

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The state historical societies of Wisconsin and Minnesota began their careers in the same year, 1849, one year after Wisconsin became a state and while Minnesota was just entering the territorial status with nine years to wait before it should be admitted to the Union. During the threescore odd years of its existence the State Historical Society of Wisconsin has constantly held the lead among similar institutions of the West, serving the people not only of the state but of the whole country by gathering and preserving an invaluable collection of manuscripts, by building up a great library and an excellent museum, by extensive and scholarly research and publication, and by stimulating an interest in history throughout the West. Various factors have entered into this success, not the least important of which is the liberal financial support which the society has received from the state, especially since the construction, fifteen years ago, of the magnificent building in which it is now housed. Equally important, and in part an explanation of this liberal support, is the fact that the destinies of the society have been guided during the greater part of its career by two remarkably able men, Lyman Copeland Draper and Reuben Gold Thwaites. The death of Dr. Thwaites in October, 1913, was followed by the appointment of Dr. Milo M. Quaife as superintendent, and the volume before us¹ gives every indication that the services of the society will be not only continued but extended under his direction. To the members and friends of the Minnesota Historical Society, which is soon to be housed in a new building and, it is hoped, to enter on a career of increased usefulness, a review of the present condition and activ-

¹ *Proceedings* of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin at its sixty-second annual meeting held October 22, 1914 (Madison, 1915. 286 p.).

ities of its twin sister in an adjoining state, as set forth in the latest volume of *Proceedings*, ought to offer encouragement and valuable suggestions.

The staff of the Wisconsin Historical Society consists of the superintendent, an assistant superintendent, eight heads of research, order, catalogue, reference, newspaper, manuscript, public document, and museum divisions, and fifteen assistants—twenty-five in all—besides sixteen caretakers under state civil service control. So large a staff naturally calls for a considerable maintenance fund, and for the year 1913-14 the society received from the state \$70,948. Of this sum \$12,209 was returned to the insurance fund of the state, so that the amount actually available for the maintenance of the society and its building was \$58,739, an increase of \$11,239 over the amount available during the preceding year. The actual expenditure for the year, exclusive of the insurance items, was \$50,331, of which \$36,936 was for salaries and other services; \$5,978 for books, periodicals, furniture, and museum exhibits; and \$1,790 for printing and illustration. In the spring of 1914 a new wing of the society's building was completed at a cost of \$162,000. The total cost of the building as it now stands has been \$782,000, and it is doubtful if it could be constructed to-day for less than a million dollars.

In addition to state appropriations the society has private funds amounting to \$85,970, divided into a general and binding fund of \$38,283, an antiquarian fund of \$18,468, and seven other funds devoted to special purposes. The receipts for membership fees and the sale of duplicates are divided between the first two of these funds. Part of the income of the different funds is regularly used for the specified purposes, and the balances at the end of each year are added to the funds. Among recent bequests to the society are about \$12,000 from Mrs. Kittie E. V. Hollister, and \$10,000 from Dr. Thwaites.

The estimated strength of the society's library is 375,000 titles, nearly equally divided between books and pamphlets. Accessions during the year ending September 30, 1914, were

5,084 books, 5,588 pamphlets, and 262 engravings, photographs, and maps, a total of 10,934. Seventy-three per cent of the accessions were gifts, and the remainder, purchases and exchanges. The large proportion of gifts is due in part to the activity of the society in collecting documents of states, municipalities, and organizations, as well as the publications of the United States and foreign countries. The document and newspaper divisions of the library are growing so rapidly that, notwithstanding the recent construction of the new wing, it is estimated that all the space available for these departments will be filled in three or four years.

The great collection of Draper Manuscripts is well known to historical scholars, but this is by no means the only important manuscript material possessed by the society. Collections of papers of men of prominence in the building of the West, diaries, sometimes in the original and sometimes copies, and miscellaneous documents of all sorts are constantly coming in. All of these are carefully arranged, filed, catalogued, and thus made accessible to students; unless, as occasionally happens, the donor request that they be withheld from the public for a certain period. The most notable recent addition of manuscripts consists of the Civil War papers of the governor's office. In accordance with the general authority conferred by an act of 1913 Governor McGovern turned over these papers—several thousand in number—to the society, thus relieving his office of the care and housing of the material and, at the same time, making it accessible to historical investigators. Another important collection secured by the society comprises the papers of the late Luman H. Weller of Iowa. Congressman Weller was actively identified with the Greenback and Populist parties and the labor movement, and his papers, together with the Donnelly Papers, recently acquired by the Minnesota Historical Society, offer a wealth of material to some historian of radicalism in the Northwest.

The newspaper division of the library receives regularly about three hundred papers published in the state and two hun-

dred from outside. Especially important for the student of economic history is its large and growing collection of trade journals and labor papers. In addition to these current accessions about one hundred volumes of old files were acquired by gift, exchange, or purchase during the year. Of especial interest among these are complete files of two papers published in Nashville, Tennessee, as the organs of the two parties during the exciting presidential campaign of 1840. Illustrative of the value, other than historical, of preserving newspaper files is the fact that papers from the society's collection were twice used in important lawsuits during the year. One of these was a case before a United States court in a far-western state, and the society's file of the paper needed was the only one which could be located.

It is a truism to those familiar with large libraries that they are of little value unless carefully and scientifically classified and catalogued, but it is difficult for a layman to realize the amount of labor involved in this work. The cataloguing staff of the Wisconsin Historical Society numbers five trained workers, but the force is said to be inadequate to the task in hand. The growth of the general catalogue necessitated the purchase of an additional case of 312 trays, making 936 now in use, each with a capacity of a thousand cards. Special catalogues of documents, genealogies, labor union material, and maps, manuscripts, and illustrations are kept up. This division has charge, also, of "a Wisconsin biography catalogue, listing biographies, obituaries, and portraits of prominent Wisconsin men," which is frequently consulted by newspaper men.

The main product of the research and publication division is the monumental set of *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, numbering twenty volumes. For many years these have consisted entirely of original material, while papers read at meetings and contributed have been published in the annual volume of *Proceedings*. A comprehensive analytical index to the *Collections* has been in preparation for a number of years and will soon be published. This will be followed in the course of time by

another volume which will complete a series on the fur-trade in Wisconsin. Much of the material for this series comes from the archives of the United States government, and the society has for some time had an agent at work in Washington searching for Wisconsin material. Thousands of documents selected have been transcribed or reproduced by means of the photostat. This work is not confined to fur-trade material, but a clean sweep is being made of documents in the government archives of value for the history of the state. Copies have also been secured of much Wisconsin material in the Canadian archives, either for publication or for preservation in the society's manuscript collection.

Custodians of large collections of historical manuscripts are coming more and more to recognize the importance of calendaring the papers, and the Wisconsin Historical Society has set an excellent example by issuing a calendar volume of part of the Draper Manuscripts.¹ This volume has been in preparation for several years and another is now under way. Part of the documents in this collection dealing with the West during the Revolutionary period are being published in the *Draper Series*, of which three volumes have been issued and a fourth is in preparation. The expense of this publication is borne by the Wisconsin Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

Another field in which there has been considerable publishing activity during the last decade is that of Wisconsin Civil War history. Some time ago the legislature created a separate Wisconsin Historical Commission to exploit this field, but this commission has always been in practice an adjunct of the society, and the legislature of 1913 terminated its existence and devolved its functions upon the society. The last publication of the commission was *An Artilleryman's Diary* by Jenkins Lloyd Jones (Madison, 1914. 395 p.), a work of great historical value. A social and economic history of the state during the war by Frederick Merk of the society's research staff, a

¹ *Preston and Virginia Papers* (Wisconsin Historical Society, *Publications, Calendar Series*, 1. Madison, 1915).

study which was started for the commission, is now nearing completion and will be published by the society.

An innovation on the part of the new superintendent is the publication of a monthly editor's news letter "designed to disseminate correct and timely information on matters of interest to the Society, and on historical subjects generally." This is sent to over three hundred papers, many of which use it, in part at least, for copy. The society supplies, also, each month to the press editor of the University of Wisconsin an historical article of almost a thousand words, copies of which are distributed to forty-two metropolitan papers throughout the country for publication in their Sunday issues. The superintendent believes "that this work constitutes a real, although modest, educational service to the state and the public generally. This will seem true especially to those who, like the writer, have frequently groaned in spirit over the amazing capacity of the typical metropolitan reporter for disseminating misinformation when he chances to deal with historical subjects."

The work of the research and publication division will undoubtedly be facilitated by the rearrangement of the building, made possible by the construction of the new wing. The museum floor of this wing is now available for an auditorium when one is needed, and the old auditorium, which was never adequate as such, has been cut up into a suite of rooms for the research workers. Five members of the staff devote a part or all of their time to this division, and it is expected that one or two additional research assistants will be appointed in the near future.

The leading position of the museum of the Wisconsin Historical Society is widely recognized, and it is frequently visited by curators of similar institutions in other states in search of suggestions. The construction of the new wing furnished additional space for exhibits and made possible the construction of an adequate museum office. Many new exhibition cases were installed during the year, and the collection was largely rearranged. Of especial interest and educational value are the

New England kitchen and the pioneer drug store. Considerable emphasis is laid on special exhibits, thirty of which were held during the year. These were along such diverse lines as old-fashioned Christmas gifts and material illustrative of Christmas customs in foreign lands; Civil War material for a Grand Army encampment; Ainu, Chinese, and Japanese objects; bookplates and bookmarks; American agricultural machinery, 1840-60; postage stamps; and Japanese wood-block prints. Four successful exhibitions were held in the museum rooms by the Madison Art Association, one of them consisting of a collection of oil paintings illustrative of upper Mississippi River scenery by Frederick G. Sylvester. These special exhibits regularly attract large numbers of visitors to the museum and add greatly to its value.

The educational possibilities of a well-arranged museum are coming to be recognized by school-teachers, and forty-two classes, with a total of almost a thousand pupils, visited the rooms during five months. Nearly one half of these came from twenty cities and villages outside of Madison. All of the classes are accompanied by their teachers and are guided by members of the staff. Considerable use is made of the museum, also, by classes in the university, and the curator occasionally conducts excursions to sites of historical and archeological interest. One of these was composed of about one hundred teachers from all over the state, who were in attendance at the university summer school.

The concluding section of the report of the executive committee, which is practically the superintendent's report, is entitled "A Proposal for an Archives and Library Building," and deals with a problem which will soon be a pressing one in each of the American states: Shall the rapidly accumulating mass of newspaper files, documentary publications, and manuscript archives or public records be preserved, and, if so, how shall this be accomplished? Throughout the civilized world except in America the first part of the question has been answered in the affirmative, and buildings have been constructed or set aside

for the purpose of housing the national and local archives. The printed documents and newspaper files are usually cared for in the regular libraries. In America little attention has been paid to the preservation of newspaper files; few of the states have complete collections of their own published documents, to say nothing of the documents published by counties and cities, other states, the federal government, and foreign nations; while nearly every governmental office, national, state, or local, is burdened with a mass of old records and papers which receive little care and are likely to be destroyed to make room for more current material.

While the problem of storage space need not be a pressing one in Minnesota for a number of years after the construction of the building for the historical society, it will inevitably reappear in time, and Dr. Quaife's proposal is worthy of consideration. "The present Library building," he writes, "is a splendid structure—necessarily, therefore, it is an expensive structure. It would be possible to construct a plain, yet dignified and equally roomy building at much less cost than the present one. These observations are made with no view to disparaging the wisdom of the men responsible for the present building; in common with all other Wisconsin citizens the writer is immensely proud of it. In no other way could Wisconsin have advertised herself to the world more favorably or profitably than by the construction and maintenance of this magnificent temple of intellectual endeavor. Fully recognizing this, the question still presents itself, is the state willing to spend the money necessary for providing with equal liberality for the future growth of the Library? If willing, is it wise and necessary that it should do so?"

