

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The American Language: An Inquiry into the Development of English in the United States. By H. L. MENCKEN. (Fourth edition, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1936. xi, 769, xxix p. \$5.00.)

The first edition of H. L. Mencken's monumental treatise on American English was published in 1919 and comprised only half the bulk of the present volume. Subsequent editions appeared in 1921 and 1923, but it was not until Mr. Mencken resigned the editorship of the *American Mercury* that he found time to make a thorough revision of the text and to sift the vast material on American linguistic habits that has been accumulating in the last decade. The present volume not only supersedes completely its predecessors but also towers over everything else in its field. In one way, indeed, it is almost a collective achievement, since the author has relied on scholars all over the world for material and has levied heavily on the case histories in such academic journals as *American Speech* and *Dialect Notes*. His obligations, which are legion, are handsomely acknowledged in numerous footnotes. Chiefly, of course, he is indebted to such eminent philologists as Otto Jespersen and George Philip Krapp, but students in almost every section of the country have contributed material of one kind or another. Thus, in the Northwest he cites his obligations to Professor George M. Stephenson of the University of Minnesota, Professor George T. Flom of the University of Illinois, Roy W. Swanson of the *St. Paul Dispatch*, and Ivar Vapaa, editor of the *Duluth Industrialist*.

Mr. Mencken holds that American English is marked by certain peculiarities: a national uniformity of speech; a healthy impatience with pedantic grammar and syntax; a love of neologisms which are both fresh and vigorous; and a pervasive fondness for short cuts in language, indicated by the acceptance of a multiplicity of abbreviations and clipped words (note, however, that the American still prefers "elevator" to the English "lift"!). A large part of the volume is concerned with differences between American and English, discrepancies in spelling, denotation, pronunciation. Mr. Mencken asserts that English is today the only world language and that it is gaining con-

verts constantly. At present some hundred and ninety million people speak it as natives, while it is the second language of some twenty million more. Furthermore, he claims that the English of the future will be the American brand, that the standard English of the public schools and of the great universities is internationally obsolete.

Another large section of the book is devoted to racial contributions to American. Thus, the Swedes of the Northwest have enriched the language with such terms as *lutfisk*, *lefse*, *lag*, *spruts*, and *midsommarfest* (commonly anglicized), and have retained the barbarous idiom "I want to go with." Swedish proper names, too, have survived where the given names of other racial groups have been transliterated or sloughed off. Thus, feminine names such as Karen, Sigrid, and Helma, and masculine names like Erik, Olaf, Nils, Anders, and Axel have not yielded to the local pressure to Americanize. The Slavs, on the contrary, because of American inability to pronounce or spell their patronymics, have altered their names, in some cases almost unrecognizably. Of all foreign groups, the Spaniards have left the most substantial imprint on American vocabulary.

One of the most interesting chapters in the book is that discussing proper names and place names. Here Mr. Mencken points out the needless repetitions of nomenclature, the fondness for perpetuating heroic names such as Washington, the classical inheritance (*vide* Athens, Sparta, Corinth), and the emphasis on geographical peculiarities. Sometimes a city is baptized with a name formed of several syllables clumsily spliced together: thus Miloma, Minnesota, comprises the initial letters of the Milwaukee and Omaha railroads.

The American Language is not a book to read consecutively, but it is a fascinating territory in which to browse. Its long lists of examples carefully indexed, its heavy documentation, and its erudite philological and syntactical discussions are not the ingredients for a literary bedside companion. But nowhere else is there so complete a treatment of the English language as it is spoken in the United States. Whoever wishes to know the etymology of "O.K." or the genesis of "realtor" (incidentally, a coinage of a Minneapolis real-estate man, Charles N. Chadbourn) will do well to have a copy of Mr. Mencken's fourth edition at hand.

JOHN T. FLANAGAN

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

The Western Military Frontier, 1815-1846. By HENRY PUTNEY BEERS. (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania, 1935. vi, 227 p. Maps. \$2.00.)

The frontier continues to attract the attention of historians. Many aspects of the subject have been all but exhausted, but Mr. Beers devotes his study to one aspect that has not been fully treated, namely, the part which the army played in the westward movement. While the major emphasis is upon the army and the military frontier rather than upon the frontier of settlement, the study makes a very definite contribution to the history of the whole frontier.

The book consists of eight chapters which develop the story of the army from the close of the Revolutionary War to the opening of the Mexican War. It furnishes rather clear pictures of the development of a military policy, the determination of the military frontier, the erection of posts, the services of the army to the settlers, and the frequent removals of posts to accommodate the advancing line of settlement. The author shows the effect of the treeless plains upon military policy. It is an interesting fact that the army contained no cavalry until it was called upon to cover great distances on the open plains. The formation of the dragoon companies was a logical method of meeting the new situation.

While this study is primarily concerned with the army and military affairs, it nevertheless throws considerable light on a number of other topics. The building of roads, Indian life and trade, agricultural practices, land policies, and the westward movement of settlers receive incidental but substantial consideration. The book contains two maps, a reasonably satisfactory index, and a useful appendix with an apparently complete list of posts that were founded before 1846.

The *Western Military Frontier* is open to a number of criticisms, no one of which is perhaps fundamentally significant, but the aggregate of which tends to weaken the study. The author apparently failed to use newspapers, whereas the careful use of a few selected papers, such as the *Detroit Gazette*, the *Missouri Republican*, and the *National Intelligencer*, would have enriched the treatment. The more recent volumes of the *Missouri Historical Collections*, which contain several valuable articles, journals, and diaries, were also overlooked. For some reason the chapters within the study are unnumbered. The two maps are not only poor; they are almost inde-

cipherable. The style is heavy, catalogic, and unintegrated. Paragraphs are frequently composed of diverse and relatively unconnected materials. The chapter headings do not definitely indicate the contents. In brief, the author leaves too much work for the reader. The book is filled with valuable and illuminating materials, but only the patient reader will be able to appreciate this fact.

This study presents relatively few new facts, but it does cover for the first time in a thorough manner the history of the military frontier from 1825 to 1845. The surprising fact is that the military frontier of 1845 was so little in advance of that of the early eighteenth centuries. By 1825 it had included Forts Snelling, Atkinson (Nebraska), Gibson, Towson, and Jesup. By 1845 the line had in the north actually receded to Fort Des Moines, but in the south it had advanced to include eastern Texas.

The concluding chapter of this study is an excellent synthesis of the contributions of the army. The bibliography is extensive and carefully compiled. The author examined a mass of materials and has produced a useful and, on the whole, a creditable study.

EDGAR B. WESLEY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

The Wage-earner in the Westward Movement. By CARTER GOODRICH and SOL DAVISON. (Reprinted from the *Political Science Quarterly*, 50: 161-185, 51: 61-116—June, 1935, March, 1936.)

In two carefully documented articles Carter Goodrich and Sol Davison have set out to weigh the available evidence for one very important part of the Turner thesis of the westward movement—namely, that a developing West provided the wage earners of the East with a safety valve, or avenue of escape, which was open to them at all times, and particularly during periods of economic distress. The authors begin with a restatement of the Turner thesis and show how generally it has been accepted by historians since Turner first stated it in 1893. They summarize the evidence which has been produced to show that the frontier, whether or not it went by the name of “safety valve,” has been recognized since colonial times as a refuge for those who were oppressed or dissatisfied with conditions about

them. They point out, however, that no concrete evidence has been produced of migrations of large numbers of wage earners to western farms. Even Horace Greeley, the arch exponent of westward migration, makes specific mention of only one such instance, they claim. Although they assume that the effectiveness of the agricultural frontier as a safety valve for eastern wage earners has never been proved, they concede that the idea of the frontier as a refuge has been a potent factor in American life since earliest times.

In the second part of the study the authors have examined data from the agricultural West and the industrial East. Evidence from such a community as Fall River, Massachusetts, tends to minimize the importance of the movement of wage earners to the farms of the West, at least from that industrial area. The authors searched through the newspapers, libraries, and manuscript collections of a number of western and midwestern states for material relating to the subject. The discovery of but few illustrations of migration to western farms by wage earners appears to be the result. In Minnesota, for example, they traced the activities of the Minnesota Settlement Association, made up largely of New Yorkers, which sought to establish a colony on the Minnesota River at Mankato. The ignominious failure of this venture is another bit of evidence interpreted to disprove the "safety valve" theory. In the case of the Western Farm and Village Association, which established a colony near Winona, the inadequacy of the eastern wage earners as agriculturists was clearly demonstrated. Failing to find lumber with which to build houses, these migrants sat helplessly by until a group of Indiana farmers showed them how to build homes with the materials at hand. Their inexperience as pioneer farmers was demonstrated by a total absence of plows and implements for clearing the soil. They merely brought spades, with which they dug up garden tracts on their own town lots, and most of them got "lost if they got out of sight of their shanties."

Evidence of a similar nature was obtained from Kansas. At least half of 570 migrants sent to Kansas by the New England Emigrant Aid Company came from villages of from one to five thousand inhabitants rather than from the larger manufacturing centers, and only 293 of them could be classed as mechanics and wage earners, the majority of whom were from the smaller towns. Even in the California gold rush, it is suggested, the greater number of migrants were from the

Middle West, and not from the industrial East. It should be pointed out, however, that this evidence was gathered from a St. Louis newspaper which took a census of persons passing Independence on the overland route, and does not include those who made the trip by boat, as did large numbers of people from the eastern states.

The authors themselves acknowledge that their study has not conclusively demonstrated the ineffectiveness of the frontier as a safety valve for industrial labor. So far as they have gone, of course, the evidence which they have gathered would indicate that very few eastern wage earners were attracted to western farms, but the evidence upon which their conclusions are based is sketchy. They have but dipped into the mass of material that must be studied before their opinion can be accepted. Furthermore, the materials which they have examined are not typical materials. Minnesota was not settled primarily by colonization companies any more than was Kansas. The real settlers of the West were those nameless thousands who came unheralded, singly or in family units. The history of their migration must be studied as well as that of organizations such as the New England Emigrant Aid Company or the Western Farm and Village Association. A further criticism of the work is the extremely literal interpretation given Turner's thesis. There is a doubt that Turner meant that the action of the frontier safety valve involved a mass movement of eastern wage earners directly to western farms. The implication is clear throughout Turner's writings that he embraced in his interpretation of the westward movement not only the occupation of the agricultural lands, but all the concomitant factors, which must include the building of cities and the development of industries. No attempt has been made here to measure the movement of eastern wage earners to these newborn western industries.

ARTHUR J. LARSEN

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

Oscar Wilde Discovers America [1882]. By LLOYD LEWIS and HENRY JUSTIN SMITH. (New York, Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1936. xiv, 462 p. Illustrations. \$4.50.)

The year 1882 was significant to Americans for many reasons, for the execution of Charles Guiteau, the slaying of Jesse James, the arrival of Lily Langtry, the "Jersey Lily," the coining of W. H.

Vanderbilt's famous "The Public Be Damned!" indictment, the Democratic landslide which catapulted Grover Cleveland and Ben Butler into the gubernatorial chairs of New York and Massachusetts. But not the least significant event was the arrival of an individual christened Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wilde, who had been brought from England by D'Oyly Carte for the purpose of spreading the gospel of aestheticism to the New World and incidentally of advertising the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta *Patience*.

