

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*Jay Cooke, Private Banker.* By HENRIETTA M. LARSON, associate in research in business history, graduate school of business administration, Harvard University. (Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press, 1936. xvii, 512 p. Illustrations. \$5.00)

When Professor N. S. B. Gras left the Minnesota campus in 1927 to become the first professor of business history at Harvard, he took with him a number of his graduate students. That these local boys and girls have "made good" is as gratifying as it is unsurprising. Mr. Kenneth Porter led off the *Harvard Studies in Business History* with two massive volumes on *John Jacob Astor, Business Man*, and now Miss Larson scores the second touchdown for Minnesota with what I think we can regard as the definitive full-length portrait of Jay Cooke. She has based her study on tens of thousands of letters which passed between the banker and his partners or customers, on Cooke's memoirs, on the Northern Pacific archives, and on mountains of contemporary printed materials. The result is an exhaustive description of one of the most interesting figures in American financial history. It is done in clear, straightforward style, with sufficient recapitulation to jog the reader's memory and an excellent summary to weave all the threads into a compact fabric. Each chapter is divided into sections; some of these are general surveys of such subjects as private banking, railroad financing, security marketing, and the currency, and are therefore valuable descriptions of the stage on which Cooke played his part.

The only defects of the book are minor points of style. Some of the section headings are rather trite, for example, "Jay Cooke Has Faith in the Future." The same might be said of the character sketches, which certainly show no influence of the newer biographical technique; for instance, "Jay Cooke was of a sanguine nature; his robust and energetic physique, his lively imagination, his warm and hopeful spirit, buoyed up by a childlike faith in God, all tended to give him a positive outlook." Some colloquialisms or localisms have slipped in — "It was not long till it was seen that." The imagery

gets a bit mixed when fine writing is attempted — “the success of the North made the money bags of London and the Rhine cities look with interest toward the United States.” Details are overdone in places, and I wish we could get editors to agree to enforce the use of round numbers; why, for instance, bother to be so precise as to announce the purchase of 44,334.09 acres of land for \$37,143.70? Finally, the relegation of references and notes alike to sixty-two pages at the end of the text is most unsatisfactory for the reader. Pile the references to sources in a penultimate heap, if you wish; but let notes which supplement the text and references to later parts of the book be placed at the foot of the page. If this adds to the printing costs, dispense with gilt on the top edge of the volume.

The book will appeal to many kinds of historians. To the purely political student, the account of public financing during and after the Civil War and of the relations between the bankers and the treasury will be welcome. To the economic historian the picture of the private banker's part in facilitating the payment of commercial debts, in overcoming the difficulties caused by the lack of a uniform paper currency, and in raising the vast sums of long term credit needed by the railroads is simply invaluable. War and railroads have been the two great modern consumers of big sums of capital; to meet their needs subscriptions have had to be drawn from big and little purses alike, and this task has called for a newish type of middleman, the investment banker. Only slowly is the importance of this work, done by the Medicis, Fuggers, Rothschilds, Barings, Drexels, Morgans, etc., coming to be understood; but here in the case of Cooke we have a clear picture of the need and of the methods pursued to meet it. I suspect that students of American economic history find the parts dealing with banking, currency, and finance unspeakably dull, partly because they do not see what all the fuss or trouble is about. Miss Larson helps to make the subject live and the problems real; and many sections of her work will become “required reading” in at least one university.

But to readers of MINNESOTA HISTORY the most valuable part of the book will be the chapters (16–20) describing Cooke's unhappy connection with the Northern Pacific Railroad. Inclination and necessity tied Cooke to northern Minnesota. Inclination came from the fact that he was a son of the frontier, and had an unbounded faith

in the future of the Middle West. Necessity drove him to seek a new field of enterprise when the Civil War financing ended. In raising loans for the government his business had grown to giant stature, but after 1865 the trade in "governments" fell off. He must either retrench or find another outlet for his energies, and when the promoters of the Northern Pacific knocked, for the fourth time, at his door in 1869, he said "Come in." When they left, Cooke had agreed to be their sole agent for the sale of a hundred million dollars worth of bonds, their purchasing agent for iron and other supplies, and their banker. He had pledged himself to sell five million dollars worth of bonds at once, and to allow the railroad a standing overdraft of five hundred thousand dollars. He had committed himself to financing "the biggest single business enterprise that had up to that time been undertaken in the United States."

His partners disliked, or even opposed, his decision; but his "booster" belief, his "success complex," his conviction that he could control the railroad executives, and his hope of great reward lured him on. If only he had known the limerick about the tiger and the lady of Niger! In June, 1873, the track reached from Duluth to Bismarck on the Missouri; in the following September Cooke was declared bankrupt. Why the failure? Miss Larson answers the question with overwhelming effectiveness. Other bankers, both in America and in Europe, were cool toward the vast bond issue, and Cooke's high-pressure sales methods which had popularized the Civil War bonds failed now, in the absence of a patriotic appeal or of a certainty of speedy returns from railroad earnings. The money from bond sales dribbled in very slowly, as did that from land sales. Meanwhile the railroad engineers and officials wanted ever more cash, and the overdraft went far beyond the original limit. Cooke might have tried to restrain and discipline the promoters, and his partners urged him to drop them; but his interests in the Northern Pacific, plus his investments in northwestern land and other properties, "forced him to advance step by step until he had become so enmeshed" that he could not withdraw. Unfortunately, he had failed to build up an adequate capital, and had to rely largely on deposits placed by customers in his bank for working capital. Yet, instead of keeping these deposits fluid, he tied them up in his investments. Hence, when the money market tightened and business slowed down

when the near panic of 1872 became the real one of 1873 disaster was unavoidable.

Cooke failed, but the project which wrecked him was eventually a success, and some of his dreams about the Northwest came true. American history, since the days when London merchants set out to make profits by financing the foundation of Virginia, is full of similar stories. The pioneer, who sweated and suffered hardship and defeat on the frontier, has been abundantly extolled. But the man who risked the funds which made the frontier possible is usually forgotten, or execrated. Since he so often lost, he deserves at least a tear and a kind word.

HERBERT HEATON

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS

*The Social History of American Agriculture.* By JOSEPH SCHAFFER.  
(New York, The Macmillan Company, 1936. ix, 302 p.  
Maps. \$2.50.)

In 1935-36 Dr. Schaffer delivered a series of lectures at the University of London, devoted to the evolution of American agriculture. With some alterations and additions, these lectures are reproduced in the present volume. Each of the eight essays or chapters is self-sufficient, yet taken together they achieve noticeable unity. The subjects discussed include the acquisition and distribution of land for agriculture; frontier subsistence farming; large-scale operations, such as bonanza wheat culture in the Northwest; improvement of agricultural methods; professional farming; analysis of social and political trends; and the outlook for farmers, based on events since 1900, emphasizing such phenomena as the motorization of rural regions, the share cropper, and recent attempts to improve agricultural conditions. The maps are well selected and add to the value of the narrative. The style is eminently readable and the volume as a whole stimulating and suggestive in thought.

The choice of the title is unfortunate and would more accurately represent the content if it were amended to read "Notes or Suggestions on the History of American Agriculture." The author's statement in the preface that the book is a comprehensive survey of the subject is not borne out by the text. In the first place the volume is

entirely too brief. Many topics are treated in summary fashion and others of equal importance are omitted. Certainly truck gardening, hemp culture, turpentine farming, potato farming in Maine and the western states, beet sugar production, and the raising of poultry should be included in "Big Business Farming," as well as commented upon in the chapters on "Improved Farming" and "Professional Farming." Adequate discussion, or consideration, of the different types of fruit growing in various sections of the country, of soil erosion, forest conservation, flood control, draining and reclamation projects, irrigated farming, rural architecture, and electrification in country regions are conspicuous by their absence. Except for comment upon early colonial contacts in New England and Virginia, the varied aspects of Indian agriculture from coast to coast, and its contributions to white civilization, are ignored. The agriculture of the French in the Mississippi Valley, of the Spanish in Florida and the lower Mississippi, and of the Spanish and Mexicans in Texas, the Southwest, and California, with their respective land systems and the evolution which took place when the English and Americans established political dominance over the areas mentioned, are either lightly passed over or entirely omitted. All the above, and the list could be enlarged, are pertinent to the general subject in a social as well as an economic sense.

