed strange to me as a lad that they went on the war path. I learned more about the circumstances which caused the trouble later on, but at the time I was puzzled. "

THE SIOUX

WAR.

And today, too, it is hard to realize that at one time all white civilization in Minnesota was in danger of being wiped out by the Indians. By ¹⁸⁵⁸ ~~1862, the year of the outbreak,~~ the Dakotahs were better ^{provided for in food and shelter} ~~clad~~ than before, ^{And} ~~and~~ some of their annuity money went to buy white men's clothes. In the following years a more orderly and peaceful spirit seemed to prevail. But this settling down proved to be merely the lull before the storm.

The settlers that poured into the Minnesota valley never treated the Indians with much respect. More often than not, it seemed to the Indians, their white "brothers" wanted only land, always more land, and they were quick to acquire what they wanted. If necessary, they would even cheat the Redmen, and always got the land as cheaply as possible, for much less than it was worth.

By ^{By} 1862, on the brink of the Sioux outbreak, the Dakotah Indians were ^{enraged at} ~~angered~~ also by delay of the annual payments promised them by the Treaties of 1851. Some of their people were ^{reported} ~~starving~~, the Indians ^{said} ~~claimed~~. Thomas J. Galbraith, a Shakopee lawyer, had been appointed agent at the Yellow Medicine upper Indian agency. ^{It has been said} ~~Some have said~~ that he was not ^{did not} ~~a well qualified~~ to protect the rights of the Indians, ^{and} ~~that he was not at all diplomatic.~~ ^{About this} ~~And about the~~ same time a trader at the upper agency, ~~when~~ asked what the Indians should eat, replied, "Let them eat grass, if they are hungry."

All these things heightened the ^{ice feeling} ~~tension~~, until only a kindling spark was needed to set off the powder keg. That spark touching off the fireworks

came in August, 1862, with the murder of five white persons at Action, in Meeker County, by a group of braves formerly of Chief Shakpe's band. Old Chief ~~Shakpe II~~ ^{Shakpe II}, a friend of the white men, had just died, ~~and~~ his son was ~~a~~ ^{and} stupid fellow. Hockokoduta, ~~a~~ brother of the old chief, became the real leader of the band.

Hockokoduta hated the white men, and although this attack had ^{now that it happened he} not been planned, thought ~~that~~ ^{that} the time ~~was~~ ^{was} ripe to strike. ^{he had not planned} Many of the white warriors were away to the Civil War in the South. White blood had already been shed, ^{now he avenged} Hockokoduta, himself not being a hereditary chief, was not ~~considered~~ considered to have the prestige worthy of leading an Indian rebellion, but ~~he~~ ^{he} was ~~anxious~~ ^{anxious} to start a general attack on the settlers, ^{however} ~~Therefore~~ he brought ~~the~~ ^{took} the murderers ~~downstream~~ to the encampment of the famous ~~Indian~~ chief, Little Crow.

Little Crow was at first ~~scornful~~ ^{doubtful} and indifferent, but was finally all but forced to accept ~~the~~ ^{of the rebellions} command. The first extensive massacre took place at the Lower Indian Agency, just below Little Crow's encampment or about eight miles below the mouth of the Redwood river. Among the first white men to be killed was ~~also~~ the trader ~~to~~ who had said, ^{the Indians showed eat grass if} "Let them eat grass," and ~~he~~ ^{they} was ~~found~~ ^{was} ~~with~~ ^{was} his mouth ~~was~~ ^{was} found stuffed ~~with~~ ^{with} grass. ^{were hungry.}

When the news reached Governor Ramsey, he immediately put ~~his~~ ^{the} political ~~friend~~ ^{started} foe but personal friend, Henry H. Sibley, in charge of white troops. Sibley at once ~~set out~~ ^{arrived at} by boat up the Minnesota river with four companies of infantry. The troops included many recruits just enlisted in the Civil War, who had ~~gotten down to~~ ^{arrived at} Fort Snelling just in time to be sent back to fight the Sioux.

^{Had the} If the Chippewas and the Winnebago Sioux ~~had~~ ^{this} joined the Dakotahs in the ~~next~~ ^{as} uprising, Minnesota history might have ended abruptly. But the Chippewas, ^{stay out of it,} were of course traditional enemies of the Sioux, and ~~decided to remain aloof,~~ ^{Indians loved} and the Winnebagoes ~~were a peace-loving tribe.~~

Although most able bodied men were already fighting in the Civil War, citizen-soldier units were organized in Le Sueur County, ^{as} ~~and~~ elsewhere, ^{actions} ~~for local protection.~~ The raids did not reach quite into Le Sueur ^{their} County, but many of these recruits saw action elsewhere.

The most famous of these Indian fighters was a ^{company} ~~band~~ known as the Le Sueur Tigers, led by Captain Tousley. The Tigers rescued settlers near Fort Leavenworth, and two units helped defend New Ulm. ^{indeed,} Their coming is said to have saved New Ulm from the Sioux massacre. ^{and of them were} Those killed in action here were Lieut. A. M. Edwards, William Lasky, William Maloney, M. Aherin, and Washington Kulp. ^{in that engagement.}

Col. Charles E. Flandrau, in charge of the defense of New Ulm, had drawn up his men for battle outside of town, but in the first rush of ^{the} ~~Indian attack~~, 60 were killed or wounded within half an hour. The defenders fell back toward the town, and the fighting from ^{after that} ~~that point~~ was carried on from the very streets of the town, the soldiers firing from ~~buildings or the best vantage points they could find.~~

^{no} ~~no~~ The Le Sueur Tigers meanwhile ^{had taken} ~~took~~ possession of a large mill, which ~~it is said they~~ "loopholed and barricaded with sacks of wheat and flour." ^{helped to} They were largely responsible for keeping the Indians in the west part of town. This was on Saturday, August 23. The next day the Indians withdrew, and soon afterwards Flandrau retreated with 153 wagons of women, children, and wounded ^{men} to Mankato. Probably 1500 whites had ^{been} ~~saved from scalping~~, but only about 25 ^{New Ulm} ~~houses were left standing in Mankato.~~ The rest had been burned.

Like most of the Minnesota Valley, Le Sueur County was thrown into a panic by the ^{were} ~~prospect~~ of Indian massacre. The settlers here ~~thought~~ ^{felt} that they had ~~even~~ more to fear than ^{settlers} ~~farther up the valley~~, where most of the

in Le Sueur County,

Indians lived on reservations. Here, ^{the} Indians ~~had~~ lived in camps among the settlers almost like neighbors, knowing all their habits and whereabouts. But ^{Le Sueur County} the Sioux here ~~overestimated the strength of the whites and did not dare to~~ ^{the settlers} attack without reinforcements. Instead they left to join the fighting elsewhere.