Oscar Wilde arrived in New York on January 2, 1882, and left on December 27. In the meantime he delivered his two lectures on the "English Renaissance" and the "Decorative Arts" (with such variants as topical allusions might effect) in some sixty cities throughout the nation and earned about thirty thousand dollars chiefly by his own flare for publicity and by his candor in criticizing what passed for art in America. He was alternately lionized and parodied in the East was rather roughly handled by newspapers everywhere, but won the heart of the West by outdrinking the celebrated habitués of San Francisco's Bohemian Club and by venturing to speak upon aesthetics to the rough elements that a mining camp like Leadville could muster. It is this lecture tour which is described in Messrs. Lewis and Smith's book, a carefully documented account taken chiefly from newspapers and giving in much detail the public reaction to Wilde and his plea for a living art.

Of chief interest to Minnesotans is the portrayal of Wilde's appearances in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Little is said about his two Minnesota lectures, since much repetition and newspaper comment had made their content fairly familiar, but the authors quote the rather full account in the *St. Paul Globe* of the St. Patrick's Day rally at the Opera House. After the initial speech by Archbishop Ireland, Father Shanley introduced Wilde and the aesthete spoke eloquently in praise of Ireland and in gratitude for the tribute previously accorded his mother, herself a poet. The generous applause which he received was probably more sincere than most of the plaudits which greeted him on his tour.

This treatment of Oscar Wilde's "discovery" of America is obviously the result of much meticulous searching of the files of old newspapers. Not content with a mere chronicle of the lecturer's appearances and receptions, the authors have striven to place Wilde against the background so that almost a disproportionate share of the

book is taken up by discussions of celebrities and events which made the year conspicuous. In their attempt to complete the record Messrs. Lewis and Smith have been obliged to repeat until the very amplitude of the narrative breeds monotony. Yet from their pages emerges a figure whom the reader will not soon forget, consummate showman, dilettante, aesthete, who was disappointed in the Atlantic Ocean, had nothing but his genius to declare to the customs inspectors, thought that no well-behaved river ought to act as the Mississippi did when at flood stage, and was humbled by only two things in America, Walt Whitman and the Rockies. Few English lecturers have provoked such wide public attention as Oscar Wilde, although it is difficult to say how much was genuine interest in art and how much vulgar curiosity. In presenting their account the authors have done a superlative job. Numerous illustrations and an excellent index increase the value of the book.

JOHN T. FLANAGAN

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

Solon Robinson, Pioneer and Agriculturist: Selected Writings, vol. 1, 1825-1845 (*Indiana Historical Collections*, vol. 21). Edited by HERBERT ANTHONY KELLAR, director, McCormick Historical Association. (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Bureau, 1936. xxv, 582 p. Illustrations. \$2.00.)

Solon Robinson (1803-1880) was a colorful, exceedingly interesting, and influential individual. A direct descendant of the famous pastor of the Pilgrims at Leyden, he was left an orphan in rural Connecticut at the age of ten. He served as carpenter's apprentice, but otherwise the data on his occupations until 1830 are meager. He migrated to Cincinnati as early as 1827, and settled in 1830 in Indiana, where he promoted townsites, conducted an auction house, wrote for the local press, ran general stores, organized a squatter's union, acted as county clerk, justice of the peace, register of claims, and postmaster, and otherwise dabbled in politics. In short, he took "a prominent part in almost every form of individual or corporate activity" in the pioneer communities where he lived.

Robinson, along with Henry L. Ellsworth and others, worked for the formation of a national agricultural society with which to gain

control of the Smithsonian fund and develop a national agricultural school and journal. The ultimate result of these efforts was the United States Agricultural Society, which was a vital factor in the creation of the United States department of agriculture. In 1852 Robinson published the *Plow* in New York City, and in the following year he became the agricultural editor of the *New York Tribune*. His work in the latter connection was largely responsible for the wide circulation of the weekly edition of the *Tribune* and its subsequent national influence under Horace Greeley. Having suffered nearly all his life with tubercular tendencies, in 1868 Robinson was forced to retire to Florida, where he continued to write novels, short stories, and poetry, and to do editorial work.

As early as 1837 Robinson began to contribute articles on various aspects of the frontier, including its agricultural possibilities and needs, to the Albany *Cultivator* and other agricultural periodicals. These discourses, written in a simple, homely, and humorous style, reflected his personality and won him a large following. Later he began a series of tours à la Arthur Young and reported his observations, covering practically every settled state in the Union, to the *Cultivator*, the *Prairie Farmer*, and the *American Agriculturist*, from which they were reprinted in the *Southern Cultivator* and other farm journals.

Herein lies the significance of the present volume. Mr. Kellar has selected for reprinting the more valuable and representative agricultural writings and speeches of Robinson, and the result is a veritable treasure chest of data on American agriculture in the thirties and forties. The editing meets the demands of the most critical, and the foreword by Christopher B. Coleman, the preface, the "Contents-Calendar," the illustrations, and the biographical sketch that serves as an introduction are models that others well may emulate. This volume, with the second that is about to be issued, not only gives information on the most influential agricultural writer of the mid-nineteenth century, but provides a vast storehouse of information on American agriculture during that period.

EVERETT E. EDWARDS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

World Immigration, with Special Reference to the United States.

By MAURICE R. DAVIE, professor of sociology in Yale University. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1936. x, 599 p. Maps, charts, graphs. \$5.00.)

The author of this book has brought together a vast amount of information pertaining to the many-sided subject of world immigration. It is perhaps the most useful single volume that has yet appeared, though in most respects it conforms to the products of orthodox sociologists, who, strangely enough, have overlooked the essentially human aspects of the phenomenon — at least, they have not presented it. A chapter on the “America letters” — one of the most colorful, interesting, and enlightening chapters in the history of immigration — finds no place in this volume. Among the valuable contents are a number of charts, maps, and graphs and extended critical bibliographies appended to each chapter, although the appraisal of a number of books does not coincide with the judgment of this reviewer.

On the whole, the author's point of view appears to be sound and free from the complex that guided the hands of many writers in the postwar period. It is, however, amusing to a citizen of Minnesota to be told on page 255 that “The Scandinavians have shown probably more political independence than the older American stock. . . . In the Northwest they form the backbone of progressive or radical Republicanism.” The historical parts of the book develop such topics as Colonial immigration, emigration from the various countries, including Asia and the Western Hemisphere, immigration to British and Latin America, immigration and naturalization legislation, and assimilation. The chapter on “The Americanization Movement” is wholesome. In conclusion it must be said with reluctance that this book is not an answer to the prayers of historians.

GEORGE M. STEPHENSON

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

Augustana Historical Society Publications, vol. 5. (Rock Island, Illinois, Augustana Historical Society, 1935. 160 p.)

This volume of the *Publications* of the Augustana Historical Society commemorates the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Augustana Synod. It is appropriately dedicated to the memory

of Dr. Claude W. Foss, churchman, historian, and founder of the Augustana Historical Society, in tribute to whom Professor George M. Stephenson has written a two-page appreciation. A short time before his death, Dr. Foss had begun a careful study of the original Augustana constitution, which was adopted in 1860. Dean Conrad Bergendoff completed the study for publication in this volume. Another significant source study by Dr. Bergendoff also is included—the “Reports to the American Home Missionary Society, 1849–1856.” These reports depict the early struggle for existence of Swedish churches in America and reveal many aspects of the character of the Reverend T. N. Hasselquist, who arrived in America during the early fifties.

A third source publication of interest is the series of letters received between 1853 and 1857 by the Reverend Erland Carlsson, a Swedish pastor in Chicago, who served as guide and counselor for countless Swedes immigrating to America. Minnesota readers will be interested in the few letters among these which were written from the Chisago Lake settlements in Minnesota. In the field of bibliography, the volume presents a selected list of books dealing with revolutionary Europe from 1789 to 1848 in the Charles XV collection in the Augustana College Library. Many of the volumes in this collection, which had its beginning in a gift in 1861 from Charles XV of Sweden, are rare, and the collection as a whole is one of the finest in America.

The volume closes with a review of the Augustana Historical Society during the five years of its existence by the treasurer, O. L. Nordstrom, who also has translated and prepared for publication the diary of L. P. Esbjörn, a Swedish pastor who migrated to America in the summer of 1849.

A. J. L.

The Mayo Clinic. By LUCY WILDER. (Rochester, Minnesota, Book Shop of Lucy Wilder, 1936. 82 p. Illustrations. \$1.25.)

Although this little volume was written primarily for the visitor to the Mayo Clinic, be he patient or observer, it does contain information of a historical nature and therefore may serve another purpose.

The first chapter deals with the migration of Dr. William Wor-

rall Mayo from Manchester, England, as a chemist, to New York as a teacher, to Lafayette, Indiana, as a medical apprentice, to St. Louis as a medical student, to La Porte, Indiana, as a professor, to St. Paul as a practitioner, to Le Sueur as a provost surgeon, and finally to Rochester in 1863, where in his later life, with his sons, he established the Mayo Clinic. The early training of these sons, their establishment of St. Mary's Hospital, and the growth of the clinic are matters recorded in the opening chapter. The second chapter is devoted to the beginning and growth of the Mayo Foundation and its relation to the graduate school of the University of Minnesota. Transcripts of the minutes of the board of regents relating to the affiliation of the two institutions are to be found here with accounts of the development of the several departments. The third chapter, which deals with the patient in the clinic, is not of historical significance. The last item in the volume is a letter written in 1934 by Dr. W. J. Mayo to the University of Minnesota, in which he outlines the growth and service of the Mayo Foundation and offers to add a gift of five hundred thousand dollars to funds already amounting to two and a half million dollars.

The book is illustrated with photographs and line drawings. The presentation is factual rather than narrative in form. It will interest those who have believed in the Northwest and those who gain satisfaction in knowing about the accomplishments of others who have struggled to make the Northwest a reality.

THOMAS B. MAGATH

MAYO CLINIC
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

Dr. Ralph H. Brown ("Fact and Fancy in Early Accounts of Minnesota's Climate") is assistant professor of geography in the University of Minnesota, where, among other courses, he offers one in climatology. He has published numerous studies in the *Geographic Review* and in the *Annals* of the Association of American Geographers. Mr. Ralph L. Harmon ("Ignatius Donnelly and His Faded Metropolis") is information agent for the Farm Credit Administration in St. Paul; he is writing a biography of Donnelly. Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock ("The St. Croix Valley as Viewed by Pioneer Editors") is archaeologist and curator of the museum for the Minnesota Historical Society. Mr. Jesse W. Shuman, secretary and treasurer of the Power Engineering Company of Minneapolis, is the author of an article entitled "Notes on Lake Levels" which appeared in the *Monthly Weather Review* for March, 1931. Mr. John T. Flanagan, instructor in English at the University of Minnesota, is a frequent contributor to this magazine. He is the author of the introduction to William Joseph Snelling's *Tales of the Northwest*, recently reprinted by the University of Minnesota Press. Dr. Edgar B. Wesley, associate professor of education at the University of Minnesota, is the author of *Guarding the Frontier* and numerous other historical works. Mr. Arthur J. Larsen is the head of the newspaper department in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society; in 1934 he edited a volume of Jane Grey Swisshelm letters entitled *Crusader and Feminist*. Mr. Everett E. Edwards of Washington, D. C., is the editor of *Agricultural History* and is a noted bibliographer. Dr. Thomas B. Magath of the Mayo Clinic at Rochester is professor of parasitology on the faculty of the University of Minnesota and is deeply interested in the history of medicine. Dr. George M. Stephenson, associate professor of history in the University of Minnesota, is the author of a *History of American Immigration* and other works on related subjects.