According to the accepted meaning of the word "social" too little attention is paid to this phase of agricultural development to warrant the inclusion of the term in the title. Incidentally, one looks in vain for any description of the habits, customs, and amusements of such distinctive rural types as the Florida cracker, the piney woodsmen of the Carolinas, the respective mountaineers of the Blue Ridge, the Alleghenies, and the Ozarks, and the different types not only of southern planters from Virginia to Texas, but of northern and southern farmers and of fruit culturists.

Dr. Schafer has given us an interesting and worth-while discussion of many of the topics which he has considered, but the present title and the expressed intent of the preface leave the text open to valid criticism.

HERBERT A. KELLAR

McCORMICK HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
CHICAGO

*The Honourable Company: A History of the Hudson's Bay Company.* By DOUGLAS MACKAY. (Indianapolis, New York, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1936. xii, 396 p. Maps, illustrations. \$3.75.)

The author of this work is the editor of the *Beaver*, the excellent magazine published quarterly by the Hudson's Bay Company in Winnipeg. Working for the company by day has influenced his probing into its past by night, not by casting shadows over his historical judgment but by rousing and sustaining his enthusiasm for his subject. As he remarks in his foreword, the reader will here find more frank criticism of the Hudson's Bay Company than in the works of many outsiders. At the same time, he has been able to write with the understanding and feeling of one within the service. This should not be mistaken for an official history nor for an attempt at a definitive account. The author has not had access to materials beyond the reach of other students, and he wisely states that a lifetime of work remains to be done before a final history can be written. It is an interesting popular history carried down to the present day, and it is the first to appear since the company opened its archives. It makes Beckles Willson's history appear thin, and it gives more reliable information than the more comprehensive book by the late George Bryce. Unlike the latter, Mr. MacKay has not tried to incorporate the early history of Manitoba. He sticks to his subject.

There is not a little to criticize in this attractive journalistic account. It is sprinkled with inaccuracies of detail. Some of these may be due to careless proofreading. Kirke's capture of Quebec in 1629 is put in 1608; La Vérendrye's 1731 journey is misplaced by a year; McTavish's combination of 1783 is referred to as made in 1793; the order of the names successively applied to the X Y Company is twisted; the account of Thomas Simpson's arctic explorations is confused by the substitution of "westward" for "eastward"; and the dates for the beginning and the end of Lord John Russell's first premiership are both wrong. But the printer cannot be blamed for the surprising statement that Hearne, when attacked in 1782, knew nothing of war in Europe, nor the false knighting of John Caldwell, nor the emergence of the Northwest Company as a power in 1776, nor the placing of Fort Edmonton on the top of a cliff two hundred feet high. Here and there, a looseness of language misleads. Pink's report of

James Finlay on the Saskatchewan was dated 1769, but the unwary reader may suppose it to have been three years earlier. "When Hearne built Cumberland House in 1774 near The Pas, the rival traders had already been established there for six years." Where is "there"? It was neither Cumberland House nor The Pas. The reference to the transaction of 1849 is so vaguely worded that the uninformed may not even guess that the British government then invested the company with the ownership of Vancouver Island. Nor is it true to say that "the cabinet at Ottawa, startled by the unexpected insurrection, postponed the official transfer until July 15, 1870."

More serious are the defects arising from the fact that the author is not a trained scholar. As a journalist, he might have added interest and cohesion to his story by introducing the elder Gillam and his "Nonsuch" where the brothers-in-law already knew them—in Boston. Having neglected this opportunity, he may puzzle some readers by mentioning New Englanders under the younger Gillam in Hudson Bay. He has also missed the rather important early connection between the St. Lawrence and Hudson Bay, suggested by Radisson's marriage into the family that had seized the French fur trade at Tadoussac in 1628 and Quebec in the following year. Indeed, he has largely ignored a number of the broader aspects of his subject. Though familiar with the fundamental work of Professor Innis, he has not drawn upon it as he might have done to bring out the effect of geography upon the history of the fur trade. He gives little evidence of having seen that there was continuous competition between the Hudson Bay and the St. Lawrence for a century and a half after the founding of his company. He scarcely mentions the food problem, which underlies much of the story. It tied the prairie, which was poor in furs, to the forest belt where furs abounded. It was a consideration in the huge grant of land to Selkirk, and it inspired the desperate fight of the Northwest Company. With a wider knowledge, the author might have illuminated the dark struggle between the two great companies, revealing it as a chapter in the history of modern imperialism and its clashings. He might have done much more to explain the continental marathon, why the Northwest Company won the race and yet lost the prize. He says not a word about the opening of the St. Paul cart trail, which broke the company's trading monopoly and undermined its power of government on the

prairie, and he makes only a passing reference to the Fraser gold rush without observing that it produced the same results much more swiftly on the Pacific coast. In short, the serious student will find this book lacking in solidity, breadth, and penetration. He will, however, be very grateful for the valuable statement of earnings and capital structure to be found in the appendixes.

Here criticism should end, for the author has not pretended to do more than present a revised popular history, and the general reader will find it both interesting and profitable. The best part of the book is that which deals with what the author evidently regards as the best period of the company's history, that from the union of 1821 to the change of ownership in 1863. Those were the years of the finest morale, when the proprietors shared their profits with the chief factors and traders, and when Sir George Simpson, the greatest man ever in charge of the company's affairs in North America, ruled as "the little emperor." The chapters devoted to him are really devoted. Another chapter deserving special recommendation is that entitled "Spirits," for there has been a lot of malicious nonsense talked about the company's use of alcohol in trade with the Indians. Taken as a whole, the long record of the company is eminently honorable, perhaps more so than any other commercial organization of modern times. It has been a kind and wise father to generations of red men, and therefore it is not surprising that, though the author does not even suggest it, many of their descendants today regard the governor of the company as a sort of younger brother of the deity.

A. L. BURT

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS

*Minnesota, Its History and Its People: A Study Outline with Topics and References.* By THEODORE C. BLEGEN, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society. With the assistance of LEWIS BEESON. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1937. viii, 237 p. \$1.75.)

Tourists to the number of 2,652,000 visited Minnesota last year. That is the official estimate. Each of these tourists, according to unofficial estimates, asked at least a thousand questions about features of the landscape. Most of us think the number of questions was much greater than this, but for the moment we can accept the more



conservative figure. That would mean about a thousand questions for every man, woman, and child in the state. Usually, however, the visitors picked on adults for the answers. This means that every adult was exposed to at least two thousand questions, some being exposed to many times that number. Of these questions probably only half received any answer at all, and of this half probably not more than fifty per cent were answered correctly. The record for the adults of the state in this matter last year, therefore, was 825,000,000 questions not answered and 412,500,000 questions answered incorrectly. When we think of the embarrassment and chagrin which each of these contacts involves, the sum total is staggering. Obviously, if we are to remain a tourist state our record must be greatly changed.

Of course, we can explain much of our failure. Living here all our lives and seeing these objects of interest every day we have become insensitive to them. That is according to the psychologists the law of negative adaptation. But the visitor is not insensitive to them. He wants to know what and how and why. As hosts, as persons who have lived here all our lives, and as persons professing ordinary intelligence, we protrude our chests and start to answer the questions. Then comes the embarrassment. We discover that for many of the questions we never did know the answers, for many others we have forgotten the answers. Worse than that for our pride as persons of ordinary intelligence, we too often discover that we not only do not know the answer, but we do not even know where to find out the answer. If this continues, our visitors cannot be blamed if they ascribe the ruddiness of our complexions less to the climate and more to a chronic blushing at the consciousness of our ignorance of our own state.

Fortunately for the personal relief of all of us and the greater satisfaction of our guests, this deplorable condition need no longer continue. The work under review enables every one of us to find the answers to most of the questions asked. In this convenient, compact little volume, is an analytical list of books and articles relating to nearly every phase of Minnesota history and activity. The mere possession of the book itself will enable us to tell the visitor where he may most conveniently learn the answer to his question. And if we use the book in our leisure hours during the winter, we can learn the answers ourselves and thus be ready for even the most inquisitive

visitor. Thus we may establish a national reputation not only for ordinary intelligence, but for something quite a bit better than that. At any rate we can recover our self-esteem and extend a somewhat better quality of hospitality to our visitors than we have been doing.

How comprehensively helpful this little book may be is only slightly indicated by the title. To the average layman history might mean only Indians and pioneers. Both Indians and pioneers are amply recognized, but so too are industry, transportation, religion, social customs, politics, agriculture, education, banking. So too are music and art and literature. There is almost no activity of any considerable importance to the people of Minnesota which has been omitted. Even organized sport is included. All these activities are considered not only in past times, but are brought right up to date, with a list of recent books, articles in periodicals, or newspapers in which those activities are described and explained. It provides the means of answering the what and who, the how and why questions.