The original plan of the building of the Wisconsin Historical Society contemplated still another addition across the back which would make it a hollow square. Instead of the construction of this addition, when more space is needed, it is proposed "to make provision for the growth of the Library by removing the public document and the newspaper and periodi-

cal divisions, which are of especially lusty growth, from the present building and housing them in an adjoining and more economical structure. At an expenditure equal to the sum which the Park Street addition will cost such a structure could be erected as would meet the needs of the situation from the Library point of view for a full generation yet to come. Further than this, if situated and planned, as it should be, to admit of future additions, provision would be afforded for indefinite growth.

"Thus far the situation has been considered from the view point of the Library alone. That the State will refuse to provide reasonably for its future growth is inconceivable. How such provision may be made to the best advantage is the only point to be considered. The suggestion already advanced finds its strongest reinforcement in the consideration of another and, probably, more important problem of State administration."

"The new State Capitol is a much more splendid building than the Library, and eight times as costly. Unlike the Library building, its design admits of no additions to provide space for future needs of government. Ten years ago the State of Minnesota erected a similar building, regarded by the citizens of the State with pride similar to that which we manifest concerning our own splendid seat of government. Long since the building has proved inadequate to house the various branches of the State government. A recent legislature provided for the construction of a building adjacent to the Capitol at a cost of \$450,000, to house certain of these branches.¹ In our own case, if popular report can be credited, our new Capitol building is becoming overcrowded even before its completion. It scarcely requires statement that before a decade has elapsed Wisconsin will be brought face to face with the same embarrass-

¹ Dr. Quaife evidently had in mind the act of 1913, appropriating not \$450,000, but \$500,000 for a building for the Minnesota Historical Society and the Supreme Court. As amended by the last general assembly, the act now provides for a "building for and adapted to the use of the Minnesota historical society and for the care, preservation and protection of the state archives."

ment from lack of space in the Capitol to house the various departments of government, which our neighboring state has already experienced.

"One method of postponing this embarrassment, and the consequent necessity of removing branches of the State government to other buildings, would be to relieve the Capitol of the great masses of state records that have accumulated during the eighty years since Wisconsin became a separate political entity. Their removal to an archives building would redound to the advantage of all the various interests concerned. The overcrowded vaults and filing cases of the various offices, relieved of the masses of material whose usefulness from the view point of current administration has ceased, would provide ample accommodation for the more recent State records and those which are needed in the daily administration of the government.

"Leaving out of account the important consideration of economizing space in the Capitol building, a positive administrative gain would result from such a disposition of the State records. Wisconsin's records are fairly complete. They have suffered much less than have the records of most of the states from such agencies of destruction as fires, removals, improper housing, and indifference on the part of their custodians. While this is true, their system of arrangement—conspicuous in many cases for lack of system—is bad. From the view point of administrative efficiency and economy a decided improvement would follow upon their collection and orderly arrangement and indexing in a suitable archives building.

"Assuming the desirability of this, it is obvious that both administrative and scholarly considerations demand that the building be erected in proximity to the Historical Library and be administered by the Library staff. Wisconsin is conspicuous among the sisterhood of states for the care with which her historical interests are conserved and cultivated. Nor is this a recent development, for the State Historical Society is but one year younger than the State itself. There is no good reason why the professional training and knowledge of the Historical

Society staff should not be utilized to the utmost by the State. In the nature of things this professional training qualifies the staff to administer the State records better than can possibly be done by the ever-changing procession of State officials, who not only lack continuity of tenure and professional training, but whose time and interests are devoted to other and quite different problems. Another consideration worth noting is that by entrusting the State records to the care of the Historical Society centralization of system and housing will succeed the present multiplicity of systems and diversity of storage places.

“From the view point of the scholarly and historical interests involved such a combination of the State archives with the Historical Library would be wholly admirable. Archival materials are as the potter’s clay to students of government, economics, history, sociology, and the allied branches. At the present time, although the State’s archives are less than a mile away from our great University, they might almost as well be non-existent so far as any use of them by scholars is concerned. In a recent conversation the senior professor of American history in the University stated that it was practically useless to send any of his students to the Capitol to consult them. Nor is this intended as a reflection upon the attitude of the officials in charge of the various branches of the State government. However willing they may be—and they are, as a rule, an uncommonly courteous group of men—they are practically helpless to assist the student in his quest. A concrete illustration may be afforded by the recent experience of the writer. With the Governor’s permission to remove certain Civil War documents from the executive office to the Historical Library he repaired, with one assistant, to the Capitol to do the work of selecting them. The obliging attendant succeeded in finding one chair, and clearing half of one small table for the use of the two workers, and with such accommodations the work of sorting was done. Were the State records housed in proximity to the Historical Library and made accessible to students the change would con-

stitute an advantage to the scholarly interests of the State, whose importance can scarcely be overestimated.

"That such a plan of administering the State archives is by no means novel, appears from an examination of the practice pursued in other states. To mention only a few, Iowa has a Memorial Building which houses the State Historical collections and library and the archives, both under the custody of the curator of the State Historical Society.¹ South Dakota has a department of history and archives, a branch of the State government, housed in the Capitol. Alabama has also a department of history and archives. In some states the natural process of local evolution has brought forth a different arrangement, while in still others the care of the records and the preservation of materials for State and local history have been left largely to chance. In Wisconsin, considerations alike of administrative efficiency, of economy, of scholarly interest, and of local evolution all unite to favor such a solution of the archives and Historical Library problems as has been suggested."

The extended influence which a vigorous state historical society can exert is illustrated by the existence in Wisconsin of a number of active local historical societies affiliated with and reporting to the state society. Reports from six of these are published in the volume of *Proceedings* before us and indicate possible lines of work for such institutions. Thus, the Green Bay Historical Society held a meeting to commemorate the centennial of the writing of "The Star Spangled Banner." It has a committee investigating the origin of the names of streets in the city and is building up a collection of books, maps, and original documents relating to the locality. The La Fayette County society has a small library, a museum, and a manuscript collection. A most important line of work which local histori-

¹ This should read "the curator of the Historical Department." The State Historical Society of Iowa is an entirely distinct institution, devoted mainly to research, but with a good working library housed in one of the university buildings at Iowa City.

cal societies could take up is indicated by a statement in the report of this institution that "a store room in the courthouse contains a mass of old documents and records that should be classified." The Sauk County society held three meetings during the year at which papers in local history were read, besides a winter picnic and an annual outing or historical excursion. The society also erected a bronze tablet on the site of the first church in Baraboo. The Walworth County society has been gathering the personal recollections of pioneers and searching the back files of local newspapers for "data relating to early settlers, their family connections, their business enterprises, and their usefulness." The Waukesha County society has been instrumental in securing the erection of a monument to the three Cushing brothers, Civil War heroes, and is now working for a Cushing Memorial Park.

The Wisconsin Historical Society holds regularly but one meeting a year—in October. At this meeting it is customary to have an address by some distinguished historical scholar, usually from outside the state, after which a number of historical papers are read by title only. These, together with the address, are then published in the annual volume of *Proceedings*. In 1914 the address was by Worthington C. Ford, editor in the Massachusetts Historical Society, on the subject "The Treaty of Ghent—and After." Mr. Ford has been engaged for some time in editing the papers of John Quincy Adams and, using this material, he brings out many interesting points and throws some new light on the negotiations which brought the War of 1812 to a close.

Among the papers, one by Dr. Eben D. Pierce is of almost as much interest for Minnesota as for Wisconsin history. It is entitled "James Allen Reed: First Permanent Settler in Trempealeau County and Founder of Trempealeau." Reed was a Kentuckian who came to the upper-Mississippi region about 1815. For a time he was a soldier in the regular army and was stationed at Fort Crawford (Prairie du Chien). Then he became an employee of the American Fur Company and later

a tavern keeper. From 1842 to 1848 he served as government farmer for Wapasha's band of Sioux Indians on the site of Winona, Minnesota. His second wife was a relative of Wapasha, and he acquired considerable prestige with the tribe. Many of the incidents recounted in the paper are based on recollections which may or may not be reliable, but the paper furnishes an outline at least of an interesting career and a valuable picture of frontier conditions.

Another paper, of considerable length, on "The Taverns and Stages of Early Wisconsin," by J. H. A. Lacher, presents a mass of detailed information upon important phases of economic and social history. While the treatment is confined to Wisconsin, it is certain that somewhat similar conditions prevailed in Minnesota during the corresponding periods. Numerous excellent illustrations and extracts from original documents enhance the value of the paper. It is a fine thing that a man should be willing to devote himself to collecting and working up the mass of materials on which this paper is based, and every encouragement should be offered to induce others who are competent to undertake similar tasks.

Frederick Merk has a paper in the volume on "The Labor Movement in Wisconsin during the Civil War," which is a careful study based on documentary material. This is followed by "A Semi-historical Account of the War of the Winnebago and the Foxes," a legend in the Winnebago language as told by Joseph Blowsnake in 1908, with translation and notes by Paul Radin. The volume closes with a very important document for the history of the Northwest during the post-Revolutionary period: Henry Hay's "Journal from Detroit to the Miami River." This is edited with introduction and notes by Dr. Quaife under the title "A Narrative of Life on the Old Frontier." This journal, the original of which is in the Detroit Public Library, has been known to scholars for some time, but its publication is a distinct service.

In contemplating the extensive and successful work of the Wisconsin Historical Society, the institutions in the other west-

ern states, many of which have had to contend with poverty and lack of interest, should not be discouraged. What has been done in Wisconsin can be done elsewhere, perhaps in a somewhat different way. While the Wisconsin society serves in a measure the historical interests of the whole West, it can not and does not desire to preëempt the field. Each society has the history of its own state as a special field, but each should also specialize in certain phases of national or western history, for the history of all the individual states does not make up a history of the nation or of the West. The field is large, and there is work in plenty for all the individuals and institutions which can be enlisted. With cordial coöperation and consistent effort on the part of all, the foundations will finally be laid upon which will rest the future interpretation of the history of the great Mississippi Valley.

SOLON J. BUCK

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

DOCUMENTS

SELECTIONS FROM THE MURRAY PAPERS

The papers of William Pitt Murray in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society were received from his daughter, Mrs. Winifred Murray Milne, last November. They number about two hundred letters, commissions, and documents of various sorts, dating from 1842 to 1911. With these papers were received a number of pamphlets, some of considerable value, about twenty maps, and a few newspaper clippings. Most of the letters are addressed to Murray, although there are a few written by him and a few of which he was neither the writer nor the addressee. To those who are familiar with the career of Murray the value of the collection for the history of Minnesota will be obvious. Born in Ohio in 1825, he graduated in law at Indiana University in 1849 and came to the incipient territory of Minnesota the same year. He immediately took an active part in politics, serving in both houses of the territorial legislature, in the constitutional convention of 1857, and as a representative and senator in the state legislature. He also played a prominent part in the government of St. Paul, being a member of the city council most of the time from 1861 to 1879 and city attorney from 1876 to 1889.¹ Besides these and other political activities the papers reflect Murray's interests in transportation problems, fraternal orders, religion, education, and charity. Thus they are of value for nearly all phases of the history of Minnesota, and some of them throw light on social, economic, and political conditions in other states and even in foreign countries.