"Standard Set by Minnesota" is the title under which the *Indiana History Bulletin* for May comments on the report entitled "The

Minnesota Historical Society in 1935" which appeared in the March issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY.

Few recent contributions to the magazine have elicited so much favorable comment as Miss Heilbron's editing of the Henry Lewis journal, the first installment of which was published in the June issue. A "fascinating account," writes Mr. Porter Butts, the author of a recently published monograph on *Art in Wisconsin*. "I want to congratulate you on an excellent and interesting piece of research," writes Dr. Solon J. Buck of Washington, D. C., adding, "I certainly think that a further study of the panorama itself would be well worth while. It is very unfortunate that none of the panoramas of the Mississippi appear to be in existence. I wonder if there is any other old-time panorama now extant, besides the one of the Sioux massacre in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society." Mr. Edward Caldwell of New York expresses the hope that ultimately the Lewis material will be brought out in book form. Among others who have written letters of appreciation are Mr. John A. Lewis of St. Louis, a nephew of the pioneer artist; Mr. Floyd C. Shoemaker, secretary of the State Historical Society of Missouri; Mr. Lucius W. Elder, librarian of Knox College; and Miss Alice Smith, curator of manuscripts for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. T. C. B.

Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts, and Mr. Ralph D. Brown, the director of the WPA Minnesota historical records survey sponsored by the society, attended a regional conference of survey workers in Chicago on May 22 and 23. The participating states were Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Dr. Luther Evans, the national director of the survey, and many prominent historians of the Middle West were present. The following topics, among others, were considered in formal papers, extemporaneous addresses, and discussions: the locating, inventorying, and preserving of manuscripts; methods for conducting manuscript surveys; the making of guides for manuscript collections; a union list of manuscripts for the entire country; the larger use and significance of county archives; micro-film photography, especially recent developments and mechanisms for making and using micro-films; the value of business papers as historical records; and the editing and publishing of the inventories of state, county, and

other local archives. Both Miss Nute and Mr. Brown participated in the addresses and discussion.

During the three months from April 1 to July 1, the society received ninety-seven additions to its manuscript collections—the largest number of manuscript accessions received in any quarter in the history of the society. The previous record was held by the last quarter of 1935, when sixty-five accessions were recorded. The average number of additions for a single quarter is about forty.

Reports on the records of nearly nine hundred associations and organizations have been assembled by workers engaged in a statewide survey of such records that is being conducted by the society through a WPA project. Labor, fraternal, charitable, and patriotic organizations, business and co-operative associations, and women's and literary clubs are among the groups for which reports have been prepared and filed.

During the three months from April 1 to July 1, the newspaper division served 891 readers. They used 1,911 bound newspaper volumes and 17,356 current issues.

Eighteen additions to the active membership of the society were made during the past quarter. They include one sustaining member, Burton E. Hughes of Austin; and the following annual members: Edith Adams of St. Paul; Harvey A. Boomer of St. Paul; Andrew Bromstad of Milan; John A. Burns of St. Paul; G. Roy Clark of Minneapolis; Karl H. Heckrich of Minneapolis; Frank C. Hodgson of St. Paul; John C. Holten of St. Paul; the Right Reverend Stephen E. Keeler of Minneapolis; Walter G. Kingsford of St. Paul; Harold G. Lains of North St. Paul; Kustaa A. Lehto of Backus; Dabney G. Miller of St. Paul; William Mitchell of St. Paul; Victor Nilsson of Minneapolis; James W. Nunn of Ponsford; and Charles E. Scofield of Ortonville.

The Chippewa County Historical Society has become an institutional member of the society.

The society lost six members by death during the past three months: Frank A. Day of Duluth, April 17; George M. Bleecker of Minneapolis, April 21; Lewis F. Crawford of Minneapolis, April

24; Charles H. Watson of Waseca, May 14; Dr. Erwin W. Exley of Minneapolis, May 28; and Adolph Sucker of Lewisville, June 19.

"Prophet, Crusader, and Apostle of Protest" was the subject of an address presented by the superintendent before the National League of American Pen Women meeting in St. Paul on April 4, and he discussed "History and Genealogy" before a meeting of the Minnesota society of Mayflower Descendants at Minneapolis on May 26. Miss Nute spoke on "What is a Manuscript?" at a regional meeting of WPA supervisors at Brainerd on April 18, on "Pioneer Women of Minnesota" before the Zonta International Club at Minneapolis on April 23, on the results of her European research before an organization for the aid of foreign students in St. Paul on April 24, and on "Making a Guide to Manuscripts" at a regional meeting of the historical records survey under the WPA at Chicago on May 21. Mr. Babcock appeared also at the Brainerd meeting of April 18, taking as his subject "Co-ordinating State and Local History Work in Minnesota." Among subjects of other talks that he gave during the quarter were "The Fascination of Minnesota History" at Maple Grove on May 15, "Old Fort Snelling" before the Lawrence Wenell auxiliary of the American Legion at Minneapolis on May 21, "Minnesota History and the Local Museum" before the Business and Professional Women's Club of Rochester on May 27, and "Life at Old Fort Snelling" before the St. Cloud Reading Room Society at St. Cloud on June 4. A paper by Mr. Larsen on the "Development of Transportation in Minnesota" was read, in the author's absence, by Miss Jerabek before the Philotian Alumnae of Macalester College at St. Paul on May 16. Mr. Larsen discussed the same subject at a meeting of the Anoka County Historical Society on June 20.

Professor Agnes M. Larson's article, "On the Trail of the Woodsman in Minnesota," which appeared in *MINNESOTA HISTORY* for December, 1932, is reprinted in the *Crow Wing County Review* for June 12.

ACCESSIONS

A letter written by the Earl of Selkirk from London on July 1, 1806, in which he mentions the postponement of his visit to America

and the enclosure of letters for Alexander McDonell, has been presented by Mr. Axel Lindegard of Hallock.

Calendar cards received recently for materials preserved in the archives of the Indian office at Washington show that these papers include inventories, journals, ledgers, and other business papers relating to the United States factories at Prairie du Chien, Chicago, Green Bay, Mackinac, Fort Edwards, and Fort Madison from about 1790 to 1822. References to a plan to remove the Chicago factory to St. Peter's are to be found in a letter book of the superintendent of Indian trade for 1820, according to other cards. Another group of papers recently calendared contains a wealth of information about half-breed claims to Minnesota lands from 1860 to 1868. Among the claimants mentioned are Theodore and Elizabeth Borup, Stephen Bonga, Louis Robert, and Sylvanus P. Lowry.

Transcripts and calendar cards for items of Minnesota interest in the *New York Evangelist* from 1846 to 1859, made for the society from a file of this publication in the Congregational Library in Boston, contain references to or material on a road from Green Bay to St. Paul, Stevens' Pacific railroad survey, concerts given in the East by members of the Hutchinson family, the planning of university buildings in 1856, Richard Hall's activities as an agent of the American Home Missionary Society, and the Board of National Popular Education at Boston, which trained teachers to be sent to Minnesota and other western territories and states.

The diary kept by a young surveyor, Charles G. Brewster of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, from 1852 to 1859, when he was proving a claim in Sibley County, Minnesota, and running various survey lines in the latter state has been photographed for the society from the original in the possession of his grandson, the Reverend Charles T. Brewster of Moorhead. Among the interesting entries to be found in the diary are accounts of the author's work as a surveyor for the Boston and New York Central Railroad in 1854, of his trip to Minnesota in 1856 and the building of a claim shanty near Henderson, of travel by steamboat on the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, of claim-jumping in Sibley County, and of pioneer social life. Brewster returned to the East in the late fifties and opened a store in Boston.

The cost of removing from New Hampshire to Minnesota in 1854, the expenses involved in building a house and barn at the Falls of St. Anthony, and food prices on the frontier are among the items of information to be found in an account book kept by Luther G. Johnson, recently presented by Mrs. E. J. Kimball of Minneapolis.

Information on the names and ages of persons buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery at Excelsior between 1855 and 1933 is contained in a volume of records that has been photographed for the society through the courtesy of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association.

Twelve items from the papers of Edward H. Wood, including his commissions as a notary public in Chisago County in 1859 and as a lieutenant of the Pioneer Independent Rifles of St. Paul in 1871, have been presented by his grandson, Mr. Bertrand E. Olds of St. Paul. A letter written by Wood after he had witnessed the hanging of thirty-eight Sioux at Mankato following the massacre of 1862 is another item in the gift.

Three registers of births and deaths in Bloomington Township, Hennepin County, from 1871 to 1880 and 1907 to 1930, are among the records which have been placed with the society by the township officers. Included also are road petitions for the period from 1860 to 1890, official oaths and bonds, treasurer's accounts, and poll lists and tally books for elections from 1926 to 1934. An item of special interest is the deed for the land for the Presbyterian cemetery at Bloomington, which was presented to the town in 1864 by Gideon H. Pond, the well-known missionary.

A vivid account of experiences in the Civil and Sioux wars by a member of the Tenth Minnesota regiment is contained in eighty-nine letters by Eli K. Pickett, which have been presented by his nephew, Mr. Victor G. Pickett of Minneapolis. The author was present at the hanging of thirty-eight Indians at Mankato in 1862 and he took part in the Sibley expedition of 1863 against the Sioux. The letters are mounted in a scrapbook, which also contains letters written to Pickett by members of his family.

The activities of Timothy J. Sheehan as an officer in the Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry during the Civil and Sioux wars, as sheriff of Freeborn County from 1871 to 1883, as agent for the Chip-

pewa at White Earth from 1885 to 1889, and as a deputy United States marshal from 1890 to 1907 are reflected in seven boxes of his papers, recently presented by Mrs. James E. Doré of St. Paul. Included in the collection are eight diaries kept at various times between 1874 and 1900. Among other interesting items in the collection are a report containing accounts of the attack on Yellow Medicine and of the defense of Fort Ridgely during the Sioux War, muster rolls and routine reports relating to provisions and equipment of the Fifth Infantry, and letters from Henry A. Castle, Moses E. Clapp, Cushman K. Davis, Lucius F. Hubbard, Knute Nelson, and other prominent Minnesotans.

Diaries kept by John H. Macomber while serving with the First Vermont Heavy Artillery in 1863 and 1865 are among the papers received from his daughter, Miss Esther Macomber of St. Paul. Other items in the group include two letters written from Libby Prison in 1864, a biographical sketch, and a memorandum book kept while Macomber was serving as a Methodist pastor at Sauk Centre from 1866 to 1867.

A volume of minutes of meetings of the board of trustees of the Central Baptist Church in Minneapolis for the period from 1870 to 1889 has been presented by its successor, the Calvary Baptist Church of Minneapolis. The church was called the Market Street Baptist Church from 1870 to 1873, the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church from 1874 to 1883, and the Central Baptist Church from 1884 to 1889.

The National Colony in southwestern Minnesota is described as having "superior material advantages and excellent moral features" in a letter written in January, 1874, by one of its members, G. W. Plumb, and recently copied for the society from the *Peoria* [Illinois] *Daily Transcript* through the courtesy of Mr. Ernest E. East of Peoria. The enthusiastic colonist declared that the section of Nobles County in which he had settled had the "climate of the mountains and the soil of the river bottoms." He urged others to join him, for, he wrote, here a farmer could "mount his improved implements and drive his team to a fortune."

