

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

IN DEFENSE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

The careless reader of Mr. Nevins' review in the March issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY of a report on *Historical Scholarship in America* might infer that he was trying to disparage historical research. The careful reader does not need to infer this, for the review is permeated with a spirit of disparagement. Let us examine first the review and then some of its larger implications.

There is no agreement as to the best way to set about preparing a review of a book. Each book is an entity and so deserves original and unhampered treatment. There are, however, some widely accepted principles which are generally observed. The reviewer should give some information about the book. He then may examine the soundness, timeliness, or occasion which called forth the book. He may register approval or disapproval. Having considered the background and the purpose, he is then under obligation to give some indication of the manner in which the author has performed his task, keeping in view the purposes set forth by the author. Again the reviewer may indicate his attitude by quibbling, by arguing, or by pointing out errors. He may or may not attempt to evaluate the book.

In his review Mr. Nevins does give some information about the book; he does examine the assumptions underlying its plan, but he fails to distinguish between the question of whether the report should have been prepared and the question of how adequately it actually was prepared. The reviewer's objections to the project obscure his perception as to how well the committee performed it, and the so-called review becomes little more than an occasion for voicing the

ideas of the reviewer as to what should have been done. No one will question the reviewer's right to object to the performance of the task, but one may properly object to his confusing the two problems.

In 1930 the American Historical Association appointed a committee on the planning of research. Perhaps the association should not have taken this step; perhaps it should have appointed a committee on historical interpretation; or possibly a committee on interpretative writing; or even a committee on generalizations; but the fact remains that the association, wisely or unwisely, did appoint a committee on the planning of research. In the fullness of time this committee embodied its findings in a volume entitled *Historical Scholarship in America: Needs and Opportunities*. One would suppose that a report by a committee on the planning of research would deal to some extent with the problems of research. It seems, according to the reviewer, that this particular committee threw away its opportunity to deal with "interpretation" and "writing" and centered its attention upon historical research. This concern with research has called forth the severe strictures of Mr. Nevins.

Perhaps the title *Historical Scholarship* is an unfortunate one. Its implications are possibly broader than the performance, but in spite of its unfortunate implications the title did not mislead the reviewer, who recognized that the committee used it as practically synonymous with research. The reviewer is entitled to squeeze out of a phrase whatever connotations he puts into it, but he must also grant a similar liberty to the committee to employ phrases which express what they think they wish to express. The logical conclusion one draws from the review is that a committee of the American Historical Association did poorly a job that was not worth doing at all. Incidentally it is interesting to note that the committee recommends that occasional sessions be "devoted to the consideration of the art of book reviewing" (p. 40).

"The primary need of American historical scholarship is not more check lists of medieval cartularies, or anything of the kind," according to Mr. Nevins. C. W. David, N. S. B. Gras, A. P. Evans, W. E. Lunt, C. H. McIlwain, C. R. Morey, and J. E. Thompson signed a report in which they listed the need of a check list of cartularies. Perhaps these medievalists are mistaken as to their needs, or possibly the reviewer would insist that it is not a "primary" need. Possibly the list, in case it be prepared at all, should appear after the period has been thoroughly illuminated by interpretative writers, leaving such mechanical tasks to the "horde of historical students" who are interested merely in the "ferreting-out and piling-up of facts." Since historical scholarship does not need medieval cartularies "or anything of the kind," one may conclude that check lists of any kind are one of the obsessions of the *doctorandi* and professors who are plodding along in the "valley of dry bones."

It may be that historical research is not the crying need of the hour, but whether minimizing research will remedy the "fundamental inadequacies" or remove the "maladies that sap" the soul of historical scholarship is open to grave doubt. Research, humble and dry though it be, seems to be a necessary preliminary to "interpretation and writing." Scholars who have the time and money to do their own spade work can, perhaps, afford to scorn attempts to organize and systematize research, but even the author of the *Emergence of Modern America* has profited by such activity. It would seem that any attempt to promote the first step in the production of history deserves some slight encouragement as well as critical evaluation.

EDGAR B. WESLEY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The Unfinished Autobiography of Henry Hastings Sibley, Together with a Selection of Hitherto Unpublished Letters from the Thirties. Edited by THEODORE C. BLEGEN, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society and associate professor of history in the University of Minnesota. (Minneapolis, The Voyageur Press, 1932. 75 p. Cloth, \$2.00; half leather with frontispiece, \$4.50.)

Readers of Folwell's *History of Minnesota* may recall that the author in sketching the life of General Sibley referred to a reputed manuscript autobiography "which so far as known is not now extant." By good fortune that manuscript proved to be in the possession of General Sibley's daughter, Mrs. Elbert A. Young of St. Paul, and in 1924 she deposited the manuscript with the Minnesota Historical Society. It is that fragmentary personal autobiography written in Sibley's own handwriting which is here published. It covers all of General Sibley's early life and the period of his removal to and residence in Minnesota up to the year 1835. Needless to say it is a work of value to all students of Minnesota history and it will prove interesting reading to the general public as a simple straightforward story of frontier life in the old Northwest. Dr. Folwell has remarked that from the date of Sibley's arrival in Minnesota in 1834 till the day of his death in 1891 he was "easily the most prominent figure in Minnesota history." An Indian trader, country gentleman of almost feudal character, delegate to Congress, president of the Democratic wing of the constitutional convention in 1857, first governor of the new state, Indian fighter, university regent, and participant in all public matters for the common good, it might be further said that like Washington, Sibley was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen of Minnesota.

This *Autobiography* was commenced in 1884, when Sibley was seventy-five years of age and seeking to restore his health at Kittrell, North Carolina. A further portion was written in 1886 and possibly later, but the story of his life as given here ceases with the events of 1835 at the end of Sibley's second year at Mendota. In the pres-

ent volume are included a number of interesting letters written by Sibley as late as 1844 to Ramsay Crooks, president of the American Fur Company in New York, which Sibley represented at Mendota. These letters range in detail from whooping cough and liquor among the Indians, both bad, to a description of business conditions in the fur trade. Some have a familiar ring, for he tells that "business is poor." Either "rats" were scarce, or, if plentiful, prices were too low. One item has a courtly interest, for Sibley requested Crooks to forward to him "1 Black Frock Coat (\$35) & pants to match (\$15) at Frosts to be made on my measure." Another letter ordered books—Prescott's *Ferdinand and Isabella* and *Conquest of Mexico*, Sparks's *American Biography* in ten volumes, Hallam's *Middle Ages*, Thiers' *French Revolution*, Froissart's *Chronicles*, Prideaux' *Connection of the Old and New Testaments*, *Music for the Million*, and Webster's *Dictionary*. Rather serious reading these! There were giants in the earth in those days.

All in all the autobiography and letters give a fresh picture of Sibley, serious, high-minded, without much humor, simple, courtly, honorable; and a fresh picture of the vivid and colorful life that centered around Fort Snelling during the first half century of Minnesota history. Incidentally it is interesting to note that Sibley's ancestry, unlike that of many other prominent men of the period, was rather distinguished, his father having been a delegate to Congress from the Territory of Michigan and afterwards judge of the supreme court of that state. His mother came from a distinguished colonial family, prominent in the Revolutionary War. Sibley thus illustrates again that there is no hard and fast rule in ancestry by which future distinction may be predicted or on which it may be predicated.

The book is edited in scholarly fashion by Dr. Blegen, who has also written an introduction. Mr. Jefferson Jones of Minneapolis has written an appropriate preface to the book, introducing the publisher, in this case the Voyageur Press of Minneapolis, with Mr. Fred Totten Phelps as "Master of the Press." This book "inaugurates the establishment of The Voyageur Press, an institution founded upon the ideals of fine printing coupled with the desire to make available to interested persons the wealth of historical material to be found in Minnesota and environs." A special edition of two hundred num-

bered copies is printed in Cloister Old Style type on all-rag paper, and a reproduction of a portrait of the military figure of Sibley is included. The lower-priced trade edition employs the same type, and to make up for the absence of the portrait the book is enclosed in an attractive jacket displaying a reproduction of the Sibley House at Mendota. We congratulate the Voyageur Press and its youthful "Master" on producing a very interesting and attractive volume, joining in the publisher's hope that "its reception will necessitate the appearance of subsequent volumes of like nature."

EDWARD C. GALE

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The Great American Land Bubble: The Amazing Story of Land-grabbing Speculations, and Booms from Colonial Days to the Present Time. By A. M. SAKOLSKI, assistant professor of finance, College of the City of New York. (New York and London, Harper & Brothers, 1932. xii, 373 p. Illustrations, maps. \$3.50.)

As Mr. Sakolski states in his preface, land speculation has been throughout the history of the United States a major business enterprise of nation-wide importance. It is high time that some one should write the history of the *Great American Land Bubble*, and this new work merits the eager perusal of all who are interested in social and economic history.

Mr. Sakolski's book is the result of much research and presents a great mass of evidence and of interesting detail in proof of his thesis that America has from the beginning been a speculative enterprise. It is an interesting story which is here told. Throughout the early part of American history almost the only form of wealth was land and its resources, and speculation in the rise in value of that land was as natural as investment in stocks and bonds in a later period. Nearly everyone was interested in land and the differences in shading between the *bona fide* settlers, the men who engaged in buying and selling land in a large way as legitimate if speculative business, and the plungers, land "grabbers," or "jobbers" of varying degrees of dishonesty, are difficult to discern. In fact, the same individual often belonged at different times, or even at the same time, in two or more of the above groups.

The universality of the lure of land speculation is startling. The names of almost all the worthies of American history are connected with one scheme or another. Benjamin Franklin was a promoter of the Vandalia colony. George Washington, James Mason, the Livingstons, and Robert Morris were all interested in numerous enterprises. At later dates Andrew Jackson, Sam Houston, John C. Frémont, and many of their contemporaries found a major concern in the same sort of speculation. The appeal was as extensive abroad as at home and Europeans interested in the "bubble" were legion. The optimism of expansion, the magic spell of seemingly limitless resources, and "manifest destiny" have all played their part in keeping alive the interest in land speculation. And yet the very immensity of the extent of the land open to settlement and speculation ever defeated the immediate ends of the speculators and few of them died the richer for the energies they had expended upon their land enterprises. Mr. Sakolski has piled up instance after instance of the rise and fall of fortune and reputation based on the illusion of great wealth to be made in this truly national form of gambling. He never seems to feel, however, the pull of the frontier; to him it seems always a business proposition, fortunes to be made, opportunities for sharp dealing, for getting rich with rapidity and little effort. Perhaps the full extent of the mingled motives which animated such men as Patrick Henry, Stephen Austin, and Andrew Jackson, and the combination of philosophy, political ideals, economic aspiration, and high adventure which formed the background for the westward movement are difficult for a city-dweller of the twentieth century to understand.