The documents here printed are selected primarily for the purpose of illustrating the character of the material in the collection. At some future time it is hoped that a calendar of

¹ Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 535 (M. H. C., 14).

the whole collection may be published. The first letter deals with a subject that has been and still is of perennial interest—the utilization of the Fort Snelling Reservation. Those who are now advocating the establishment of a western military academy on the reservation will find the letter a storehouse of arguments, many of which are as applicable to-day as they were in 1849. Following this is a letter relating to an early project for solving the problem of transportation between St. Paul and St. Anthony. Judge Nelson's letter shows that "deserving Democrats" had to be taken care of in Washington even in 1853. The letter from Kansas, which follows, forecasts the coming storm in that territory and indicates that there was considerable emigration from Minnesota to Kansas. W. W. McNair's letter is of interest for the information which it contains about the Liberal Republican movement in Minnesota, while the last letter throws light on commercial relations between the United States and Hungary and on political conditions in the latter country.

C. K. SMITH TO THOMAS CORWIN, SEPTEMBER 1, 1849¹

[Murray Papers—Printed Letter]

A MILITARY ACADEMY IN THE NORTH-WEST.

TO THE HON. THOMAS CORWIN, OF OHIO:

SIR:—Nature and education have given you an unlimited command over the most beautiful figures of speech. Your talents, eloquence, and honesty have placed you prominently before the American people as one of her most gifted and able statesmen. You occupy an elevated position in the affections of your countrymen, and in the councils of the nation. Your bold, truthful, and independent course in the Senate of the United States, is admired and approbated by many, very many of your fellow-

¹ Charles Kilgore Smith had been in the territory less than two months on the date under which this letter was printed. Born in Cincinnati in 1799, he was admitted to the bar in 1840 and was serving as a judge when President Taylor appointed him secretary of Minnesota Territory. On his arrival at St. Paul early in July, 1849, he appears to have taken a leading part in all sorts of move-

citizens. Your position would seem to give authority to address you on any subject, which may be considered in anywise interesting to the public.

I therefore, without any further apology, proceed to remark, that peace is at all times desirable, war always to be deprecated; yet it seems a law inherent in human nature, that we cannot always have the one or avoid the other. In all the preceding ages, nations have occasionally been involved in sanguinary strife. The future promises no well-grounded hope of an exemption from this dire calamity. The Gospel, and all well-meant and philanthropic efforts of peace associations, will fail to avert it. No human means seem adequate to secure the blessings of perpetual peace. It is true, that wars are not so frequent now as in the earlier ages. A reference to the chronicles of mankind would lead one to believe that the business of the human race, in its earlier ages, was mainly to kill and be killed. In the first wars, the only arms used were perhaps those given by nature; in the progress of ages,

ments. He is credited with having been the founder and organizer of the first Masonic lodge in the territory, a charter member of the first lodge of Odd Fellows in St. Paul, the prime mover in the establishment of the Minnesota Historical Society and its first secretary, a leader in the foundation of two of St. Paul's churches, the originator of the public school system of the state, and a member of the first board of regents of the university. All of this was accomplished in less than two years, for Smith made many enemies and, presumably because of the bitter antagonism towards him, he returned to Ohio in 1851, where he died in 1866. *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 8: 495; 12: 108; 14: 714.

Thomas Corwin, one of Ohio's most brilliant and distinguished statesmen, was a Whig leader in the United States Senate at this time. Murray is authority for the statement that Smith was a relative of Corwin's and owed his appointment as secretary of the territory to his influence. W. P. Murray, "Recollections of Territorial Days and Legislation" in *ibid.*, 12: 108.

Smith included this letter in full in his "First Annual Report" as secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society, printed in the *Annals* of the society "for the Year A. D., 1850-1" (St. Paul, 1851). This report was omitted, however, from the reprint of the *Annals* issued in 1872 as the first volume of the *Collections* and again reprinted in 1902. The document is there introduced as follows: "Public attention has also been called to the propriety of establishing the Western Armory at St. Paul, and a Military Academy at Fort Snelling. The reasons for the latter institution at that point, are fully set forth in the following letter."

other arms were invented, and new means of injury and destruction used. As the implements of war increased, in the same ratio wars decreased ; and were it possible to have the art of war so improved, that death would be the certain portion of all who engaged in battle, it would, in our opinion, put a period to wars. While fists and clubs were the only arms employed, men rushed into hostilities with much less hesitation than they now do.

Hence we conclude, that the more destructive wars become, the less likely will they be engaged in. This being true, a thorough military education, given to any people, is likely to prove a very effectual means of preserving peace. When a nation is known to be thus prepared, the belligerent powers are more likely to respect her rights, and to use every means of avoiding a conflict. It is, however, wholly impossible, that all should be thoroughly educated in military science. Nor is it necessary ; it is quite sufficient that a number large enough to guide and direct all military operations, should have received such a training. Accordingly, in the earliest history of our Republic, it became our policy to establish a military academy. We had passed through the war of our independence, and in that war, the want of men who had received a military education was apparent ; and the advantages of it were strongly evidenced by the efficient aid rendered us by foreigners who came among us. It is not easy to estimate the benefits which resulted from the military skill of Steuben, and the discipline which he established at Valley Forge, during the time our army was in winter quarters at that place. General Washington felt the advantages of military science so strongly, that in his eighth annual message, he recommended the establishment of a military academy in these words :

“In proportion as the observance of pacific measures might exempt a nation from practising the rules of the military art, ought to be its care in preserving and transmitting by proper establishments, the knowledge of that art. Whatever argument may be drawn from particular examples, superficially viewed, a thorough examination of the subject will evince, that the art of war is at once comprehensive and complicated ; that it demands much previous study, and that the possession of it in its most improved and perfect state, is always of great moment to the security of a nation. This, therefore, ought to be a serious care of every government ; and for this purpose an academy where a regular course of instruction is given, is an obvious expedient which different nations have successfully employed.”

Five years after this recommendation, Congress, by law, established a military academy at West Point, where it still remains. This was by the "Act fixing the military peace establishment of the United States," approved March 16, 1802. However, "An act to authorize the purchase of a tract of land for the use of the United States," approved July 5th, 1790, was the first law on the subject of West Point. But the academy did not do much for a number of years. It lingered along until the war of 1812, which taught its advantages anew. Soon after that war, new energy was given to it; and it went into active and efficient operation. Many acts of Congress have, from time to time, been passed, regulating this institution. Formidable opposition has arisen at various periods. It has, however, at length won its way to general favor as an institution of great benefit. If there were any lingering doubts remaining, the late war with Mexico must have dissipated them. The incalculable services rendered by those who had been educated at West Point, in that struggle, must satisfy every one of its vast utility. Whatever may be the opinions of the bravery of our soldiery who were engaged in Mexico, it cannot be denied, that our long list of brilliant military achievements is mainly owing to the science taught at West Point. It is no part of the object of the writer to labor an eulogy upon our military academy. The names of Ringgold, Swift, M'Kee, and Clay, who fell in the Mexican war, together with a host of others who escaped their fate, attest the advantages of the institution; and as long as the brilliant victories obtained by our arms in Mexico, from Palo Alto to the city of Mexico, live on the pages of history, that long will the vast utility of the military science taught at West Point be remembered.

But it is not alone in the military art that "West Pointers" have distinguished themselves. In every department of life—in the tented field—at the bar—in our seminaries—in authorship—aye, even in the pulpit, West Point can boast its stars. No institution in our country gives a more practical and useful education than West Point.

Taking it for granted, that all will admit its utility, and that its benefits and favors should be well and equally diffused throughout our country, we would inquire, Does the institution at West Point answer our purposes in its present condition? Is that place sufficient to educate all whom it is desirable should be thoroughly instructed in those solid branches which are essential to a good military education? Does it satisfy the wants and

avoid the prejudices, which grow with the growth and strengthen with the strength of the country? By an act of Congress, approved July 7th, 1838, the number of Cadets is limited to two hundred and fifty. The rule of admission is, that one Cadet shall be admitted from each Congressional district. Since this rule was established, the ratio of representation has been increased from 47,700 to 73,000. Thus the number of Cadets does not increase in proportion as our population increases. The population of the United States then was about 13,000,000. It is now supposed to be over 20,000,000. Our borders are continually and rapidly extending; and if the spirit of war remains as rife as in former times, the danger of being involved in hostilities will greatly increase; and we will consequently require a greater number of men educated in military science.

If this reasoning be correct, our circumstances demand an increase in the number of Cadets; and if the number be enlarged, the establishment at West Point is wholly inadequate for their accommodation. In fact, it is not sufficient, under its present organization, to satisfy the country, nor accommodate the present number authorized by law. Although the number which may be admitted is two hundred and fifty, yet, from some unaccountable reason, the ordinary number in the institution is about two hundred. For various reasons, many of them are dismissed; doubtless most of them for good cause, AND PERHAPS ALL. The number of graduates since its organization, we cannot state. We have no data at hand to enable us to determine with certainty; but it does not exceed twelve hundred, which is twenty-five graduates for each year since the organization of the institution. Quite a small number indeed, in comparison with our present immense population of 20,000,000. As before stated, we believe the number of Cadets should be increased so as to be commensurate to the increased population and wants of our growing and widely extended country. This will require a similar or auxiliary institution elsewhere. The new institution should be in the West, to meet the wants of the country. It is but just, that the convenience and interest of the great West should be accommodated in this matter. Millions of money from the public Treasury are disbursed in the East, while to the West it is dealt out with a parsimonious hand. It is justice to the West to have some public favor in this way. She has long complained of injustice in this matter; and the time is fast approaching, when

she can enforce, by her numerical representation, this equitable demand.

But it is not in this view that we urge the erection of a military academy in the West. It is mainly in regard to the necessity and convenience of the matter that it is urged. If it be a good thing, its benefits should be equally diffused. In looking for a particular location for this auxiliary institution, there are three important considerations which should influence its locality. The health of Cadets being a matter of paramount importance, that should be the first consideration. The second should be the convenience of access to the place; and the third should be the economy of the matter in a pecuniary point of view. The place which combines these advantages in the greatest degree should be selected.

In casting about, we can name no place which seems to combine them in so great a degree as FORT SNELLING. Viewing all things, this strikes us as being the very place for such an establishment. It is more like West Point for scenery, health, and many other particulars, than any place on the American continent. Its buildings, arrangement, and whole conformation are very similar. It will so impress any person upon inspection. It is a military post, established in 1819. The march of our population westward, now renders it of little use for military defence. At all events, it could be sufficiently manned by Cadets for all practicable purposes; and the expense of keeping it up would not be more than the present expenditure, so that the Government would not have to lay out one additional cent by converting it into an academy.

It will be seen, however, by the act making appropriations for the support of the military academy for the year ending the 30th of June, 1850, that the sum of \$171,394 61 was appropriated, which is taken as the average sum appropriated yearly since the organization, to keep up and sustain the institution. It has been in existence forty-seven years, which multiplied by the appropriation of \$171,394 61 will produce the sum of eight millions fifty-five thousand five hundred and eighteen dollars; which, divided by twelve hundred, will leave an expenditure for each student of six thousand seven hundred and thirteen dollars. WE STATE THE FACTS WITHOUT NOTE OR COMMENT.

FORT SNELLING is in a place which is, beyond all question, one of the most healthy in the United States; in fact it is proverbially healthy. It is useless to extend our remarks on this point, for it can have no rival as to health.

Next of its convenience. It is situated on the Mississippi river, at the confluence of that and the Minnesota or St. Peters river—easily arrived at by means of steamboats at all times, except when blocked up by ice. By reference to the map, it will be seen that Cadets from Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa, will find it of easy access—much more so than West Point. These and the States that will spring up in the North-West, will, before many years, have one half of the population of the United States. Thus it is seen that Fort Snelling commends itself to favor from considerations of convenience.