Every secretary of a chamber of commerce in the state should have this work on his desk. He will probably want to have a copy for every tourist bureau under his direction as well. Since he probably will not read this review, perhaps you should call this to his attention.

The teacher, especially the teacher of history, is the most efficient agent for the transmission of this knowledge, and the author has had the teacher clearly in mind throughout the work. The whole work is analyzed into topics. Each topic has an outline of main points and also a suggestive list of questions as well as a rich list of references for almost every item in the outline. Here is the means by which every teacher can achieve that miracle of vitalizing his instruction. Here he can find some activity of the pupil's own neighborhood, of his parents and grandparents, similar to, or even related to, any activity of importance elsewhere in the world or in the past. There is no longer any reason why pupils cannot be made to see that the work of the history or social studies classroom is as real as life itself. Every school, elementary as well as high school, should have at least one copy available for the teachers.

The "key to the past and present of the life of Minnesota" might well have been the subtitle of this book. A brief but illuminating introduction surveys the history of the state. A critical bibliography of the larger works follows. Then comes the detailed outline of the varied activities of our society from the state's beginnings to the pres-

ent. Each topic is outlined into its main points and each point is provided with bibliographical references derived not only from books but from the much more fugitive sources of periodical and newspaper articles. It is customary in a review to indicate errors. There may be errors in this work; and some persons might, like the reviewer, be ungracious enough to desire even more material, since the author has opened up so many hitherto untrodden paths in our history. But when, as in the present instance, a work affords the people of one state so much more insight into their own life and history than is afforded the people of any other state in the nation, there is no room for criticism.

The editor of this magazine is going to be subjected to some embarrassment in accepting a review as long as this about a work of less than three hundred pages as well as about a work of which he himself is the author. But since he has chosen to give the people of the state a more nearly complete guide to its life and history than is the fortune of any other state, he must accept the embarrassment. Even so this review indicates but inadequately the comprehensive value of this work. As one who has been the target of many questions from tourists I can only express my great gratitude. With one copy of this work at home and another in my office I can now view the opening of another tourist season with some assurance.

AUGUST C. KREY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS

*Voyage dans l'intérieur des Etats-Unis et au Canada.* By LE COMTE DE COLBERT MAULEVRIER. With an introduction and notes by GILBERT CHINARD. (Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1935. xxiii, 87 p. Illustrations. \$2.75.)

The name Colbert is more closely associated with French Canada than with other parts of North America, but to one individual of that name Pennsylvania and New York owe a delightful travel narrative of the late eighteenth century, as well as several charming sketches. Edouard-Charles-Victorien Colbert, better known as the Count Colbert Maulevrier, visited the United States first as a participant in the naval campaigns of the latter part of the American Revolution, and later, about the year 1796, as an *émigré* from revo-

lutionary France. The two travel narratives here published date from the year 1798.

The first expedition took Colbert along the Schuylkill to Reading, thence to Harrisburg on the Susquehanna River, and up that stream to its forks. At Sunbury he took the North Branch for a short distance; then he turned back, visited Carlisle, and made his way to Philadelphia. The second trip took him to Niagara Falls and down Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence to Montreal. His notes have value especially for those studying the colony of French *émigrés* at Azilum in Pennsylvania, the Holland Land Company, the settlement of the Genesee country in western New York, and the land speculations of Robert Morris both on the Pennsylvania and the New York frontiers.

At Montreal the traveler naturally has something to say about the fur trade, which may be translated, in part, as follows: "This trade is the moral and physical ruin of the youth of Lower Canada. It greatly injures agriculture. Besides its lure of profits, which induces young men to engage in it, it has become a matter of respectability to have been what they call 'voyageurs.' The girls will not marry those who court them until the latter have made a trip to the *pays d'en haut*." In this connection the count refers definitely to Lake Superior and Grand Portage and to the incidents and difficulties of the voyageur's life while en route thither.

Count Colbert Maulevrier returned to Philadelphia via Lakes Champlain and George. He returned to France soon afterward and died there in 1820.

GRACE LEE NUTE

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ST. PAUL

*Population Trends in Minnesota* (Agricultural Experiment Station, *Bulletins*, no. 327). By R. W. MURCHIE and M. E. JARCHOW. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota, 1936. 99 p. Maps, charts.)

The trends of Minnesota population discussed in this bulletin cover the first century of modern history in the Minnesota region, for it is noted that in the early eighteen twenties the influx of settlers was well under way. The very early settlers came from the north and settled around Fort Snelling. By 1860, however, the New Eng-

land, New York, Pennsylvania, and foreign elements in the population were large. By the turn of the century immigration was mainly from near-by states.

For sixty or seventy years immigration into the region was an important element in population growth. Since 1900, in contrast, the excess of native births over deaths has accounted for most of the increase. In fact, during the decade of the nineteen twenties a considerably greater number of people left the state than came into it, so that the net increase in population was less than the natural increase should have afforded. It appears that even if this outgoing migration had not occurred, or does not continue, the change in age distribution that has already taken place is such that population growth will be relatively slow in the future. Perhaps growth may cease entirely as early as 1950 unless new waves of net immigration are attracted.

The changes in population growth and density within the state appear to be associated with the wave-like developments of particular industries. First came pioneer agriculture; then, in rapid succession, flour milling, lumbering, mining, and, finally, miscellaneous urban industries have had important influence. By 1930 a very real problem seemed to have developed if population was to continue to increase or even to hold its own. The only possible solution of the problem appeared to lie in the finding of new opportunities for profitable employment. The bulletin under review makes no contribution directly to the solution, but it does state the situation in no uncertain terms. The bulletin follows, in the main, a conventional pattern in the discussion of changes in total population, in racial origins, inter-regional migrations, rural-urban distribution, age and sex distribution, marital status, and natural increase. In addition it discusses the questions of literacy and school attendance.

The study is thoroughly illustrated with maps and charts, and is supported by statistical tables. Although some of the maps are difficult to compare because they are printed on separate pages, the general presentation is good. The research that is summarized has evidently been carried out with Dr. Murchie's usual competence. Certainly the material presented and analyzed will prove invaluable to the student of the economic history of Minnesota.

ROLAND S. VAILE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS

*Acta et Dicta: A Collection of Historical Data Regarding the Origin and Growth of the Catholic Church in the Province of St. Paul*, vol. 7, no. 2. (St. Paul, The Catholic Historical Society of St. Paul, October, 1936. 281 p. \$1.00.)

The Catholic Historical Society of St. Paul presents in the fourth year of its rejuvenation a volume of six papers dealing with the Catholic history of the Province of St. Paul, which includes the dioceses of Minnesota and the two Dakotas.

Among the articles of interest appearing in this issue are a report on "John Shanley, Bishop of Fargo" by Sister Helen Angela Hurlley and a paper on the "Coming of Bishop Grace" by the Reverend William Busch. The latter, though primarily a study of Minnesota's second bishop and of his episcopate, nevertheless gives a vivid picture of Minnesota life in the late fifties. This paper depicts the early struggle of the Catholic church in Minnesota and reveals many aspects of the character of the pioneer bishop who went to St. Paul in 1859. The paper written by Sister Helen Angela has for its subject also a pioneer bishop, but a bishop of a more western and later frontier. Both bishops faced the same problems of scarcity of helpers and funds, scattered flocks, and poor transportation. Two short papers, by Sisters Ardis Hartman and Leone Treacy, deal with "The First German Migration into Stearns County" and the "Industrial Activities of the Foreign Born in St. Cloud in 1860."

The most significant article in this issue is "Father Skolla's Report of His Indian Missions" among the Indians of the United States. This long report is translated from the Latin by the Reverend Thomas Shanahan. Dr. Grace Lee Nute in the introduction gives a brief sketch of the life of Father Skolla, and places him in his proper position in relation to the mission movement in general. The story which this missionary tells in the report of his life among the Indians of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin is full of interesting incidents told, at times, in great detail. Particularly interesting are the minutiae of cooking while traveling through the wild country, the manner of setting up tents, and the discomforts and dangers experienced in traveling in small boats over such large bodies of water as Lake Superior. Though the good missionary goes to great pains to describe his method of instructing the native in the Christian faith, we learn nothing new, for he followed the methods practiced by the

Catholic missionaries in America for over a hundred years. Other topics of interest touched upon in this report are the withdrawal of soldiers from Mackinac Island for service in the Mexican War, temperance societies among the Indians, medicine dances, and attempts to carry out church services with some of the liturgical pomp found in the services of well-ordered parishes. Although this article is especially interesting to students of Catholic mission history, it should be of interest also to Minnesotans generally, for the missionaries played a large part in the education of the states' youth and in the opening up of the West to the early settler.