A ledger of the firm of E. Albrecht and Brother, fur manufacturers and dealers in St. Paul, for the period from 1874 to 1880 has

been presented by the present firm of E. Albrecht and Sons. The volume gives the prices paid for furs, and shows that some of the firm's accounts were settled in trade or in livery service. Among the more prominent customers were Henry H. Sibley and Henry M. Rice.

Records of annuities and other expenses for the Pillager, Lake Winnibagoshish, White Oak Point, and Mississippi bands of Chipewya Indians are to be found in a ledger presented by Miss Louise Burwell of Minnetonka Mills. The volume was kept between 1874 and 1876 by her uncle, William D. Burwell, who was evidently a clerk under James Whitehead, an Indian agent.

Records of the Cigar Makers' Union of St. Paul, consisting of seventy-four volumes and covering the period from 1879 to 1933, have been presented by Mrs. Jessie Wygant of St. Paul. Included are account books, showing expenditures for sickness and strike benefits; membership lists; minutes of meetings, in which the activities of other labor organizations, such as the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, are mentioned; and union label records, which give the names of cigar manufacturers in St. Paul and vicinity and the extent of their business.

Three volumes containing lists of members, probationers, and pastors, and records of marriages and baptisms for the period from 1878 to 1895 have been received from the Olivet Methodist Episcopal Church of Minneapolis. The church was known as the Seventh Street Church until 1883 and as the Thirteenth Avenue Church from that year until 1909.

Minutes of meetings, records of baptisms, and lists of members of the Lyndale Congregational Church of Minneapolis are contained in five volumes of records covering the period from 1884 to 1924, which have been presented by the church. Included in the gift is a volume of minutes of meetings from 1901 to 1918 of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.

The records of the St. Paul Turnverein, consisting of minutes of meetings and of the board of directors from 1866 to 1875 and from 1891 to 1919, have been received from Mr. Ferdinand Uebel of St. Paul. He has presented also the papers of another German gym-

nastic society, the West St. Paul Turnverein, which merged with the St. Paul Turnverein in 1913. These records, most of which date from the period between 1890 and 1899, include minutes of meetings, bills, treasurers' reports, correspondence, and reports of the instructor of the gymnasium classes.

Correspondence and treasurer's accounts of the People's Church of St. Paul for the period from 1891 to 1901 are among ninety items that have been presented by Mr. Ira C. Oehler of St. Paul. The collection also contains reports by various organizations within the church, such as the Sunday school, the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, and the Christian Endeavor Society.

Information on the sale and storage of wheat is contained in three volumes of records of the Cokato Elevator Company, which have been presented by Mr. G. P. Olson of Cokato. Minutes of meetings of the stockholders and of the board of directors between 1899 and 1919, stubs of certificates of shares and cancelled certificates dating from 1893 to 1911; and records of shipments and sales, giving prices, inspection charges, and commissions are to be found in the volumes.

Six volumes of minutes of meetings held from 1901 to 1932 by the Nineteenth Century Club of Minneapolis, a volume of treasurer's records, a history of the club with pictures of its members, and a file of printed programs covering the entire period of its existence from 1890 to 1932 have been presented by Mrs. H. V. Mercer of Minneapolis.

Forty-one volumes of dockets of the court conducted by the justice of the peace in St. Paul during the years 1907 to 1917 and 1919 to 1927 have been received through the courtesy of Judge Eugene A. Monick. The records contain the names of plaintiffs and defendants, and brief statements regarding the nature and disposition of all cases.

The articles of association of the Ramsey County War Records Commission, minutes of meetings from 1919 to 1930, a volume of check stubs, and correspondence of the executive secretary have been added by Mr. Ira C. Oehler of St. Paul to the records of that organization (see *ante*, 12:321).

A scrapbook of clippings about the activities of members of the Minnesota branch of the National League of American Pen Women from 1927, when it was organized, to 1932, has been received from that organization.

Copies of interesting and useful charts and indexes prepared by H. S. Hayes and O. C. Heiber of the engineering department of the Minnesota railroad and warehouse commission have been received from the commission. One chart plots the increase and decrease in mileage of railroads in Minnesota from 1862 to 1933 with figures for each year. Another shows the changes in ownership of the "first four land grant railroads" from the territorial period to the present. An "Index of the Names of Railroads . . . in the State of Minnesota, 1862 to 1935" (10 p.) contains an alphabetical list of the original names of all railroads organized and constructed in the state, with the dates of organization, if they were built, and the names of present owners or operators.

Governor Alexander Ramsey's gold watch and the silver trowel that he used in laying the cornerstone of the Minnesota Capitol have been received from the Misses Anita and Laura Furness of St. Paul. Mrs. John Lind of Minneapolis has presented a number of swords and canes that belonged to Governor Lind.

Among recent additions to the domestic life collection are an Edison phonograph and a collection of records, from Mr. Roland G. Eckley of St. Paul; an iron mortar, some hair flowers, and a school slate dating from the seventies, from Mr. Richard R. Sackett of Minneapolis; a small bank in the shape of an elephant, a wooden scoop, and a pancake turner, from Dr. J. C. Ferguson of St. Paul; and a grain cradle, a neck yoke, and two copper pails from Mr. Truman W. Herrick of Champlin. China and glassware have been received from Mrs. Arthur Katz of St. Paul, who presented a cruet, a butter dish, and two wine glasses; and from Miss Annie I. Carpenter of St. Paul, who gave a flip glass, a cake plate, cups and saucers, and a cream pitcher. Mrs. Susan Miller of Champlin has presented a boat made in 1859, some tin candle molds, a square butter mold, and two vises; a braided black snake whip used in the Black Hills about 1865 is the gift of Mr. Roy D. Fentress of St. Cloud; and a

number of carpenter's planes have been received from Mr. W. O. Lathers of Champlin.

Miss Nancy Tomlinson of Marine has presented the medal awarded to her mother, Mrs. H. A. Tomlinson, at the Columbian Exposition for the exhibit of sewing done by women inmates of the State Hospital for the Insane at St. Peter. This display is said to have marked the beginning of occupational therapy work for women patients in hospitals for the insane.

A drum used in Company K, Fifteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, during the Spanish-American War has been presented by Mr. Anton Murtinger of Minneapolis; a number of badges of the Grand Army of the Republic and a handmade knife used during the Civil War are the gifts of Miss Bessie Cambell of St. Cloud; and Mr. W. E. Easton of Stillwater has given a uniform coat that he wore as a member of the Stillwater company of the Minnesota National Guard.

Recent additions to the costume collection include a crocheted woolen head covering, a carriage parasol, fans, and a fan box dating from the sixties, from the estate of Miss Ida Davenport of Minneapolis; a graduation dress of brown silk worn in 1888, from Miss Bessie Cambell of St. Cloud; a number of items of infants' and children's clothing, from Miss Frances Blake of St. Paul; a maroon velvet cape and a carriage parasol, from Miss Eugenie McGrorty of St. Paul; a lady's wrap worn in the nineties, from Miss Grace Hinshaw of Minneapolis; a gown and hat dating from 1900, from Mrs. L. P. Ordway of St. Paul; and several evening gowns worn between 1924 and 1929, from Mrs. M. A. Dittenhofer of St. Paul.

NEWS AND COMMENT

Nicolet, Radisson, Groseilliers, Father Hennepin, La Salle, and other French explorers of the West figure in a chapter entitled "From the Great Lakes to the Gulf" in Esse V. Hathaway's *Romance of the American Map* (New York and London, 1934). The only Minnesota explorer of the American period to be mentioned is Zebulon M. Pike.

The value of "German Periodicals as Sources for American Church History" is discussed by George Timpe in *Central-Blatt and Social Justice* for May. He calls attention to the many reports by American missionaries, including Baraga and Pierz, that appeared in the *Berichte der Leopoldinen-Stiftung* and were often reprinted in other publications, and he suggests that through this channel the missionaries "became reporters of their own activities for the papers of their native countries." In the June issue of *Central-Blatt* appears the first installment of the reminiscences of a German immigrant of 1847 who settled in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The writer, Martin Weyer, was the grandfather of Dr. C. N. Weyer of Mankato, who owns the original of the reminiscences and other items relating to the career of his pioneer ancestor.

The career of the architect of the Minnesota State Capitol is commemorated in a privately printed volume entitled *Cass Gilbert: Reminiscences and Addresses* (New York, 1935. 118 p.). A brief reminiscent account, in which a background for the addresses that occupy much of the book is sketched, is supplied by Julia Finch Gilbert. Though the present volume is a fitting tribute, beautifully printed, the life of this great American architect is a subject worthy of a full-length biography. In such a work proper attention could be given to Gilbert's early professional career in St. Paul, where he lived until 1899 and where many examples of his art are still to be found.

Leech Lake is the scene of a novel entitled *Black Feather* by Harold Titus (Philadelphia, 1936), which has for its theme the struggle of an independent trader with the powerful American Fur Company.

Some historical characters, such as John Jacob Astor, Ramsay Crooks, and a chief of the Pillager Indians figure in the narrative.

A wealth of information about the *Middle and Upper Mississippi River* from the mouth of the Ohio to Minneapolis is contained in a volume recently published by the United States war department (Washington, 1935. 323 p.). Tables of distances, figures on floods, detailed charts of the channel, sketches of bridges across the river, and sections relating to the St. Croix and the Minnesota rivers are among the items of special Minnesota interest to be found in the book. Several pages also are devoted to the Mississippi between Minneapolis and Lake Itasca.

Concise information about the raising of wheat, the introduction of agricultural implements, the marketing of grain, and the history of milling is to be found in a booklet entitled *The Story of Flour* published by the Pillsbury Flour Mills Company (1935). A detailed account of the operation of a modern flour mill is included. Many excellent illustrations add to the interest and value of the pamphlet.

Part of an "America letter" written by Knud Johnson Hylle from Dane County, Wisconsin, in 1847 is quoted, in translation, in an article in the *Lanesboro Leader* for April 23, which calls attention to the fact that this is one of a number of "Norwegian letters recently found in an old notebook in Hendricks, Minn., and which had been brought to this country from Norway in the early days of settlement." The notebook, with its accounts of conditions in America, had been "presumably passed around for general reading among prospective emigrants." Hylle reports that he had "harvested 12 acres of wheat, 8 acres of winter wheat and 4 acres of spring wheat. . . . I took two loads to Milwaukee and received \$3 a tonder in gold and silver money," he continues. He assures those who are thinking of settling in Dane County that the "Norwegian settlers here have a regularly ordained minister; schools for children in the Norwegian language," and a "newspaper in their native tongue."

The Icelandic Lutheran Synod: Survey and Interpretation is the title of a pamphlet, by the Reverend K. K. Olafson, published to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the synod (1935. 35 p.). In the opening section the story of Icelandic settle-

ment in the United States and Canada is outlined. The author notes that while the earliest settlements were in Wisconsin and Nebraska, the first permanent Icelandic settlement in the Middle West was established in Lyon County, Minnesota, in 1875. Within the next few years other groups found homes in Lincoln and Yellow Medicine counties, in the Lake Winnipeg region of Manitoba, and in Pembina County, North Dakota. The Icelandic community at Mountain, North Dakota, and its church erected in 1884, are described by Richard Beck in an article published in the April issue of the *Northwest Pioneer*.