We come lastly to notice it with reference to public economy. The fort is large and capacious—well built with stone—and has ample room, admirably adapted for the accommodation of three hundred Cadets. It has all the necessary buildings, out buildings, &c., and appears as if built purposely for an academy; so that no expense need be incurred for buildings. Connected with it is a military reservation of twelve miles square; that part of the reservation immediately surrounding the fort is well suited for parade ground. It is understood that the Government has authorized the preliminaries to a treaty with the Sioux Indians, which, it is presumed, will be consummated ere long. Thus we shall acquire a tract of country extending from the fort, west, between the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers; so that any number of acres may be appropriated and set apart for the use of the academy. Perhaps no other suitable place in the country could be selected, which would have this and so many other arguments in its favor, but Fort Snelling. These facts show, that on the score of economy it is a very desirable location for a military academy; and thus we find it combines all the advantages which should commend a place as a site for such an institution.

The scenery around this point is by no means inferior to that at West Point. The place is, as before stated, at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers—the former, a beautiful stream, which winds its way from the south-west until it unites with the Mississippi, which comes from the north-west. On the point upon an elevated piece of ground, stands Fort Snelling—a place strong by nature, and rendered almost impregnable by the military works. It looks as though the dogs of war might bark at it until they split their brazen throats, and it would laugh in scorn at the power of battle. Far away to the north-west stretches a beautiful plain, smooth as a meadow. Turn your eyes

around, and for beauty and sublimity of scenery—from the bold precipice to the smooth, beautiful lawn—clumps of trees—oak openings, which look like an old orchard—in short, all that can please and charm the eye is here presented. South of the Fort, in full view, is Mendota, the station of the American Fur Company. Back of this the country rises in beautiful grandeur, and spreads to the eye a delightful landscape. Whatever advantages which pleasing scenery, bold or beautiful, may have upon the mind, is here to be realized. Taking it all in all, it seems that Congress should look to this matter, and proceed to organize at this place, at an early day, a military academy, on principles similar to West Point. In every point of view, the establishment of an auxiliary institution seems the best policy, and Fort Snelling the place.

S.

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA TERRITORY, September 1st, 1849.

(Chron. & Reg. Print, St. Paul.)

[Endorsed:] C. K. Smith Letter Mil. Academy.

S. B. ELLIOT TO MURRAY, November 15, 1852

[Murray Papers—A. L. S.]

CINCINNATI Nov 15 1852

W P MURRAY Esq

DR SIR

I have received two letters from you of late which ought to have been answered before but a multiplicity of engagements has prevented.

Enclosed please find the form for a charter which I hope you will succeed in getting through. I doubt not it can be made *useful*. I keep pretty well posted on Minnesota Improvements and I cannot think of any project that will take so well as a Plank or Rail Road from St. Paul to St. Anthony with the privilege of extending it to Sauk Rappids or Crow Wing. Or if a Rail Road is preferred perhaps it would be better to get a privilege to extend from St. Anthony to some point towards Fon du Lac. Perhaps a charter for a Rail or Plank Road from St Paul to Stillwater would be worth something if you can get them both t[h]rough.

Please let me hear from you often and I shall have plenty of time in a few days to answer all your letters pro[m]ptly.

160 acre Land Warrants are now worth \$150.00.

Yours truly

S B ELLIOT

R. R. NELSON¹ TO MURRAY, March 3, 1853

[Murray Papers—A. L. S.]

WASHINGTON March 3/53

FRIEND MURRAY

Your favor enclosing papers &c was handed me a few days ago by Mr Sibley.² I will present them personally to the President as soon as the inauguration is over. I know of no applicant but yourself for that office and your chances are good.

The Democratic party must succeed in preventing those individuals who opposed us last fall from being rewarded for their treachery, and I am pretty sure that Mr Pierce will do the fair thing.

Minnesota is well represented here Olmstead,³ Col R, Lowry,⁴ Hollinshead,⁵ Steele⁶ &c are all on hand.

¹ Rensselaer Russell Nelson was born in New York in 1826, was admitted to the bar in 1849, and came to St. Paul the following year. In 1857 President Buchanan appointed him a territorial judge, and on the admission of Minnesota to the Union he was made a United States district judge. He resigned in 1896 and died in St. Paul in 1904. Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 543 (*M. H. C.*, 14).

² Henry H. Sibley was the delegate from Minnesota Territory in Congress at this time. *Ibid.*, 702.

³ Probably David Olmsted, who located a trading post at Long Prairie in 1848, moved to St. Paul in 1853, and became editor of the *Minnesota Democrat*. He was prominent in territorial politics, serving as president of the council in the first legislature, 1849, and as mayor of St. Paul in 1854. In 1855 he was a candidate for the position of delegate but was not elected. The reference may be to S. Baldwin Olmstead of Belle Prairie, who was president of the council in 1854 and 1855. The spelling of the name in the document would indicate the latter, but the former was the more prominent in politics. *Ibid.*, 565.

⁴ Probably Sylvanus B. Lowry, who had been associated with Rice and Sibley in the Indian trade. He was a member of the Democratic party and served in the council in 1852 and 1853. Governor Gorman appointed him adjutant general in 1853, but he was removed from office soon afterwards as a result of political quarrels. W. H. C. Folsom, *Fifty Years in the Northwest*, 439 (St. Paul, 1888); William B. Mitchell, *History of Stearns County*, 2: 1080 (Chicago, 1915).

⁵ William Hollinshead came to St. Paul in 1850 and formed a partnership for the practice of law with Edmund Rice and George L. Becker. Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 338 (*M. H. C.*, 14).

⁶ Doubtless Franklin Steele, who played a prominent part in the early history of Minneapolis. *Ibid.*, 738.

There is no doubt but what true & firm Democrats will receive the appointments most of them I hope in the Territory, but that is perhaps doubtful. The ultimate success of the party is the great object, and we must attain that if possible.

Remember me to Williams¹ & all others

Yours truly
R. R. NELSON

AARON FOSTER² TO A. L. WILLIAMS,¹ February 26, 1855

[Murray Papers—A. L. S.]

LEAVENWORTH CITY KANSAS Feb 26th 1855

FRIEND WILLIAMS

I promised you before leaving St Paul, that I would write to you and give you a description of the country. we are all in good health, and hope this may find you, and yours the same. we arrived here on the 9th of November, one month from the time we left St Paul. we were all unwell at the time, but have enjoyed excellent health since. I am inclined to think this is a very healthy section of country. I am much pleased with the climate, the coldest day this winter, the thermometer was only five degrees below zero. the River has not closed this winter at this point. the last Boat left here on the 9th of December, but a Boat might have come up any time during the winter, we are looking for one up every day, they Telegraphed from St Louis to Weston, that a Boat would leave on the 20th this month, you will understand from that, that we are not out of the way of the lightning, as it strikes within five or six miles of us. this Town, or City as it is called, is situated two and half miles below Fort Leavenworth on the Missouri River, and is a most delightful situation, there are about fifty buildings including all kinds and sizes, and the

¹ Doubtless Amzy L. Williams, who was a law partner of Murray's in 1853, as evidenced by a letter from Williams to G. W. Featherstonhaugh, February 17, 1853, in the Murray Papers. The existence of such a partnership is confirmed by Murray's daughter, Mrs. Winifred Murray Milne. According to C. E. Flandreau, Williams came to St. Paul in 1851. "Bench and Bar of Ramsey County" in *Magazine of Western History*, 8: 63.

² Aaron Foster, born in Pennsylvania in 1817, settled in Stillwater in 1846 and moved to St. Paul the following year. He was a carpenter by trade and served as a justice of the peace for a number of years. He enlisted in the army in 1864, but died before entering the service. J. Fletcher Williams, *History of the City of St. Paul*, 168 (*M. H. C.*, 4); T. M. Newson, *Pen Pictures of St. Paul*, 70 (St. Paul, 1886).

inhabitants number 2123 and consist of the following clases, one hundred men, twenty three women, one hundred children, one thousand dogs, and nineteen hundred woolves, and we look for a large adition to our present population when spring opens, of a few thousand rattle snakes. fifty of the male population, are Lawyers and the rest you might swear was Carpenters. the great difficulty with this place, is that there cannot be a good title given, as this Town is situated on the Deleware Reserve, and the Lotts are Surveyed off only 25 feet front by 110 deep, I do not think this will be the seat of government, it is a strong Pro Slavery hole, and a great portion of the Lotts are owned by Missourians, and our Governor is free Soiler all over. they elected a strong pro slavery man to represent us in Congress, yet I do not think this will be a slave state, although the Missourians help us very generously at the Elections. I think we will come the Paddy over them this spring Election. we have Organized a sositiey eaquel to the H. Ns. I suppose you understand that. I am affraid some of our St Paul Boys are strongly tinctured with the Pro. speaking of the St Paul Boys there are in this place Sellors,¹ Dr Day,² James Kirkpatrick³ Mr Russell and myself. A J Whitney⁴ is here at times St Paul is well represented here. Kirkpatrick is very feeble, he will not be able to stand it long. I do not like liveing in this Country as well as I do in Minnesota, yet I like the climate much better I have my health much better here. I have not had a cold since I came to the Territory and have stoped Coughing entirely. we all live in Buildings without plastering, and no person sick in the Country, there are five Companys of Soldiers at this Fort, and none of them sick. there is no timber in this Country, and Lumber is very dear, matched

¹ Benjamin L. Sellors was in St. Paul as early as 1849 and served as sergeant-at-arms of the second territorial council, 1851. *Minnesota Pioneer*, January 9, 1851; Williams, *St. Paul*, 215, 266 (*M. H. C.*, 4); Minnesota Historical Society, *Annals*, 1850-51, p. 64 (St. Paul, 1851).

² Probably Dr. David Day, who practiced medicine in St. Paul from 1849 to 1854. If so, he must have soon returned from Kansas, as he was a partner with J. R. Jenks in the drug business in St. Paul in 1856. Newson, *Pen Pictures*, 109; *St. Paul City Directory*, 1856-57, p. 85; Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 167 (*M. H. C.*, 14).

³ James Kirkpatrick was a resident of St. Paul in 1850. Williams, *St. Paul*, 268 (*M. H. C.*, 4).

⁴ Andrew J. Whitney came to St. Paul in 1853 and was appointed clerk of the supreme court the same year. He was city clerk of St Paul in 1858. *Ibid.*, 340, 410, 462; Newson, *Pen Pictures*, 394.

pine flooring \$65.00 per thousand feet, Green Cotton Wood boards 30.00 per thousand, Lathes are 8.00 per thousand. Dry goods, Groceries, and provisions are cheaper here than St Paul. they have been ploughing on the Government Farm all winter except January, we have had no rain but once since last June, we have had three snow storms but it only stops a few days with us, but it blows the hair off of a mans head—a perfect hurricane. I wish you would do me a small favour if you can that is call on Mr Morrison¹ and tell him we are all well and that I will write to him after I get leisure, and he owes me some six or seven dollars ask him how much it is and get it, and pay Mr. Terry² the amount of my postage since I left, and pay yourself for trouble, and if any left send it to me, when you write. Send me a paper at times, and I will do the same excuse this letter, or me as I have four more to write this evening. I am affraid you will not be able to get much information out of my scriblings, but you are a Lawyer and ought not only to be able to read bad writing, but make out what a man really ment, if he only had sence enough to express himself. Give my respects to all the folks in St Paul and accept the same yourself

Respectfully Yours

AARON FOSTER

N B write soon and direct your letters to Fort Leavenworth Kansas we have no post office here yet

W. W. McNAIR³ TO MURRAY, July 31, 1872

[Murray Papers—A. L. S.]

MINNEAPOLIS July 31st 1872

HON W. P. MURRAY

DR SIR

I have gone to St Paul twice since the day our committee met to see you but failed to find you either time

Upon consultation with Democrats since the action of the State Com^{te} & the liberal Com^{te} in determing to have sep-

¹ Probably Wilson C. Morrison, who settled in St. Paul in 1848 and died there in 1892. Newson, *Pen Pictures*, 87; Williams, *St. Paul*, 198, 200, 269; *St. Paul City Directory*, 1893, p. 998.