In spite of the fact that ^{the} many Indians turned upon ^{the white men} their former friends, there were ^{many} ~~many~~ cases of Indian heroism and courage ^{often protected} in protecting the ^{friends} whites from ~~their own attacks~~ those on the warpath. Not all the Redmen forgot their old friends. Many of the chiefs had been forced into ~~the~~ battle against their better judgement, ^{secretly} and did all they could ~~on the sly~~ to protect white women and children.

Many Le Sueur County residents fled to Belle Plaine, Jordan, and Shakopee ^{people} to the north. ^{only to find that} But at those places again many of the residents had ^{north} also fled, often to St. Paul or Fort Snelling. All the valley towns were in a stage of great confusion. ^{terror} Perhaps one beneficial effect of all this ^{was that} ~~was that~~ immigrant settlers of different customs and nationalities, Germans, Irish, Scandinavians, Bohemians, and Yanks, were all thrown together and came to know each other and understand one another better.

In some cases ~~the~~ settlers chose to stay on their claims, inspite of hearing tales of the slaughter to the west of them. ^{they watched their} ~~Watching others hurry~~ ^{neighbors leaving taking} through ~~driving~~ carrying a few belongings with them, sometimes even driving ^{ahead of them} a few head of stock before them, ^{but they stayed on} these pioneers nevertheless preferred to stick to their homes. When ^{and they} an Indian alarm came, ^{they would} they retreated to cellars or to caves dug in the woods.

^{In} Back in Le Sueur after the men left to fight at New Ulm the women were left in fear and trembling. Mrs. Mayo, the wife of Dr. William W. ^{proved herself a heroine} Mayo, ^{she got} then proved to be ~~a~~ of heroic stuff. ^{and} Getting all the women together, she had them ~~all~~ put on men's clothing. Then they stood on the edge of town shouldering

in some cases
 rifles and fence rails or sticks so the Indians would think there was a large force of men guarding the Le Sueur homes. *ed* Perhaps ~~the precaution was unnecessary;~~ *may have been*
~~on the other hand, it may be that some~~ *went back to*
~~but perhaps an Indian scout saw the make-believe garrison and went back to re-~~
~~inform his fellows.~~ *seeing*
 port that Le Sueur was well armed. At least Mrs. Mayo helped to keep everybody cool and unfrightened. *to attack.*

The soldiers sent out from Fort Snelling to combat the Indians were grimly determined to avenge the slain settlers, and sometimes were almost as barbarian *pro?* as the Indians themselves. A Danish traveller, Robert Watt, who visited here in the '70s, writes that during the 1862 uprising, "White warriors practiced scalping as vigorously as the reds, and this sort of barbarism is still practiced on the frontiers of territories that are little settled. Indeed, it is only a few years ago since the highest commanding military officer in Minnesota offered a prize for every Indian scalp that was brought to him."

At any rate the ~~uprising was put down by~~ *the* Indians were *decisively* defeated *finally* at the decisive battle of Wood Lake, on September 23, and the ~~uprising was~~ *after this*
~~over that fall,~~ *the uprising was over,* with the exception of a few scattered raids. Of 303 Indians *38*
 condemned to die, all but 38 were pardoned by President Lincoln. These *put to death* were
 hung at Mankato, on Dec. 26, 1862.

Young Frank Tousley and Alfonzo Peck of Le Sueur went to Mankato after the hanging to get a body for Dr. Otis Ayers, supposedly to be used for the same purposes as Dr. Mayo's Indian, Cut Nose. On the way back the boys had imbibed too much fire water and drove too fast; the body dropped off the buckboard. They reached home without their gruesome burden. When they turned back to look for it, they found the body lying in the road undisturbed. Nobody else had wanted the dead Indian. *also?*

Though Le Sueur County escaped the brunt of Indian ~~warfare~~ *vengeance,* its settlers were *vengeance* ~~suffered from the uprising.~~ *farmer's had been*
~~left with a hatred for the Indians.~~ *had been* The stock was left to
~~wander at will over the country side and grain fields were unharvested when~~ *had been*
Stock had been turned loose

the settlers fled for their lives. ~~Thus the economic~~ ^{money and property} ~~loss~~ ^{was great, even} ~~where there was no loss of life.~~ And after the Sioux ^{uprising} war was all over many of the farmers were afraid to come back into the Valley. ~~For a little while this~~ ^{this} retarded settlement and progress.

After the uprising the Dakotahs forfeited all their remaining lands, and most of them were shipped off to reservations in ~~other~~ ^{other} states. A few Indians still live in the Minnesota Valley, following the ways of the white man, and some have white blood, ~~flowing in their veins.~~ But in Le Sueur County, today the ^{Indian} Dakotah Indians are all but forgotten, and the ^{who once owned} ~~once proud owners~~ of Minnesota's forests and prairies, are now the "Vanishing Americans."

#

CHAPTER VII. INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT UP TO THE NEAR-MODERN PICTURE.

After the Sioux outbreak there followed throughout the Minnesota Valley a short period of stagnation. ^{in the Minnesota Valley} The settlers were uncertain just how to face the future. ^{Damns had been abandoned, and in the towns business was uneasy.} Business investments sagged. But ^{before long} presently it was seen that ^{this was} the influx of foreign immigrants gave no sign of diminishing, ^{On the contrary} and the following years brought ^{open, at} in an increasing flood of European home-seekers. At the end of the Civil War ^{began coming} in 1865 the soldiers came back from the South, and set about the business of reconstruction. The settlers were ^{reimbursed} ~~recompensed~~ by the Federal Government ^{Above all,} for their losses in the Sioux War. Rich farm lands and natural resources still remained, ~~to be developed.~~ All these things ~~contributed to~~ stimulated ~~and~~ a continued progress, and soon the Valley was humming with activity and prosperity once again.

P.V.

The Railroads

COMING OF THE RAILROADS.

One prominent factor in the expansion of Minnesota and ~~thaxx~~ Le Sueur County was the improved means of transportation and communication offered by newly built railroad lines. In the wake of the leisurely puffing steamboat and the prancing stage-steed came the ^{train} snorting locomotive, ^{travelling on iron roadways} running on networks of iron that eventually traversed every part of the County. ^{It was not before} ~~Before long~~ the railroad had forced out of business the older and slower types of transportation.

As early as the middle fifties ^{rail} ~~proposed~~ lines were rumoured ^{proposed} ~~thaxx~~ through the Valley, and little boom towns sometimes sprang up along the ^{routes of proposed roads} ~~routes of proposed roads~~. Usually these products of the old townsite mania ^{and died again} ~~died a quiet death~~ when the ^{roads} ~~rail~~s failed to come through.