The passing of a century since Wisconsin Territory was organized has been the occasion during the past summer for numerous centennial celebrations throughout the present state of Wisconsin. The bill for the organization of the territory, which included the portion of Minnesota east of the Mississippi, was passed by Congress early in 1836, and was signed by President Jackson on April 20; the actual organization took place on July 4 with Colonel Henry Dodge as governor; and the first legislature assembled on October 25. The centennial was marked at Madison from June 27 to July 5, at Oshkosh from July 9 to 25, at Lake Mills from August 16 to 18, and at the state fair at Milwaukee from August 22 to 30.

The palatial home erected by Hercules L. Dousman at Prairie du Chien in 1843 has been restored and presented to the city by members of the Dousman family. Among the speakers who participated in the formal presentation on June 19 were Dr. Joseph Schafer, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Mayor A. W. Thompson of Prairie du Chien, and Mr. Louis Dousman of Billings, Montana. An *Illustrated Handbook of the Historic Home of Hercules L. Dousman* has been prepared by his granddaughter, Mrs. E. B. Young of St. Paul, and her daughter, Mary Blake Young (22 p.). The history of the site of the house, with brief notes on Forts Shelby, McKay, and Crawford, is outlined; the building of the "House on the Mound" in 1843 is described; and the career of its owner is reviewed. A note on Dousman's marriage to the widow of Joseph Rolette in 1844 is followed by detailed descriptions, accompanied by illustrations, of some of the more important rooms in their home. Some notes on the later history of the house and on its restoration

conclude the pamphlet. Among the many excellent illustrations are views of the house, a copy of a drawing of old Fort Crawford by Seth Eastman, portraits of Colonel and Madame Dousman, and a view of the Dousman estate in 1884.

Information about many railroads that operate in Minnesota as well as in Wisconsin is to be found in William F. Raney's survey of "The Building of Wisconsin Railroads," which appears in the June issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. The organization, building, and extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, the Chicago and Northwestern, and the Soo Line are outlined; and brief statements also are included about the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, the Northern Pacific, and the Great Northern.

English and Canadian activities in "Charting the Great Lakes" after 1763 are reviewed by Roy F. Fleming in the *Canadian Geographical Journal* for February. Much of the account deals with the eastern lakes, but some attention is given to the work of Lieutenant Henry W. Bayfield from 1823 to 1825 in surveying Lake Superior, "whose virgin waters had never before been sounded for charting." A number of interesting portraits, maps, and scenes illustrate the article, among them a view of Fort William in 1866. In the January issue of the *Journal* appears an account of the "Ojibway of the Lake of the Woods" by Jocelyn Baker.

An expedition in 1845 by two secret agents of the British government who "had been sent across the continent to report on the feasibility of sending troops over Canada and through the Rocky Mountains to the Oregon boundary, then in dispute," is described by H. S. Patterson in an article entitled "54° 40' or Fight," which appears in the June issue of the *Beaver*. Since the agents, Lieutenant Henry J. Warre and M. Vavasour of the Royal Engineers, followed the well-known traders' route through the border waters of northern Minnesota on their journey west, their expedition is of interest to Minnesotans. Upon reaching Fort Garry, on June 10, 1845, they prepared a report, much of which is quoted in the present article. Their description of the Red River settlement, however, has been omitted—an unfortunate circumstance in view of the fact that this report has never before been published. Warre recorded his impressions of the Canadian West not only in his reports, but in a series of

sketches, which were published in the form of a portfolio in 1846. Several of his pictures are reproduced with this account of his expedition.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

A conference of leaders in state and local historical work and supervisors of historical projects under the WPA in north central Minnesota was held at Brainerd on April 18. The Minnesota Historical Society was represented by the curator of its museum, Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, and its curator of manuscripts, Dr. Grace Lee Nute. When the conference convened for the morning session, Dr. A. K. Cohen, president of the Crow Wing County Historical Society, welcomed the visitors, and Judge Louis B. Kinder, historian of the local society, acted as chairman. Among the speakers called upon for brief addresses were Mr. Babcock, who took as his subject "Co-ordinating State and Local History Work in Minnesota"; Mrs. Sarah T. Heald, secretary of the Crow Wing County Historical Society, who discussed the local WPA project that this society is sponsoring; Mr. Ralph D. Brown, supervisor of the state historical survey under the WPA, who explained the relation of the survey to local communities; Mr. Jacob Hodnefield, assistant regional director of the federal archives survey, who described that project; Miss Nute, who answered the question "What is a Manuscript?"; Miss Frances Densmore, who told of her work in reviving handicrafts among the Indians at Cass Lake; Mr. S. L. Stolte, state director of operations for the WPA; and Mr. A. T. Gilbertson, district director of WPA work at Brainerd. The afternoon session, which was devoted to a round table discussion, was called to order by Mrs. Alma B. Kerr, director of women's projects for the state WPA. Discussions of various phases of local historical activity were led by Miss Nute, Mr. Babcock, Mr. Hodnefield, Mr. Brown, and Miss Agnes Corrigan, state supervisor of the WPA handicraft project.

Mr. Ralph D. Brown, director of the state historical survey, is the author of a note on the "State Historical Survey in Relation to the Minnesota Archaeological Survey," which appears in the *Minnesota Archaeologist* for May. He points out that some of the activities of the historical survey—the collection of information on historic sites that have not been marked, the locating of abandoned cemeteries, and

the description of Indian collections in private hands — are of interest to archaeologists as well as historians.

Plans are under way looking toward the reconstruction, as a United States Indian service project under the supervision of the Minnesota Historical Society, of the stockade and post occupied by the Northwest Company at Grand Portage for nearly two decades before 1800. The site of this earliest white settlement in Minnesota was examined in May by Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, archaeologist of the historical society and curator of its museum, and Mr. Ralph D. Brown, director of the state historical survey under the WPA. They were able to trace furrows marking two walls of the stockade. On a second visit to Grand Portage in July, Mr. Brown made preliminary excavations, which threw new light upon the techniques used in the construction of the stockade and revealed, among other things, that it was built of cedar logs eight inches in diameter.

A volume of the manuscript schedules of the Minnesota census of 1860 was included in an exhibit arranged by the bureau of the census at the Great Lakes Exposition in Cleveland during the past summer. Interesting examples of schedules for many states were on display. That for Minnesota was opened to show the record of Governor Ramsey's household, and was accompanied by a brief note about his significance in Minnesota history. Photostatic copies of the Minnesota schedules exhibited in Cleveland are owned by the Minnesota Historical Society.

The Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs has called upon every Minnesota county in which the federation is represented to appoint a historian who will prepare for the state organization brief histories of all member clubs. Records assembled in this way "will be filed and stored in the State Historical Society" according to the *Minnesota Clubwoman* for May-June.

The experiences of missionaries to the Minnesota Indians and of two explorers — Joseph N. Nicollet and George Catlin — who visited the Minnesota country a century ago were re-enacted in the historical pageant presented at Itasca State Park during the summer. Performances were scheduled for June 28, July 12 and 26, August 9 and 23, and September 6. The pageant was given also at Fond du Lac

on July 17, 18, and 19. This is the fifth in a series of pageants that was inaugurated in 1932, when the centennial of the discovery of Lake Itasca by Schoolcraft was marked.

An exhibit of objects illustrative of Joseph N. Nicollet's Minnesota explorations was a feature of the Industrial Exposition and Home Appliance Show held in the Minneapolis auditorium during the week of June 15. The exhibit, which included the explorer's barometer, several letters, copies of extracts from his journal, maps of the Northwest, and a portrait, all lent by the Minnesota Historical Society, commemorated the centennial of Nicollet's arrival in Minnesota. A pageant presented daily during the exposition reviewed the history of Minneapolis during the past hundred years.

A detailed survey of "Cooperatives in Minnesota," presented as a speech by the Honorable Ernest Lundeen before the House of Representatives on May 6, appears in the "Appendix" to the *Congressional Record* for June 5. Mr. Lundeen "deals with the principles of co-operation, cooperative stores, and cooperative oil associations in Minnesota, farm supply cooperatives, credit unions, mutual and cooperative insurance, cooperative telephone, electric power, trucking, burial associations, and other miscellaneous cooperatives in Minnesota." To those who are conducting a survey of co-operatives in Minnesota for the federal government he gives credit for supplying him with the detailed historical and statistical information included in his address. Mr. Lundeen traces the first co-operative stores in Minnesota back to the years when the Granger movement was in its prime, and he points out that four stores organized by the Grange are still operating. He describes the beginnings in 1917 of the Central Cooperative Wholesale of Superior, Wisconsin, which now has thirty-four member societies in Minnesota. The history and growth of co-operative oil associations is traced from 1921, when a "group of farmers organized the Cottonwood Oil Co. at Cottonwood" — probably the "first oil association in the United States" — to 1936, when there were "about 145 associations operating in Minnesota." Farm supply co-operatives, such as the Farmers' Union organized in 1902, also are discussed. These, Mr. Lundeen points out, are "primarily purchasing or consumer cooperatives," but there are in Minnesota also numerous marketing co-operatives, such as farmers' elevators and the Land O' Lakes

Creameries. A "Selected Reading List on Consumer Cooperation," more than two columns in length, appears at the close of the speech.

The Reverend Edward Keenan is the author of *The Story of St. Thomas College*, which has been published by the college as number 1 in its series of *Aquin Papers* (24 p.). The opening section is devoted to an account of the founding of St. Thomas Seminary by Bishop Ireland in 1885. In a "large, gaunt, weatherbeaten structure that had been exposed to the mercy of the elements for several years," located on Finn's farm on the east bank of the Mississippi, the new school "opened its doors to students of both seminary and college curriculum" in September. Both courses were continued until 1894, when the St. Paul Seminary was established and the College of St. Thomas was incorporated. The regime of the Reverend Humphrey Moynihan from 1903 to 1921 is described in some detail, for under his presidency St. Thomas grew "from a small school of 253 students, recruited from Minnesota and the Dakotas, to a large college of 1,059 students, from twenty four states, Canada, France, Peru, Mexico, and the Philippine Islands." The writer gives an excellent picture of the growth of one of the leading Catholic colleges of the Northwest.

Some information about the founding of the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul is included in a pamphlet entitled *Heritage: A Centennial Commemoration, The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet, 1836-1936*, prepared by Sister Antonine and published by the college (30 p.). The writer relates that in 1851, fifteen years after the first sisters of this order left France to settle in St. Louis, four members of the community, upon the invitation of Bishop Cretin, boarded a steamer for St. Paul, where in a log cabin on Bench Street they began their work in Minnesota. How sisters of St. Joseph, in 1905, established a "Catholic center of higher learning for women" in St. Paul is described in the final chapter.

The scope and character of the work of the Minnesota State Emergency Relief Administration are covered in a multigraphed volume, copiously illustrated with photographs, issued under the title *Minnesota Work Relief History* (220 p.). Projects begun between April 1, 1934, and June 30, 1935, including several sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society, are described in this work.

The April issue of *American Prefaces*, a publication of the school of letters of the University of Iowa, is made up of items by or about the Minnesota novelist, O. E. Rølvaag, in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of his birth. Intimate details of Rølvaag's later years are recalled by his daughter, Ella Valborg Rølvaag, in a sketch entitled "My Father," and several stories and essays by Rølvaag not previously available in English are included.