² John Carlos Terry was assistant postmaster in St. Paul from 1853 to 1871. Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 773 (*M. H. C.*, 14).

³ William Woodbridge McNair, born in New York in 1836, settled in St. Anthony in 1857 and was admitted to the bar the same year.

arate Conventions I find them almost unanimously of opinion that it would have been better to have had but one Convention, but that since the calls have been issued & the resolution recommending that in all other conventions & primary meetings the Democrats & liberal Republicans co-operate it would be better to do so, I therefore assent to this plan should you think best to adopt it.

Permit me also to suggest that in the call we adopt some distinct party name as for instance "Democratic Republican Convention for the 3^d Congressional District of Minnesota" or some other equally good name, and then invite all who are willing to join in endeavoring to secure the election of Greely & Brown & the local tickets placed in nomination by the "Democratic Republican party" in the several counties in this District of the State, & who favor the adoption by the people of the Principles enunciated in the Platforms adopted at Cincinnati & Balt^r to join with us.

As to the representation it will, in case a convention of Democrats & Liberals is called have to be based upon the entire vote & I would suggest that we take the vote for Governor last cast and allow to every Three hundred voters or a majority fraction thereof one delegate except in the counties in which the entire vote does not exceed Three Hundred when we would allow one delegate as heretofore. I have made a compilation of the vote cast at the last gubernatorial election, in the several co[u]nties now comprising the 3^d Dist & enclose it as it will save you some time & trouble, should you think best to base the representation upon the entire vote of the district. The first column of figures is the N^o of votes cast for Mr Austin in the respective Counties,—the second the number cast for Mr Young—the third the aggregate for each county—the fourth the N^o of Delegates allowed by the call for the last State Convention upon the basis of One Delegate to every one Hundred and fifty votes,—the fifth the N^o of delegates allowed to each County upon a basis of one to every Three

He served as county attorney of Hennepin County from 1859 to 1863 and as mayor of St. Anthony from 1869 to 1872. He was a candidate for Congress in 1876, running on the Democratic ticket, and in 1883 was offered the nomination for governor. His death occurred in 1885. In 1872 McNair and Murray were selected as members of the Democratic campaign committee for the third congressional district. Isaac Atwater, *History of Minneapolis*, 1: 453 (New York, 1893); *St. Paul Pioneer*, June 20, 1872.

Hundred voters in the county which I think would be about right, except in the case of Stearns County where the Democratic vote has been much larger than the Republican so that in changing the basis of representation from 150 Democratic to 300 of both parties the representation for Stearns is reduced from 11 to 8. how would it do in fixing the apportionment to give them the usual number eleven (11) & say nothing about it. I would also suggest that I think a good time for the convention would be the day before the state convention at 2 P. M. if a hall can be determined & St. Paul the place.¹ On Monday when in St Paul I saw Mr Staples² & I conclude from what he said the foregoing suggestions would meet his views if satisfactory to the other members of the Committee. It is no doubt time the call was issued

Respectfully yours

W. W. McNAIR

JOSEPH FUCHS TO MURRAY, July 2, 1875³

[Murray Papers—A. L. S.]

TABAKGASSE N^r 1 COMPTOIR BEI RUDOLF HERZOG

PEST, UNGARN July 2 /75

WM. P. MURRAY Esqu. ST. PAUL

DEAR SIR

I make free to inform you that through various reasons the negotiations with the I Hung. Transp. C^o were not concluded; a brother in law of mine who was instrumental in founding it, thought to see good reasons why he should withdraw his funds first, and laterly even his countenance from the institution. On my arrival (the 31st May) they showed willingness to have me

¹ The *St. Paul Pioneer* of August 4, 1872, contains the call, signed by the members of both the Liberal Republican and Democratic committees. Stearns County was allowed eleven delegates, as suggested by McNair.

² Isaac Staples, a prominent lumberman of Stillwater, was another member of the Democratic committee for the third congressional district. A branch of his business was located in St. Paul. *St. Paul Pioneer*, June 20, August 4, 1872; Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 734 (*M. H. C.*, 14).

³ The printed heading to the sheet on which this letter is written is of some interest. It begins "Joseph Fuchs, Commission-Merchant," and is continued by the following at the left of the sheet with a German version at the right: "offers his services for the purchase and sale of raw products as well as other merchandise on Commis-

unite with them, even though they had fallen out with my friends; since a large share of needed funds were withdrawn they confine their business only to forwarding, leaving Commission etc., alone. Under such circumstances it required no deep insight to perceive that the I Hung. Transp. Co¹ were not the parties best suited to further my views, & do justice to the manufacturers I am to represent.

I discontinued therefore the negotiations, that were hardly commenced, and after some search in another direction, it is now my pleasant duty to inform you that I have been able to induce Mr. Rudolf Herzog to lend his influence and become an associate in the agr. implement business to which I shall wholly devote myself. (Unless indeed the government of the U. S. should see fit to appoint me its representative, in place of Mr Kauser who has resigned through stress of business). Mr. R. Herzog is an old businessman and landowner, besides being the founder of the first factory in Hungary for the manufacture of bone meal & of animal coal; his factory has lately become the property of a stock Co but he has a large interest there yet & remains the leading & counseling director of the enterprise. Mr Herzog is one of our well known businessmen and any of our banks will on proper application give his financial standing.—The business will for the present be conducted from the office of Rud. Herzog Tabakgasse N^r 1 under the firm & name of Joseph Fuchs which I alone will sign as below.

The letter of introduction which you were so kind as to give me, to the american minister Mr. Orth I have not yet delivered; I was in vienna, but could not take the time to call on him.

I hope that Mrs Murray & the children are well; now that I am so far away, I would give something to sit on your front stoop in the shade & read the St. Paul Press or the Pioneer for that matter.

The Hungarians elected their legislators yesterday. Those who pay taxes to the amount of abt \$5⁰⁰ pr year & that promptly paid, have the franchise; the right to choose their representatives was granted only a few years ago, & our people consider it a great

sion. Represents home and foreign producers and American & European manufacturers of agricultural machinery and implements. The highest references at Home and Abroad. Sole representative of the celebrated Japanese Paper Ware which will not leak, break, shrink, or fall to pieces."

¹ Imperial Hungarian Transportation Company.

boon, show also that they appreciate it by displaying of national (red, white & green) banners with the name of the favorite candidate; The Sundays are used for processions in honor to the candidate, he holds his programme speeches, & is conducted to his house by his adherents who deafen each other with cries of: *Éljen.* (cheer.) The franchise is considered by too many as yet as a plaything a toy and without considerable noise they consider it has no value. with the greatest respect I am yours obedient servant

JOSEPH FUCHS

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Federal Land Grants to the States with Special Reference to Minnesota (The University of Minnesota, *Studies in the Social Sciences*, no. 2). By MATTHIAS NORDBERG ORFIELD, LL.B., PH.D., sometime instructor in political science in the University of Minnesota. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota, 1915. 275 p.)

The material for a comprehensive study of the American public domain is so vast and scattered that any contribution, however restricted and detailed, will be welcomed by scholars as a step toward a more thorough understanding of this important influence in American life. It is strange, considering its importance, that the public domain has received so little attention from students. Fortunately, however, there are indications that investigators in history, political science, and economics are entering this fruitful field in increasing numbers.

Mr. Orfield's study deals with an important phase of the subject—the history of land grants to states for all purposes, including, among others, support of elementary and secondary education, support of the ministry, development of industries, military defense, internal improvements, and public buildings. The author purposes to show how there came to be a federal land grant policy, how that policy developed into its present form, and how the states have administered their heritage. The work, then, naturally divides into three parts. The first part deals briefly with the colonial precedents. In the second part the general subject of land grants to the states and territories is discussed. In the last division Minnesota is chosen as a typical state for a more detailed study of the administration of the public lands. Under each general division the different kinds of land grants are treated separately. While such a topical division may be convenient, it is unfortunate that the material is not woven into a closer texture. With so complicated a subject such a task is exceedingly difficult, but nevertheless possible, of attainment.

Most of the material on which the study is based has been

found in the libraries of the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Historical Society, in the Minnesota State Library, and in the office of the state auditor. It consists almost entirely of public documents, comprising colonial records, the *Congressional Debates and Globe*, *Senate and House Documents*, journals of legislatures, reports of committees, governors' messages, state and federal statutes, decisions of the courts, and the like. What Mr. Orfield has written, therefore, is a legislative and constitutional history of land grants to the states. It is to be regretted, however, that he did not explore the extensive newspaper material and make more use of the correspondence of public men. A better background for the laws and the debates in Congress and in the legislatures would thus have been secured. It is impossible to understand what happened in Congress during the important years 1852 and 1854, for example, unless we have in mind the conflicting interests of those who favored land grants to railways, canals, and institutions, military bounties, homestead legislation, graduation of the prices of public lands, distribution of the proceeds of the sales of public lands, and the relinquishment of the lands to the states in which they were situated. What, for instance, was the attitude of those who favored land grants to soldiers and railways towards the homestead proposition? The disturbing element of slavery, especially the Kansas-Nebraska bill, also profoundly affected the public land question. Votes in Congress are often misleading because of log-rolling, and land bills offered splendid opportunities for this practice. A study of the newspapers and the correspondence of public men would enable the student to get behind the scenes and check up the votes of representatives and senators. To quote Professor Frederick J. Turner: "We cannot understand the land question without seeing its relations to the struggle of sections and classes bidding against each other and finding in the public domain a most important topic of political bargaining."

Notwithstanding this defect, every chapter reveals the painstaking work of the author. At the cost of great effort he has searched out new information amply fortified by footnote references, and has compiled valuable tables. He has not only studied the grants for all the various purposes, but he has also pursued

his investigation into the states and has thrown much light on the constitutional and legal aspects of the question.

The West has always been dissatisfied with the land policy of the federal government, believing this policy to be dictated by men who had little interest in that section of the country or else were unable to understand its needs. The cause of public education in the United States has suffered because of the unsatisfactory adjustment of federal and state authority in the matter of lands reserved for schools. "Up to 1845," according to Mr. Orfield, "the school lands were generally granted 'to the state for the use of the inhabitants' of each 'township for the use of schools.' But in the case of Indiana and Alabama the grant was directly to the 'inhabitants' of the various townships. The results were equally disastrous, for in either case it meant local control over the proceeds of the lands. . . . The legislatures of the new states have not always been discreet and far-sighted in the management of the school lands. The spectacle of state after state throwing away the heritage of its common schools by century-long leases, premature sales at inadequate prices, or investment of the proceeds in doubtful securities served more and more to impress upon Congress the importance of taking some action to safeguard the inheritance of the schools" (pp. 48, 49). It is apparent to Mr. Orfield that progress has been made in the direction of greater national control over school lands, although Congress has done little or nothing to assert its authority when states have diverted the proceeds of their lands from the purpose specified.

In the section devoted to the discussion of the administration of public lands in Minnesota the reader will find much to praise and much to censure in the conduct of the state government and its officials. Minnesota came into the Union at a time when her citizens could profit by the unfortunate experiences of her sister states. The state constitution, fortunately, imposed a healthy check upon the sale of the school lands and the first governor, Alexander Ramsey, was impressed with the importance of a careful stewardship of lands belonging to the state. Later in her history, however, the state suffered much loss through the incompetency and corruption of those in charge of the administration

of her lands. She possessed forests of fabulous value, but "it is only within the last decade and a half that the state and national governments have come to think seriously of practical forestry." For this reason most of the state timber has been sold. Mr. Orfield relates how this wonderful resource has fallen into the hands of individuals, many of whom obtained titles to large tracts by unfair or unscrupulous methods. The resultant losses to the state and the measures employed to remedy them are described in considerable detail. There are also chapters devoted to a discussion of the mineral lands, which have brought so much wealth to the state.