One of these ^{such} ~~proposed~~ roads was the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company, whose tracks ^{proposed to} ~~were to have followed~~ the river route through Le Sueur County. Construction of a road bed was begun in the fifties, but ^{was} ~~soon~~ abandoned. Many such ventures collapsed ^{during} ~~due to~~ the panic of 1857.

Finally, in 1862, the first ^{Minnesota} ~~railroad line in Minnesota~~ was opened to traffic, and the first locomotive ^{on this line} ~~chugged~~ the ten miles from St. Paul to St. Anthony. Two years later, the Minnesota Valley Railroad Company was organized, ^{having} ~~with~~ title to all lands and privileges previously granted ~~to~~ the Southern Minnesota Road. ^{early in 1865} The old road bed ^{as far as it had gone} ~~was repaired~~ ^{early in} 1865, and the laying of rails began, starting ~~out~~ from Mendota. At that time ~~steel rails had not been perfected, and iron rails were used instead of steel.~~

By the fall of 1865 the rails had reached Shakopee, and the next year, ^{as far as} ~~1866~~, Belle Plaine was the "end of the line." At each town the coming of the railroad meant wild celebration and merry-making.

At last it ^{came} ~~came~~ Le Sueur's turn. ^{to celebrate the railroad's coming} On Wednesday, ~~14~~ December 4, 1867, at 12:30 p.m. the first passenger train arrived at the depot in Le Sueur.

11 o'clock a locomotive, the "St. Peter" pulled into the Le Sueur station and at 12:30 the

Locomotive "Belle Plaine" arrived,
carrying

It consisted of two passenger coaches, one baggage car, and 13 freight cars, all heavily loaded. The locomotive "Belle Plaine" pulled this first train.

It proceeded on
That morning at 11 o'clock, however, a single locomotive, the "St. Peter", had come first.

afterward
Shortly after this a schedule ~~was~~ arranged whereby one might make a trip to St. Paul and return the same day, with three hours to spend in St. Paul. The fare was \$3.15. By stage ^{the} fare had been \$5.

On December 7 an excursion party of about 300 people in eight coaches drawn by the "Mankato" came down to Le Sueur. Dinner was served at the Excelsior House, prominent speakers ^{celebrated} the occasion, and general merry-making followed.

The Le Sueur Courier heralded the coming of the railroad with many expletives, such as these: "See! Look! Behold! All things that were promised have come true. Palatial cars drawn by the swiftly running, loudly snorting locomotive! Get out of the way! Git!"

along the
The next year this line reached East St. Peter, ~~traversing the~~ western border of the County ~~along the river~~. About that time the road changed its name to ^{the} St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad, and began an extension of the line into Iowa. Still later, in 1880, this road ~~again changed its name,~~ *became* ~~becoming~~ the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha Railroad, sometimes called simply The Omaha, ^{and is} or today a part of the Northwestern System.

rep-
The ~~second~~ railroad to come into Le Sueur County was the Winona and St. Peter, now also a part of the Northwestern system. ^{this line} The Winona and St. ^{and} Peter crossed the Minnesota river in May, 1871, ^a was extended westward. Kasota is the only station in our County, ~~on this road.~~

the
A third railroad was the Minneapolis and St. Louis, which reached this County in 1877, ^{crossing} ~~cutting through~~ the eastern ^{County} sections north to south. Closely following the M. & St. L. was ^a the ~~the~~ division of the Milwaukee *section from*

Road, passing through Montgomery, Le Center, Cleveland, and Kasota, ^{and} connecting Le Sueur County with St. Paul ~~on the one end~~, ^{with} and Mankato, ~~on the other~~.

The last road built through our County was the "Dan Patch" ^{and} electric and steam road ~~built for~~ constructed between Faribault and Mankato. Today ~~the Dan Patch~~ ^{this} road is a part of the Great Western System. Its only stations in ~~xxxxxx~~ Le Sueur County are Waterville and Elysian, ~~in the far southern part of the County.~~

The ~~early~~ ^{early} locomotives on these ~~first~~ railroads were wood burners, ridiculously small, with funny little hooded smokestacks. Cutting ^{railway} firewood from the ~~nearby~~ Big Woods became an important and profitable occupation. Tie-making ^{in the country} also flourished for many years, especially oak, white elm, and butternut ^{of} being used from the local forests. Many farmers ^{tie making} relied on it in the winter for a part of their income.

THE GROWTH OF QUARRYING.

^{the quarries aided} The Coming of the railroad stimulated local industries ^{better} by providing a convenient and cheap means of marketing ^{could} one's wares to the outside world. Among the first industries to benefit was quarrying. The famous "Kasota stone" was mined ^{in our} here at an early date soon after the ^{one} County was settled, but nothing much was done to develop the industry until ^{then} after the coming of the railroad. ^{afterwards the quarrying of} Before long, building stone was the most important industry in Kasota and Le ~~Sueur~~ Sueur. ^{became}

Kasota stone was much ^{not so} less important until ^{workers} it was discovered that the rock will take a high polish. Then, although ^{is} actually a hard limestone, ~~sometimes~~ known technically as dolomite because it ~~has~~ ^{is} a combination of both carbonate of lime and magnesium, the stone mined in Le Sueur County ^{was} often ^{called} was referred to as "Kasota pink and yellow marble".

^{Our early settlers} Babcock and Butters were both interested in the stone quarrying industry, and opened separate quarries in Kasota. The developments of J. W. Babcock were carried on by his son, Charles W. Babcock, ~~attorney at law of the~~ ^{founder of Kasota.}

In 1905 when the ~~the~~ new Minnesota State Capital was being ~~erected~~ ^{built} the Kasota stone received its first nation-wide publicity. Much of the interior work, --the halls, stairways, and floors---were constructed of Kasota stone. ~~Before long it was known far and wide.~~ ^{and soon widely}

~~Previously, Before it was discovered to take a polish, the Minnesota River Valley limestone was used as a common building stone. Many foundations, bridges, culverts, and other exterior work was made out of the Kasota stone. Today the Kasota stone has been used in more than 20 states, of the Union. Its pink and yellow lustre has helped beautify the interiors of state capitals, hotels, railway stations, cathedrals, and office buildings all over the Union.~~ ^{known} ^{and} ^{it} ^{now} ^{also} ^{beautiful} ^{throughout the nation}

At Ottawa the stone quarrying industry dwindled, until today that locality is known principally for a fine grades of sand taken from ~~nearby~~ pits in the earth and used in the manufacture of glass. In some parts of the County, the upper or inferior layers of limestone have been used for burning, to make raw lime.