At the thirty-eighth annual meeting of the Medical Library Association, which was held at St. Paul and Rochester from June 22 to 24, several papers of historical interest were presented. Dr. John M. Armstrong of St. Paul reviewed briefly the "History of the Progress of Medicine in Minnesota" on June 22, and on the final day in Rochester Dr. A. H. Sanford outlined the "History of the Mayo Clinic Library." Of value for historians as well as medical librarians was an explanation by Dr. M. L. Raney of the University of Chicago of "Microphotography as It Applies to the Duplication of Library Material," read at the opening session in St. Paul.

A history of the Ascension Episcopal Church of Stillwater written by the Reverend Francis L. Palmer on the occasion of the ninetieth anniversary of the founding of the church is contained in the *Stillwater Daily Gazette* for May 21. The church was consecrated by Bishop Jackson Kemper, who appointed the Reverend Eleazer A. Greenleaf as missionary for the region with headquarters at the Stillwater church. In the *Anoka County Union* for April 1 appears a history of the First Baptist Church of Anoka by Mrs. O. S. Wyman. The eightieth anniversary of the church was celebrated from April 1 to 3. An eightieth anniversary was celebrated likewise by the Spring Valley Congregational Church on June 7. The Episcopal Church of St. John-in-the-Wilderness of White Bear Lake held a celebration on June 24 in commemoration of its seventy-fifth anniversary. A history of the church, which was consecrated by Bishop Henry B. Whipple, appears in the *White Bear Press* for June 26. Other church anniversaries celebrated during the three months from April 1 to July 1 include: seventieth anniversaries by the Augustana Lutheran Church of Minneapolis from April 16 to 19 and the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer of Cannon Falls on May 31; sixty-fifth anniversaries by the Reque Lutheran Church in Scott Township, Stevens County, on

June 21 and the Eksjo Lutheran Church of Lake Park from June 21 to 23; a sixtieth anniversary by the First Lutheran Church of Rush City from June 5 to 7; fiftieth anniversaries by the St. Anthony Park Congregational Church of St. Paul from May 17 to 24, the East Chain Lutheran Church from May 20 to 24, the Lille Bethania Lutheran Church of Norwegian Grove from June 12 to 14, the St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Buckman Township, Morrison County, on June 14, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Buffalo Lake on June 21, the Rindall Lutheran Church near Thief River Falls from June 22 to 24, and the Trinity Lutheran Church of Brewster on June 28; a fortieth anniversary by the First Lutheran Church of Butterfield on June 28; a thirty-fifth anniversary by Israel's Lutheran Church in Swede Prairie and Tyro on June 28; and a twenty-second anniversary by the Polish National Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart of Minneapolis on March 29. Accounts of the celebrations in the local newspapers that appeared at the time of the anniversaries are accompanied by brief histories of the churches. S.P.L.

Under the title "Edmund Ely's Pioneer Record," long extracts from the diary of an early Protestant missionary among the Chippewa of northeastern Minnesota have been appearing in installments in the *Duluth Free Press* since May 15. A brief sketch of Ely's early life introduces the first installment, which tells of a trip by Mackinac boat with a party of traders and missionaries from Mackinac and Sault Ste. Marie to Fond du Lac in the summer of 1833. Later installments deal with a journey to Lake Pokegama, where he served as a missionary in the late thirties. The diary is published through the courtesy of the St. Louis County Historical Society, which owns the original.

Injuns Comin'! is a story of pioneer life in Minnesota, by M. Winston Pearson and Franklin H. Bullis, which purports to be based upon the reminiscences of the latter of the two authors (New York, 1935). At many points in the narrative, which deals with the emigration of the Bullis family from Vermont to Minnesota in the fifties and subsequent experiences during the Sioux War, episodes and details that seem to clash with authentic history are introduced. Although the elder Bullis settled at Henderson, he chose, according to his son, to enter Minnesota by way of the Great Lakes and to make

the toilsome journey southward in an ox-drawn covered wagon. Such an undertaking seems almost impossible for the period of the story and could not be accepted as authentic unless corroborated by contemporary records. One of the encounters with Indians described in the account of the Sioux War took place at Red Wing, which is far from the scene of the uprising of 1862 (p. 208).

That Joseph Pennell, the well-known American etcher, upon a visit to Minnesota in 1915 found the Minneapolis flour mills to possess the "character, the grandeur and the beauty of usefulness," is revealed in the *Northwestern Miller* for June 10. Pennell's impressions of the mills, originally written for the *Bellman*, are here reprinted with two sketches from his pencil of the milling district as it appeared from the river. "These mills were not built to be imposing, impressive," writes the artist, "they are impressive from their needs—their site, their size, their form, their sky line, the way they have grown above the rushing river, the way they are shrouded in the mists of the morning, the way they loom and grow into a mighty mass when the sun has set behind them."

Some valuable material for the history of the Minneapolis milling industry is contained in William de la Barre's "Recollections of a Milling Engineer," which appears in installments in the *Northwestern Miller*, beginning in the issue of April 15. The narrative is reprinted from the same magazine for March 29, 1916, the occasion being the death of the author on March 24. Its republication commemorates fittingly De la Barre's introduction of modern milling methods in the Washburn mills after the mill explosion of 1878.

"The history of America was begun with a forest background which contributed the homes, the food, clothing—the trade and commerce of early American beginnings," writes Parker O. Anderson in the preface to his recently published booklet on *Trees & Tree Planting, Together with a Descriptive Catalog of Common Forest Trees of Minnesota and the Lake States* (St. Paul, 1936. 95 p.). In his catalogue of trees, which occupies more than half the volume, Mr. Anderson has provided a guide that will be of interest and value to all students of Minnesota life and backgrounds, since he furnishes not only descriptive material, but notes on the wood of each tree and its uses and on the localities in which it grows.

The story of the immigration of a Swedish family in 1853 and of pioneer settlement in the Minnesota Valley near St. Peter is told by Colonel John A. Lundeen of Washington, D. C., in the first installment of his "Autobiography," which appears in the *St. Peter Herald* for May 8. The writer's struggle to obtain an education in the crude schools of the frontier community, a brief period of study at a theological seminary in Illinois, his appearances at Owatonna before a board for the examination of candidates for West Point, which resulted in his appointment to the military academy in 1869, and his first two years at that institution are covered in the portion of the narrative published on May 15. Later installments, dealing for the most part with the military career of an officer in the regular army, appear in the weekly issues of the *Herald* until June 19.

When the series of autobiographical articles by William Henry Eustis that appeared in the *Minneapolis Journal* from December 22, 1929, to January 28, 1930, were reviewed in this magazine by its editor (see *ante*, 11: 213), he concluded his remarks as follows: "Not the least of his [*Eustis*'] services is the record that he has left in these reminiscent chapters, a record that deserves the permanency of book form." After six years that permanency has been attained with the publication by James T. White and Company of New York of a volume entitled the *Autobiography of William Henry Eustis* (281 p.). A portrait of Eustis serves as a frontispiece, and a brief foreword supplies some information about his work for crippled children.

Many homely details of frontier life are described by E. W. Randall in his *Reminiscences and Reflections*, recently published as a small book (54 p.). The author, who spent his early youth on a Winona County farm of the sixties, tells what the members of his family read, how they dressed, what they planted, how they farmed, what they ate—in fact, how they lived. Pioneer transportation receives some attention. "The daily stage was something for which we were constantly on the lookout," writes Mr. Randall. "I remember being lifted up to the driver's seat of the big stage and taken as far as the country post office. The postmaster pinned the mail into my jacket and put me on the return stage for home. It was a great trip." Before starting school, the author learned his "letters from the hearth stone of the old stove and from the headlines of the Northwestern Christian Advocate." He tells of attending the Winona Normal

School and graduating with thirty-three other students in the spring of 1879, and of teaching near and later in Morris, where in 1882 he began his career as a newspaper man. Later chapters deal with Mr. Randall's services as manager of the Minnesota State Fair and as president of the Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company.

The reminiscences of John F. Stevens, engineer and railroad builder, which were originally published in installments in the *Engineering News-Record*, have been reprinted in a small book entitled *An Engineer's Recollections* (1935. 70 p.). The original articles were reviewed in this magazine for December, 1935 (see *ante*, 16:463).

The history of "Minneapolis and St. Paul" was dramatized in a radio program arranged by the American School of the Air and broadcast over the Columbia Broadcasting System on March 16. The arrival at the Falls of St. Anthony in 1680 of Father Louis Hennepin, the establishment and naming of Fort Snelling, the Sioux War, and the later growth and rivalry of the Twin Cities were featured in the program. The script, which has been issued in multigraphed form (34 p.), unfortunately contains numerous errors. Hennepin is pictured at the falls with his two French companions, whereas Accault never saw the falls; the "compromise" by which St. Paul received the capitol and St. Anthony the university was made in 1848, not in 1872; New Ulm, not "New Alen," figures in the story of the Sioux War; and the final s was dropped from the name of St. Paul long before that city and Minneapolis became rivals.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen, head of the newspaper department of the Minnesota Historical Society, was the principal speaker at the second annual picnic of the Anoka County Historical Society, which was held near Anoka on June 20. Mr. Larsen traced the "Development of Transportation in Minnesota" from the days of canoe and steamboat travel on northern waterways to the beginnings of railroads in the state. Other speakers included Mr. U. G. Herrick of Minneapolis, whose talk on "Early Days" appears in the *Anoka Herald* for June 24; Senator C. J. Swanson of Fridley, who told of the brick and tile factory that he operated fifty years ago; and Mrs. I. A. Caswell, who recalled some of the early logging history of the county.

At a meeting held at Detroit Lakes on April 13, the Becker County Historical Society, which has been long inactive, was reorganized. The following officers were elected for the coming year: H. C. Colmer, president; Mrs. E. J. Bestick, vice president; Daniel Nelson, secretary; and Carl Hansen, treasurer. A series of slides of early Becker County scenes and settlers were presented by Mr. George Morris at a meeting held on May 11, and on June 15 plans were made for the locating and marking of historic sites in the vicinity.

An appeal for pictures and objects of local historical interest issued by the Chippewa County Historical Society in April and published extensively in newspapers throughout the county resulted in the building up of a collection that was placed on display in the Montevideo library for a meeting of the society on June 4. In addition to viewing the exhibits, which included a number of Indian objects and some early pictures of Montevideo, those who attended the meeting listened to brief talks by the Reverend E. I. Strom, the Reverend J. M. Mason, and C. A. Fosnes.

The Clay County Historical Society is sponsoring a county historical museum which was opened in MacLean Hall on the campus of the Moorhead State Teachers College early in May. The work of collecting records and museum objects is under the direction of C. J. Aardal of Moorhead. An appeal for costumes, Indian objects, pictures, manuscript letters and diaries, agricultural implements, furniture, and other articles illustrative of pioneer life in Clay County was published in several local newspapers.

A paper on Father Francis Pierz, missionary among the Chippewa of northern and central Minnesota, was read by Sister Grace McDonald of St. Benedict's College, St. Joseph, at a meeting of the Crow Wing County Historical Society held at Brainerd on June 7. As another feature of the program a large number of costumes illustrative of the "March of the Years" were displayed on living models.