The book is interesting throughout, but especially so in the first six chapters, which deal with the earlier period. The speculative schemes of the period before 1800 were so colossal and the settled area of the continent so small as compared with that open to wild speculation that the story has more of romance than that of the later conquest of a farther West. Perhaps Mr. Sakolski felt that interest, for, although the last chapter deals with the Florida land boom and its collapse, he devotes less than a hundred pages to the period after 1850. The earlier portion of the book has more unity than the later chapters, perhaps because the limitations of time, space, and participants are more apparent, and perhaps because after that date the

United States policy of selling small tracts at low prices to actual settlers rather took the edge off the speculators' opportunity. The chapter on the land speculation phases of the panic of 1837 is extremely interesting. One might wish that more had been shown of the connection of government policy in land sales and the speculation fever. It would be interesting also to know more of the bearing speculation in Texas land "scrip" had upon public opinion and Congress in the era of annexation and the Mexican War. One feels that much has been lost by not uncovering the influence that must have been made upon legislation and political issues by what was one of the earliest economic constituencies or "pressure groups." Mr. Sakolski never seems interested in the relations between land speculation and other aspects of American history which excite the curiosity of those who are more concerned with history than finance.

The author has chosen to develop his subject by the amassing of incident after incident, of episode upon episode, by the enumeration of name after name, and the analysis of an ever increasing number of regions and periods. There is almost no attempt at interpretation nor evidence that the author has in any way related all of the mass of material to the other lines of development in American civilization. His work has been the isolation and exposure of one type of activity without any effort to weave it into the whole picture of life in the period under discussion. The book is therefore of more use to the few engaged in research in that or similar fields than to a more general public. It must be admitted, also, that the episodic method leads to lack of coherence and lucidity of style. Interesting as the material is, the book tends to become tiresome because of this effect of constant repetition.

The format of the book is excellent and the work of the publishers leaves nothing to be desired. There are many maps and illustrations of great interest and usefulness. The volume contains no bibliography, but an excellent index. There are numerous footnotes, which may be said to take the place of a bibliography for one who reads with care, for they are citations only and never summaries of material which might well have been excluded from the body of the text.

The Great American Land Bubble is a real contribution to American economic history and will be very useful to those who are always

on the watch for material to make American life intelligible in all its aspects. Read in connection with some of the newer interpretive biographies of men like Jackson, Houston, or Jay Cooke, it enlarges the picture by its emphasis upon certain phases in their careers.

To those interested in the history of the Northwest or in Minnesota history the chapters on the land grant railroads and the building of the Northern Pacific railroad through Jay Cooke's "Banana Belt" will be of special interest.

ALICE FELT TYLER

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MINNEAPOLIS

Farewell to Reform: Being a History of the Rise, Life and Decay of the Progressive Mind in America. By JOHN CHAMBERLAIN. (New York, Liveright, Inc., 1932. 333 p. \$3.00.)
The Era of the Muckrakers. By C. C. REGIER, PH.D. (Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press, 1932. xi, 254 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

Two books such as these come with a timeliness that challenges the attention of those who view social processes as evolution which conceivably may be guided rather than as an endless repetition of the same blunders or, now and then, tentative and faltering steps toward intelligent readjustment. Both writers utilize the same general body of facts, although Professor Regier brings his study to a close with the decline of muckraking in the years immediately before the war, while Mr. Chamberlain carries reform movements and reformers down to today. Both come to the conclusion that reform and reformers, of whom the muckrakers were, in part, the spokesmen, accomplished little of lasting significance.

Professor Regier's study is a straightforward story of the muckrake period. He tells how the low-priced magazines, such as the *Cosmopolitan*, *Munsey's*, or *McClure's*, first edged their way into the public's attention and then, profiting by the preliminary work of the *Arena* and others in the last decade of the nineteenth century, became the media through which the pent-up uneasiness of the period found expression. Ida Tarbell, Lincoln Steffens, Ray Stannard Baker, Frederick C. Howe, and the rest of those whose articles and books revealed so many unhealthy spots in the American political and eco-

conomic structure of the early years of the twentieth century, are characterized, and the gist of their contributions presented. The critics whose polemics took the form of fiction—Winston Churchill, Theodore Dreiser, William Allen White, Frank Norris—have their place in the story, as do practical workers like Jane Addams. The attacks on big business, on corruption in the political life of state, city, and nation, on patent medicine frauds, on churchly hypocrisy and greed, on disgusting methods in food production—Sinclair's *Jungle*—all these are epitomized, and a little attention is paid to the response, legislative or otherwise, to these attacks. A selected, though formidable, list of books and articles documents the *Era of the Muckrakers*.

John Chamberlain's *Farewell to Reform* attempts a broader and more philosophical synthesis. Starting with the nineties he runs the gamut of reformers and "uplift" movements down to today. Nearly all of them, in Chamberlain's opinion, spoke as with a voice from the tomb—from Henry George to Charles A. Beard. They all, in greater or less degree, tried to point the way to a return of society to Jeffersonian agrarianism, something which failed to take into consideration adequately the essentially changed conditions which, through technological growth, have produced an urbanized machine age. Whether they were political reformers like Roosevelt, whose progressivism Chamberlain rates not very highly, La Follette, or Wilson; or writers with panaceas; or students of social and political phenomena like Walter Weyl, Charles Beard, or Walter Lippmann, they all, more or less, failed, as Chamberlain sees it, to realize that the "system" could not be patched back into the relatively simple organism of past days. To substantiate his conclusions the author points to the meager list of results effected by at least three decades of strenuous agitation by muckrakers, progressives, and the expounders of "philosophical progressivism." Now and then there appears some one who grasped or nearly grasped the essential difficulty, but the Thorstein Veblens or the Van Wyck Brooks were few. "'Reform' . . . has always had a 'return' connotation. By 'reform,' a host of political leaders, Bryan, La Follette, Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt at times, and Franklin D. Roosevelt today, have hoped to 'return' to the ways of their fathers—to the methods and possibilities of a more primitive capitalism" (p. 310).

Present-day "economic planners" promise no more. "The works of Chase, Soule, Beard and company are like magnificent machines with no dynamos attached." Liberalism and progressivism, economic planning and all the rest of the cures which have been advanced have been and are futile. "This brings us back to the necessity (not to the inevitability) of a radical party, dominated by labor, skilled and otherwise, the white collar worker, the unemployed, and the poorer farmer. The 'inner circle' of this party, once it had attained to office, would make use of the engineer, it would commandeer Howard Scott's Technocracy group at Columbia University, for example, but it would not, if it is to be wise, let the engineering mind (which is a non-qualitative mind) dictate to it" (p. 318).

However much or little one may be in accord with Mr. Chamberlain's final conclusions, all who read the book will agree that he has produced something stimulating and thought-producing bottomed on an intensive study of a wide range of literature and digested with some pretty acute reasoning. Both the *Era of the Muckrakers* and *Farewell to Reform* are worthy of a much larger group of readers than they are likely to get.

L. B. SHIPPEE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

The March of Democracy: From Civil War to World Power, vol. 2. By JAMES TRUSLOW ADAMS. (New York and London, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933. xix, 438 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

The second volume of James Truslow Adams' *March of Democracy* carries the story of American development from 1860 down to day before yesterday, for the concluding chapter ends with the election of 1932. This volume follows the method of the first volume—of straight-forward, chronological narrative, without interpretation of the facts.¹ As in volume 1, the numerous illustrations are an outstanding feature of the book, and the same care has been given to insure an attractive appearance.

The chapters dealing with the period since 1890 seem the most

¹A review by Mrs. Tyler of volume 1 of the *March of Democracy* appears *ante*, 13:415.

interesting and are done with greater enthusiasm on the part of the author than the earlier ones. Especial attention might be called to the chapter on the World War and the one entitled "The Mad Decade," as well as to the estimates of various individuals prominent in American affairs since 1914. On the other hand, the chapters on the Civil War suffer by the effort to treat the period entirely chronologically. Mr. Adams apparently has not used the more recent works on the diplomacy of the Civil War such as F. L. Owsley's *King Cotton Diplomacy* or E. D. Adams' *Great Britain and the American Civil War*, for his sections on the part played by cotton and wheat in the war (p. 20-22) and on the English cotton spinners' enthusiasm for the North (p. 22, 82) scarcely reflect the modern viewpoint.

Mr. Adams seems to have a very pronounced approval of President Cleveland, whose ineptness in foreign affairs he overlooks in praise of his courage on tariff and currency. Throughout this volume foreign affairs receive slight attention, except during the World War period. A paragraph on the work of Blaine and an occasional reference to other episodes seems a little insufficient, even though the United States of the period from 1865 to 1898 was primarily interested in domestic concerns. The pragmatic nature of the work is evidenced by the occasional sermons interspersed with the narrative; for instance, one on inflation (p. 158), another on civil service and reform (p. 160), and a third on the greenback question (p. 180).

In the second, as in the first volume, style and format are excellent. The narrative is clearly and concisely told and the book is very informative and brief enough to be widely read. There is a good index, but no citations in the form of footnotes nor a bibliography. Perhaps the publishers are quite correct when they claim that Mr. Adams, "knows how to be detailed without being pedantic, how to simplify without condensing or omitting too much," and that the text "will appeal to a public that wants a history to read instead of study." The two volumes are readable, interesting, reasonably accurate in fact, beautifully printed and illustrated. The fact that the student of history will find nothing new in them would probably not seem to the author to be a ground for criticism. He, obviously and avowedly, was not writing for the student of history.

ALICE FELT TYLER

Sacajawea: A Guide and Interpreter of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, with an Account of the Travels of Toussaint Charbonneau, and of Jean Baptiste, the Expedition Papoose. By GRACE RAYMOND HEBARD, professor of political science, University of Wyoming. (Glendale, California, The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1933. 340 p. Illustrations. \$6.00.)

In many volumes references are made to Sacajawea, the Indian squaw who acted as guide and interpreter to the Lewis and Clark expedition from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean in 1804 to 1806. These references are frequently vague and occasionally garbled. Until the publication of Dr. Hebard's study the leading accounts of Sacajawea were Helen Crawford's "Sakakawea" in the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* for April, 1927; James W. Schultz's *Bird-woman, the Guide of Lewis and Clark* (1918); and Byron Defenbach's "Sacajawea" in *Red Heroines of the Northwest* (1930). Of these three accounts, Miss Crawford's appears to have been done the most satisfactorily. Although Mr. Defenbach wrote an interesting and readable story, he undoubtedly indulged in considerable romancing. And Mr. Schultz's *Bird-woman* is, in reality, scarcely more than historical fiction.

Of all those who have written about the little Indian woman only Dr. Hebard seems to have grasped her real significance in the expansion and settlement of the Northwest. In an interesting and accurate style Dr. Hebard has most skillfully "unraveled the tangled skein of Sacajawea's family life," presented her personal traits and characteristics, followed her wanderings hither and thither through the great Northwest, and recorded and interpreted the significance of her services performed not only as a guide and interpreter for the Lewis and Clark expedition "but also for many years and on many occasions as counsellor to her own people and to the whites." It is an entirely new and significant Sacajawea that is here presented. It is a Sacajawea lifted from a limbo of tradition and romance and given a characterization of vital historical importance.