SISTER GRACE McDONALD

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## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

Dr. Robert C. Binkley ("History for a Democracy") is professor of history in Western Reserve University at Cleveland and is the chairman of the joint committee on materials for research of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. His special field of research is modern European history and his latest book is an important study of *Realism and Nationalism, 1852-1871*. As chairman of the joint committee he has done much to forward American co-operative projects in historical work and has taken a very special interest in the advance of microphotography and the employment of new processes for reproducing historical materials. Mr. E. Fitch Pabody ("Mark Twain's Ghost Story") has lived in Minneapolis since 1875. For thirty-five years he was connected with the engineering department of the American Bridge Company. He has been a member of the Minnesota Historical Society since 1928. Dr. M. M. Quaife ("A Footnote on Fire Steels") is the secretary and editor of the Burton Historical Collection in the Detroit Public Library. Dr. George M. Stephenson ("Swedish Immigration Material"), a frequent contributor to this magazine, is the author of *John Lind of Minnesota* and other important historical works. Writers of book reviews include four members of the faculty of the University of Minnesota: Professor Herbert Heaton, widely known authority on economic history; Professor A. L. Burt, the author of the *Old Province of Quebec* and other important contributions to Canadian history; Professor A. C. Krey, who has recently made a contribution of major importance to American education as the chairman of the American Historical Association's commission on the social studies in the schools; and Professor Roland S. Vaile, the author of numerous special studies relating to marketing. Other reviewers are Dr. Herbert A. Kellar, the director of the McCormick Historical Association of Chicago and the editor of a newly published work on *Solon Robinson: Pioneer and Agriculturist*; and Sister Grace McDonald of St. Benedict's College.



Since the superintendent's report, published elsewhere in the present number of the magazine, surveys the activities of the society during 1936, including the last quarter of the year, only a few supplementary items are mentioned in the present section.

A former president of the society and a member of its present executive council, Dean Guy Stanton Ford of the graduate school of the University of Minnesota, was elected president of the American Historical Association at its annual meeting, which was held at Providence, Rhode Island, late in December.

A Red Cross flag made by Miss Theresa Ericksen while in the Philippines as a nurse with the famous "Thirteenth Minnesota" and carried overseas in the World War was presented to the society at a special ceremony held in the auditorium on November 16. Miss Ericksen, dressed in uniform and wearing her decorations, made a brief presentation, and the superintendent then accepted the flag on behalf of the society. Dr. Harry P. Ritchie, who served as assistant surgeon of the Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, spoke briefly, recalling Miss Ericksen's services to the regiment and the deep respect and affection that she inspired among the soldiers. A considerable audience was present, including several veterans of the Thirteenth Minnesota.

Twenty-four additions to the active membership of the society were made during the quarter ending December 31. They include one life member, George P. Case, II, of Long Lake; and the following annual members: Georgiana Ames of North Easton, Massachusetts; Harold Benjamin of Minneapolis; Homer R. Blanchard of Lake City; Mrs. Olive Irene Bliss of St. Paul; Geneve Caldwell of Minneapolis; Austin Craig of Minneapolis; Elmer H. Dearth of Minneapolis; William H. Fallon of St. Paul; Walter A. Ferrell of Minneapolis; Mrs. V. C. Heseltine of Taylor's Falls; Charles A. Kalman of St. Paul; Reverend Theodore H. Leonard of St. Paul; Philip G. Orr of St. Paul; Harry Phinney of Morris; James W. Powles of St. Paul; William G. Reifler of St. Paul; Ole I. Steen of Worthington; Burton W. Thayer of St. Paul; Benjamin C. Thompson of St. Paul; Jesse Van Valkenburg of Minneapolis; William P. Westfall of St. Paul; Robert B. Whitacre of St. Paul; and Alvin P. Wold of Oakland, California.

The society lost fourteen active members by death during the last three months of 1936: Samuel R. Van Sant of Minneapolis, October 3; Charles E. Adams of Duluth, October 7; Mrs. Joseph G. Pyle of St. Paul, October 8; Dr. H. M. Workman of Tracy, October 8; Pierce L. Howe of Minneapolis, October 10; Victor Robertson of St. Paul, October 11; Levi M. Willcuts of Duluth, October 14; Henry B. Wenzell of Stillwater, October 23; Francis B. Tiffany of St. Paul, October 25; Lytton J. Shields of Dellwood, White Bear Lake, October 31; Amasa C. Paul, of Minneapolis, November 13; Mrs. John I. H. Field of St. Paul, November 14; Henry G. Stevens of Minneapolis, December 19; and Clarence H. Johnston of St. Paul, December 29.

"New England and Minnesota" was the subject of an address presented by the superintendent before the Colony of New England Women meeting in St. Paul on October 1. He spoke on "The Scope of Minnesota History" before the St. Paul chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on October 13; and he discussed the possibilities of local historical activity before the Watonwan County Historical Society meeting at St. James on November 19. Mr. Babcock spoke on "Minnesota and the March of Time" before the brotherhood of St. John's Lutheran Church of Minneapolis on October 20, and he described the work of the society for the Alumnae Club of the University of Minnesota in St. Paul on November 21. Miss Nute presented talks on "Adventures in Research" before the College Women's Club of St. Paul on October 21, on "A Boyhood in Fort Snelling 110 Years Ago" before the Faculty Women's Club of the University of Minnesota on November 18, and on "Pioneer Women of the Northwest" before the Quota Club of Minneapolis on December 8. Miss Ackermann gave an illustrated talk on pioneer life at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church of St. Paul on November 12.

A paper presented by the superintendent before the conference of archivists at Chattanooga, Tennessee, on December 29, 1935, on *Problems of American Archivists* has been published by the National Archives as number 4 of its *Publications* and number 2 of its *Bulletins* (1936. 10 p.).

The WPA historical records survey, sponsored by the society and directed by Mr. Ralph D. Brown, is the subject of an illustrated feature article by Jack Keefe in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for November 29. Some of the manuscripts, documents, and objects located by the survey staff are described.

#### ACCESSIONS

A photostatic copy of David Thompson's diary for 1822, describing a part of his surveying expedition for the international boundary commission, has been made for the society from the original in the possession of the department of public records and archives of the province of Ontario at Toronto. Thompson tells of the abandoned condition of Grand Portage, which he had visited on several former occasions during the heyday of this great depot of the fur trade.

A diary kept in 1831 and 1832 by Jeremiah Porter at Sault Ste. Marie, where he was serving as a missionary, has been copied for the society by the photostatic process from the original in the Chicago Historical Society. Among the people mentioned by Porter are William T. Boutwell and Henry R. Schoolcraft.

Diaries kept by Gideon H. Pond in 1836 and 1837 and in 1854 are among the Pond Papers copied recently for the society through the courtesy of Mrs. George A. Pond of St. Paul, who obtained the originals from members of the Pond family. In the earlier diary Pond presents a record of events at the Lac qui Parle mission; in the later one he tells of a trip to the East and of his marriage to Mrs. Agnes Hopkins. Twenty-two letters written by Gideon Pond between 1839 and 1872 and one written from Lake Harriet by Samuel W. Pond also have been copied. Diaries kept by the latter's daughter Jennette at the Shakopee mission from 1850 to 1856 have been received from Mrs. Pond.

Calendar cards for the report books of the commissioner of Indian affairs from 1838 to 1885, recently completed by Dr. Newton D. Mereness, agent at Washington for several midwestern historical societies, reveal that these volumes contain a wealth of information about the Minnesota Indians, particularly after 1849. Reservations, missions, education, scrip, agents, and land problems are among the subjects touched upon. Cards for the letter books of the Indian

office for 1861, also received recently, indicate that at this time the fur trade was still a flourishing business in some parts of Minnesota.

Transcripts and calendar cards for items of Minnesota interest in the *Boston Daily Journal* and other eastern periodicals from 1854 to 1858, made recently for the society from files in the Boston Public Library, contain references to the Spirit Lake massacre, the Minnesota constitutional convention, the grasshopper plague, investments in Minnesota lands by southern politicians, fires in St. Paul, plans for forming colonies of New Englanders to settle in Minnesota, Paul Kane's paintings of Indian life, James Tanner's trip to the East with a delegation of Chippewa Indians, the settlement of the St. Croix Valley, and other subjects.