Mr. Orfield has produced, on the whole, a valuable treatise. Some errors, however, have crept into the text. In his account of the land legislation in Congress in the thirties and forties he makes the statement that at the time of Clay's famous report in 1832 "there were two questions before the committee, the reduction in the price of the public lands and the distribution of the lands to the new states" (pp. 98-100). The fact is that there were at least three distinct propositions: preëmption, graduation, and the distribution of the *proceeds of the sales* of the public lands among the states. Further, in discussing the distribution-preëmption law of 1841 (p. 100), he says merely that "the Senate signified its approval" of the House bill, whereas two important amendments were added, which became exceedingly important at the next session.

The bibliography appended leaves much to be desired. It is very full for the colonial period, which occupies relatively and properly little space in the text, but for the remainder of the book it is rather disappointing. This is particularly true of the secondary material. Why such titles as Treat's *National Land System*, Benton's *Thirty Years' View*, Calhoun's and Clay's *Works*, Ballagh's papers in the *Reports* of the American Historical Association for 1897 and 1899, George W. Julian's writings and speeches, to mention only a few, are omitted is not clear. The *Life, Journals, and Correspondence of Manasseh Cutler* is not listed, although referred to in the footnotes.

G. M. STEPHENSON

- Norsk lutherske prester i Amerika, 1843-1913.* By O. M. NORLIE, in collaboration with K. SEEHUUS, M. O. WEE, A. M. ARNTZEN, A. L. WIEK, and L. LILLEHEI. (Minneapolis, Augsburg Publishing House, 1914. 624 p.)
- Den norsk lutherske kirkes historie i Amerika.* By REV. JOHAN A. BERGH. (Minneapolis, 1914. 528 p.)
- Den forenede norsk lutherske kirke i Amerika.* By REV. O. M. NORLIE, PH.D., PD.D. (Minneapolis, Augsburg Publishing House, 1914. 104 p.)
- Fra ungdomsaar: An oversigt over den forenede norsk lutherske kirkes historie og fremskridt i de svundne femogtyve aar.* Edited by N. C. BRUN. (Minneapolis, Augsburg Publishing House, 1915. 371 p.)

As a part of a very considerable output of books in the Norwegian language by the Augsburg Publishing House of Minneapolis, there are four recent publications dealing with the history of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in the United States. These books constitute a positive contribution to the history of the Norwegian element in the United States, for the church has exercised a deep influence upon the life of the Scandinavians in this country, and its history is intimately related to the history of this immigrant force. The economic contributions of immigrants to the United States are not difficult to estimate. On the other hand, the social results of their settlement and amalgamation with American life are more undefinable. But fundamental to an understanding of the contribution of the Scandinavians to American character and institutions is a true interpretation of the spiritual forces at work among them.

The first of these volumes contains brief biographies of 1,826 Norwegian Lutheran pastors and theological professors who have been active in the United States during the seven decades from 1843 to 1913. As an introduction to the biographical section there is a carefully prepared history of Norwegian immigration from 1825 to 1913, and of the organization and progress of the work of the Lutheran Church among the Norwegian immigrants. A brief survey of the fourteen synods which have been organized during this period is included. A number of charts greatly increase the value of these sections. One of the most valuable

features of the book is the summary of the literary activity of the pastors and professors whose biographies are included. There is added a list of newspapers and periodicals published by Norwegian-Americans, with dates of publication and names of editors. A complete index of names concludes the book. The volume was prepared by trained scholars, and should prove as valuable as it is reliable and complete.

The second title may be translated "History of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America." The author, a graduate of Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis, was ordained as a minister in 1871, and since 1890 has been a member of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. He has thus been both a spectator and a participant of a considerable portion of the development which he describes. The inclusion of many original documents and citations of sources increases the value of a work which is not particularly critical. The theological strifes in the Norwegian Lutheran Church have been extremely bitter, and the accounts of these struggles consume no small portion of the work. The author writes from the standpoint of a pastor of the United Church. Recently there has been a strong movement for a union of three large Norwegian synods, and this movement is elaborately discussed. While the author makes no attempt to analyze the religious contribution of the Norwegian Lutherans to American life, he does recognize Americanization as inevitable and urges the church to keep abreast of the movement of transition by adopting the English language in its services wherever there is a need for it. The figures presented by Rev. Mr. Bergh of the progress of the church are significant. The work was begun in 1843 in Muskego, Wisconsin, with one congregation, 69 members, and two ministers. Seventy years later there were 1,354 ministers and professors, 3,398 congregations with about 500,000 members in six synods, with five theological seminaries, two normal schools, nine colleges, and twenty-seven academies.

The last two volumes relate to the largest synod among the Norwegian-Lutherans—the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. Rev. Dr. Norlie's book particularly is a scholarly account of the organization and activity of that synod. The last work, edited by Rev. N. C. Brun, was published in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of that church body. It is a popular, illustrated

book, in thirty chapters, and reveals the virtues as well as the shortcomings of collaboration. From the American standpoint the chapter dealing with the work done by the church in the English language is of special interest. The figures there given indicate that the foreign language is steadily giving way to the English, and that the church, realizing this, is taking steps to meet the resultant problems.

T. C. BLEGEN

Voyages of the Norsemen to America (Scandinavian Monographs, 1). By WILLIAM HOVGAAARD, late commander in the royal Danish navy and professor of naval design and construction in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. (New York, The American-Scandinavian Foundation, 1914. xxi, 304 p.)

The American-Scandinavian Foundation is to be congratulated on the attractive appearance and scholarly character of the first volume of its *Scandinavian Monographs*. Professor Hovgaard's interest in the subject began with a study of the "means and methods of navigation possessed by the Norsemen, and of the bearing of these features on the question of the discovery of America." From this the work gradually developed into an orderly presentation and critical discussion of all the available evidence, whether historical, geographical, ethnological, or botanical. The conclusions reached are that the early explorations of the Norsemen probably reached the coast of Massachusetts, but that the later expedition for purposes of settlement did not get south of Newfoundland and failed of its purpose because of attacks by the Indians and internal strife.

A passage of especial interest to the people of Minnesota occurs on page 116 under the heading "Ruins and Inscriptions found in America." It reads as follows: "The so-called Kensington Stone, found in Minnesota, bears a runic inscription, but it has been conclusively shown by Professor G. T. Flom to be a recent forgery."

A large number of excellent illustrations and several folding maps add to the value of the work. The bibliography, though not critical, is useful, but the index is inadequate.

S. J. B.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

CLASSIFICATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Considerable progress has been made during the last few months in the work of arranging and filing the society's valuable collections of manuscripts. Such material when received is usually without logical arrangement; the papers are almost always folded, often badly wrinkled, and sometimes coated with dirt. To ensure their preservation and to render them accessible, the papers are unfolded and smoothed out, carefully cleaned, and filed flat in manila folders placed in specially constructed dust-proof and light-proof filing boxes. Often the documents are so badly creased and wrinkled that they have to be dampened and pressed between blotters before they can be filed, and many of them ought to be repaired and strengthened by being covered with mousseline, a transparent fabric used for that purpose. This latter is a slow and delicate process, and it has seemed best to arrange and file the collections first and then take up the repairing of the papers which need it.

In filing, the chronological arrangement is used in accordance with the modern practice in practically all large depositories of manuscripts. A subject classification offers insuperable difficulties and requires an elaborate index; an alphabetical arrangement is of value only to one who is looking for a specific letter by a known writer; while the chronological arrangement enables a student interested in an event or a period to read his sources in the order in which they were written. In the course of time calendars of the documents in the various collections should be compiled and published. These would not only facilitate the work of the investigator but would tend to preserve the papers themselves by decreasing the amount of handling necessary to find desired material.

The largest single lot of manuscripts which has been filed consists of the Donnelly Papers. These were estimated at thirty thousand, but after being arranged they are found to number nearly fifty thousand and fill sixty-four filing boxes. Supple-

menting these papers, which consist mainly of letters received, are six letter-press books containing copies of letters written by Donnelly, and eighteen scrapbooks compiled by him. The career of Ignatius Donnelly as author, editor, and radical political leader is so well known that the great value of this collection, covering as it does nearly half a century from 1856 to 1900, and containing letters on nearly every conceivable subject and from all sorts of people, prominent and otherwise, will be quite obvious.

Several months ago Mr. Kellar, while searching for archival material in the Old Capitol, discovered in one of the basement rooms used by the historical society a trunk containing the papers of James W. Taylor. None of the staff of the society knew of the existence of these papers, but it later developed that they came into its possession shortly after Taylor's death in 1893, during an interim in the secretaryship of the society, and that they have lain untouched in its storeroom ever since. The trunk was immediately moved to one of the society's vaults in the New Capitol, and during the summer the papers have been carefully arranged and filed by Mr. Theodore Blegen, a graduate student in history in the University of Minnesota.

James W. Taylor was born in New York in 1819, engaged in journalism in Ohio in the forties, and served as a member of the constitutional convention of 1849-50 and as state librarian from 1852 to 1856. In the latter year he removed to Minnesota and immediately became interested in the promotion of railroad enterprises. In 1859 he was appointed special agent of the treasury department to investigate reciprocal relations of trade and transportation between the United States and Canada, a position which he held for nine years. From 1870 until his death he was United States consul at Winnipeg. Taylor's official positions and his wide interests make his papers a veritable mine of material for the history of the West both in the United States and Canada, and for the relations between the two countries. They consist of approximately seventeen hundred letters and documents dating from 1859 to 1893; some twenty letter books containing copies of about the same number of letters; drafts of about forty speeches, essays, or newspaper articles; two large scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, besides many loose clippings and papers; three ledgers; twenty-one maps, some of which are original drawings; and a

number of pictures. With the collection were four bound books and thirty-three pamphlets, which will be catalogued and placed in the library.

Using this material as a basis, Mr. Blegen has written a sketch of Taylor's life which will be published in a later number of the *BULLETIN*. In connection with the preparation of this paper he made a trip to Winnipeg to consult the files of newspapers in the provincial library and to talk with some of Taylor's associates who are still living there. Mr. Blegen has also compiled a bibliography of Taylor's published writings which runs to over thirty items, and he is working on an extended description of the papers.

Early in July Mr. Kellar completed his work in the archives, and his report, which amounts practically to an inventory of the archives of the state and territory, so far as they are still in existence, was dispatched to the chairman of the public archives commission of the American Historical Association for inclusion in the 1914 *Report*. Mr. Kellar then took up the work of classifying, filing, and calendaring the Murray Papers. A brief description of this collection, together with a few selected letters, will be found in the section of this issue devoted to documents.

A SCANDINAVIAN-AMERICAN COLLECTION

The increased attention paid in recent years to the non-political aspects of American history has resulted in a recognition of the important part which various foreign elements have played in the development of the country. Of these elements the Scandinavian has been especially prominent in the Northwest, and the history of the region can not be understood without a knowledge of its contribution. Somewhere there should be built up a comprehensive collection of material for Scandinavian-American history, and, as Minnesota has a larger number of Scandinavians in her population than any other state, the Minnesota Historical Society is the logical institution to do this work. Prominent representatives of these races to whom the proposition has been broached have become enthusiastic over it, and, with their coöperation assured, rapid progress can be made.