The author, in the preparation of this volume, has done most careful work. In no wise has she permitted herself to engage in romancing. She has gathered her information from a wide range of authoritative sources—the records of explorers and pioneers, many of which are still unpublished; the direct testimony of Comanche and

Shoshone Indians; and materials discovered in the archives at Stuttgart, Germany. And all her evidence she has subjected to a most critical scrutiny.

Sacajawea is an invaluable contribution to the history of the Northwest. Every student interested in western Americana should possess a copy of the book. Certainly every teacher of American history should read it.

JOHN PERRY PRITCHETT

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
GRAND FORKS

Dakota: An Informal Study of Territorial Days Gleaned from Contemporary Newspapers. By EDNA LAMOOORE WALDO. (Bismarck, Capital Publishing Company, 1932. 297 p. \$2.00.)

This journalistic picture of the "manysided life of territorial days" in Dakota is based almost entirely upon newspapers published there between 1875 and 1889, and it quotes copiously from these racy sheets issued during the "heyday of personal journalism." The narrative, which is an excellent example of the use of newspapers in the writing of history, is divided into ten chapters. "The Smoky Water" deals with the significance of the Missouri for the territory; "Lone Outposts" pictures the life of the women at frontier forts; "Gold!" gives an idea of the excitement caused by the Black Hills gold rush of 1876. Such well-known Minnesotans as Joe Rolette, Norman W. Kittson, and James J. Hill figure in a chapter on the "Red River Country," which includes material on Fort Abercrombie, Pembina, and the beginnings of steamboating on the Red River. The importance of the Red River cart trade is somewhat overestimated by the author in a statement that "if the Missouri steamboats made Saint Louis, then the Red River carts made Saint Paul."

The picturesque story of Medora and the Badlands is related in a chapter entitled "Buttes and Breaks"; under the heading "Soddy and Bonanza" the efforts of the newspapers to encourage immigration are described. Mrs. Waldo is probably at her best in her account of social life in the "Little Prairie Towns" of Dakota; she tells how the pioneers amused themselves, what they wore and ate, and she describes their theatricals, clubs, churches, and saloons. Under the caption "Gentlemen of the Press" she describes some of the

more important figures in Dakota newspaper history; territorial politics is the subject of a chapter on "Carpet-baggers and Strange Bed-fellows." A concluding chapter is entitled "Into Regal Statehood."

B. L. H.

The Decline of Northwestern Flour Milling (University of Minnesota, *Studies in Economics and Business*, no. 5). By VICTOR G. PICKETT and ROLAND S. VAILE. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1933. 83 p. Tables, charts. \$.75.)

This is a well-organized and well-written analysis of the reasons for the decline of northwestern flour milling. Today there are not a third as many mills in Minnesota as there were twenty years ago and its mills are producing only about two-thirds as much flour. The Southwest has surpassed the Northwest in flour production, and Buffalo, New York, has taken the leadership from Minneapolis.

Various causes have contributed to this decline. Changes in transportation rates have diverted Montana wheat to the west coast mills, given Buffalo mills an advantage in trunk line territory, and diverted the export business with Europe to Buffalo, where Canadian wheat is ground in bond. The small mills have been crowded out by the larger ones, but these in turn find it difficult to make a profit with the chain stores putting out their own brands of flour and the large-scale bakeries buying flour on a cut-price basis. The northwestern mills, because they sell a quality product from high-priced wheat, cannot compete for this business. A movement to decentralize the industry has been started, the Minneapolis millers taking the lead in building or acquiring mills in other sections of the country.

But the chief cause of decline has been the decrease in quantity and quality of high-grade hard red spring wheat produced in the Northwest. The growing of other varieties of wheat not suitable for bread-making, lessened fertility, increased "dockage," and the ravages of smut and rust are responsible.

There are reasons for thinking that the end of the period of decline is near. The rapid expansion at Buffalo and in the Southwest has perhaps nearly reached its limit. Much depends on the ability of the northwestern farmers to arrest the decline of spring wheat growing. The agricultural colleges and the millers and grain men

through their Northwest Crop Improvement Association are promoting the cultivation of wheats of better milling quality, fighting the pests which destroy the wheat, and encouraging the farmers to improve their seed and seed preparation.

C. B. KUHLMANN

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Taxation in Minnesota (University of Minnesota, *Studies in Economics and Business*, no. 4). By ROY G. BLAKEY and Associates. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1932. xii, 627 p. Tables, charts. Cloth, \$2.00; paper, \$1.00.)

"A system of taxation that is equitable, that can be economically and effectively administered, and that promotes to the fullest extent the public welfare is not the product of a day but is built up through long years of intelligent, public spirited, persevering effort." For those legislators and leaders of public opinion in Minnesota who are willing to give such effort to studying "what *is* as a basis for determining what ought to be" in the field of taxation, this volume, by Professor Blakey and his associates of the Minnesota Tax Survey, will provide the proverbial mine of information. It is not easy to read. Its authors pile up facts and figures in a manner that will scare away all but the most industrious readers. The writers are concerned chiefly with what *is*; the historical material is very slight and, in spots, quite superficial. One confesses to a feeling of regret that so much first-rate work has been put on a book which must so soon be out of date because of the mass of statistics involved. On the other hand, it may become out-dated in another way: namely, through the adoption by the legislature of many of these suggestions for the improvement of the state's tax system.

For the general reader the most valuable chapters are the first two, in which Professor Blakey summarizes the major problems of taxation in Minnesota and discusses the fundamentals of a good tax system. One hardly needs the elaborate analysis of the three following chapters to be convinced that there is great lack of uniformity in the assessment of farms in Minnesota, that the tax burden on agriculture is serious "chiefly because of the revolutions in the prices of farm

products," and that a new public domain is arising in northern Minnesota as a result of tax delinquency and abandonment by owners. The chapter on the taxation of forest property is a commendable one. That on property tax administration explodes the myth of the desirability of the separation of state and local sources of revenue and argues valiantly for centralized supervision of the administration of the property tax. The chapter on iron ore and mining taxes demonstrates that while the mining industry is undoubtedly the most heavily taxed major industry in the state, and heavy taxation has caused uneconomic utilization of iron ore, "there is little evidence to show that heavy taxes have had an appreciable effect on the competitive position of iron mines in this state." On the contrary Minnesota mines have retained their relative position in the industry. An excise tax on net income is proposed as a solution of the bank taxation muddle. Chapters on the taxation of railroads, public utilities, highway finance, and school finance are all commendable for the specific and well-reasoned suggestions for improvement which they make. The last chapter, a discussion of the state income tax, is perhaps the most interesting. Especially to be commended are the discussions of the growth of the income tax movement, the necessity of centralized administration, the problem of the distribution of the proceeds, the question of the desirability of a replacement proviso, and the effect on industry within the state. A state income tax is desirable, since "nearly all income taxes are paid by city and suburban dwellers," and the writers believe that "it seems desirable that the urban gatherers of large incomes should pay a larger proportion of the necessary public expenditures." But "in some cases we have already gone too far in diverting urban-paid taxes to the support of uneconomic rural schools, roads and farms." Surely "the wise solution of modern economic problems puts democracy to a severe test." This is especially true of the problems of taxation. But there is hope if we can get our public men to study a book like this.

C. B. KUHLMANN

Swift Rivers. By CORNELIA MEIGS. (Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1932. 234 p. Illustrations. \$2.00.)

Cornelia Meigs plays with the past. This time it is not on the deep Atlantic nor on the rock bound coast of New England that she plays her game. A more remote frontier has captivated her eye. It is in the white pine woods of the Territory of Minnesota and on the waters of the moody Mississippi that she sets up her characters. We have traveled with her before in this region when Zebulon Pike was her hero searching out the source of the Great River.

Miss Meigs loves the water. It is in her blood. Indeed, she is the great-granddaughter of Commodore John Rodgers of the "Constitution." In John Rodgers' little green sea chest, now in her possession, she stores the manuscripts that eventually become books full of lively and wholesome adventure. But more than that, the Mississippi country is her native land. She was born at Rock Island, Illinois. She knows well that chain of rapids at the foot of which lies the big Rock Island. She knows, too, that the stage of water on the Rock Island reefs has more than once determined whether or not a raft was to reach its port. Later Miss Meigs moved farther down the river to Keokuk, Iowa, where her father, as United States civil engineer, was engaged in improving the Mississippi. She has lived her life along the Great River; that is why she knows her way so well.

We thank her for this story of Minnesota's early lumber industry. It is a basic industry in Minnesota. But the story of lumber in Minnesota seems rarely to have intrigued any writer either of history or historical fiction. It has been lost between fur and flour. Miss Meigs uncovers it and lays bare the courage and endurance of the men who first sent the clean, sweet-smelling white pine logs with a few massive walnut logs to St. Louis. It was then that men began to realize that in Minnesota's white pine there was gold.

The hero of this story is a young boy, only seventeen, for whom the responsibilities of life have come early but whose stern stuff has met these responsibilities well. In his blood runs that of the Vikings of old. His people are of Swedish descent and he typifies well that earnest Swedish group that came to make homes in Minnesota. The old logger today longingly says "those were the days when men were

men." Hard work, physical endurance, and thoughtful sympathy mark Miss Meigs's characters.

But were the Swedes in Minnesota as early as President Jackson's administration? An historian, whose business is actual facts, would disagree. And did logs from Minnesota appear on the St. Louis market at so early a date? Then, too, the plot of the story does not move quite so realistically as do those of Miss Meigs's earlier works—*Trade Wind* and *Clearing Weather*. There are spots in *Swift Rivers* where effort seems to be made to make "it reach." But the book is full of health and sparkle—a good story for boys. Miss Meigs is to be congratulated for having chosen a theme so full of romance as the subject of this great story of rafting on the Mississippi. Will she give us more?

AGNES M. LARSON

ST. OLAF COLLEGE
NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

In a proclamation issued on April 7, Governor Olson designated 1933 as Minnesota's "Diamond Jubilee Year" and urged the citizens of the state to join in a suitable observance of the seventy-fifth anniversary of Minnesota's admission to the Union, which occurred on May 11. A program arranged under the auspices of the society was presented on Statehood Day in the auditorium of the Historical Building. The speakers included Senator Frank B. Kellogg of St. Paul, Dean Guy Stanton Ford of the University of Minnesota, Mr. Blegen, and Mr. Babcock. The society also arranged a number of radio programs, consisting of talks and music, which were broadcast from May 8 to 12. Five radio stations in the Twin Cities and Northfield coöperated in making these programs available to people living throughout the state. Plans were also worked out, in coöperation with the state department of education, for statehood programs in the schools; and the society enlisted county historical societies and other civic groups in the work of planning community celebrations in many parts of Minnesota. A fuller account of the celebration of this anniversary will appear in the September issue of *MINNESOTA HISTORY*. Governor Olson's proclamation follows:

WHEREAS, May 11 is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the admission of Minnesota into the Union, and

WHEREAS, It is desirable to commemorate the deeds of those hardy pioneers who wrested a productive agricultural commonwealth from virgin lands of timber and prairie; who harnessed our leaping rivers; and utilized our innumerable lakes, forests and mines for the prosperity and well-being of their progeny, and

WHEREAS, The present-day citizens of this land of our zealous forefathers should know more about their State, its history, lore, resources, and attractions,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Floyd B. Olson, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby designate and proclaim the year 1933 A.D. as Minnesota's *DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR*, and urge all citizens to join in the observance of this season. Let the county historical societies, patriotic organizations, schools, fraternal orders, business houses, newspapers, radio stations, civic and commercial organizations, and individuals unite whole-heartedly with the Minnesota Historical Society, the State Department of Education, the State Department of Conserva-

tion, the State Tourist Bureau, and other official agencies, in celebrating Minnesota's Diamond Jubilee on May 11, and the season of 1933, to the end that each of this great state's more than 2,500,000 men, women and children may have a more complete knowledge and appreciation of this bountiful territory in which we live.