The Crow Wing County Historical Society is making many valuable additions to its collections as a result of a WPA project which it is sponsoring. Records of interviews with pioneers, museum objects, and manuscripts are among the items that are being collected. Among the additions to the museum are objects illustrative of Indian and pio-

neer life and of the activities of the fur trader. Interviews prepared by Mrs. Sarah T. Heald, curator of the society's museum, are appearing from time to time in the *Brainerd Daily Dispatch*. In the room occupied by the society in the courthouse at Brainerd, Mrs. Heald is executing a series of murals depicting the history of the county.

Episodes depicting "Stagecoach Days" and the "Red River Trail" were included in a pageant presented at Alexandria on May 25, under the auspices of the Douglas County Historical Society. Proceeds from the entertainment, which was directed by Miss Lorayne Larson, will be used toward a marker to be erected by the society along the course of the old Red River trail in Douglas County. The Red River trails and the traffic that passed over them were discussed by William Goetzinger of Elbow Lake at a meeting of the society held at Alexandria on May 20.

The addition of a grain cradle used by H. P. Hansen in the seventies to the museum collection of the Grant County Historical Society is noted in the *Grant County Herald* of Elbow Lake for April 2. In the issue of the same paper for May 7, W. H. Goetzinger describes an interesting Norwegian chest recently acquired by the society. It was originally the property of a Norwegian settler in Elbow Lake Township who perished in the blizzard of 1873.

A meeting of the Koochiching County Historical Society, held at Ranier on May 6, was attended by a number of pioneer residents of the community, several of whom spoke on early days in the region. Mrs. J. F. Walton, for example, presented extracts from the diary of her father, who went to Fort Frances in 1873 to assist in the construction of a canal and locks there. Some early photographs of Ranier and some issues of the *Ranier Journal*, published from 1908 to 1910, were displayed at the meeting.

The Nicollet County Historical Society is soliciting objects, pictures, and manuscripts of local historical interest for display in two large cases which it has placed in the courthouse at St. Peter.

More than seven thousand people attended the summer meeting and annual picnic of the Otter Tail County Historical Society, which was held at Leaf Lake on June 28. Included on the program were talks and addresses on "Leaf Lake, the Trading Post" by C. R.

Wright, "The Early History of Deer Creek" by S. M. Rector, and "Blazing the Trails by the Pioneers" by John B. Hompe. The work of the local historical society was described by Judge Anton Thompson, its president.

Thorstein Veblen's early years in Rice County were described by J. F. Balzer in the principal address presented before a meeting of the Rice County Historical Society, held at Northfield on May 11. The indexing of early Rice County newspapers, which is being done at Northfield and Faribault by WPA workers, was explained by A. A. Rowberg. Information obtained through the newspaper index was used by the two speakers who followed—Mrs. Mary Nystuen, who read a paper on "Northfield's Old Settlers Association," and Miss Helen Stover, who presented an account of "Libraries in Northfield to 1895."

Subjects relating to women and their activities in the Arrowhead country were featured at a meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society held under the auspices of the Duluth Woman's Club at its club rooms on June 5. The program included papers on the "Status of Indian Women in the Arrowhead Country in Tribal Times" by William E. Culkin, on "Catherine Bissell Ely, Mother of the First Child of American Parentage Born in What is Now Duluth, and Her Diary" by Mrs. C. E. Spring, on "Hepsibeth Jewett Merritt, Mother of the Discoverers of the Missabe Iron Range" by Glenn Merritt, and on "Some Activities of Arrowhead Women" by Fern E. Brooks.

The St. Louis County Historical Society is building up a collection of maps on which Lake Superior is shown, from the seventeenth century, when Jesuits and French explorers drew crude charts of the Great Lakes, to the accurate government maps of the present. About fifty maps are now included in the collection, which is described in the *Duluth Herald* for April 4. Reproductions of two early maps of the Lake Superior country accompany the account.

The interesting program presented at a meeting of the Stearns County Historical Society, held at St. Cloud on May 16, included talks on the founding of the society by its president, D. S. Brainard, on "Historical Values" by Mrs. Sarah R. Heald, secretary of the

Crow Wing County Historical Society, and on "Sources of Historical Material" by Sister Grace McDonald of St. Benedict's College, St. Joseph. Sister Grace stressed particularly the value of newspapers and census records as historical sources, drawing examples from early St. Cloud newspaper files and analyzing to some extent the Stearns County census of 1860. The work of the local WPA in building up a museum collection of pioneer objects in co-operation with the local historical society was explained by Miss Marjory Carter. Some of the objects assembled in connection with this project had been placed on display, and the audience was invited to inspect them following the program. Another exhibit of historical items collected by WPA workers was arranged in the windows of St. Cloud business houses from June 19 to 21.

The organization of a historical society in Wadena County is being advocated by the Twentieth Century Club of Wadena. An announcement in the *Wadena Pioneer Journal* for May 21 asks all who are interested in the formation of a society to get in touch with a member of the club, a local women's organization.

The beginnings of agriculture in Washington County were discussed by two speakers who appeared before a meeting of the Washington County Historical Society held at Stillwater on May 6. Mr. William A. Benitt of Denmark read an account of the development of agriculture in the Cottage Grove settlement, and Mr. A. W. Johnson of Scandia told of the beginnings of farming near Marine. Under the title "Introduction to the History of Agriculture in Southern Washington County," Mr. Benitt's paper is published in the *Hastings Herald* from May 15 to 29.

At the annual meeting of the White Bear Historical Society, held on May 1, the following officers were elected: W. A. Stickley, president; Mrs. Nellie Fulton, vice president; Harry Horne, Jr., secretary; William Luedke, treasurer; and Mrs. F. E. Whitaker, custodian.

Members and friends of the Wilkin County Historical Society met in the courthouse at Breckenridge on April 11 to discuss plans for a county historical museum. A survey of the county in a search for suitable items for the museum collection was planned at a meeting held on June 13.

Plans for the organization of a Yellow Medicine County historical society were discussed at a meeting held at Canby on May 15. Those who attended agreed that the collection and display of objects, newspapers, and manuscripts of local historical interest should be the chief objectives of the new society, which probably will attain permanent form in the fall.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

Information about early courthouses in Clay County is supplied by Roy P. Johnson in the *Country Press* of Moorhead for May 29, where he reveals that there is uncertainty as to the location of the first courthouse. A picture of a structure that was once used as a courthouse for the county accompanies the article.

Many details of frontier life along the North Shore of Lake Superior in the fifties are described in a reminiscent article by R. McLean, which is published in the *Cook County News-Herald* of Grand Marais for March 26 and April 2 and 9. The writer, who served as surveyor, timber cruiser, prospector for copper, and postmaster at Beaver Bay after his arrival at the site of Duluth in September, 1854, originally prepared his narrative for the forest service. In 1857 he took a census in what is now Lake and Cook counties, and he mentions by name many of the individuals who lived there at the time.

For an essay on the "Development of Freeborn County," John Grotten was awarded third prize in the Donald E. Bridgman essay contest in history and political science conducted at Hamline University in 1936.

The progress of transportation in western Minnesota, particularly in Grant County, from the day of the ox cart to that of the modern automobile is traced by William Goetzinger in the *Grant County Herald* of Elbow Lake for June 11. The writer relates the story of the Red River trails and the profitable trade that passed over them in the fifties, quoting long extracts from contemporary sources to illustrate his narrative. An account of a cart train of 1858 is quoted from *Harper's Magazine*; a description of the picturesque half-breeds who drove the carts is extracted from a St. Paul newspaper. To continue his narrative, Mr. Goetzinger presents some interesting accounts

of stagecoach travel in the sixties through the region originally traversed by the Red River carts. A map of the Red River trails and a picture of Red River carts and drivers accompany the article.

A military encampment held at New Ulm from June 23 to 30, 1886, is recalled in the *New Ulm Review* for June 25, which reports that twelve thousand people gathered in the Minnesota Valley city to witness the sham battle staged as a climax to the gathering. Parades and band concerts were other events connected with the encampment, which had its headquarters north of the city at Camp Hubbard.

The 1936 number of the *White Pine*, the annual volume published by the junior and senior classes of the Cloquet High School, devotes special attention to the forest fire which swept over the city of Cloquet in 1918. A brief historical sketch, with an account of the fire and of the rebuilding of the city, prefaces the volume.

A survey of "urban transportation . . . from the horse car days through the era of the electric trolley, with traffic mounting steadily to a peak just after the World war and then declining as steadily, along with the rise in popularity of the automobile" is presented by J. H. Cleland in a "History of the City's Trolleys" published in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for May 31. The writer notes that the first street cars were operated in St. Paul in 1872 and in Minneapolis in 1875. How the transportation systems of two cities were merged with the formation of the Twin City Rapid Transit Company is explained. Among the illustrations is a picture of a horse car in Minneapolis in 1875 and of the first electric street car to operate in St. Paul.

Much of the recent history of south Minneapolis is reflected in a series of interviews with *Southtown Personalities*, which appeared originally in the *East Lake Shopper* and which are now assembled between the covers of a little book (Minneapolis, 1936. 139 p.). The sketches, which are the results of interviews recorded by Don Rivers, Audrey Lewis, and Gordon Daline, contain accounts of the activities in one Minneapolis district of merchants, manufacturers, ministers, doctors, photographers, butchers, grocers, and the like.

Events in the history of Hennepin County were re-enacted in a pageant presented under the direction of a WPA rural recreation project at Medicine Lake on June 30. The arrival and activities of many of the national groups—Scandinavian, Dutch, German, Bohemian, French, Ukranian, and the like—that are represented in the county were depicted.

A series of "Personal Memories of Early Days" in Houston County, by H. G. Forschler, has been appearing in the *Hokah Chief*. Many of these reminiscences relate to pioneers who settled the county, but in some installments early events also are recalled. For example, in the issue of April 2, the writer relates that when the first reaper was sold in the Brownsville community "everyone at leisure went out in the nearby country to see it in operation," and when they found that "it worked," there was a general celebration.

The Rainy Lake gold rush of 1893 is the subject of several interesting articles which appear in the "1936 Tourist Edition" of the *Daily Journal* of International Falls, issued on April 23. The story of the discovery of gold and the development and decline of the Little American Mine on an island in Rainy Lake is related by J. J. Lloyd; Judge John Berg contributes his detailed "Reminiscences of Rainy Lake City," which "flourished for six years, then disappeared as mines closed up." Steamboating on Rainy Lake and Rainy River in the nineties, when boats furnished the only means of communication between the border communities, is described; and Mrs. W. G. Randolph tells of a trip by stagecoach from Tower to International Falls in February, 1900.

Completion of the sixtieth year of continuous publication by the *Litchfield Independent* is marked by the issue of May 27, which includes a brief statement about the founding of the paper and reproduces the list of the first subscribers. It is interesting to note that since the paper was founded in 1876 it has been continuously "under the guiding hand of its present owner," Mr. H. I. Peterson.

When the village of Twin Valley in Norman County was removed from its original site two miles north of the present community in 1886, Mr. J. F. Heiberg "remained on the old site which had been named Twin Valley, rallied a few stragglers and developed a village

from what had been left behind," according to the *Little Falls Daily Transcript* for June 20. The fiftieth anniversary of this event was commemorated at Twin Valley on June 20, and special tribute was paid to Mr. Heiberg, a Norwegian immigrant of 1879. On the original site of Twin Valley he developed a mill which was later equipped as an electric power plant to furnish lights for Twin Valley and several neighboring communities.