It is intended that not only books and pamphlets of a formal historical character but also much original source material shall

be secured. Files of Scandinavian-American papers and magazines, reports of religious organizations and educational institutions, and especially diaries and collections of letters are desired. To get the project under way, Mr. Blegen, whose knowledge of the Scandinavian languages and of the literature of the subject has been of great value, prepared a want-list of books and pamphlets, which was sent to several leading publishing houses and dealers in such material. Exceptionally large discounts were secured, and many of the books are already on the shelves. To pick up the older out-of-print books and files of newspapers and periodicals will require much more time and extensive search.

Sometime ago the University of Minnesota began to collect Scandinavian material, and a division of the field between the two institutions seems desirable. A tentative agreement has been reached to the effect that the university will collect material relating to the Scandinavian countries themselves and to the languages and literatures, while the gathering of material relating to these elements in America will be left to the society. In accordance with this division negotiations have been begun for the transfer to the society's library of some material already collected at the university.

GIFTS

Mr. Cyrus H. McCormick of Chicago has presented to the society number 37 of the *Illinois-Wabash Land Company Manuscript* (1915. 22, 40 p.). The volume consists of a photographic facsimile of the manuscript and an introductory account of "The Illinois-Wabash Land Company" by Professor Clarence W. Alvord of the University of Illinois. The documents reproduced throw light on the attempt of William Murray and his associates to obtain possession of large tracts of land in the West by purchase from the Indians during the period of British control. After the Revolution the claims of this company were pressed before Congress for many years but without success. Professor Alvord's introduction is an excellent account of the operations of the company during the British period and the Revolution.

A box of scrapbooks, letters, and documents has been received from Mr. Hanford L. Gordon, a life member of the society, who

now resides in Los Angeles. Mr. Gordon is well known to Minnesotans as the author of several books of poems relating largely to the Northwest. Born in New York in 1846, he settled in Clearwater in 1857. Later he practiced law in St. Cloud and served as register of the United States land office located there. He was a member of the state senate in 1867-68 and resided in Minneapolis from 1878 to 1888.¹ While the material in the box is given to the society without reserve, Mr. Gordon requests that it be withheld from consultation by any except officials of the society during his lifetime. This request will be scrupulously complied with.

¹ Upham and Dunlap, *Minnesota Biographies*, 266 (M. H. C., 14).

NEWS AND COMMENT

The work of the department of Indiana history and archives is summarized in the *Thirtieth Biennial Report* of the librarian of the Indiana State Library for the period ending September 30, 1914 (Indianapolis, 1914. 107 p.). The department, which was formally established by an act of March 6, 1913, has "the care and custody of official archives which come into the possession of the state library" and is authorized to examine and classify "documents and records not of present day use to their respective departments." Among its purposes and duties are also "the collection of materials bearing upon the history of the state and of the territory included therein; the diffusion of knowledge with reference to the history of the state; the encouragement of historical work and research." Dr. Harlow Lindley, professor of history in Earlham College, is the director of the department.

Another forward step was taken in Indiana when the last legislature established the Indiana Historical Commission to consist of the governor, the director of the Indiana historical survey of Indiana University, the head of the department of archives and history of the state library, and five others to be appointed by the governor. The functions of the commission are twofold: to make arrangements for the celebration in 1916 of the centennial of the admission of the state to the Union, and to edit and publish documentary material relating to the history of the state. Twenty-five thousand dollars has been appropriated for the work of the commission and of this amount five thousand dollars has been set aside for the second phase of its activities. The commission has an article in the June *Bulletin* of the state library setting forth some of its plans and asking for coöperation in carrying them out.

The State Historical Society of Missouri has issued its *Seventh Biennial Report* for the two years ending December 31, 1914 (Jefferson City, [1915]. 47 p.). The law governing the society, which is printed in this *Report*, establishes it as trustee of the state and directs that it shall "hold all its present and future col-

lections and property for the state." The same statute provides that "sixty bound copies of each of the several publications of the state, and of its societies and institutions" shall be given to the society to be used in exchange with other societies and institutions. A large fireproof building, now in course of construction in Columbia, will house both the historical society and the library of the University of Missouri.

The board of directors of the Kansas State Historical Society has issued its *Nineteenth Biennial Report* for the period ending June 30, 1914 (Topeka, 1915. 175 p.). The society has just moved its library and museum and the state archives, of which it has charge, into a Memorial Building constructed by the state at a cost of about half a million dollars. Inasmuch as the society's collections number 237,686 books and pamphlets, 149,851 archival documents, 44,628 other manuscripts, 9,127 pictures, 7,616 maps, atlases, and charts, and 9,809 relics, it will readily be seen that the moving was no small task. The work appears to have been sadly hampered by lack of funds and by lack of equipment in the new building. William E. Connelly is now secretary of the society, succeeding George W. Martin, who died March 27, 1914.

The *Twenty-seventh Report* of the commissioner of public records of Massachusetts (Boston, 1915. 9 p.) is for the year 1914. The commissioner, Henry E. Woods, inspected the condition of public records in one hundred and fifty towns during the year and made many recommendations for their better care and protection against fire. Acting upon his orders, a number of towns and counties had records repaired, renovated, and bound by the Emery Record Preserving Company. The report contains a list of approved typewriter ribbons and stamping pads. The use of any other ribbons or pads in the making of public records, either state or local, is forbidden by law.

Ten years ago representatives of twelve historical societies in Pennsylvania met in Harrisburg and organized the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies. The *Acts and Proceedings* of the tenth annual meeting of this federation, held January 21, 1915 (Harrisburg, 1915. 85 p.), shows that it now has a mem-

bership of forty-one societies, many of which were called into being as a result of the activities of the federation. The president, in his address, complained that the part played by Pennsylvania did not secure adequate consideration in histories of the nation because of the lack of local historical work in the state as compared with New England. If this be true of Pennsylvania, what shall be said of the western states in which active and effective local historical societies, apart from the state institutions, are almost non-existent?

An especially valuable section of the pamphlet contains the reports of the constituent institutions for the year ending January 21, 1915. This contains the names and addresses of officers, number of members, number of meetings held, titles of publications issued and papers read, and statements of special work done. Another section contains lists of publications in the fields of Pennsylvania history, genealogy, and biography, and of books by Pennsylvanians issued during the year—a valuable contribution to the bibliography of the state.

The federation is supported by dues of two dollars a year from each constituent society and by a small appropriation from the the state. It is endeavoring to secure the passage of an act providing for the appointment, in the division of public records of the state library, of a supervisor of public records, "whose duty it shall be to examine into the condition of the records in the several public offices of the counties, cities and boroughs of the Commonwealth"; to recommend such action "as shall be necessary to secure their safety and preservation"; and to "cause all laws relating to public records to be enforced."

From the *Report* of the state librarian of Pennsylvania for 1914 (Harrisburg, 1915. 41 p.) it appears that the staff of the division of public records, which has charge of classifying and indexing the state archives and such county archives as are transferred to its care, consists of a custodian, eleven assistants, and a messenger.

The State Historical Society of Missouri is making a special effort to collect the published minutes of various church organizations in the state and now has several thousand of them. The fact that few of the organizations possess complete files of their

own minutes emphasizes the importance of sending copies of such publications to the state historical society where they are certain to be preserved and where they will be available for future reference.

The June issue of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* is devoted largely to the history of the Northwest. Frederic L. Paxson writes of "A Constitution of Democracy—Wisconsin, 1847"; George N. Fuller, of the "Settlement of Michigan Territory"; and Archer B. Hulbert, of "The Methods and Operations of the Scioto Group of Speculators"; "Historical Activities in the Old Northwest, 1914–1915" are described by Solon J. Buck. The department of "Notes and Documents" contains an account of "Some New-found Records of the Lewis and Clark Expedition" by Milo M. Quaife; a letter relating to "Detroit during the Revolution," contributed by C. M. Burton; and a letter relating to "The French Settlers at Gallipolis," written by Joseph Gilman, a member of the Ohio Company, at Marietta in 1793. This last document was contributed by Mrs. Charles P. Noyes of St. Paul.

The *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for July contains a number of articles of considerable interest to students of Minnesota history. Two of these entitled "The Neutral Ground" and "The Black Hawk War and the Treaty of 1832," both by Jacob Van der Zee, deal with Indian affairs in the upper Mississippi Valley during the thirties and forties. "The Grasshopper Plagues in Iowa," by John E. Briggs, tells of the various visitations, the resultant losses and privations, the relief measures, the attempts to destroy the pests, and the effect on settlement and agriculture. Minnesota and other western states, as well as Iowa, suffered severely from these visitations, and the article necessarily throws light on the whole subject, which is one of considerable importance in the economic history of the Northwest. The archives of the state of Minnesota, especially the miscellaneous files in the governor's office, contain much valuable material on the subject, and presumably similar documents could be found in the archives of the other states involved. Mr. Briggs does not appear to have used any such material, although he has consulted the newspapers and printed documents.

The April issue of the *Annals of Iowa* is a "Public Archives Number." The first article is a valuable paper by Ethel B. Virtue of the Historical Department of Iowa on "Principles of Classification of Archives." This paper was originally prepared for the conference of archivists held in Chicago, December 31, 1914, in connection with the meeting of the American Historical Association. It is illustrated with photographs of the rooms and filing devices of the public archives division of the Historical Department of Iowa. C. C. Stiles, who has charge of archival work in Iowa, presents a detailed schedule of the classification adopted for the documents from the auditor's office. Similar schedules for the offices of governor and secretary of state were published in the *Annals* for October, 1911, and January-April, 1912.

The Tennessee Historical Society has published two numbers, March and June, 1915, of its new quarterly, the *Tennessee Historical Magazine*. Professor St. George L. Sioussat of Vanderbilt University is the editor. Each number contains scholarly historical articles, well-edited documents, and a department of news and notes. In the March issue is printed a bill for the establishment of a state department of archives and history which was introduced in the last legislature. Such a department or commission, charged with the care of archives and historical materials, has been created in nearly every other southern state.

The Historical Department of Iowa has published a pamphlet entitled *Iowa Authors and Their Works, a Contribution toward a Bibliography*, by Alice Marple, assistant curator (Des Moines, 1914. 151 p.). The department has a large collection of the books listed, and much information was secured by circularizing the writers themselves. Biographical data were also collected, although not used in the present work, which is put forward as "tentative."

The South Dakota Department of History has recently issued a pamphlet descriptive of its work (n. d. 32 p.). The department is by law under the management of the state historical society and has charge not only of the state's historical interests but also of the state library, including legislative, reference, and

traveling libraries, the state census, vital statistics, and the preparation and publication of an annual review of the progress of the state. Seven volumes of *Historical Collections* have been published by the department.

The *Texas History Teachers' Bulletin*, which is edited by the history staff of the University of Texas, began in the May number a department of "Source Readings in Texas History" intended for the use of teachers in the grades. The first installment contains two contemporary accounts of life in Texas in the thirties.

Mr. Victor H. Paltsits, keeper of manuscripts in the New York Public Library, has edited from the original manuscript in the collection over which he has charge, the journal of Mrs. Lodisa Frizell of a trip *Across the Plains to California in 1852* (New York, 1915. 30 p.). This is a valuable account of the experiences of a small party which traveled overland from the Little Wabash River in Illinois, via St. Louis, St. Joseph, Fort Kearney, Fort Laramie, and the South Pass. The pamphlet is reprinted from the *Bulletin* of the New York Public Library for April, 1915.

An article on "The Preservation of Historical Records in Holland," by Henry A. Sharp in the *Library World* (London) for January, 1914, is summarized as follows in the *American Library Annual* for 1914-15 (p. 218): "Each of the eleven states of Holland has a provincial depot for the preservation and documentation of local records, that at The Hague being at once the central repository for the whole country, as well as the depot for a specific province. Each depot is in charge of an archivist whose duty it is to collect and index all records in his district, and to make an annual report to the chief archivist. Registers of births, baptisms, betrothals, marriages, deaths, removals, and property are kept. The Amsterdam repository is also collecting material of all kinds relating to the city and the citizens—magazine articles, photographs of buildings, playbills, and portraits."