In the first quarter of 1933 the number of patrons of the society's newspaper department amounted to 82.8 per cent of the number for the entire year of 1926. There were 570 in these three months, as compared with 688 in the twelve months of 1926. They used 1,051 bound newspaper volumes and 5,789 current issues.

Eighty-three classes and special groups, made up of nearly three thousand people, visited the society's museum during the first three months of 1933. In many cases these groups toured the Historical Building, visiting the library, the newspaper department, and the manuscript division.

Twenty-two additions have been made to the active membership of the society since January 1. The names of the new members, grouped by counties, follow:

BIG STONE: Dr. Clifford I. Oliver of Graceville.

BROWN: John Dapporn of Sleepy Eye.

HENNEPIN: Leon Arnal, Ward H. Benton, Mrs. Fred H. Carpenter, William S. Jenkins, Walter E. Johnson, Moses C. Jones, Benjamin E. Lippincott, Ceylon E. Lyman, Alden E. Miller, Fred T. Phelps, and Ashley V. Storm, all of Minneapolis.

ITASCA: Lee C. Bradford of Nashwauk.

MARTIN: Allen L. Moore of Fairmont.

RAMSEY: Rev. James L. Connolly, Horace C. Klein, James H. Mulally, and Rev. Thomas J. Shanahan, all of St. Paul.

ST. LOUIS: Agnes Hatch of Chisholm, and Harold J. Hunt of Hibbing.

STEARNS: Rev. Permin Wendt of Collegeville.

The Pope County Historical Society, with headquarters at Glenwood, has become an institutional member of the society.

The society lost seven active members by death during the three months ending March 31: William A. Cant of Duluth, January 12; Mrs. Marshall H. Coolidge of Minneapolis, January 17; John Reed Howard of Minneapolis, February 8; William J. McCabe of Du-

luth, February 14; William H. Pay of Mankato, February 19; Dr. Jonas R. Nannestad of Albert Lea, March 14; and Charles J. Gotshall of Minneapolis, March 17. Notice has also been received of the death of another active member, Augustus S. Prescott of Sheldon, Iowa, but the date has not been ascertained.

The history of Minnesota since the Civil War is being reviewed in a series of radio talks presented under the auspices of the society over WLB, the University of Minnesota broadcasting station. The subjects of the first nine talks, beginning on January 26, and the speakers follow: "Minnesota in the Days of the Civil War" by Mr. Blegen, "The Sioux Outbreak" by Mr. Babcock, "The Era of Reconstruction" by Mr. Van Koughnet, "Building Minnesota's Railroad System" by Mr. Larsen, "New Settlers and the Westward Push" by Mr. Babcock, "The Golden Age of Lumbering" by Agnes M. Larson of St. Olaf College, "The Story of Agriculture" by Everett E. Edwards of the United States department of agriculture, "Flour Milling in Minnesota" by Charles B. Kuhlmann of Hamline University, and "The Farmers' Crusade in Minnesota" by Mr. Blegen. The series is being continued with eight talks, presented on Monday evenings at 7:00 P. M. The talks are being published in current issues of the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly*.

In addition to presenting talks in the Minnesota history series from station WLB, members of the staff gave twenty addresses during the quarter. The superintendent spoke on "Minnesota History and Old Records" before the Colonial Dames of St. Paul on February 7; on "Abraham Lincoln Abroad" at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts on February 12; on "Emigrant Songs and Ballads" before the Norwegian Literary Society at the University of Minnesota on February 28; on "Introducing Minnesota" before the Inglenook Club of St. Paul on March 3; on "Viewing Minnesota's Past through the Eyes of Contemporaries" at the Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis on March 15 and at the Women's City Club of St. Paul on March 21; and he addressed a memorial meeting of the Blue Earth County Historical Society held in honor of the late William H. Pay of Mankato on March 28. He also spoke over radio station KSTP on February 17 on "Henry Hastings Sibley: Frontier Trader and Statesman," in a program broadcast for the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution. Miss Nute spoke on "Pioneer Women

of Minnesota" under the same auspices on January 27, and discussed this topic also before the Lawrence Wenell unit of the American Legion Auxiliary in Minneapolis on January 19, and before a chapter of the Daughters of Colonial Wars in Minneapolis on March 16. She presented an address on "Methodist Missionaries among the Minnesota Indians" before the Hamline University Faculty Club on February 14; and she gave a talk on "Historic Spots in Minnesota" for the members of the John Holmes chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Minneapolis on March 18. Mr. Babcock spoke on "Highways and History" to the staff of the Minnesota highway department on February 6; on "The Pioneer Drug Store" before members of the Minnesota Pharmaceutical Association meeting in St. Paul on February 8; and he gave illustrated talks on "Indian Life in and around Minneapolis" at the Grace Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis on February 10; on "Pioneer Life" before a group of students from Augsburg College in the Historical Building on March 8; on a "Ramble through Minnesota History" at the St. Paul Seminary on March 9; and on "Pioneers and Pioneering" before a community life problems class in Minneapolis on March 23. Mr. Van Koughnet presented a talk entitled "Glimpses of Social Life in Pioneer Minnesota" before members of the Keewaydin chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Minneapolis on February 11.

A plan for helping to enrich the genealogical resources of the society has been made by the Minnesota society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which at its recent annual convention decided to set up a purchasing fund to be employed each year for adding genealogical works to the library of the Minnesota Historical Society.

The society's equipment for copying and using manuscripts has received an important addition through the purchase of a Leica camera for photographing manuscripts on film slides, a Leica projector for running the films, a film-holder, and a screen. Plans are under way to equip a room for readers using the films.

ACCESSIONS

About forty documents consisting of 724 pages and relating for the most part to the French period in the Northwest have been copied

for the society by means of film slides from other films in the collection of the Library of Congress. Much of this material refers to Le Sueur, La Salle, Tonty, La Harpe, Du Lhut, Allouez, and other French explorers and missionaries. An autograph letter of Radisson, written from Granada on January 2, 1678, is included. There are also about a dozen letters written by William H. Keating to a French scientist who was interested in the specimens that Keating and other members of the Long expedition of 1823 collected.

The affairs of the St. Peter's agency, Sioux-Chippewa hostilities, the Winnebago and the plans for removing them from La Pointe to the Crow Wing River, and the trading operations of the firm of Brisbois and Rice with the Chippewa are among the subjects touched upon in the archives of the bureau of Indian affairs for the periods from 1827 to 1830 and 1845 to 1847, calendar cards for which have been received recently by the society.

Photostatic copies of eight interesting letters by or about Henry H. Sibley have been made for the society from the originals in the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library and in the library of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In one letter written from Washington to C. C. Trowbridge on January 26, 1835, William Ward remarks: "I have thought sometimes of proposing Henry as Indian Agent at St. Peters, to succeed Major Taliaferro. But this would withdraw him from the [American Fur] Company, & not be much more profitable, & certainly not as permanent." Three letters from Sibley to Senator William Trowbridge written in 1842, 1843, and 1851 touch upon such matters as the Sioux treaties, territorial politics, and the organization of a university. There are also three letters that Sibley wrote to Senator Lucius Lyon between 1834 and 1839. In them he asks the senator to use his influence to obtain the establishment of a mail route between St. Peter's and Prairie du Chien and to secure for Sibley and his friends the right to erect a mill at the Falls of St. Anthony.

Copies of eight letters written in 1848 and 1849 from Minnesota and Wisconsin by Robert B. Haines, a member of the United States geological survey expedition to Minnesota in 1848, have been presented by his son, Mr. Jansen Haines of Philadelphia. Of special interest is a letter of June 24, 1848, written in the Blue Earth River

region, in which Haines describes the personnel of the expedition, its route, methods of travel, and various phases of frontier life in the Minnesota country. He expresses his admiration for "this beautiful country and the flowers," but he was greatly disappointed in the Indians. Some information about Haines's second trip to the West is contained in a letter of June 11, 1849. At that time he went to Green Bay with a party that took to the Stockbridge Indians the money sent in payment for their lands by the government.

Letters written between 1852 and 1855 by Dr. Thomas S. Williamson, the Minnesota missionary, make up the bulk of the transcripts received recently by the society from the archives of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Boston. The removal of the Sioux from Kaposia to Yellow Medicine, the establishment of a mission at the latter place, and the smallpox epidemic of 1854-55 among the natives are among the subjects touched upon. During the epidemic Dr. Williamson used his medical training to bring relief to the Indians; he reports that "I did not hear of a single case of it among 600 or 700 of them whom I vaccinated."

References to Minnesota and the Cheever family at St. Anthony occur in two letters written in 1853 and 1854 by Harrison Cheever and presented by his brother, Mr. H. A. Cheever of Attleboro, Massachusetts. The first letter was written while Cheever was serving as a sailor on a ship near Buenos Aires, and the second when he was a student at the United States Naval Academy.

Information about pioneer life and early residents of Otter Tail City and facts about French-Canadian families, such as the Bel-langers and the Bellaires, are included in the notes of an interview with Mrs. Rose Barbeau, recorded and presented by Mr. Charles R. Wright of Fergus Falls. Mrs. Barbeau was born in 1844 near Edmonton, Canada, and in 1866 she settled in Otter Tail City.

A deed dated February 10, 1860, based on the Carver grant and recording the sale of three hundred acres of land for six hundred dollars by Henry Anisansel and his wife, of Canonsburgh, Pennsylvania, to an unnamed person is the gift of Mrs. Charles C. Bovey of Minneapolis. She found the document among the papers of her grandfather, Charles Vandemark.

The experiences of a German immigrant, Lambert Naegele, and of his family during the Sioux War of 1862 are described in a sketch by his son, Mr. Otto E. Naegele of Minneapolis, which has been copied for the society by the photostatic process. The elder Naegele settled at New Ulm in 1857 and published a newspaper there, and he served with Minnesota troops in the Civil and Sioux wars.