Nineteen volumes of records of the First Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church of St. Paul, covering the period from 1854 to 1923, have been presented through the courtesy of the Reverend H. P. Archerd of St. Paul. Included are minutes of meetings of the church council and of quarterly conferences, treasurers' accounts, a record of baptisms and marriages performed between 1860 and 1885, minutes of meetings of the Sunday school board from 1894 to 1903 and of the Ladies' Aid Society from 1904 to 1912, and the records of an insurance society organized for the protection of the buildings of Swedish Methodist churches in the northwestern states. Many of the records are written in Swedish.

Twelve filing boxes and nine volumes of archives of Brooklyn Township, Hennepin County, for the period from 1858 to 1932 have been received through the courtesy of the town clerk, Mr. Otto Setzler.

A typed copy of a volume of minutes of meetings of the town council of Oneota from 1859 to 1861 has been presented by the Duluth Public Library, which owns the original. Oneota was annexed to Duluth in 1889.

A volume of "Morning Reports" of Company B of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War, giving the number and names of soldiers who were sick or detailed on extra duty and the movements of the company, has been presented by Mrs. Daisy Foster of Stillwater.

A filing box of papers collected by Judge William Lochren while he was preparing to write a history of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry has been presented by his widow, Mrs. Mary E. Lochren of Minneapolis. The collection includes a roster of the regiment, a copy of a diary kept by Patrick and Isaac Taylor of Company E, biographical sketches of Willis A. Gorman and George N. Morgan, and a letter from Colonel William Colvill.

A diary kept by Dolson B. Searle in June and July, 1870, in which he describes a trip through Kansas and Minnesota in search of land for investment and a place to begin a law practice, is the gift of Mr. John B. Pattison of St. Cloud. Searle bought land near St. Cloud in 1870 and began to practice law there in 1871.

Minutes of meetings of the United Presbyterian Church of Glendale from 1871 to 1895, records of baptisms, and financial accounts are included in two small volumes presented by Mrs. George Thompson of Shakopee.

The history of the Park Congregational Church of St. Paul from 1883 to 1913, when it was merged with the Plymouth Church, is reflected in three filing boxes of papers and four volumes that have been presented by Mr. C. D. Risser of St. Paul. The collection includes reports of officers and societies, records of membership, and treasurers' accounts. A volume of minutes of meetings from 1886 to 1905 of the St. Paul Congregational Union forms a part of the gift. This organization was composed of representatives from the various Congregational churches in St. Paul and was interested in home mission work in outlying sections of the city.

Two volumes of minutes of the Merriam Park Presbyterian Church of St. Paul from 1884 to 1923 have been presented through the courtesy of Mr. Elmer D. Allen of St. Paul.

Seven volumes of minutes of meetings and treasurers' records of the Minnetonka lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the period from 1889 to 1924 have been presented by that organization through the courtesy of the secretary, Mr. Henry Beinert of Excelsior.

In a lengthy and detailed autobiography presented by Mr. Thomas Pederson of Mildred, the writer describes pioneer life in La

Crosse County, Wisconsin, in the sixties, his experiences as a lumberjack in northern Wisconsin and as a homesteader in North Dakota in 1887, his activities as a farmer and a storekeeper at Hendrum and Randall in the eighties and nineties, the forest fire of 1894 in Morrison County, and many other events connected with the history of northern Minnesota.

Many facts about the early history of St. Anthony and Minneapolis, the lumber business, and steamboating above the Falls of St. Anthony are given in a stenographic record of a case tried before the United States land office at St. Cloud in 1904, presented by Myrom D. Taylor of Berkeley, California, a former register of the St. Cloud office. The case involved William Burfening's title to an island formed in the Mississippi River near the falls. Among the witnesses were Daniel Stanchfield, Simon Stevens, Henry E. McAllister, George E. Fuller, Joel B. Bassett, and other lumbermen, steamboat pilots, and early residents of Minneapolis.

Records of five Ramsey County school districts have been received through the courtesy of Messrs. Theodore Walters, George H. Nelson, Robert Hansen, Verney Peterson, and Henry Speiser. Some of the clerks' records date back to the eighties, but most of the material, which includes treasurers' accounts and attendance registers, is for the period from 1900 to the present.

A volume of minutes of meetings from 1908 to 1923 of the Farmers Club of Meeker County and its successor, the Litchfield Livestock Shipping Association, has been received from Mr. John Brandt of Minneapolis.

Nine filing boxes of papers and printed literature of the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association have been presented by the Minnesota League of Women Voters of Minneapolis. Correspondence for the years 1915 to 1919, copies of bills introduced in the Minnesota legislature granting women the right to vote for presidential electors, and petitions and resolutions sent to Minnesota legislators and United States senators urging the passage of the federal suffrage amendment are included.

Minutes of meetings of the St. Paul Municipal Chorus, programs of concerts that it gave, and clippings relating to its activities are to

be found in two bound volumes covering the period from 1920 to 1934, presented by Mr. Leopold Bruenner of St. Paul.

Ex-Governor Theodore Christianson has presented six filing boxes of his correspondence for the years from 1927 to 1930. Most of the letters deal with applications for positions and appointments. About forty items of miscellaneous correspondence for 1925 and 1926 also are included.

A roll book of officers and minutes of meetings from 1925 to 1929 of the Sons of Veterans' Auxiliary of Knute Nelson camp number 4 at Alexandria have been presented by Mrs. W. J. Hiland of St. Paul.

A box of correspondence for 1923 to 1935 of the Overseas Lunch Club of Minneapolis, an organization of former Y. M. C. A. secretaries who served in the World War, has been presented by Mr. Paul J. Thompson of Minneapolis. Included in the gift are some eighty letters written by Mr. Thompson to his family during the war, telling of his experiences as a Y. M. C. A. secretary in Italy.

Numerous items relating to the Norse-American centennial celebration in 1925 are to be found among the papers of Professor Gisle Bothne, which have been presented by his widow, a resident of Minneapolis. The collection includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, and articles on literary and historical subjects. Professor Bothne was head of the Scandinavian department in the University of Minnesota from 1907 to 1929.

Mrs. Margaret Ball Dickson of Staples has presented a filing box of letters that she received mainly from 1934 to 1936 as president of the League of Minnesota Poets and as editor of the *Country Bard*, relating to the compositions of modern poets in the United States, especially in Minnesota.

Some four hundred pioneers and early settlers in Stearns County have been interviewed by workers engaged in a WPA project in that county. Copies of the biographical sketches that have resulted from these interviews have been filed with the society.

*Eine Deputationsreise von Russland nach Amerika vor vierundzwanzig Jahren* is the title of a pamphlet by Leonhard Sudermann

(Elkhart, Indiana, 1897. 95 p.), a copy of which has been received from Bethel College in Kansas. The author describes a journey through the United States and Canada made in 1873 by twelve Russian Mennonite leaders who were searching for places in which members of their sect might settle. They spent six days in Minnesota. As a result of their reports several families settled in that state, and larger groups emigrated to Manitoba, Kansas, the Dakotas, and Nebraska.

A collection of thirty-two extremely rare Minnesota newspapers and one Wisconsin paper, all of which were published in the summer of 1857, have been received from Miss Emma Thompson of Hastings. The papers were among the items found in the cornerstone of Minnesota Central University at Hastings when the building was dismantled several years ago. Seven of them were not previously represented in the society's collections, and of fifteen more the society's files lacked the particular issues included in the gift. Among the rarest of the papers are issues of the *Oronoco Courier*, the *Shakopee Republican Advocate*, the *Lake City Tribune*, the *Olmsted Journal* of Rochester, and the *Northern Herald* of Little Falls.

Copies of two extra editions of the *Minneapolis Tribune* for November 7, 1918, containing the false announcement of the Armistice, have been received through the courtesy of Mr. Richard Sackett of Minneapolis. The society now has copies of all the extra numbers issued by St. Paul and Minneapolis newspapers on this occasion.

Seventy miscellaneous Philippine Island newspapers, published in 1899 while the Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was stationed at Manila, have been received from Mr. Emil J. Letourneau of St. Paul.

Fourteen vases of Favre glass, manufactured by Tiffany of New York, with a case in which to display them, have been presented by Mr. Frederic C. Miller of St. Paul, in memory of Mrs. Bertha R. Miller. Other gifts received from Mr. Miller include gowns, hats, a coat, and an embroidered silk and wool shawl, all dating from the period from 1886 to 1900.