Dr. W. Dawson Johnston of the St. Paul Public Library has an article on "The Library and History Teaching, with Special Reference to the Teaching of Local History" in *School and Society* for July 3, 1915. Dr. Johnston advocates the extensive

collection of material for local history by libraries, together with a stimulation of interest in the subject by means of lectures and excursions. The Chicago history lectures for children, given weekly under the auspices of the Chicago Historical Society, and the activities of the City History Club of New York in promoting lectures, excursions, and individual study are described. The latter organization has published an *Historical Guide to the City of New York*, compiled by Frank B. Kelley from original observations and contributions made by members and friends of the club (rev. ed., New York, 1913. 421 p.), which is an excellent example of the sort of work that ought to be done in other communities.

"The Evolution of America," by President Frank L. McVey, in the *Quarterly Journal* of the University of North Dakota for July, 1915, is an historical address delivered at the University of Christiania in 1912. The same issue contains an article by Professor William G. Bek, "Some Facts concerning the Germans of North Dakota," which points out "opportunities for cultural historical studies."

An article entitled "Following Leif Erickson," by Björn B. Jónsson in the *American-Scandinavian Review* for March-April, deals with the settlement of Icelanders in Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas, and western Canada. A number of representatives of the race who have achieved prominence in politics or business are referred to. Among them is Hon. G. B. Björnson of Minnesota, Minnesota, whose picture accompanies the article.

The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for Sunday, July 11, contains a feature story on early steamboating on the Mississippi. It opens with an account of an interview with Captain Fred A. Bill of Minneapolis, who was formerly connected with the Diamond Jo Line and who has made an extensive collection of pictures of steamboats and river scenes. Then follow extracts from a paper dealing with early steamboat days read at the recent meeting of the Minnesota Old Settlers' Association by Mrs. Jeanette Lamprey, a daughter of Captain Louis Robert. The article ends with a brief sketch of Captain Robert's career by R. I. Holcombe. Captain Robert was a prominent riverman before the Civil War

and played an important part in the early history of St. Paul and Minnesota. Mrs. Lamprey's paper was printed in full in the Burlington (Iowa) *Saturday Evening Post* of June 26 and reprinted in the issue of July 17.

A "History of Navigation on the Red River of the North, 1858-1915," by Frank M. Painter of St. Paul, has been published in the issues of the *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa, for June 12 and 19 and July 3 and 10, 1915. Another article entitled "Steamboating on the Red River of the North," by Fred A. Bill of Minneapolis, appeared in the July 31 and August 7 issues of the same paper. A manuscript copy of this article, which was written for the North Dakota Historical Society, was presented to the Minnesota Historical Society by Mr. Bill several months ago.

The bureau of navigation of the navy department has issued a *Course in History, Geography, Arithmetic, etc., for the Use of Enlisted Men* (Washington, 1915. 91 p.). The pamphlet consists entirely of brief questions and answers, of which the following are typical: "*Q.* How did the Indians spend their time? *A.* They hunted with bows and arrows and fished." "*Q.* What did Lincoln do about a month after he became President?" "*Q.* What catastrophe occurred on the Pacific coast of the United States in 1906?" Apparently the pedagogical methods of the early nineteenth century have not entirely disappeared from the land. It might be well for the officials in charge of this work in the navy to consult with some of the experts in the bureau of education.

In the *Nation* for May 20 appeared an interesting editorial entitled "Our States and Their History," in which attention is called to the work being done by some of the state and local historical societies. The writer points out the value of this work and argues for increased attention to the history of the separate states. Many of the ideas in the editorial and most of the illustrative anecdotes appear to have been derived, either directly or indirectly, from Professor Alvord's paper in the first number of the MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN, although the paper itself is not mentioned. Still more surprising is the reference to a "wealthy . . . Minneapolis Historical Society."

Attention should be called to an error on page 74 of the last issue of the BULLETIN. It appears that the recently destroyed St. Paul Public Library building was not the old market house which was built in 1853, but another building constructed in 1881 on the same site and for similar purposes.

MINNESOTA PUBLICATIONS

Results of Spirit Leveling in Minnesota, 1897 to 1914, Inclusive, by R. B. Marshall, chief geographer of the United States Geological Survey, has been issued by the survey as *Bulletin* 560 (Washington, 1915. 190 p.). From 1909 to 1914, inclusive, the work upon which the publication is based was carried on in coöperation with the state of Minnesota.

An Investigation of the Concrete Road-Making Properties of Minnesota Stone and Gravel, by Charles Franklin Shoop, assistant professor of experimental engineering, University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, 1915. 46 p.), is number 2 of *Studies in Engineering* published by the University of Minnesota.

The *Northwestern Miller* has issued the seventh annual edition of the *Miller's Almanack and Year Book of the Trade* for the year 1915-16 (Minneapolis, May 1915. 240 p.). The volume contains general information and statistical data of value to the grain and milling industries, gathered from authoritative sources. Although compiled primarily for the industries concerned, this series of publications will be of great service to the future economic historian.

Through the Mill by "4342," a Prison Story That's Different (St. Paul, G. L. Bartlett, c. 1915. 139 p.) is a well-written and reliable account of the Minnesota state prison at Stillwater, based on the experiences of an intelligent ex-convict. The routine of the prison is carefully described, several sets of rules are printed in full, and a number of chapters are devoted to an arraignment of the "Indeterminate Sentence."

"A Few Facts Relating to the Minnesota State Board of Health," by Dr. H. M. Bracken; "A Letter on the Criticisms of the Minnesota State Board of Health," by Oscar C. Pierson; and an editorial on "The Ethical Side of the State Board of Health,"

by Dr. W. A. Jones, have been reprinted from the *Journal-Lancet* of August 1, 1915, in the form of a pamphlet (23 p.).

An editorial on "The University of Minnesota and the Mayo Foundation" is reprinted from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association in *School and Society* for July 3, 1915.

The superintendent of education, C. G. Schulz, has brought out the *Eighteenth Biennial Report* of his department, in which statistics of teachers, pupils, property, appropriations, etc., both general and by counties, are given for the school years ending in 1913 and 1914 (1915. 117 p.). A report of the state normal school board is included.

The *Seventh Biennial Report* of the state board of control (1915. 448 p.) covers the period ending July 31, 1914. The book contains a large amount of information, including much statistical material of interest to sociologists and of value to the future student of social history. Reports of the executives of the many institutions under the control of the board are included.

The *Fifth Biennial Report* of the state board of health (1915. 294 p.) covers the work of the board and of its various departments during 1913 and 1914 and contains vital statistics for 1912 and 1913.

The board of education of Minneapolis has published a *Report* covering the school and fiscal years ending June 30, 1912, June 30, 1913, and June 30, 1914 ([Minneapolis, 1915]. 223 p.). The volume furnishes an interesting and valuable chapter in the educational history of Minneapolis. Superintendent Jordan in his report to the board for this period, besides giving the usual statistics of enrollment and equipment, makes special mention of social center work; of the establishment of the Thomas Arnold School as a disciplinary and opportunity school and of open air schools and schools for the mentally defective; of the school savings department; and of the teachers' retirement fund association. Supplementing the report of the superintendent are reports of the supervisors of various special departments. Of particular interest will be the one covering evening school work, the statement of the work of the summer schools, the report of the 1913

school census, and the statistics furnished by the truant officer. The book contains numerous half-tone illustrations.

The *Twenty-fifth Annual Report* of the Minneapolis Public Library (Minneapolis, [1915]. 48 p.) covers the year 1914 and deals not only with the central library and its branches, but also with the Minneapolis Athenaeum, which is affiliated with the library.

The *Thirty-second Annual Report* of the board of park commissioners (Minneapolis, [1915]. 157 p.) records the activities of the board during the year and contains a large amount of interesting information about the parks and playgrounds of the city. The *Report* is attractively printed and contains numerous illustrations, maps, and diagrams.

Number 3 of volume 3, new series, of the *Macalester College Bulletin* is the *Catalog Number* for the year 1914-15, containing calendar and curricula announcements for the year 1915-16 (St. Paul, April, 1915. 124 p.).

The St. Cloud State Normal School has issued its *Annual Catalog* for the school year ending June 9, 1915, with the announcements for the year 1915-16 ([St. Cloud, 1915]. 43 p.).

The *Thirteenth Annual Catalogue* of the Duluth State Normal School ([Duluth, 1915]. 40 p.) contains announcements of courses of study for the year 1915-16.

In its *Catalogue* for the year 1915-16 the Red Wing Seminary and College outlines the courses offered in the various departments: theological, collegiate, academic, and commercial (Red Wing, May, 1915. 42 p.).

A series of articles reminiscent of early days in Winona by Orrin Fruit Smith appeared in the issues of the *Winona Republican-Herald* for June 26, July 3 and 10, 1915.

In the July 22, 1915 issue of the *Battle Lake Review* appeared an interesting sketch by Henry Way of Audubon of the early-day trials of the first settlers of Battle Lake.

In a letter to the *St. James Plaindealer*, July 31, 1915, I. H.

Mather gives some personal recollections of early days in Minnesota, describing in particular the early schools with their lack of good books and equipment.

The July 14, 1915 issue of the *Mankato Daily Review* contains an interesting account of an auto trip taken by a party of pioneer residents of Blue Earth County to points of old-time interest along the Watonwan River and in the country thereabout.

The *Morgan Messenger* announces in its issue of July 29, 1915, the publication in the coming fall of a history of Redwood County by H. C. Cooper Jr. and Company of Chicago. The early history of this county is of especial interest, since the first outbreak of the Sioux War of 1862 occurred at the Lower Sioux Agency, which was located in the northwestern quarter of the present township of Sherman.

A full account of the sixth annual reunion of the old settlers of Marshall County, at which over one thousand persons were in attendance, is given in the July 30, 1915 issue of the *Stephen Leader*. The principal speaker on the afternoon program was Congressman Steenerson, who, after giving an account of his experiences in pioneer days, made some comparison between the commercial business of that early time and the present-day "trusts."

Captain Henry A. Castle has an article in the July number of the *North American Review* on "The Post Office and Socialism." Captain Castle was postmaster of St. Paul, 1892-96 and auditor of the United States Post Office Department, 1897-1903.

The H. W. Wilson Company, formerly of Minneapolis and now of White Plains, New York, has issued an *Index to Short Stories*, compiled by Ina Ten Eyck Firkins, reference librarian at the University of Minnesota (1915. 374 p.).

Dr. W. Dawson Johnston of the St. Paul Public Library is the author of an article on "Public Libraries and the Drama" in the *Bulletin of Bibliography* for July.

Radisson, the Voyageur (New York, Holt, 1914. 115 p.) is the title of "a verse drama in four acts" by Lily A. Long of St.

Paul. The experiences of Radisson and Groseilliers, the first white men who are known to have penetrated the region beyond Lake Superior, furnish the historical background for a love adventure between the hero and an Indian maiden, all told in excellent verse. An historical note is appended, and directions are given as to costuming and mounting for amateur production.

Rev. Edward Schuch, pastor of the Swedish Lutheran Bethlehem Church of Minneapolis, is the author of an interesting book on *Castles and Abbeys of England in Poetic and Romantic Lore* (Minneapolis, Augsburg Publishing House, c. 1915. 320 p.).

Mr. Warren Upham, archeologist of the Minnesota Historical Society, has an article entitled "Geologic and Archaeologic Time" in *Bibliotheca Sacra* for July. A number of separates have been issued.



Copyright of **Minnesota History** is the property of the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, or email articles, however, for individual use.

To request permission for educational or commercial use, [contact us](#).