The experiences of five members of Hatch's Independent Battalion of Cavalry who were caught in a blizzard while taking supplies from Fort Abercrombie to Fort Wadsworth in December, 1864, are vividly described in a letter written in 1888 to Thomas J. Little of St. Paul, which has been received from the estate of his widow. The letter is unsigned, but internal evidence indicates that it was written by William Fullerton, a member of this group.

Two items relating to the career of William G. Le Duc have been received from Mr. Walter R. Benjamin of New York. The first is a receipt for 7,858 pounds of hay signed by Le Duc on September 14, 1863, when he was serving as quartermaster of the Eleventh Army Corps; and the other is a letter written in 1879, when he was United States commissioner of agriculture, to George W. Jones.

A passport issued in 1890 and two letters of introduction written in 1890 and 1905 by Governors Merriam and Johnson have been received from Dr. Knox Bacon of San Diego, California.

A volume of minutes of meetings from 1889 to 1901 of the Minnesota branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, now the American Association of University Women, and a file of the printed yearbooks of the St. Paul College Club for the years from 1912 to 1932 have been received through the courtesy of Mrs. Guy Stanton Ford of Minneapolis.

Materials relating to the activities from 1903 to 1932 of the Norwegian-American *bygdelags*, or regional societies, make up the bulk of fourteen scrapbooks and a box of correspondence collected by the late Professor Andrew A. Veblen and presented by the Veblen family through the courtesy of his daughter, Miss Agnes Veblen of Los Angeles. Professor Veblen was an outstanding leader in the *bygdelag* movement and his records, which he arranged systematically, are of great historical value.

Mrs. Esther A. Selke of Dickinson, North Dakota, has presented three letters and a pamphlet that she used in the preparation of her paper on "Pioneers of German Lutheranism in Minnesota," which appears *ante*, p. 45-58. The pamphlet was issued in 1906 in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of St. Martin's Lutheran Church of Winona; the letters, which relate to early German Lutheran preachers and missions in Minnesota, were written in 1926 and 1927 to her father, Professor Carl Abbetmeyer of St. Paul.

An illustrated history of the First Congregational Church of Austin by Mrs. Annie M. Nicholzen is the gift of Mrs. C. D. Cathewood of Austin. The narrative was read and the pictures were projected on a screen in connection with the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the church on July 9, 1932.

A scrapbook of programs and clippings about the 1930-31 season of the Schubert Club of St. Paul has been compiled by Mrs. D. S. Elliot and added to the archives of that organization in the possession of the society (see *ante*, 13:323).

A copy of the minutes of the ceremonies held by the Ramsey County Bar Association on November 21, 1932, when removing to the new Ramsey County Courthouse, and a printed copy of the address on that occasion by James E. Markham, deputy attorney-general, have been presented by Miss Ottilie Hess of St. Paul.

A copy of the telegram sent on January 24 by the Minnesota house of representatives to Senator George W. Norris to congratulate him on his efforts to obtain the passage of the "Lame Duck" amendment and his note of acknowledgment have been received through the courtesy of Speaker Charles Munn of the Minnesota house.

Ten bundles of items about Minnesota highways that have been clipped from newspapers for the years 1930 and 1931 have been received from the state highway department.

A valuable addition to the society's genealogical resources has been made by Mr. Victor Robertson of St. Paul, who has presented seventeen works dealing with Scotch history and family records, published between 1709 and 1883, many of which contain material on the Robertson family. Mr. Robertson also plans to present at some fu-

ture time his collection of about a hundred books relating to the Robertson family in America and in Scotland. Another gift from Mr. Robertson is a diagram of a road between St. Paul and Superior with a "Proposition" for its completion dated February 19, 1859, and signed by eleven persons, including his father, Daniel A. Robertson.

The society's collection of objects illustrative of life in the old-time lumber camps has been enlarged recently by several gifts. Cooking utensils, a peavey, a canthook, skidding tongs, and a number of similar articles have been presented by Mr. W. H. Flihr of the General Wrecking and Lumber Company of Virginia; and a number of typical cook shanty objects are the gift of the Marshall Wells Company of Duluth, through the courtesy of Mr. D. C. Kinkead. Mr. John Orrison of St. Paul has given four sets of ox shoes that were used in a Wisconsin lumber camp. Twenty logging pictures have been presented by Mr. Harry Ebner of Virginia.

A bootjack and a conch shell dinner call used in Connecticut before 1792 and later taken to Northfield are the gifts of Dr. H. L. Cruttenden of St. Paul.

A bridle, a cartridge box, a belt, and other articles used during the Philippine Insurrection have been presented by Mr. Theodore Bernier of St. Paul.

Seventy-eight prints made from the Sweet-Jacoby negatives of early Minneapolis scenes in the possession of the society have been received from the *Minneapolis Journal* through the courtesy of Mr. Jefferson Jones. Other additions to the picture collection include photographs of John W. North and of his home and law office in old St. Anthony, from his daughter, Mrs. E. N. Messer of Berkeley, California, through the courtesy of Mr. Fred B. Snyder of Minneapolis; a photograph of the "Lotta Lee," an early steamboat on the Shell River, from Senator G. D. McCubrey of Moorhead; portraits of members of Company D, Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, from Mr. A. J. Capser of St. Paul; and a portrait of Ahira Richardson, a St. Paul pioneer, from Mr. S. T. Hill of St. Paul.

NEWS AND COMMENT

Among many puzzling problems in the history of Minnesota and the Northwest is that of Louis-Armand de Lom D'Arce, baron de Lahontan, and his alleged journey up the "Long River" in the Minnesota region in the fall of 1688 as recorded by himself in his *Nouveaux Voyages* published at The Hague in 1703. Most historians have regarded the Long River as imaginary, a creation of the baron's very clever mind, intended to attract attention to his book by means of a sensational account of geographical discovery and of contacts with unknown and fantastically named peoples, including the Mozeemleks, Esanapes, and Gnacsitaires.

About a century ago, however, the explorer Joseph N. Nicollet suggested the possibility of identifying the Long River with the Cannon River, a western affluent of the Mississippi which joins the latter at the head of Lake Pepin. Nicollet even ventured to name this stream the Lahontan River. A present-day writer, Mr. Arthur T. Adams of Minneapolis, believes that Lahontan's wonderful river "was the combined Cannon, Le Sueur, Blue Earth and upper Minnesota," connected in a season of unusually high water and of floods (see *ante*, 11:451). Some writers have suggested the possibility that the Long River was the Des Moines. Dr. Reuben G. Thwaites, who in 1905 edited Lahontan's *New Voyages to America*, refers to the Long River narrative as an apochryphal and wilful tale; Dr. Warren Upham, in *Minnesota in Three Centuries*, 1:239-240, brands it an egregious, gross, and baseless fiction; and Dr. William W. Folwell, in his *History of Minnesota*, ignores the baron.

Dr. Louise Phelps Kellogg, in her *French Régime in Wisconsin and the Northwest* (Madison, 1925), considers the Long River imaginary, though she characterizes Lahontan's description of eastern Wisconsin as "quite accurate." As to the journey up the Mississippi and far into the west, she writes that it has not been determined whether it "was intended as a satire like Gulliver's voyage to Liliput, or was a deliberate fabrication." Lahontan himself she describes, in an article recently published in the *Dictionary of American Biography*, as "a caustic spirit with a cynical outlook upon life," whose favorite writers were Lucian and Petronius. She adds that though

his book was discredited by its account of the imaginary river, it nevertheless is in many particulars "the best account of New France in the late seventeenth century." A biography of Lahontan by F. C. B. Crompton, published at Toronto in 1925, gives scant attention to the problem of the Long River. In 1931 Lahontan's *Dialogues Curieux* was brought out, in French, by the Johns Hopkins Press under the able editorship of Professor Gilbert Chinard. In these admirably written and penetrating dialogues, represented to have been carried on between Lahontan and a Huron Indian named "Adario," the baron draws a contrast of a kind that became very fashionable—between the natural man in a state of noble savagery and the less admirable product of an artificial civilization. From Lahontan not a few of the leading eighteenth-century philosophers of the primitive life derived basic ideas. Professor Chinard, in his scholarly introduction to the *Dialogues Curieux*, devotes some attention to Lahontan's Long River country and he characterizes the baron's map of that region as "hautement fantaisiste."

The latest development in relation to Lahontan's place in history is a vigorous article by the noted Professor Stephen Leacock entitled "Baron de Lahontan, Explorer," published in the *Canadian Geographical Journal* for May, 1932. The baron's caustic tongue made it his fate, Professor Leacock contends, "to get in wrong." As a consequence his "real achievements . . . were belittled and his voyage of discovery into what is now Minnesota was laughed at as a fabrication." Yet if he were to receive his deserts, "his name would stand beside those of Marquette and Joliet and LaSalle in the history of the Father of Rivers. In particular the state of Minnesota would recall his memory as the man who was the first to push his way into the north central part of that state and to approach the great northern divide, over a century before it became known to the world." He declares that if Baron Lahontan's Long River "is not the Minnesota (otherwise St. Peter's, otherwise St. Pierre) at least it could have been"; and he asserts that the motive which led the baron to leave Michilimackinac for the West in the fall of 1688 was the search for the Western Sea. His general conclusion is that Lahontan "was, as far as recorded words go, the first discoverer of Central Minnesota, and the Red River Portage way to the Canadian north-west."

In view of the judgment of Joseph N. Nicolle, the theory of Mr. Adams, the emphatic conclusions of Professor Leacock, and the liter-

ary and historical importance of Baron Lahontan himself, it seems evident that a critical reëxamination of the entire Long River problem should be undertaken, with due attention to the geographical, literary, and historical factors involved.

Dr. Albert E. Jenks of the University of Minnesota tells the story of the finding of a skeleton in Glacial Lake Pelican and describes its characteristics in a paper entitled "Minnesota Pleistocene Homo," which he read before the National Academy of Sciences on November 16, 1932, and which appears in its *Proceedings* for January. "For purposes of identification," writes Dr. Jenks, "we have named the type for which this skeleton stands the 'Minnesota Man.'" It was discovered on June 18, 1931, by a road construction crew near Pelican Rapids in Otter Tail County. The glacial lake in this area is "some 20,000 years old," and the "geological evidence compels the conclusion that the skeleton was in sediment of late Pleistocene origin."

The discovery of new sources of information is one of several reasons "Why History Needs to be Rewritten," according to Robert C. Clark, who contributes an article on this subject to the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* for December. Among other reasons he suggests changing conceptions of the proper content of history and the "discovery of new ways of interpreting the past or new clues that seem better to explain historical events or long periods of change."

That the library of the Royal Empire Society of London is rich in works of travel in North America is made evident in the third volume of the *Subject Catalogue* of its works that Mr. Evans Lewin has compiled (London, 1932. 822 p.). Sections are devoted to Canada and its provinces and to America and the United States.