^{in Minnesota today is} Quarrying ~~and the stone industry~~ ^{are} products ~~is~~ today a great mineral industry, second only to iron mining, ~~in Minnesota.~~ ^{and} And all told, Le Sueur County and the Minnesota Valley has ~~played an important part in~~ ^{our state} making Minnesota twelfth among ~~stone producing states of the Union.~~ ^{all the states in the production of stone.} Kasota stone today is used both inside and out. It is marketed rough, sawed, planed, or cut. It is used as a polished "marble," as floor tile, building stone, or even as crushed rock. ^{Insert here from page 84}

OTHER INDUSTRIES-- CANNERIES. MILLING

But quarrying wasn't the only industry that came into early prominence in Le Sueur County. Among the others were notably the milling and canning industries. Today the two largest plants of the Minnesota Valley Canning Company are located in our County, one each at Le Sueur and Montgomery, ^{and the canning industry is highly important.} ^{connected to the page 85}

Page 85.

(?)

omit
Pour Vous
à décider
Moi, je
d's

globe, or an annual output of about \$3,400,000.
~~Among the workers employed in the cannery at La Sney,~~
 Of about 600 employees at the home plant in that same year,
~~over a great many are Mexicans comprised of~~ or
 166 were Mexicans. The Mexican ~~families~~ workers are single men and families
 who have come north to work in the sugar beet fields, and go to the canning
 factories during idle periods in the beet fields. ~~season.~~

→ flock

contd

area of at least 30,000 acres especially suited to the growth of green vegetables has been a significant factor in the prosperity of ~~the~~ southern Minnesota and Le Sueur County.

OTHER IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES

Besides quarrying and canneries, a third highly important industry in our county, of course, is ~~the~~ ^{milling} milling. New Prague and Montgomery are the ^{milling} centers of this trade. Flour from the Commander Mill at Montgomery, as well as the Seal of Minnesota Flour from New Prague, are known far and wide. The milling industry, however, developed earlier than some others, and therefore we have already told the story of flour milling in Le Sueur County when we took up the early history of our chief towns.

~~OTHERS~~ Many lesser industries flourish here, too. ~~A furniture factory at Waterville has built up a wide reputation.~~ Our County seat, Le Sueur, for example, has important Concrete block, ice cream, sugar, and cigar factories, as well as ~~creameries~~ ^{and of course a creamery.} ~~thriving creameries.~~ Other towns have similar developments. A furniture factory in Waterville has built up a wide reputation.

Waterville and Elysian are also the focal point of a popular resort area. Lake Elysian is one of the most beautiful in the County. From pioneer times, fisherman from nearby states came up here to fish. In more recent times seining of rough fish became a profitable industry.

In 1916 it is related that 50,000 pounds of carp and buffalo fish were seined in one night from a lake near Elysian. The seine was 3000 feet long, dropped through a channel cut in the ice. A traction engine was required to draw the haul from the lake. Another catch reported in 1915 is said to have totalled 100,000 pounds, but whether or not all in one night is not ~~reported~~ ^{indicated.} The fish was usually shipped to New York, where it brought the shippers from three to four cents a pound.

(No indication of present importance)

Insert this on Page 84

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totalled 100,000 pounds, but whether or not all in one night is not reported

The fish was usually shipped to New York, where it brought the shippers from

three to four cents a pound.

BANKING.

^{the growth} With the progress of the County and expansion of industries the ^{led} natural demand for capital and security led eventually to the founding of banks. The first bank in Le Sueur County ^{the county} was ~~one~~ established by George D. Snow at Le Sueur in 1869. ^{was} This was followed by the Le Sueur County Bank, founded by L. Quackenbush in 1875.

~~The First National Bank of Le Sueur was organized in 1894-~~

The First State Bank of Montgomery was first established as a private bank in 1890, and was chartered as a State Bank in 1903. In Le Sueur the First National was founded in 1894. ^{many banks were founded} These were the earliest banks, but many others followed in the early Twentieth Century. As banking houses are dependent on a growing and expanding commercial enterprise, all these other phases---the development of agriculture, quarrying, milling, and canneries---naturally came first. But today the Le Sueur County banks are ^{business} an essential part of our economic structure. ~~modern commercial life.~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

A CHANGING
AGRICULTURE

^{of it} In spite of the importance of some industries, however,

Le Sueur County has always been and today remains a typically rural, agricultural region. Even two of its foremost industries ^{milling + canning} are directly dependent on the efforts and prosperity of the farmer. ^{upon farming} Therefore we have left ^{most important; therefore, is} the story ~~to the last~~ the story of the development of farming in Le Sueur County.

Valley

The richness of the soil along the Minnesota ^{known and} and in the Big Woods was widely heralded and naturally attracted the ^{who wanted to} would-be farmer. We ^{learned} have told how the first settlers planted crops between the stumps in tiny fields chopped out of the forests. Most of these immigrants were thrifty, enterprising men. ^{The immigrants} They found the soil even richer than they had hoped, and prosperity ^{dreamed, and} rewarded their efforts. ^{with things and hard work, increased} Gradually many of them enlarged their holdings. Some of them would worry along without the proper comforts, scrimping and saving to be able to buy ^{some piece of land adjoining their own} "that next 20 acres." Out of such stock emerged many of the most prosperous farmers ^{And in our country are to be found many of the most} found in Minnesota.

^{These}
~~Farmers~~ who settled on the bottom lands ~~found themselves~~ ^{were}
 especially favored. The Minnesota Valley bottoms, resembling in some ways
~~the valley of the Nile,~~
~~those of the Nile Valley,~~ are generally considered more fertile than the
 surrounding area. ^{Because of this} Due to the richness of the soil, corn ripens from a week
 to ten days earlier, ^{and} wheat here has yielded as high as 38 bushels to the acre.

~~Farmers on the bottoms,~~ ^{those who settled here} however, have always been faced with
 the threat of floods. Though it is the successive floods that have enriched
 the land with layers of fine silt, ^{also} the high waters are also apt to wash out ^{the}
^{seed} crops, or leave the soil covered with layers of ^{richer} common sand. The years 1881,
 1903, and 1927 ^{were} ~~are~~ typical flood years. In 1927 loss to the farmers of the
 Minnesota Valley was estimated at \$200,000.