An infant's walnut spool bed and a complete set of bedding are the gifts of Mrs. James B. Sutherland of Minneapolis. Other re-



cent additions to the domestic life collection include an eight-day clock manufactured about 1840, from Mrs. Albert Schuneman of St. Paul; a tea set of the sixties, from Mrs. L. A. Dinsmore of Minneapolis; and knives, forks, spoons, and a pewter ladle of the fifties, from Miss Florence Wales of Minneapolis. Dolls that date from the sixties have been presented by Mrs. E. W. Kingsley and Mrs. James B. Sutherland, both of Minneapolis.

Sixty badges and medals of the Grand Army of the Republic have been received from Mr. Rudolph A. Becker of Minneapolis. Mr. D. D. Smith of Portland, Oregon, has presented a dress coat that he wore as a sergeant in the Minnesota National Guard in 1880.

Pastel portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Hamm of St. Paul have been presented by Mrs. J. J. Flanagan of St. Paul, and oil portraits of Dr. and Mrs. Burleigh Smart and of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wenzell have been received from the estate of the late Henry B. Wenzell of Stillwater. About two hundred miscellaneous views of Minneapolis and an almost equal number of photographs of Minneapolis citizens have been presented by Mr. Donald K. Hudson of Minneapolis. Other additions to the picture collection include views of Ramsey State Park, from Mr. Julius Schmahl of St. Paul; of the home of Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh at Little Falls, from Mr. Ira C. Oehler of St. Paul; of the August Lindbergh home at Melrose, from Mrs. W. A. Butler of Minneapolis; and of American Fur Company buildings at Fond du Lac, from Mrs. George P. Douglas of Minneapolis.

Through an unfortunate error, the name of Winfield S. Garcelon of Gully, who presented a pair of spurs used in the Mexican War, was entered as "Winfield S. Varcelon" in the December issue of this magazine (see *ante*, 17: 471).

## NEWS AND COMMENT

Minnesota is one of six states, carved in whole or in part from the old Northwest Territory, which will participate in a great sesquicentennial celebration in 1937 and 1938 to commemorate the enactment of the Ordinance of 1787, the establishment of the territory, and its settlement. The celebration will open officially on July 13, 1937, in New York City, where the events leading up to the ordinance and its adoption by the Continental Congress will be depicted in pageant form. The westward movement of New Englanders into the new territory will be commemorated by a "Pioneer Party" that will travel from Ipswich, Massachusetts, to Marietta, Ohio, during the winter of 1937-38. It will be "composed of actors, trained, costumed and propertied" to enact a "pageant illustrating the events and adventure of the trip." This will be produced at stops made along the route and during a tour, which will occupy the summer and fall of 1938, through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. According to an announcement issued by the committee in charge of the Northwest Territory Celebration, "It is hoped to make the caravan and pageant the headline attraction of many local programs dealing with general State and local as well as Territorial history." For this purpose, in Minnesota, the co-operation of state, county, and community historical societies has been enlisted. The Minnesota Historical Society is co-operating also, in an advisory capacity, in the preparation of a great pictorial map of the Northwest Territory, which will depict the region from 1770 to 1800 and will "show how the United States came into possession of this region and how the several states were developed," and in the writing of an elementary textbook of some two hundred pages in which the history of the territory will be reviewed.

In his biennial message to the people of the state, President Coffman of the University of Minnesota quotes these words of Professor Gilbert Murray, the distinguished Oxford scholar: "A society without history cannot understand what it is doing; and history without scholarship cannot understand itself."

An *Atlas of American Agriculture*, prepared under the supervision of O. E. Baker, has been published by the United States department of agriculture (Washington, 1936). It includes sections on land relief, climate, soils, and natural vegetation, each of which is illustrated with detailed maps.

The excavation of a Mandan village site near Menoken, North Dakota, is described by Walter D. Powell in the *Minnesota Archaeologist* for October. He contends that this is the site of the village visited by La Vérendrye in 1738. A brief sketch of the explorer's life, by James F. Sutherland, and some extracts from his journal also appear in this issue of the *Archaeologist*.

The authenticity of the Kensington rune stone is accepted by Thomas P. Christensen in a recent book entitled *The Discovery and Re-Discovery of America* (133 p.). He asserts that the stone "bears a clear, unmistakable, and authentic message from the Norwegians and Swedes who in the year of our Lord 1362 penetrated North America as far as the sources of the Red River of the North."

"The Bell System Historical Museum," which was established in 1912 in New York City and now has on display a collection of nearly two thousand items of early telephone equipment and models of apparatus, is described by W. C. F. Farnell in an interesting article which appears in two installments in the *Bell Telephone Quarterly* for July and October. In addition to this collection there has grown up a historical library which "collects and preserves the important documents, pictures, and other historical and biographical material relative to the Bell System." The library collection, according to Mr. Farnell, "emphasizes the economics and personalities of telephony, while the Museum emphasizes the technical advances—the two supplementing each other."

Of Minnesota interest is a list of *References on the Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence Waterway Project* by Everett E. Edwards and Edith J. Lowe, which has been issued by the library of the United States department of agriculture as number 30 of its *Bibliographical Contributions* (1936. 185 p.). Number 29 in the same series is Mr. Edwards' list of *References on Agricultural Museums* (43 p.). Mention is made of a "Minnesota Museum for Agricultural His-

tory and Records" on the campus of the college of agriculture of the University of Minnesota.

Some additional "Letters of Dr. John McLoughlin" from the collection at McLoughlin House, Oregon City, Oregon, have been edited for publication by Jane Lewis Chapin and published in the December number of the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* (see *ante*, 17: 111, 444-447). Several of the newly published letters were written from Kaministiquia and Fort William between 1806 and 1810. A letter written to Dr. Simon Fraser on August 11, 1806, is of special interest for the light that it throws upon McLoughlin's interest in medicine. "My practice . . . has been very extensive this summer," he writes. "I would be much oblig'd if you saw or heard of any new publication worth studying that you would procure it for me and give to any safe person to give it to me, also if you would let me know of any new discovery in medicine you hear off." A "New Portrait of Dr. McLoughlin" from a daguerreotype probably made in the fifties is reproduced in this issue of the *Quarterly* with a note by T. C. Elliott.

A study of *Military Posts and Camps in Oklahoma* by William B. Morrison consists of a series of chronological narratives concerning some twenty-five or thirty forts, posts, and camps that were erected within the present borders of Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, Harlow Publishing Company, 1936. 180 p.). The situations that gave rise to the establishments are described, the chief persons are identified, the important events are narrated, and the decline or abandonment of the forts is explained. In his preface the author implies that his book presents "a fairly complete story of the state." While it does present many social and economic facts and many interesting episodes, the total picture of Oklahoma is neither clear nor symmetrical. The preparation of such a book doubtless involved a comprehensive knowledge, but even the careful reader of this volume will scarcely achieve any unified idea of the history of the state. The so-called bibliography is a list of authors and titles, the index is inadequate, and the pictures are not listed. The book is, however, beautifully printed, attractively bound, and comparatively free from typographical errors. The author has produced a creditable book out of rather unpromising, somewhat detached, and sometimes un-

wieldy material. It supplies valuable information for a comprehensive history that will some day be written concerning one of the most interesting of American commonwealths. EDGAR B. WESLEY

As an attractive supplement to its regular issue of September 22, 1936, the *Richland County Farmer-Globe* of Wahpeton, North Dakota, issued a collection of articles under the title of *Fort Abercrombie, 1862*. The supplement is well printed, and is fully illustrated with reproductions of interesting early sketches and photographs. The articles, most of which were written by Chester A. Gewalt of Breckenridge, make available a compact body of information on the history of the fort both during and after the Sioux Outbreak of 1862. Letters and reminiscences of pioneers make up a considerable part of the work; one of the letters was written by Governor Walter Welford of North Dakota. Besides information directly relating to the fort, there are other miscellaneous articles on exploration, farming, transportation, logging, journalism, and the like, with descriptions of various parks in the region, such as the Fort Abercrombie Park, Welles Memorial Park at Breckenridge, and Chahinkapa Park at Wahpeton. Historical sketches of Richland County, North Dakota, and Wilkin County, Minnesota, are included. Other items of special interest to Minnesotans are notes on the community at Georgetown, the Otter Tail basin lakes, and the expeditions of Henry H. Sibley. G. HUBERT SMITH

#### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

In the annual address presented before the Minnesota Historical Society in 1935, Dr. Albert Ernest Jenks gave considerable attention to the "Minnesota man," which was discovered near Pelican Rapids in 1931 (see *ante*, 16:5-7). To a detailed study of this primitive skeleton, he has now devoted an entire volume, which has been published by the University of Minnesota Press under the title *Pleistocene Man in Minnesota: A Fossil Homo Sapiens* (Minneapolis, 1936. 197 p.). A chapter on the "Pleistocene Geology of the Prairie Lake Region" is contributed by George A. Thiel. Among the subjects discussed by Dr. Jenks are the "History and Documentation of the Find and Site," the "Skeleton as a Whole," the "Cranium," the "Teeth," and "Artifacts and Minor Objects Found

with the Minnesota Skeleton." Eighty-nine photographs, maps, and diagrams illustrate the volume.