The Conquest of a Continent: A Pictorial Representation of the Westward Progress of the Pioneer is the title of an historical map of the United States recently published by the American Association of University Women. Among the developments indicated for the Minnesota country are the fur trade, the beginning of the railroads and their influence on immigration, and the growth of the iron ore industry. The map, which was prepared under the supervision of Mrs. H. K. Painter of Minneapolis, will be sold throughout the

United States for the benefit of the association's fellowship fund. Copies may be obtained unmounted or mounted and framed at prices ranging from \$1.00 to \$3.50. Mrs. Frank N. Edmonds, 2119 Girard Avenue South, Minneapolis, has charge of the sale of the map for Minnesota.

Edwin T. Denig's report to Governor Isaac I. Stevens of Washington Territory on the *Indian Tribes of the Upper Missouri*, prepared about 1854, has been edited by J. N. B. Hewitt and published in the *Forty-sixth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology* (1930. P. 377-628). In his preface the editor presents considerable biographical material about Denig, who was the book-keeper for the American Fur Company at Fort Union. When he wrote his report, he had been living among the Indians of the upper Missouri country as a trader for more than two decades, and had been married for many years to an Assiniboin woman. He presents not only an account of the history of the upper Missouri tribes, but a detailed and sympathetic picture of their social life and customs. The report also has been published as a separate.

The Colonial Dames of America in Minnesota have announced that they will bring out during the summer through the University of Minnesota Press the diaries of five eighteenth-century Canadian fur-traders—Peter Pond, John McDonell, Archibald McLeod, Hugh Faries, and Thomas Connor. The editor of the diaries, which will appear under the title "Five Fur Traders of the Northwest," is Charles M. Gates; Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society, supplies a general introduction. Only one of the diaries, that of Pond, has been previously published. The manuscripts of the others are in the possession of McGill University and the Public Archives of Canada.

In an article on "William Beaumont, M.D.," which appears in the *Annals of Medical History* for January, William S. Miller reveals that the famous surgeon did much of the work that resulted in the publication in 1833 of his *Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice* while stationed at Fort Crawford between 1828 and 1832. During much of the time from 1820 to 1832 Beaumont lived and worked as an army surgeon at Mackinac, Green Bay, and Prairie du Chien, and an excellent account of the way in which he

discharged his duties and conducted his experiments at these frontier posts is presented in this article.

Two Minnesota institutions of higher learning—the University of Minnesota and Hamline University—figure in a study of *The Founding of American Colleges and Universities before the Civil War*, prepared by Donald G. Tewksbury as a doctoral dissertation and published by Columbia University (New York, 1932. 254 p.). The writer presents a chronological list of 182 permanent colleges and universities founded before the Civil War. The part played by religious denominations in the college movement is made clear by the fact that only twenty-one of these institutions were state universities. Of the latter, Minnesota was the nineteenth to receive its charter. Hamline is included in a list of thirty-four ante-bellum Methodist colleges. The relation of the founding of colleges to the westward movement is indicated in the opening chapter on “The Moving Frontier and the American College.” Mr. Tewksbury presents evidence to show that 133 of the colleges established before the Civil War were founded between 1830 and 1861. “It is significant,” he writes, “that these decades of accelerated development in higher education in this country coincided with the period of the great migrations westward.”

Students both of transportation and of lumbering will find interesting and valuable material in the reminiscences of Captain Jerome E. Short, which have been prepared for publication by Captain Fred A. Bill of St. Paul. The narrative, which is entitled “When ‘Rafters’ Ruled the River,” is appearing in weekly installments in the *Clinton* [Iowa] *Herald*, beginning with the issue of March 11. Captain Short entered upon his river career in 1866, and he soon became a “full fledged raftman.” The methods used in transporting huge rafts of logs down the Mississippi by means of small tow boats are here explained in great detail. Of more than usual interest and value are the illustrations, which show rafts on the river, raft boats, and even river men at work.

A study of “The Emigration of the German Mennonites from Russia to the United States and Canada, 1873–1880” by Dr. Georg Leibbrandt appears in two installments in the *Mennonite Quarterly Review* for October and January. Among the aspects of the subject

that are discussed is the part played by the railroads in attracting these Europeans to the Northwest. In describing the distribution of the Mennonites, the author points out that "About half of the number of the United States settlers chose Kansas as their future home, the other half being located in Dakota, Nebraska and Minnesota."

The reports of British consuls stationed in the United States between 1850 and 1860, the originals of which are preserved in the British Record Office in London, have been used by Laura A. White in the preparation of an enlightening article entitled "The United States in the 1850's as Seen by British Consuls," which appears in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for March. Among the "impressions of land and people" quoted are those contained in a report of Vice-consul Adshead, who went to Minneapolis in 1859. He presented his government with "enthusiastic reports of the twin cities . . . urging the advantages of the country for British emigrants." "Again the typical American miracle was described," writes Miss White. "Twelve years before the site of St. Paul had been an Indian campground. Now there was a 'city' of 15,000, well graded, sewerred and lighted, with substantial and handsome public and private buildings, spacious churches and schools." Actually at this time St. Paul had only about ten thousand inhabitants.

Nathaniel P. Langford of St. Paul figures prominently in an account of the *Early History of Yellowstone National Park and Its Relation to National Park Policies*, by Louis C. Cramton, recently published by the national park service of the department of the interior (1932. 148 p.). References to the Yellowstone region by travelers and explorers who saw its wonders before 1869 are briefly mentioned, and more extensive accounts of the exploring parties that followed the Folsom-Cook expedition of 1869 are included. The founding and administration of the park are discussed, its "legislative history" is outlined, and an extensive "Yellowstone Bibliography" is presented. Of special interest are the appendixes, which include reprints of many early descriptions of the Yellowstone region from sources that are now extremely rare.

The part played by *Fifty Pioneer Mothers of McLean County, North Dakota* in the settlement and development of the district is

described by Mary A. Barnes Williams in a recently published volume of sketches (Washburn, North Dakota, 1932. 200 p.). It is interesting to note that many of the women whose experiences are herein set forth lived in Minnesota before settling in North Dakota.

Sketches of La Vérendrye, explorer; Manuel Lisa, the "George Rogers Clark of the Missouri"; Doane Robinson, "Historian and Journalist"; Indians, missionaries, soldiers, a poet, and a physician are included in a little volume of *Heroes and Hero Tales of South Dakota* by Barrett Lowe (Minneapolis, 1931. 196 p.). The book is intended for youthful readers.

The centennial of the Black Hawk purchase and of the beginning of settlement in Iowa is commemorated in the February issue of the *Palimpsest*, which includes articles on "The National Scene" in 1833 by Harrison J. Thornton, "To the Land of Black Hawk" by William J. Petersen, "The Half-breed Tract" by J. A. Swisher, "Squatter Settlements" by Louis Pelzer, and "Pioneers in Person" by Ruth A. Gallaher. Dr. Petersen discusses the transportation routes and methods employed by the settlers who swarmed into the newly opened area. Some of his material is drawn from the letters of Samuel W. Pond, the Minnesota missionary.

The Geography of Iowa is reviewed by James H. Lees in a useful pamphlet published by Rand McNally and Company (1931. 52 p.). Sections are included on "Iowa's Beginning," with brief accounts of exploration and of governmental organization, and on "Early Settlers and Settlements."

In order to furnish the children of its community with local historical material, the Public Library of Sioux City, Iowa, has published a pamphlet entitled *Sioux City: A True Story of How It Grew* by Rose A. O'Connor (1932. 46 p.). It includes sections on the beginnings of settlement; the fur trade; some early celebrations; the establishment of the post office, the land office, schools, the library, churches, newspapers, and public utilities; and the development of the city's chief industries.

Some activities of a pioneer physician of Fredricksburg, Iowa, are described by Lieutenant Commander Louis H. Roddis in an article

entitled "A Medical Poet of the Middle Border: William Savage Pitts, M.D.," which appears in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* for January. Doctor Pitts gained fame as the author of the poem entitled "The Little Brown Church in the Vale," and Lieutenant Roddis presents evidence to show that the verses were written in 1857, seven years before the church at Bradford, which is known by this name, was completed. He also reviews the history of this little Congregational church, which attracts thousands of visitors each year to an otherwise deserted village.

In a little book of verse about *Old Prairie du Chien*, Laura Sherry attempts to catch the spirit of its pioneer French inhabitants and to picture the gay village of fur-trade days (Paris, 1931. 92 p.). Her introduction includes a number of voyageur songs that she "succeeded after considerable effort to get on paper."

The development of a flour-milling center in northern New York during the early decades of the nineteenth century is described by Maude Motley in an article entitled "When Rochester was the 'Flour City,'" which appears in the *Northwestern Miller* for February 15. The writer asserts that "By 1834, Rochester had become the greatest flour manufacturing center in the world."

A series of exhibits in a single room of the Ohio State Museum, arranged in such a way as to present in a chronological review "the Story of Ohio from its beginning down to the present day," is described by Harlow Lindley in a booklet entitled *The Story of Ohio as Told by a Museum Exhibit*, which has been published by the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society (1932. 44 p.). The entire span of Ohio history has been divided into the following fourteen epochs, each of which is represented by an exhibit: geography and history, Ohio's prehistoric peoples, the Ohio Indians, the coming of the white man, the contest for Ohio, the first permanent settlements, Ohio becomes a state, Ohio in the War of 1812, pioneer life, internal development, religion and education, the anti-slavery movement, Ohio in the Civil, Spanish-American, and World wars, and "Ohio's peaceful progress." The usefulness of the pamphlet is increased by the inclusion of sections on the state's "Name, Nickname, Seal, Flag and Flower," and on "Ohio's Birthday."

The *Parks and Memorials of the State of Illinois* are described in an illustrated booklet compiled by C. M. Service and issued by the department of public works and buildings (1931. 143 p.). Detailed accounts of the historic backgrounds of many of the parks are included, and the significance of monuments and markers is explained.

An *Art Guide to Indiana*, recently published by the extension division of Indiana University as volume 16, number 8 of its *Bulletins*, (184 p.), includes notes on "historic and artistic architecture, monuments, memorials, bridges, gardens, and gateways with the names of the architects and sculptors." Descriptive accounts of many monuments and markers and buildings of historic interest are to be found in this little book, which embodies the results of an art survey of the state by the Indiana Federation of Art Clubs.

Much like the Minnesota Historical Survey is a survey of historic sites in California, which is being sponsored by the California state conference of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The latter survey has been completed for the southern counties of the state, and the results have been published in a volume entitled *Historic Sites in California* by Hero E. and Ethel G. Rensch (1932. 267 p.). The arrangement of the volume is by counties.

Many references to the upper Mississippi, the St. Peter's River, the Grand Portage, and the Minnesota Indian tribes occur in a volume of *Correspondence of the Honourable Peter Russell, with Allied Documents Relating to His Administration of the Government of Upper Canada, 1796-97*, collected and edited by E. A. Cruikshank and A. F. Hunter for the Ontario Historical Society (1932. 336 p.). One letter written by James McGill from Montreal on February 7, 1797, includes a detailed description of the Mississippi River between the Falls of St. Anthony and Leech Lake, "which has always been considered the greatest source of the Mississippi" (p. 142). Another, written in July, 1797, by Sir John Johnson, contains the information that "through the Instigation of some of the Traders on the River St. Pierre &c., Hostilities had commenced between the Sioux" and the Chippewa of the Mackinac region (p. 209).