GRASSHOPPERS INVASIONS

^{At times} At one time during the pioneer era, however, grasshoppers
^{have been more of a menace}
~~were a much greater threat to agriculture in Le Sueur County than~~
 even the worst flood. ^{smaller} ~~Smaller~~ invasions had been recorded in various parts of
 the State from time to time, ^{with scattered damages,} but the worst plague did not hit until in the 1870s.
 By 1876 ^{there} the greedy insects were ravaging the entire Minnesota Valley. ^{In fact} ~~Nearly~~ almost
 the whole State suffered. ^{and} It began to be a question whether insects or man
^{would take over} ~~should rule~~ the State.

Sometimes the locusts came in hordes that made a noise like the
 roaring wind, ^{and} Every green thing disappeared in their path. Whole fields of
 grain were ^{destroyed} consumed in a few hours. Trains were even blockaded while the oily
^{came by} ~~drifts were~~ shoveled off the track. ^{and} Sometimes they piled up along roads to
 a depth of two feet.

The frantic settlers did everything they could think of to
 destroy the insects. They dug ditches, burnt fields, invented "Hopperdozers"
 smeared with hot tar to catch the grasshoppers like flies on flypapers. But
^{were} ~~for~~ the millions destroyed, other millions took their places.

^{By spring of 1877 the situation was no better.} ^{human}
 The plague began to be a menace to life itself. Many families

Families were destitute.
~~were in want.~~ In a wide area outside of Minnesota the plague also raged.

Governor John S. Pillsbury personally travelled among the sufferers and gave away large sums of money ^{his own} out of his own pocket.

~~Conditions became so alarming that a~~ convention was held in Omaha to consider methods of defense. Congress was petitioned for aid. A bill was passed authorizing a bounty of \$1 a bushel for the insects, and 50 cents a gallon for their eggs. ~~Nothing seemed to help much.~~ ^{then} Religious organizations throughout the State began to ~~of~~ ^{days of} sponsor special prayer sessions.

~~Finally,~~ ^{this} in response to the general feeling, Governor Pillsbury proclaimed April 26, 1877, a day of general fasting and prayer. ^{on which} Everyone was to pray for ^{the lifting of the plague} a spring snowstorm to kill off the new crop of hoppers. Despite a few scoffers, the whole State on that day became ^{much} like a huge camp meeting; young and old on the farm, in every village, city, and hamlet, ^{came} flocked together to pray.

^{And on that day} And then, miraculously, ^{The} a spring snowstorm came. Some denied that the spring storm did much damage to the hoppers. Even before the appointed day of prayer the pests ^{had begun} began to disappear. ^{They were in herds} Large hosts of the grasshoppers began to leave in a body. No one knows what happened to them or where they went, ^{clouds} but at least they were gone, and the settlers were ^{but} thankful. ^{grateful for their going}

^{although} Since 1877 there have been no locust plagues of equal severity, but from time to time the pests have been troublesome. Insects remain one of man's most dangerous enemies. Today the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Division of Entomology employ hundreds of men and spend thousands of dollars annually ^{on} to study insect control. Special bulletins are printed to aid the farmer in scientific pest control. For every dollar expended in control, the farmer is saved ^{an important phase of} \$10 in larger crop production.

A. MILD
WINTER

Another historic year in Le Sueur County agriculture was 1878---the year that forgot to bring a winter. From Christmas day until deep in February the weather was mild and spring-like. Everybody looked for a change, but it didn't come. The farmers were puzzled.

Since early January many farmers had been plowing what fields had ~~have~~ been left undone in the fall. ~~1911~~ Dragging followed. Then one farmer got out his seeder. After a little others followed suit, until ~~4~~ hundreds of acres of grain had been sowed/. Presently a great deal of the spring wheat was above the ground. Then, finally, the long-expected cold snap arrived, nipping all the tender grain. When spring really came, it meant replanting. ~~One farmer kept a small patch of partly frozen wheat~~

Today the farmer can rely on long-period government statistics and weather reports to guide him in planting. ^{is given through} Helpful hints are gleaned from the radio and agricultural bulletins.

A CHANGING CROP SYSTEM

^{early Minnesota} With the early expansion of agriculture in Minnesota wheat ^{was} became the staple crop. In some localities the farmers planted hardly anything else; and wheat became known as a "money crop." ^{was called the} Before ^{It was not long} long this ^{seeding} planted the land to wheat year after year ^{began to wear out} wore out the soil; in bad ^{years, the} years the wheat farmers were left ^{with nothing to show for their labor and investment} holding the bag. Gradually the mistakes of the "one ^a crop system" came to be realized.

In Le Sueur County ^{diversified} mixed farming was somewhat more common, even ^{from} in the beginning. The adaptability of soil permitted many crops to be raised, ^{and} a few farmers turned their attention to such things as tobacco culture, growing hops, ^{and} collecting maple sugar, or honey production. ^{But} About 1895 corn began to be ^{was} grown with success as new and improved varieties of seed were developed and introduced. An earlier-maturing corn made ^{possible} corn production in Minnesota entirely feasible, and before long corn crops in Le Sueur County exceeded ^{production} wheat. ^{Because of the canning factories} Today corn is still the more important, ^{now} but farmers in our County rely on ^{acres, few} many sources of income rather than any one crop.

~~Today we sometimes complain of low prices and price fluctuations.~~
~~But the early farmers experienced that same difficulty, often in an even more~~

severe degree. One of the most profitable crops ever raised in Le Sueur County the was a bumper potatoe harvest of Reuben Butters at Kasota. He had raised 900 bushels on five acres of land and sold them at \$2 a bushel. The next year everybody raised potatoes and expected to get rich. But with the ^{large} supply thrown on the market that year, the price dropped to ten cents a bushel.

Another crop ^{less} common in Le Sueur County today is sugar beets. ^{were} for a few years about the year 1914. Beet fields ~~were~~ especially important in Montgomery and Lanseburg townships, ^{and} ~~were~~

Several hundred car loads of beets ~~were~~ shipped out annually to the Minnesota

Sugar Company factory at Chaska. Several by-products of the sugar factory ~~were~~

~~were~~ used by the farmer, such as precipitated lime for fertilizer, and a dried

pulp sold to dairy farmers and ~~said~~ said to increase the flow of milk. Today

the acreage ^{devoted} to sugar beets has declined, probably in favor of dairying,

and livestock production. ^{such as alfalfa + clover,}

The greatest change in farming has ^{come} probably occurred within

the last 35 years. ^{raising} The expansion of dairying, crop rotation and diversifica-

tion, and the poultry business have all ^{become important} contributed to progress within the

changing order. ^{or the} Crop rotation, ^{of the} alternating crops on any one plot of land

from year to year, prevents the soil from ^{wearing out,} or losing its fertility. ?

Diversification seeks to use all byproducts and resources in the best possible

way--- ^{and} advises the farmer against putting all his eggs in one basket.