"A Brief History of the Curriculum in Minnesota" by Harold O. Soderquist is only one of the many valuable contributions to the history of education in the state which appear in the "Diamond Anniversary Edition" of the *Minnesota Journal of Education*, issued in November. He notes that the "first serious attempt at setting up a uniform course of study for the elementary grades was made in 1871 by Sanford Niles, County Superintendent of Schools of Olmsted County." In dealing with the "secondary curriculum," the author gives special attention to the influence of Dr. Folwell. "Changes in Student Marking" are traced by C. Robert Pace and Dale B. Harris; Edgar B. Wesley describes "Changes in Text-books," contrasting those used in 1861 with those of 1936; William Scanlon takes as his subject "Changes in Transportation" in relation to the development of consolidated schools. The Minnesota normal schools and their growth are the subject of an article by W. E. Peik entitled "An Historical Overview of the Education of Teachers in Minnesota"; and the "Story of Junior Colleges in Minnesota" is related by Royal R. Shumway. A detailed historical study of "Public School Support in Minnesota" is contributed by Fred Engelhardt and T. J. Berning; and J. P. Vaughan provides an outline of the "Accomplishments of the M. E. A.," which commemorates its seventy-fifth anniversary in the present publication. A list of "Presidents and Convention Dates, 1861-1936," of the Minnesota Education Association will be of value to those interested in its history. Important events in the history of education in the state are listed in a "Chronological Outline of the Development of Public Education in Minnesota, 1861-1936," prepared by Jean H. Alexander. A general statement about the progress of education since 1861 is made by M. E. Haggerty in an article entitled "The Way We Have Come."

The Minnesota territorial legislature is the subject of a feature article by Orlin Folwick entitled "When the Legislature Had No Dignity," which appears in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for November 29. Much space is given to the story of Joseph Rolette and the bill for the removal of the capital to St. Peter. The meeting of the first

territorial legislature in the Central House at St. Paul also is described.

"In the free-for-all days of non-regulated railroads, the farmer found himself the primary victim of extortionate and discriminatory rates. Primary source materials for the origins of the Populist Movement lie, I believe, in the rate tables of northwestern railroads." Thus writes Charles R. Walker in the first of three thoughtful articles on "Minneapolis" which appear in the *Survey Graphic* for October and November, 1936, and January, 1937. The economic "factors that built Minneapolis and underlie its present tensions" and social unrest are discussed in the opening article, which bears the subtitle "Jim Hill's Empire." The author shows the relationship of transportation developments to the growth of farm and labor organizations, of wheat and livestock products to the growth of co-operatives. He asserts that the "farm organizations and their policies have been shaped by the history of the Northwest," in which the parts played by lumber and iron are not neglected. Mr. Walker's second article describes Minneapolis as a "City of Tensions"; the third is devoted to "A Militant Trade Union," with special attention to recent strikes.

Another of the posthumous works of Oscar W. Firkins, for many years before his death in 1932 professor of comparative literature in the University of Minnesota, has been published by the University of Minnesota Press. Its title, *Power and Elusiveness in Shelley* (1937. 187 p.), indicates that, like several earlier volumes in the series, its interest is literary rather than historical. One, in which Firkins' *Memoirs and Letters* appear, is autobiographical in content (see *ante*, 15:451). All should, however, prove of interest to any biographer who undertakes to picture the career of this Minnesota critic, essayist, playwright, poet, and teacher. Another recent publication of the university press is *Shelley's Religion* by Ellsworth Barnard (1937. 320 p.).

The years that Homer Martin, the famous American landscape artist, spent in St. Paul and the work that he produced there are the subject of a brief article by Elizabeth Riese in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 13. The writer notes that one of Martin's sketches is owned by the Visitation Convent in St. Paul.

A volume entitled *J. Arthur Harris, Botanist and Biometrician* recently issued by the University of Minnesota Press (Minneapolis, 1936) deals with the career of a man who served as head of the department of botany in the University of Minnesota from 1924 to 1930. It includes chapters on "Harris the Man" by Ross A. Gortner, on "Harris the Botanist" by C. Otto Rosendahl, and on "Harris the Biometrician" by Alan E. Treloar, and selected writings by Professor Harris in each of his special fields.

Descriptions of "Minnesota Christmases" found by Sister Grace McDonald in letters and narratives of Catholic pioneers are quoted in an article that she contributes to the *Wanderer* of St. Paul for December 17. She describes the ceremonies that marked the day for Father Francis de Vivaldi at Long Prairie in 1861, for Mrs. Julia Wood at Sauk Rapids in the same year, and for two nuns on the White Earth reservation in 1888.

Excavations made at Fort Ridgely by the WPA in co-operation with the Minnesota Historical Society are described by Jack Keefe in an illustrated article in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for December 27. Records preserved by the society are drawn upon for an account of the part that the fort played in the Sioux War of 1862. Among the illustrations are a picture of the fort in the early sixties and views of foundation walls and fireplaces unearthed in the course of the excavations.

A study of *Thirty-six Years of Weather in the Red River Valley* by R. S. Dunham has been published by the Northwest School and Experiment Station of the University of Minnesota as volume 29, number 6, of its *Bulletins* (1936. 23 p.). From an examination of weather records kept by the Northwest School at Crookston, Mr. Dunham is able to make general statements about seasonal extremes, precipitation, temperatures, wind, and the like in a section of western Minnesota.

Criticism of the historical markers erected on Minnesota trunk highways because "one cannot stop in safety to read the inscription, and the letters are too small to read while passing by at moderate speed" is expressed in an editorial on "Making Historical Markers of Value," which appears in the *St. Cloud Daily Times* for Novem-



ber 24. "Markers should be of everlasting granite" and they should be "given wayside settings where they can be seen and read, without the danger that now is an element if one stops to read those close to the highway," according to the editorial. If markers are worth while, it continues, they should be placed "so they can be read. If all these markers were given shrine settings a few rods from the highway, they would serve a useful purpose where they are now of very little value."

A pictorial map of Mendota and its vicinity, prepared by Nadine E. Semans, has been published by the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution. On it are illustrated the Sibley House, the Faribault House, and other structures at Mendota and Fort Snelling.

Under the title "A Shrine at Old Fort Snelling," Katherine L. Smith tells something of the backgrounds of this early Minnesota fort in the *New York Times* for November 29. She announces that a "national cemetery will be created at this historic spot at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers near St. Paul and Minneapolis."

#### LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The history of the district court of Anoka County was reviewed by Mr. Theodore A. E. Nelson in a paper presented before a meeting of the Anoka County Historical Society on October 12. Mr. Nelson, who is clerk of court, made a study of early records preserved in his office when assembling material for his paper. It is published in full in the *Anoka Herald* for October 28.

At the annual meeting of the Becker County Historical Society, which was held at Detroit Lakes on October 12, the following officers were elected: Walter D. Bird, president; Dr. L. V. Long, vice president; Dan Nelson, secretary; and Carl Hansen, treasurer. Mr. Bird described Indian life in Becker County at a meeting of the society held on December 14.

Plans for a fireproof building in Sibley State Park in which the collections of the Blue Earth County Historical Society might be housed are announced in the *Mankato Free Press* for November 16. A picture of the proposed building appears in the same issue.

Some recent finds made by Mr. Fred W. Johnson of New Ulm, president of the Brown County Historical Society, are described in the *Brown County Journal* of New Ulm for December 18. Among them are a dozen copies of the *Turn-Zeitung*, a Philadelphia newspaper of 1855, "containing all the articles and official announcements constituting the background of the Turner Colonization society, the organization which figured so prominently in the founding of New Ulm."

The Cass Lake Historical Society, which will specialize in the history of the Chippewa Indians, was organized in the village of Cass Lake on December 18. Mr. P. M. Larson was named president, and Mr. A. G. Swindlehurst, secretary.

"A membership of five hundred before the April meeting" is the goal set by the Clay County Historical Society in a recent membership campaign. Printed invitations describing the activities of the society and its museum collection have been sent to people throughout the county, with an enclosure containing a membership application blank.