A study of "Phyn, Ellice and Company of Schenectady," in which R. H. Fleming "traces the history of the Northwest Company back

to one of its main roots," appears in volume 4 of the *Contributions to Canadian Economics* issued by the University of Toronto (1932. 120 p.). This important addition to the early history of the Canadian fur trade is based on the letter books of the company for the years 1767 to 1776 and the Porteous Papers, both in the library of the Buffalo Historical Society.

The independent Canadian traders who operated in the West in competition with the Hudson's Bay Company between 1755 and 1775 are described as "The Pedlars from Quebec" by W. S. Wallace in an article appearing in the *Canadian Historical Review* for December. Much of the information that he sets forth is gleaned from the manuscript journals of the servants of the Hudson's Bay Company. Among the traders mentioned are James Finlay, Thomas Corry, James Tute, Peter Pangman, and the Frobishers. Since they made their way into upper Canada by way of the Grand Portage, their operations are of special interest to Minnesotans.

The charge frequently made against the missionaries of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries that they engaged in the fur trade is considered by Patrick J. Lomasney in an article entitled "The Canadian Jesuits and the Fur Trade," which appears in the January issue of *Mid-America*. He attempts to refute Frontenac's accusation that the "Jesuits think as much of the conversion of beaver as of that of souls," and he presents evidence to show that like all Canadians of their time, the missionaries used peltries "as the current money of the country to procure other objects of prime necessity."

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

In order to promote interest in the Catholic Historical Society of St. Paul, which has been inactive since 1918, a well attended meeting was held in the Minnesota Historical Building on February 25. Father William Busch of St. Paul Seminary, who presided, explained the purposes of the meeting and suggested some of the interesting possibilities in the study of the Catholic history of Minnesota. Other speakers included Judge Thomas D. O'Brien, Mr. Julius Coller, II, Father Thomas J. Shanahan, Mr. Joseph Matt, Mrs. John H. Donahue, Mrs. Thomas D. Ryan, Father James L. Connolly, Mr. Cornelius Crowley, Mrs. J. W. Bishop, and Dr. Theodore C. Blegen,

superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, who pointed out ways in which the Catholic society could make use of the resources of the state society. A board of five trustees under the presidency of Archbishop John G. Murray of St. Paul and an editorial board of three members will direct the activities of the Catholic society. Plans are under way for enlarging its membership, which in the past consisted almost entirely of members of the local Catholic clergy, and to enlist the interest of the laity, particularly students of history. The society plans also to renew the publication of *Acta et Dicta*, an annual volume of papers and other materials relating to the Catholic church in the Northwest which was issued from 1907 to 1918. The coöperation of the Knights of Columbus has been enlisted in the effort to arouse interest in the Catholic Historical Society, and under its auspices three addresses were presented in March and April both in St. Paul and in Minneapolis. Archbishop Murray spoke on "Catholic Interest in History," Monsignor Humphrey Moynihan discussed the "Life and Work of Archbishop Ireland," and the Reverend James M. Reardon described "Early Catholic Chapels in Minnesota."

For Minnesotans the review of the career of John Albert Johnson by Solon J. Buck is perhaps the most interesting sketch in volume 10 of the *Dictionary of American Biography*, edited for the American Council of Learned Societies by Dumas Malone (New York, 1933). Dr. Buck also contributes a biography of Oliver H. Kelley, the founder of the Grange. Among the important figures in the early history of the Northwest whose careers are sketched in this volume are William H. Keating, the geologist and historiographer of the Long expedition of 1823, by John H. Frederick; Norman W. Kittson, fur-trader and railroad magnate, by Clarence W. Rife; and Nathaniel P. Langford, the first superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, by John F. Fulton. Accounts of a number of prominent churchmen are included—Jackson Kemper, the Protestant Episcopal missionary bishop, by Katharine Jeanne Gallagher; James J. Keane, Catholic archbishop of Dubuque, whose early life was spent in Minnesota, by Richard J. Purcell; Isaac W. Joyce, Methodist Episcopal bishop, who passed the last years of his life in Minneapolis, by Harris E. Starr; Erik K. Johnsen, Lutheran theologian, who served on the faculties of two Minnesota theological seminaries, by

John O. Evjen; and Johan N. Kildahl, a leader in the Norwegian Lutheran church and president of St. Olaf College from 1899 to 1914, by J. Magnus Rohne. The interesting career of Herschel V. Jones, editor of the *Minneapolis Journal* and book collector, is reviewed by Frank K. Walter; Harold L. Van Doren contributes a sketch of Robert Koehler, director of the Minneapolis School of Fine Arts from 1892 to 1913; Richard W. Johnson, who served at Fort Snelling when it was a frontier post and who later became professor of military science at the University of Minnesota, is the subject of a sketch by Charles D. Rhodes. Of considerable Minnesota interest also are biographies of Harry Pratt Judson, who served as professor of history in the University of Minnesota for seven years before he went to the University of Chicago, by Andrew C. McLaughlin; of Walter C. Kerr, engineer, who was born and raised at St. Peter, by Albert W. Smith; and of John Jay Knox, financier, who was a banker at St. Paul from 1857 to 1862, by Harold G. Villard.

Fort Snelling and Fort St. Pierre are among the Minnesota posts included in the installment of Edgar M. Ledyard's "American Posts" in the *Utah Historical Quarterly* for January (see *ante*, p. 110). The Northwest Company's post on Sandy Lake also is noted, though no mention is made of the American Fur Company's post on that lake. Mr. Ledyard includes another Northwest Company post known as Sayer's House, which was at one time located on Cass Lake. He fails, however, to give it a definite location.

Dr. Folwell was one of the five "Builders of the Name" of the University of Minnesota to be honored at the Charter Day convocation held in Northrop Memorial Auditorium on February 16. Attention was called to the centenary of his birth on February 14, an anniversary that was also marked by the publication by the University of Minnesota Press of his *Autobiography*. Other "Builders" whose services were commemorated in the Charter Day exercises were Cyrus Northrop, William S. Pattee, Maria Sanford, and Henry T. Eddy.

The founding of Minnesota's first normal school at Winona is described by G. E. Maxwell in the *Minnesota Journal of Education* for February. He tells how the bill for the establishment of the school was introduced in the first state legislature by Joseph Peckham of Cannon Falls and how it was signed by Governor Sibley on

August 2, 1858. He also describes the opening of the school in September, 1860, as the "first state supported independent normal school west of the Mississippi."

Reminiscences of the English colony at Fairmont are presented in an interesting little volume by Sally Archer-Burton entitled *Your Mother Remembers* (Fairmont, 1931. 66 p.). It includes an account of the immigration of the writer's family from England in 1876, when her father, Captain Fred Wherland of the British merchant marine, decided to leave the sea and go to America. She tells of his meeting with the agent in England for the sale of Minnesota lands and of the purchase of a farm near Fairmont that followed. Like most accounts of the Fairmont colony, this pictures the gay social life of the English settlers, with their fox hunts, balls, and house-warmings.

Thomas A. Holmes is described as a "professional founder" of cities and town sites in an article about his activities in Minnesota and particularly about his part in the founding of Fountain City, Wisconsin, which appears in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for February 22. According to this account, Holmes laid out more than thirty town sites in the frontier Middle West. His portrait and a view of Fountain City accompany the article. In the same issue of the *Republican-Herald* is an account by the Reverend William E. Thompson of the pioneer experiences in Winona County of Mrs. Catherine Smokey.

Most of the important industries of the Great Lakes region — fishing, lumbering, iron and copper mining, agriculture, ship-building — figure in the *Autobiography* of Captain Alexander McDougall (1932. 238 p.). Their relation to transportation is particularly stressed, since the author played a major rôle in the development of shipping on the lakes. From 1861, when he ran away from home to become a deck hand on a lake steamer, Captain McDougall's career was identified with the Great Lakes, and for more than two decades he helped to carry commodities and passengers between Duluth and Buffalo. He relates that in October, 1868, his boat touched at the base of Minnesota Point, "where our few passengers were landed on the gravel beach to begin to build a town later called Duluth." There, in the early seventies, he "struck it rich," for wheat was beginning

to pour in "from the Red River Valley of Minnesota by rail and there was not enough cargo capacity to handle it." In a chapter entitled "Whalebacks and Iron Ore," Captain McDougall tells of his invention of the whaleback steamer and of his experiences as a ship-builder at Duluth.

Mr. John A. Bardon of Superior, a prominent figure in the early history of shipping on Lake Superior, supplied the material on which are based four articles appearing in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for February 15, 16, 17, and 20. They deal with the early Lake Superior ship traffic, particularly around the Duluth-Superior Harbor, and give information on such subjects as early vessels, the beginnings of ship-building, and some pioneer captains. The illustrations, which depict early scenes on the Duluth water front, boats, and captains, are of special interest.

Brief sketches of many Minnesotans are included in a genealogical work entitled *Some Lines of the Townshend-Townsend Families of Old England, New England and Minnesota*, compiled for Loretta Townsend Talbot by Homer W. Brainard (1931. 123 p.). It is interesting to note that several members of the Townsend family went west from Maine to Minnesota in the fifties to engage in the lumber business.

Mr. C. F. G. Raikes, European branch manager for the *Northwestern Miller*, presents in the issues of that magazine for January 11 and 18 his recollections of William C. Edgar's activities with the Miller's Belgium Relief movement during the World War. In 1915 the Minneapolis editor went abroad with a cargo of flour contributed by American millers.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

A manuscript volume that is apparently a trader's account book, which was discovered by workmen engaged in repairing the Grand Central Building at Aitkin, is described in the *Aitkin Republican* for January 12. The occurrence of such names as Beaulieu, Robert, and John Lynde indicate that the record may be of more than ordinary interest and value.

Company B, 135th Infantry, Minnesota National Guard, is making an effort to collect military objects that illustrate its history, ac-

cording to an announcement in the *Aitkin Independent Age* for January 20. All articles assembled will be placed on display in the armory at Aitkin.

The history of the Lincoln Mill at Anoka, which has recently been wrecked, is reviewed in the *Anoka Herald* for February 14. The mill was erected in 1880 by the Washburn Milling Company and it later became the property of the Pillsbury Flour Mills Company, which used it for the manufacture of Durum wheat products. A picture of the mill accompanies the article.

The services of the late William H. Pay as president of the Blue Earth County Historical Society were commemorated at a meeting of the society held at Mankato on March 28. The state historical society was represented by its superintendent, who spoke on the work of Mr. Pay in both the local and state fields. Mr. Horace W. Roberts of Mankato was elected to fill the office made vacant by Mr. Pay's death.