Even less than 30 years ago there was very little farm machinery,

little dairying, and mixed or diversified farming was still rare. Fewer hogs

^{less stock was} and beefs were raised, and silos were almost unknown. Today stock feeding

^{is an important factor on any farm} ranks with dairying as a leading industry. Whereas formerly hogs were fed on

slops and refuse, they are now raised on ^{balanced} rations carefully chosen. ^{that they used to be}

Hundreds of cars of hogs and cattle are shipped to South St. Paul ^{from our country} annually.

SP

~~Then~~ ^{has} modern farm machinery ^{method} appeared, changing the customs of centuries, ^{of farming} the upheaval was as great as the later coming of the automobile.

Since the invention of the reaper in 1831, ^{change} methods of harvesting had undergone a gradual transition, but in 1871 there were still some of the old old fashioned cradles in use in Le Sueur County. That same year it is said ^{also that} there were more oxen than horses about Le Sueur. The first steam threshing rigs ~~did not~~ ^{also} appeared until the late '70s in our County, ^{in the late 70s and caused} causing a tremendous amount of excitement. ^{They made great differences in crop production} The old timers found it very hard at first to adjust themselves to the new order.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF DAIRYING.

^{another} But one of the most important and interesting phases of a changing agriculture ~~has~~ ^{one} is the growth of dairying. Starting from a ^{small} humble beginning, dairying is today one of the chief ^{is} reasons for the prosperity of Le Sueur County.

^{a few of} Among the early settlers were a few who brought with them a cow, used to break the soil as well as for milking. The average pioneer, however, was not so fortunate, and usually had to be satisfied to buy a calf and wait for the animal to grow up.

Usually any breed of cow was acceptable—anything with four legs that would give a stream of milk. Barnyard animals roamed at large through the woods and meadows. ^{Farmers} Those having grain fields had to fence them in or stand the rustic consequences. The first fences were usually ~~made~~ ^{made} of rails known as "worm fences" made of rails.

^{barns} The first ~~stables~~ ^{affairs} were crude, often only a structure of posts and poles ^{made} ~~covered~~ ^{roofed} with marsh hay. The prairie or marsh hay became both food and shelter for the barnyard beasts. During the winter, under such conditions, dairying was of small importance, and milk products were at a premium. ^{Each} In the spring, however, the worn old cow was expected once more to ^{produce a few} ~~come across with a~~ calf and fresh milk, and "another season of corn meal mush and milk opened up."

not only
"roofed" with
bagged down
wheat, if you like.

Milk in those early days was laid out in shallow pans and crocks and kept cool in a dugout or cellar. Then the cream was skimmed off, and what was left after the family ^{took what it needed} ~~got its fill~~ went to the pigs. When enough cream had been gathered, it was churned into butter in a narrow, barrel-shaped churn. A hand dasher had to be worked up and down laboriously until the butter "came."

This "dashing" butter was a picturesque but arduous custom often dreaded by ~~the~~ small boys and young men of the household. A few rigged up odd contrivances to make use of the family dog or calf to do the work of dashing. About 1870 the rectangular or barrel churn revolved by a crank came into use, but was not a great improvement on the old method. The butter churned was usually traded for merchandize at the town store at the rate of 6 to 15 cents a pound.

In 1860 Le Sueur County had about 1,500 cows. In 1890 this number had increased to over 8000, but dairying was ^{still} not a paying business. ^{Most} Butter was still ^{in dasher churns} ~~made~~ on the farms and traded at the village stores. ^{for from 6 to 15¢} The quality was ^{not uniform} ~~generally poor~~ and ^{The color} ~~irregular~~; ~~of color~~ and hence there was no outside demand. ^{a case of} There is one case on record of butter shipped to New York in 1887 and netting only 9 cents a pound. ^{The county had two cheese factories and there was a creamery}

In 1887 Le Sueur County had two cheese factories, one at Le Sueur and one at Cleveland. ^{in New Prague, opened in 1888, but} A private creamery was opened at New Prague in '88. ^{These were the first.} But creamery machinery in use now was ^{then} unknown.

The years 1890-96 introduced a new period in dairying. Production of butter in ^{factories} increased ^{rapidly}. A more uniform, better grade of butter could be made in ^{the} creameries, and ^a demand for Minnesota butter began to grow. ^{operated} Neighboring farmers went together and took turns to bring their milk to town. ^{which ed} The Babcock tester for butter fat, ^{and labor} saving machinery on the farm ^{allowing more time for dairying}, were factors that ^{contributed} to the rapid new interest in dairying.

About 1900 another important innovation came into being. Before

~~1890 there were/ no mechanical cream separators in use in Le Sueur County. By~~
~~1900 they had almost entirely displaced the old crock and pan method. From~~
~~1900 to 1910 some creameries refused to receive cream separated on the farm,~~
~~as many patrons did not use the ϕ separators properly or did not keep them~~
~~clean. The new method actually caused a lowering in the quality of butter.~~

~~But the cream separator / decreased the frequency and cost of~~
~~delivery to the farmer, and eventually became a standard fixture. Improved~~
~~methods of care and feeding ^{of} cattle, the ^{sowing} growing of milk-producing ^{crops} feeds, the~~
~~introduction of better, warmer barns for winter dairying, the development of~~
~~pure bred stock, all ^{the} made for improved quality, ^{the} increased demand, ^{and} and higher~~
~~prices for dairy products. Attention to pure bred herds ^{the introduction of} especially raised the~~
~~standards and ^{de} profits of dairymen, ^{and opened the} During this period there were few more~~
~~total number of milk cows, but profits trebled. Eastern markets opened up rapidly.~~

~~In the ^{discussion of} middle '90s the cooperative creamery system began to be~~
~~discussed. There were many obstacles to surmount at first, but in 1893 the~~
~~first cooperative creamery ^{in our county} was organized at Kasota. It operated a few years.~~
~~The next year 1894, the Kilkenny Cooperative Creamery and the Waterville~~
~~Cooperative Creamery were organized. These were the first in Le Sueur County.~~
~~Today the Cooperatives handle a large share of the dairy ~~industry~~ products, as~~
~~well as serving the farmer in many other ^{other ways as well} capacities.~~

~~Today, ^{which} Due to the acceptance of improved methods, dairying has~~
~~become one of the ^{main branches} ~~backbones~~ of agriculture, and ^{is now the backbone} therefore of prosperity in our~~
~~County. But new ideas and inventions have always been ridiculed, every since~~
~~history began. And so farmers at first did not take much stock in the new~~
~~"notions" of scientific agriculture, in land fertilization, crop rotation,~~
~~seed testing and dips, alfalfa acreage and silos, pure bred herds, disease~~
~~& tested stock, electric appliances, and countless other process. But results~~
~~spoke for themselves, and the new doctrines spread. Today even mechanical~~

milking machines are very common. If the average farmer were asked to return to the outdated methods of yesteryear, he would only laugh. *this idea*
~~We have~~ *Le Sueur County today has many achievements to be proud of as*
 an agricultural community. From 1920 to 1930, when the size of the average farm in Minnesota was decreasing, the average farm in Le Sueur County increased from 116.7 acres to 126.4 acres. *Our County has, furthermore, the third lowest*
 farm tenancy rate in the State; that means that fewer of the farmers in this County are ~~merely~~ *who and do not* renters ~~and~~ have not been able to own their own farms. The *percentage* figure here is slightly more than one fourth. All of this indicates a high relative state of prosperity in Le Sueur County.