The Business and Professional Women's Club of Rochester is collecting objects of local historical interest for an Olmsted County historical museum, which has been established in the public library of Rochester. In order to arouse interest in the project, the club sponsored a public meeting on May 27, at which the principal address was given by Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society. He described the historical museum as a "powerful factor in the educational system of the community." Mrs. Bunn T. Willson, chairman of the committee which is sponsoring the museum project, told of the indexing by WPA workers of newspaper files preserved in the Rochester library.

The fortieth anniversary of the organization at Crookston of Lodge No. 342 B. P. O. Elks was commemorated by members of the order on May 6. Several articles about the history of the lodge appear in the *Crookston Daily Times* for May 6. They reveal that the lodge was organized on May 14, 1896, that it occupied quarters in the Odd Fellows Block until 1912, and that in the latter year it erected its own building. An account of its first meeting and lists of members and of officers appear in the *Times*.

The results of a *Recreation Survey of St. Paul, Minn.*, undertaken as a CWA project in 1933 and completed under FERA auspices in the following year, have been prepared for publication by Katherine B. Spear under the sponsorship of the St. Paul City Planning Board and issued as a bulky multigraphed volume (214 p., 48 tables). Public, industrial, national, denominational, club, school, home, commercial, and private recreation are the classifications under which the survey was made. The resulting volume contains a wealth of material for the student of social history. A detailed survey of St. Paul playgrounds is prefaced by a brief historical statement; a section de-

voted to settlement houses and community centers includes descriptive statements about all such institutions in the city; and accounts of foreign-born groups and their activities are provided. Among the "Institutions of Education and Culture Serving the Public" are mentioned the Minnesota Historical Society, the St. Paul Institute, and the Schubert Club. Of several special studies in the volume, that dealing with juvenile delinquency is of outstanding interest and value. It treats in detail the work of the juvenile court and the probation office, with many statistics and tables. Among the tables in the appendix are lists of parks and playgrounds with their locations, a list of societies having foreign-born memberships, and city ordinances relating to recreation.

Faribault residents of all religious faiths aided in the construction of Bishop Whipple's home in 1871, according to an article in the *Faribault Daily News* for April 21, published on the occasion of the wrecking of the old mansion. Previous to 1871 the bishop occupied a house in which he had established St. Mary's Hall, a school for girls. Then groups in other cities began to offer him quarters suitable both for his home and for the school. The result was the building of the house which "did much to retain for Faribault the bishop's residence and the distinction of being the See city of the diocese."

At Maplewood cemetery, near Luverne, memorial services were held on May 24 in honor of three Rock County Methodist ministers who are buried there—the Reverend Edward H. Bronson, the Reverend J. A. Saunders, and the Reverend V. H. Raymond. Some information about Bronson, the pioneer Methodist pastor in the county, and about the church that he established in the seventies is included in the *Rock County Star* for May 29. He went to Rock County from Wisconsin in 1873, traveling in a covered wagon. One member of his party, Jane M. Grout, kept a diary, a copy of which is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society.

An entire section of the *Duluth Herald* for April 25 is devoted to articles about the Duluth Typographical Union, which marked its fiftieth anniversary on April 18. An account of the organization of the union, a list of officers from 1886 to the present, and accounts of unions in other communities are among the items to be found in the

Herald. A charter member of the Duluth union, Mr. Ransom Metcalfe, recalls the "days when newspaper type was set by hand and the compositor was paid according to the length of his 'string.'"

In a "Historical Sketch of Orr and Adjoining Territory," which appears in the *Virginia Daily Enterprise* for May 15, Fred W. Besette declares that the first white settler on the site—Alexander Baker, a Scotch trader—arrived in 1889. The writer tells of a Presbyterian mission school established in 1890 and conducted by two sisters, Cora and Susie Daugherty, and he describes the activities of a number of other early settlers in the vicinity.

Conditions in Scott County in the late fifties are pictured in two interesting letters written by Dr. Newton Southworth from his claim near Belle Plaine and published in the *Northwest Pioneer* for April. In the first, which is dated August 28, 1857, he relates that he had planted a small garden near his home, but the grasshoppers "lit on that and destroyed everything in one day. For some two weeks during a part of the day the air was full of grasshoppers," he continues. "It looked as though there was a great snow storm."

The origins of a Hungarian settlement near Elk River in Sherburne County are described in an interesting article in the *Sherburne County Star News* of Elk River for May 28, which is based upon an interview with Mr. Andrew Fazekas, one of the first Hungarian settlers in the vicinity. He relates how he and his brothers came to America in the early eighties, how they worked at North St. Paul and then removed to Elk River, settling on farms near that place, and how in time a number of their countrymen acquired land in the vicinity. It is interesting to note that several of the Hungarians who went to the Elk River settlement came from the mining districts of Virginia and Pennsylvania.

An elaborately illustrated edition of the *St. Cloud Daily Times and the Daily Journal-Press*, consisting of 104 pages, was issued on June 15 to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the paper. Much of the issue is devoted to articles about the history of the paper, its many predecessors, and the editors and owners who have contributed toward its development. From June 14, 1861, when the first issue of the *Minnesota Union*, the ancestor to which the *Times* looks

for its origin, through consolidations and changes of name the history of the paper is traced. It is interesting to note, however, that since 1875 only two men have guided its destinies — C. F. Macdonald and the present owner, Mr. Fred Schilplin. Articles about their careers and about earlier editors, including C. C. Andrews, who founded the *Union*, are included. The newspaper history of St. Cloud is one of unusual interest, and several other figures in the broader story are the subjects of articles. Among them are Jane Grey Swisshelm, editor of the *Visiter* and later of the *Democrat*; George F. Brott, founder in 1857 of the *Minnesota Advertiser*, the first St. Cloud paper; William B. Mitchell, editor of the *Journal-Press*; Gerhard May, editor for forty-seven years until 1931 of *Der Nordstern*; and Alvah Eastman, present editor of the *Times*. Several articles deal with the changes in appearance, typography, arrangement, content, illustration, and the like that have marked the newspaper history of the past seventy-five years. Existing files of the *Times* and affiliated papers, including those preserved by the Minnesota Historical Society, are described. The entire issue of the *Union* for August 16, 1861, is reproduced in facsimile, and pertinent sections of several other papers appear among the illustrations. Of special value is a list of "St. Cloud's Pioneer Business Firms" established before 1900, chronologically arranged, with the date of founding, the name of the founder, and the original and present name of the firm. Another list includes the names of pioneers who settled at St. Cloud from 1849 to 1860. One article deals with the history of transportation, by stage, steamboat, rail, and electric trolley, and there are separate accounts of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads. In the final section are to be found reviews of exploration and early settlement in the St. Cloud area and of the organization and early history of Stearns County.

A number of articles about the history of the St. Cloud trolley line, which has been in operation since 1887, appear in the *St. Cloud Sentinel* for April 30, the day on which the street cars were replaced by busses.

A cyclone which devastated the St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids area half a century ago is recalled in the *St. Cloud Daily Times* for April 14, the anniversary of the catastrophe. Contemporary newspaper re-

ports are quoted, and the recollections of survivors are presented. Three photographs taken at Sauk Rapids after the cyclone appear with the articles.

Installments of a "History of Melrose," edited by Rose Sand, assisted by V. Radermacher, appear in the section of the *Melrose Beacon* devoted to "High School Notes" from April 16 to May 28. In their introduction, the editors explain that in their search for material about this Stearns County community, "pubic records have been carefully examined, the files of local informatives searched for matters of interest, a wide correspondence carried on and individual interviews sought." The geography of the region, Indian tribes, and exploration are surveyed in the first two installments; the period of settlement, which began in the fifties and continued into the sixties and seventies, is described in the third. The development of churches, the founding of banks, the establishment of a post office and a newspaper, the building of railroads, and the establishment of schools are among other subjects discussed.

A wealth of material about the history of Benson and Swift County is to be found in the "Golden Jubilee Edition" of the *Swift County Monitor* of Benson, issued on June 26. The history of the *Monitor*, which was established in 1886 by T. F. Young and D. Y. Smith, is featured in one section. The earlier newspaper history of Benson, which began when E. V. Price launched the *Swift County Censor* in 1874, also receives some attention. Another section is largely devoted to articles about the history of Benson and municipal institutions, such as the fire department, the park system, the library, and the city light and power plant. The platting of the townsite in 1870, shortly after the arrival of the railroad, and the organization of the village in 1877 are described. The creation of Swift County in February, 1870, "from 21 townships carved from Chippewa county's territory" is the subject of an article. Scores of short articles deal with schools, churches, and individual business enterprises.

The text of an interesting letter written on October 30, 1854, from the site of Lake City by Abner Dwelle to his children at Texas, Michigan, is published in the *Wabasha County Leader* for June 25. Dwelle urges his sons to join him at once in order that they might settle on the claims that he is holding for them. "I have four as

good claims as there is in Minnesota," he writes. "I would not trade them for half of Texas." Dwelle reports that "Some days six or eight steamboats go past heavily loaded, some as high as four or five hundred passengers." The original letter is owned by a grandson of the writer, G. M. Dwelle, president of the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society.

"In order that bateau and shell-racing can again become a part of the outdoor life of Stillwater's youth," three former lumberjacks in the St. Croix country, Mr. J. J. Sullivan, now warden of the Minnesota State Prison, Mr. Thomas Maher, sheriff of Washington County, and Mr. Lyman Sutton, president of the Cosmopolitan State Bank of Stillwater, have each purchased a bateau and are attempting to develop expert crews for their use on Lake St. Croix. Their efforts to revive bateau racing, the favorite sport of the lumberjack, are announced in an interesting article in the *Stillwater Weekly Gazette* for April 9, in which many of the lumberjack's activities are described. Among them are the sorting of logs at the St. Croix Boom, the formation of the "brail," the building of the raft by connecting four brails, the breaking up of log jams, and the like. In describing all these activities on the water, the part played by the bateaux and the expert boatmen who handled them is stressed. How the boatmen used their skill in races, held usually on July 4, how they trained for the event, and how the bateaux were prepared are explained.

A reminiscent article by John W. Somers, who came to Minnesota in 1868 in search of health and who remained to become a prosperous farmer in Watonwan County, appears in the *Watonwan County Plaindealer* of St. James for June 18. He tells of three years spent in strenuous outdoor work that restored his health, of settling on a farm near St. James, of early agricultural methods, and the like.

That "stray animals on business and residential streets were a vexing civic problem" at Cokato in 1878, when the village was incorporated, is revealed in an article in the *Cokato Enterprise* for April 9, which is based upon the earliest village records. The duties and privileges of the poundkeeper were carefully defined by the common council at a meeting held in April, 1878. Other problems that were handled by the early Cokato council and that are recorded in its minutes relate to the building of sidewalks, the digging of a village well,

and the construction of a jail. The writer of the article, who has selected many interesting bits of information from the village records, reveals the cost of each item used in the construction of the jail. The building of the first village hall in 1883 and the installation of the first street lights in 1884 also are noted.

Some early experiences at Monticello are recalled by Mr. R. E. Blanchard in an interview published in the *Monticello Times* for April 2. Mr. Blanchard's father emigrated from Maine in 1857 and established a lumber mill at Monticello.



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