At the annual meeting of the Brown County Historical Society, held at New Ulm on March 24, Mr. Fred W. Johnson, the president of the organization, spoke on his collection of portraits of Brown County pioneers and the methods used in obtaining the pictures. He said that "he had visited every township in the county during the past year, and that he had seen descendants of almost every early settler in each township." The success of this survey may be judged from the fact that Mr. Johnson has photographs of more than five hundred of the seven hundred people who, according to the federal census, lived in New Ulm in 1860.

An interesting description of Fort Ridgely written by G. W. O. Barth in 1860 is quoted in the *New Ulm Review* for February 2. Two years before the Sioux Outbreak, in which the frontier post was to play an important part, this writer declared: "As far as our strategic knowledge reaches . . . the fort could not withstand an attack by a strong band of Indians. . . . Fortunately we do not have to anticipate hostilities from any side, which makes the existence of a strong place unnecessary." The description was sent to the *Review* by Mr. Hugo G. Roos of Kansas City. A picture of the ruins of

Fort Ridgely in 1879 recently discovered by Mr. F. W. Johnson of New Ulm in the possession of Mrs. Thomas Smith of Mankato is described in the *Review* for January 19.

The activities of a Carver County land claim association of 1854 are vividly described by the Reverend O. Paulsen in the first installment of a translation of his reminiscences, which appears in the *Weekly Valley Herald* of Chaska for February 16. The original narrative was written in Norwegian; the extracts from it here published under the title "Early History of Nearby Vicinity" have been turned into English by A. G. W. Anderson. Other installments, in the *Herald* for February 23 and March 9, 23, and 30, deal with the author's removal from the Turkey River country in Iowa to his Carver County claim and with the Civil and Sioux wars.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the *Pillager Herald* is the occasion for the publication in its issue for January 13 of a history of the newspapers published in the village during the past thirty-five years. According to this account it has had three newspapers other than the *Herald*—the *Post*, the *Leader*, and the *Truth Seeker*. Some information about the publishers of these papers also is presented. A picture of the crude building in which the *Leader* was published accompanies the article.

At a meeting of the Chatfield Historical Society on January 23, some reminiscences of F. W. Shimer, a pioneer of 1854, were read by his daughter, Miss Ruth Shimer; and some interesting events of the sixties were recalled by Mr. Clarence Ferguson. Mr. Shimer's paper is published and Mr. Ferguson's talk is outlined in the *Chatfield News* for January 26.

Brief articles on pioneer life and experiences, prepared by pupils in the rural schools of Chippewa County under the supervision of Miss LuElla Watson, the county superintendent of schools, appear in the *Watson Voice* for March 9, 16, and 23.

"The Crow Wing county historical society has established a means of contact linking the past and the present in vivid and imaginative illustrations through its collection" of Indian objects, pioneer household utensils and tools, articles used in logging camps,

pictures, and other objects illustrative of pioneer life, according to the writer of an article on the society's museum, which appears in the *Brainerd Daily Dispatch* for February 1.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Mantorville Congregational Church was celebrated by members of the congregation on March 17, 18, and 19. In connection with a special historical program presented on March 18, papers on the history of the church were presented and pictures and objects connected with its past were exhibited.

Extracts from the diary of a Fillmore County clergyman, the Reverend Kristian Magelssen, are printed in *Levang's Weekly* of Lanesboro for February 16. They cover the month from January 29 to February 28, 1899, and deal with such subjects as church services, prices of farm commodities, and the activities of a country pastor.

Meetings held at Park Rapids on March 16 and April 19 have resulted in the organization of the Hubbard County Historical Society. Among the speakers at the second meeting was Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the state historical society. The following officers were elected for the new society: Mrs. E. C. Lake, president; C. W. Wilkins, vice president; D. E. Ward, secretary; and A. M. Mevig, treasurer.

At a meeting held on March 30, the Glencoe Historical Society was organized. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Isabelle Zrust, president; Sam G. Peterson, vice president; and Paul Gaines, secretary-treasurer.

Under the title "Early Frontier History and Experiences," the *Eden Valley Journal* publishes in its issues from February 2 to March 9 the recollections of Mr. W. R. Salisbury, which he has recorded in a charming manner for his grandson. He deals almost entirely with his boyhood experiences on a Meeker County homestead in the early sixties and with the Sioux War.

The activities during three-quarters of century of the First Baptist Church of Austin, which celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary late in January, are described in articles published in the *Austin Daily Herald* for February 1. Its history during the past twenty-five years is reviewed by Mrs. F. C. Bemis and Miss Blanche Mahachek; an

account of its earlier activities, which was prepared by the Reverend C. D. Belden on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, is reprinted from the *Mower County Transcript* for February 12, 1908; and a brief account of an affiliated organization, the Oakland Baptist Church, is presented by its pastor, the Reverend Lester McCauley.

James M. Goodhue and the *Minnesota Pioneer* were described by the Reverend Melvin Frank of Pelican Rapids in a talk before the Kiwanis Club of Fergus Falls on February 13. Another speaker, Mr. E. T. Barnard, told of the activities of the Otter Tail County Historical Society.

An editorial advocating a "Local History Museum" and a local historical society for Pennington County appears in the *Thief River Falls Forum* for February 23. The suggestion is made that space for a county historical museum be provided in the new city auditorium. "The sooner a museum is started, and with it a county historical society, the easier it will be to collect the facts of our early life," reads the editorial.

The Pope County Historical Society, which was planned more than a year ago (see *ante*, 13:120, 453), was organized at Glenwood early in 1933 with more than fifty members, according to its secretary, Mr. W. H. Engebretson of Glenwood.

At a meeting of the Rice County Historical Society held at Faribault on February 20, Mr. John Lieb presented a paper on the "History of Stone and the Stone Industry Around Faribault."

A brief note about the Fleckenstein Brewery, which was established at Faribault in 1856, appears with a picture of this quaint building and its surroundings and a portrait of its founder, Ernst Fleckenstein, in the *Faribault Daily News* for March 29.

The address presented by Father d'Eschambault, secretary of the St. Boniface Historical Society, at the La Vérendrye bicentennial celebration held at Warroad in June, 1932 (see *ante*, 13:345), has been published by the Roseau County Historical Society in a pamphlet entitled *Discovery of Lake of the Woods* (14 p.). Moving pictures taken during the celebration were shown at a meeting of the society held at Warroad on February 20.

The history of old Oneota, now a part of Duluth, was featured in the program presented by the St. Louis County Historical Society in the Oneota School auditorium on February 13. Mr. William E. Culkin discussed the "Origin and Etymology of the Name Oneota," Mr. Bert N. Wheeler described some "Pioneer Families of Oneota," Mr. Thomas H. Merritt explained the "Location of Oneota and What Has Become of It," and the Reverend Carl J. Silfversten told of "Missionary Days at Oneota." Some notes on the history of the settlement, which was founded in 1856, appear in the printed program of the meeting.

Of more than usual interest in the field of local history is "The History of Shakopee, Minnesota, 1682-1930," by Julius A. Collier, II, which is published in installments in the *Shakopee Argus-Tribune* from January 26 to March 16. The work consists of eight chapters with the following titles: "The Awakening, 1682-1851"; "Early Settlement, 1851-1860," "Stammering Years, 1860-1870"; "Marching On, 1870-1890"; "The Gay Nineties, 1890-1901"; "The New Century, 1901-1917"; "The War Years, 1914-1919"; and "Yesterdays, 1919-1930." Plans are under way for the publication of the history in book form. Mr. Collier presented a paper based upon part of this narrative at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society on January 16 (see *ante*, p. 77).

In response to an inquiry from a teacher, Win V. Working, in the *Belle Plaine Herald* for February 23, names as the "State's 5 Best Known Pioneers" Alexander Ramsey, Henry H. Sibley, John H. Stevens, Joseph R. Brown, and Charles E. Flandrau. The article appears as one of a series of local history sketches in the *Herald*. Among other recent articles in this series are an account of historic sites along a projected highway between the Twin Cities and Pembina, January 26; a description of some of the activities of Louis Robert, who built a trading post in Belle Plaine Township in 1852, February 2; and an article on the use of scrip during the panic of 1858, March 16.

A history of Salem Lutheran Church of St. Cloud, which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on February 4 and 5, appears in the *St. Cloud Sentinel* for February 2. The church was established by pioneer Scandinavian settlers of the community.

An extensive mimeographed history of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of St. Cloud by Gertrude B. Gove was issued in connection with the seventy-fifth anniversary of the church, which was observed on February 17, 18, and 19. In the preparation of her narrative Miss Gove used such original sources as the manuscript records of the church, year books of Methodist conferences, and a collection of personal papers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

The story of a Dutch colony that was established near New York Mills in the spring of 1910 is related by Father H. Yzermans, who accompanied the immigrants from Holland, in his "Reminiscences," which have been appearing in the *Verndale Sun* since February 9. The writer, a member of the Catholic order known as the Crosier Fathers, tells how the colony was organized by a "priest from America" and established on property offered for sale by the Johnson Land Company of St. Paul. Later installments of the narrative deal for the most part with Father Yzerman's experiences as a missionary in the region around Verndale.

The history of the First Congregational Church of Waseca, which celebrated its sixty-fifth anniversary on January 22, is the subject of a detailed article in the *Waseca Journal* for January 18.

An example of what a newspaper can do to encourage local historical interest and activity in a community is to be found in the historical essay contest recently conducted by the *Stillwater Post-Messenger*. The contest was open to pupils enrolled in the seventh to the twelfth grades of the Stillwater schools. According to its terms essays submitted were to deal with the history of Washington County and were to be based on information obtained from pioneers. The prize winning essays, for which awards of from one to four dollars were given, are announced in the *Post-Messenger* for February 22, and those receiving the first three places are published. Two of these, by Helen Thiel and Robert Crowe, deal with Stillwater's most important pioneer industry—logging; the third, by Dorothy Henningsen, tells of the organization of the county and its early development. Other essays submitted in the contest appear in the issues of the *Post-Messenger* throughout the month of March; they touch upon such varied subjects as pioneer education, early hotels, farming, and Stillwater as a summer resort.

More than a thousand pictures of early scenes and pioneers were displayed at the annual meeting of the Winona County Old Settlers Association, held at Winona on February 22. The exhibit was arranged by Miss Mabel Marvin.

Brief historical sketches of the schools and the churches of St. Charles appear in the issues of the *Inter-county Press* of St. Charles for January 13 and 20. In the first the schools of the community, which date from 1855, are described; in the second the organization of churches by various denominations, including the Baptists, the Methodists, the Congregationalists, and the Catholics, are noted.

Portraits of pioneer Minnesotans and views of the communities in which they lived are reproduced from Andreas' *Historical Atlas* of Minnesota, which was published in 1874, in the photogravure section of the Sunday *St. Paul Pioneer Press* from January 15 to March 12. Among the pictures published are portraits of some leading Minnesota newspaper men in the issue for January 15.

Views of old St. Anthony and early Minneapolis from the collection of Sweet-Jacoby negatives in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society have been appearing since January 1 in the rotogravure section of the Sunday *Minneapolis Journal*.



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