According to the latest figures available (for 1935), of 2249 farms in the County, 887 ranged from 110 to 174 acres, and 668 averaged 50-99 acres in size. This is an average of 121.8 acres average size, or a decline from the 1930 level, but still comparing very favorably with ratios of decline in other States.

According to the same figures, *for 1935* moreover, Le Sueur County is *in the state* first in the production of winter wheat, first in peas produced for commercial canneries, fourth in the production of sweet corn, and seventh in the value of vegetables harvested for sale. Surely *and* this is a record to be proud of among 87 counties! The future seems bright if farmers in this County continue to practice diversified farming, *to expand the* growth of truck garden products, *to carry on the* and development of livestock products.

helping educate the farmer for his job Many progressive *farm* organizations, too, have worked together for *helped in the development of* better farming. The Grangers, 4H clubs, and many others *are* pushing the enlightened agriculture. The first County agricultural society was formed in 1857 or 1858, *it and has* and held annual exhibits at Cleveland until 1876, *since then has had* since then has had them at Le Sueur. The annual County Fair, sponsored by the Le Sueur County Agricultural Society at Le Center *and held at Le Center* each year has become a center for *gives opportunity for displaying the products of* the display of local progress within the County. *scientific farmer*

LENGTHENING
YEARS.

*With all this progress, however,
the population of our county has not kept pace.*

With the march of progress and increasing prosperity in

Le Sueur County, however, the population trends did not keep pace.

The pinnacle of population was reached in about 1900, when census figures ^{the country} reveal 20,234 persons living in our County. ^{from that time on, the population has been} After that a decline, ^{had begun} set in.

As early as the '70s there had been a decided exodus of Minnesota Valley farmers toward the prairie lands of Dakota. But at that time hundreds of immigrants were still pouring in from the East, and the population grew steadily.

By 1900 immigration began to wane, and especially during the ^{from} decade of 1900-1910 hundreds went north to Canada or west to claim government lands in new territories. Most of the villages in the county began to go ^{smaller} backwards then; some towns dropped 200 or more. In 1920 the census revealed a population of 17,870, and within the next ten years this had climbed to 17,990. ^{slowly}

^{In 1930 the population was 17,990.} With the advancing years came many other changes in Le Sueur County. In the "Gay Nineties" the nation stood on the brink of a new age. Besides the ideas and discoveries affecting agriculture there were other new inventions and theories that were to revolutionize life. ^{brought to}

Rumblings of the coming machine age ^{was} were just beginning to be heard. Bicycles, bustles, and mutton sleeve dresses were still the vogue, but ^{the tools was of} everywhere one heard of thrilling new amusements and new ways of living. Stereoptician slides, phonograph concerts, telephone communication, ~~xx~~ electric lighting, and automobiles were all recent marvels.

The early "horseless carriages" of the first decade of the Twentieth Century created as much excitement as the first airplanes years later. In those days automobiles often stopped for no ^{apparent} reason, at all. They were a luxury only the wealthy could afford.

Automobiles were at first a luxury only the wealthy could afford, and Motor travelling was at first confined to a radius of about ten miles as automobiles often stopped, those days, for no apparent reason.

miles. As the auto era opened, ^{at} farmers were slow to support highway improvements, ^{for automobiles, and} There was bitter antagonism at first toward road boosters. Rural dwellers said it was mainly the city "big bugs" who ^{argued for better roads,} benefited, and that the new "contraptions" ^{The country people} were frightened teams into ditches and were a danger to the countryside. But as the automobile became ^{more common} a standard fixture, this attitude gradually ^{changed.} altered, and today Le Sueur County, though having only one paved trunk highway, has hundreds of miles of smooth-surfaced roads ^{and nearly every farm home has} traversing all parts of the County. ^{automobiles}

With new inventions to speed up the pace of life, modes of dress and amusements also changed. Forty years ago winged collars, brown derby hats, and white shirts with stiff bosoms ^{the style,} ~~and~~ were all the vogue for men. ^{while} Girls wore "mutton" sleeves, bustles, bangs, and skirts that trailed the ground.

Other odd customs were detachable shirt cuffs and cuff holders, long menacing hat pins, hunting case watches that popped open mysteriously, and watch charms made out of carved peach seeds. About 1890 homemade knick knacks, ^{everyone was} such as burnt wood novelties and water color paintings, were all the rage. Magic lanterns, ~~xeteres~~ were popular. Pianos were still luxuries. ^{not}

Baseball was popular way back in the '80s and '90s. Few players ~~then were~~ used gloves at first, and the catcher wore no mask or pads. Big scores ^{not} were common. Around 1900 the first squeaky phonographs fitted with head phones came into use, ^{and} Within the next decade the first "cinema" ^s thrilled small audiences who ^{did not} never dreamed they were witnessing the beginnings of our huge, modern movie industry. Slides were ^{then} commonly included on the "cinema palace" bill of fare. ^{new}

In 1898 Le Sueur County took part eagerly in the Spanish American War, but in ¹⁹¹⁷ 1914 it was not so easy to ^{strongly} induce a ^{is for a} ~~heavily~~ German population to ^{declare} ~~war~~ against the "Fatherland." With a constant flood of propaganda and with the tide of war going against American interests, ~~it was~~ ^{loyalties, but} Our German citizens were torn between two loves. Yet when war was ^{actually} declared in 1917, they rightfully remained ^{were} loyal to their adopted land. ^{that in} We know now that no one gains by war, In the long

98

run both victor and vanquished are losers.

LeSueur County, which today is one of the richest and most productive in Minnesota, has been built by the patient thrift and courage of these earlier ~~men~~ citizens. A few of these have become well known outside the county.

One such citizen was Tracy Bangs, son of A. W. Bangs, a lawyer who came to LeSueur in 1861 or 1862. The Bangs were Democrats, as were most LeSueur County folks in the early years, but when Tracy was nineteen they moved from LeSueur to Grand Forks, N.D., where to be a Democrat was to be in great disfavor. Said the father to the son, "Tracy, this is an uncanny land, where the Irish vote the Republican ticket and the river flows north". Tracy became a famous lawyer, known in many cities of this country, and though not then a resident of our county, he came back several times to visit LeSueur, the city of his youth.

Thomas Hamilton Smullen came with his parents to Lexington township in 1863. At twenty-two he was elected to the State Legislature, the youngest ward man ever to hold that office. After ~~a life time in which~~ he held many other city and county offices, ^{and, though not a lawyer,} was made a judge and allowed to practice in Probate Court though not a lawyer, ~~and was elected~~. In 1930 when he was 78, ~~in the State Senate~~ he was elected to the State Senate, and became the oldest member of the legislature as he had once been the youngest.

Perhaps our most distinguished citizen was George T. Flowman. Architect, lecturer and author, Mr. Flowman was also famous in many cities of the world for his etchings. He was born in LeSueur in 1869, the son of a blacksmith. After studying at the University of Minnesota, he spent several years in art centers abroad. His work has been exhibited in many cities, both in America and Europe, his works are in the Royal Academy in London, and in the art collection of the Congressional Library at Washington. His most famous ~~works~~ ^{the} pieces are his studies of fast-disappearing ~~European~~ covered bridges of Europe.

He often visited LeSueur, the last time was just before his death in 1931.

These men, together with hundreds whose names are not known except to their neighbors and friends, are worthy sons of ^{our} ~~the~~ pioneers whose lives were spent in hewing a civilization out of the Big Woods. Those first Indian trails they followed have given way to smooth surfaced highways, steamer and stage coach to streamlined trains and the automobile. Life has quickened its pace in our county since those early days.

Yet every spring still brings out the harrow and drill, and every autumn the reaper. The leaf mold of the vanished Big Woods is the rich black loam, ^{a world} the soil upon which, in ~~spite~~ of change, the people of LeSueur County still build their prosperity. And in spite of the hundreds of new interests that ^{the} ^{the} clamor for attention in press, and over radio, the weather, crop prospects and market conditions are still moot questions with our people.

Other parts of the world may have giant buildings, great ships and busy factories. Our people are content with their fields which were grubbed from virgin forests, where our great grandfathers ~~had~~ planted the first crops between the stumps, one hand on the plow and one ^{of} the rifle.

run both victor and vanquished are losers.

LeSueur County, ~~which~~ today is one of the most productive in our state, still building on the solid foundation laid by thrifty immigrant farmers and craftsmen, has a

run both victor and vanquished are losers.

Today LeSueur County is one of the richest and most productive counties in Minnesota, ~~this has been~~ built on the solid foundation laid by these early thrifty immigrant farmers and craftsmen.

run both victor and vanquished are losers.

LeSueur County, one of the richest and most productive counties in Minnesota,

LeSueur County, which today is one of the richest and most productive in Minnesota, has been built by the patient thrift and courage of these earlier citizens. A few of these have become well known outside the county, as well.

One such citizen was Tracy Bangs, son of A. W. Bangs, a lawyer who came to

run both victor and vanquished are the losers, and it is our duty to seek to make the world understand this futility of settling disputes by force of steel.

NATIVE SONGS

Today Le Sueur County is one of the most prosperous counties in Minnesota, and is still building on the solid foundation laid by thrifty German ^{migrant} farmers and craftsmen. Many of its ^{a few of} ~~native~~ sons have become well known or famous ~~big~~ figures. [We have mentioned some already. Perhaps it would not be amiss to mention three others.]

One of these was Tracy Bangs, son of A. W. Bangs, the lawyers who came to Le Sueur in 1861 or 1862. When Tracy was 19 the family moved to Grand Forks, but the young man was virtually brought up in Le Sueur County.

The Bangs were Democrats, as was most of Le Sueur County in the early years, and they had moved to a land where it was almost a crime to be a Democrat. Said Tracy to his son, "Tracy, this is an uncanny land, where the Irish vote the Republican ticket and the river flows north!" But they stayed, and Tracy became a famous lawyer, known in many great cities of the United States. He several times came back to visit the city of his youth.

Another unique figure is Thomas Hamilton Smullen, who came with his parents to Lexington Township in 1863. For a time he lived on the farm, and took up farming, but when ^{at} only 22 years old was elected ^{to} the State Legislature----the youngest man ever to hold that office.

After that he held many important city and county offices, and was made a judge and allowed to practice before Probate Court, although not a lawyer. He was probably the only man not a lawyer admitted to the bar. And then in 1930 at the age of 78, he was elected to the State Senate from Le Sueur County---the oldest member of the Senate. *as he had once been your*

A third man of note is George T. Plowman, well known as an

Another citizen of note

architect, lecturer, and author, ^{and} but famous ~~in~~ in many parts of the world for his etchings. Plowman was born in Le Sueur in 1869, the son of a black-~~smith~~ smith. After ~~studying at~~ ^{studying} the University of Minnesota, he went abroad for several years to ~~expand~~ ^{study} his art. His most famous pictures are of the fast-disappearing European covered bridges.

George Plowman also often visited Le Sueur, even after he was world-famous. The last time was in 1931, just before his death the next year. Plowman's work has been exhibited in many cities, in New York, Boston, and Paris, in numerous museums and art galleries, at the Royal Academy in London, and in the art collection of the Congressional Library at Washington.

These men and many others are a credit to our pioneer fathers who worked so hard to cut a civilization out of the Big Woods. Today that first crude civilization has evolved into something vastly ^{new and} different. The first Indian trails have given way to hard-surfaced highways, the river steamer and bumping stage coaches to streamlined trains and hurtling automobiles. Life has quickened its pace since those early settlement days.

But every spring still brings out the ^{drill} reaper, every autumn the reaper. In the rich black loam that feeds our crops and dairy herds lies the leaf mold of the vanished Big Woods. In spite of a multitude of new interests clamouring for our attention today, crop prospects and agricultural ^{conditions} ~~topics~~ are still very often the main topic of conversation.

Though the little log cabins have given way to modern, comfortable homes where no Indians peek in at the windows, we of Le Sueur County still build our prosperity on the soil, just as did those first venturesome settlers. Other parts may have mammoth buildings and ships and factories, but few ~~can~~ ^{clearly} are ~~be~~ more contented than those ~~farmers~~ whose fields were grubbed out of the Big Woods, ^{whose} Our great grandfathers planted their first crops between the stumps, one hand on the plow and one on the rifle. ~~Could those first citizens of Le Sueur County return today, they should~~ would find a new and startling world.

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300
30000