A large collection of Indian clothing, bead work, saddles, implements, and the like has been added to the museum collection of the Clay County Historical Society by Congressman U. L. Burdick of Fargo. It is described in an article in the *Moorhead Daily News* for October 10. According to a recent report of this museum, 1,635 objects are now included in its collection. In addition to Indian articles, it has on display utensils used by pioneer Scandinavian settlers, a post office from the Hudson's Bay Company post at Georgetown, a loom, a rope bed, Civil War relics, some issues of an early Red River Valley newspaper, and many other items. Nearly six hundred names have been entered in the visitors' register.

Mr. John C. Mills was named president of the Fillmore County Historical Society at a meeting of its executive board on October 9 at Preston. Other officers elected were J. C. White, vice president; Mrs. P. L. Wilson, secretary; and Mrs. John Galligan, treasurer. At a special meeting held at Harmony on November 12, the announcement was made that more than a hundred members had enrolled in the society.

Plans for a joint meeting and picnic to be held by the Marshall County Historical Society and the local old settlers' association during the summer of 1937 near Stephen were made at a meeting of the society held on November 23 at Warren. Judge Bernard B. Brett was re-elected president of the society, and Nils Malm was named vice president, Mrs. Synneva Strunk, secretary, and Mrs. H. I. Yetter, treasurer.

A membership campaign was planned by the officers of the Nobles County Historical Society at a special meeting held at Worthington on October 3. Miss Margaret Brooks, Wallace Saxon, and Henry M. Anderson were named to serve on a membership committee. An appeal for new members, signed by Miss Julia Hyland, the secretary, appears in the *Worthington Globe* for October 5.

An interesting letter from Mrs. Caroline Nygren Holl, who in 1890 was elected superintendent of schools in Otter Tail County, was read by Judge Anton Thompson at a meeting of the Otter Tail County Historical Society at Fergus Falls on November 7. Included on the program also were reminiscent talks by Mrs. Cora Frazee, S. Newton Putnam, and Colvin G. Butler, and a review of the early history of Battle Lake and Amor Township by Mr. F. J. A. Larson. Mrs. Holl's letter, in which she tells of her election on a Prohibition ticket and describes some of her experiences while holding office, appears in full in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for November 7. Mr. Butler's narrative, in which he tells of his father's emigration from England and settlement at Perham, appears in the *Journal* for November 13; in the issue for November 30 is Mr. Putnam's account of pioneer life in Amor Township.

At a meeting of the Polk County Historical Society at Crookston on October 21, Judge Nels B. Hansen was elected president, Hjalmer Erikson, vice president, and John Saugstad, secretary and treasurer.

The work of the Pope County Historical Society in co-operation with the local WPA is endorsed by Hilberg Peterson, county superintendent of schools, in a letter published in the *Glenwood Herald* for December 17 and the *Pope County Tribune* for December 24. "The Historical Society of Pope County," writes Mr. Peterson, "de-

serves our wholehearted co-operation in its efforts to gather and compile a historical record of the institutions of the county from the time the county was first organized." He urges district school officers to turn their records over to the historical society for permanent preservation.

Professor C. A. Duniway of Carleton College was re-elected president of the Rice County Historical Society at a meeting held at Faribault on October 19. His present term marks his tenth year as the leader of this active local historical society. A paper on "Early Railroads in Rice County," presented in connection with the meeting by N. M. Pletcher of Northfield, appears in the *Faribault Daily News* for October 20 and the *Northfield News* for October 30.

All the officers of the Stearns County Historical Society were re-elected at a meeting held at St. Cloud on November 21. Miss Marjory Carter presented a report on the historical records survey that is in progress in Stearns County.

A history of the Lake City Baptist church was read by Miss Marian Nordine at a meeting of the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society held at Lake City on October 13. The officers of the society were re-elected.

Members of the Washington County Historical Society, meeting at Stillwater on October 5, elected the following officers: Chester S. Wilson, president; Mrs. Daisy Foster, first vice president; Mrs. George Supple, second vice president; E. L. Roney, secretary; and Grace Mosier, treasurer.

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the state historical society, was the speaker at a meeting of the Watonwan County Historical Society at St. James on November 19. He took as his subject the value of the local historical society to the community. At the annual meeting of the society on December 10, George Hage was elected president; Mrs. Will Curtis, vice president; J. E. Setrum, secretary; and E. C. Farmer, treasurer.

A collection of pioneer objects assembled in the locality was placed on display at the annual meeting of the Wilkin County Historical Society, which was held at Breckenridge on December 15. The fol-

lowing officers were elected: H. L. Shirley, president; Burt Huse, vice president; C. E. Holmgren, secretary; and C. A. Gewalt, treasurer.

Mr. Homer Goss of Lewiston was elected president of the Winona County Historical Society at its annual meeting, held at Winona on November 28. Other officers elected include Dr. R. B. LeMay of Homer, vice president; Miss Caroline V. Smith of Winona, secretary; and Miss Luella Guidinger of Rollingstone, treasurer.

#### LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

A deer hunt near Anoka in 1868 is recalled by the Reverend J. B. Tuttle, a pioneer Baptist clergyman, in an article found among his papers by his son, Mr. Fred C. Tuttle of Cincinnati, and published in installments in the *Anoka Herald* beginning on December 30.

Brief historical sketches of Becker County townships have been appearing in the *Detroit Lakes Tribune* under the title "Turning Back the Pages in Becker County History." In each case the date of organization of the township, its first officers, the names of some early settlers, the beginning of schools, and the origin of the name are given.

Pioneer life in Beltrami County in the years that followed the turn of the century is described vividly by R. A. Hanna of Bemidji in an article which appears in the *Farmers Independent* of Bagley for December 24. Logging operations, wild life and game, and social activities in the frontier community are described. An account by J. C. McGhee of the organization of the Odd Fellows lodge at Bemidji in 1899 appears in the *Bemidji Daily Pioneer* for December 10 and the *Bemidji Sentinel* for December 18.

When the Mankato Normal School was established in 1868 each student who enrolled was requested to bring with him "a Bible, a dictionary, and any textbooks that he might possess." This information is given by Marcella Nutting and Robert Blake in an interesting account of the early history of the school which appears in the *Mankato Free Press* for November 14.

The history of the New Ulm Turnverein is traced back to the early months of 1856, when a group of German residents of Cin-

cinnati decided to "leave their homes in the east and strike out into the little known wilds of Minnesota to found a colony for Turners," in a feature article which appears in the *New Ulm Review* for November 12. The narrative commemorates the eightieth anniversary of the organization, which was marked by its present members on November 15. "In the shade of a huge cottonwood tree . . . thirteen young charter members made plans for the organization" on November 11, 1856, according to this account. The names of the charter members are listed and photographs of four of them appear with the article. Among the illustrations also are pictures of the Turner halls built in 1865 and in 1901.

Several articles in the *Weekly Valley Herald* of Chaska for October 1 call attention to the fact that the paper "is seventy-five years old today." In one are noted the beginning of regular publication by Charles Warner in 1861, earlier newspapers published at Chaska, and the names of the owners of the *Herald*; in another the career of Frederick E. DuToit, who published the paper for fifty-seven years, is outlined.

The *Walker Pilot* is conducting an "Old-Timer's Department," in which appear the narratives of early settlers in the Northwest. Contributors are invited to furnish information about the details of pioneer life, telling what they ate, where they obtained supplies, how they made or obtained clothing, how their houses were constructed, and the like. The first contributor, Mr. Thomas Pederson of Mildred, sets an example for those who may in the future submit their reminiscences. The early installments of his "Memoirs," which begin in the *Pilot* for October 9, deal with pioneer conditions in western Wisconsin, where he was born and where his parents settled after emigrating from Norway. Food, clothing, farm implements, schools, amusements, and holiday celebrations are described in detail. In the eighties the writer went into North Dakota where he lived for a time near Devil's Lake. Mr. Pederson's narrative appears also in the *Cass County Independent* of Hackensack. The author has presented a copy of his manuscript to the Minnesota Historical Society (see *ante*, p. 96).

The founding at Montevideo of the Western Minnesota Seminary, which became the Windom Institute, is described by Mr. C. W.

Headley, who was appointed superintendent of the school in 1889, in a letter published in the *Montevideo News* for December 4. Mr. Headley recalls that he found the buildings incomplete and that with the aid of some of his pupils he "completed the barn, the drainage system, the bridge and the cisterns as well as many other undertakings."

The Spring Lake mill, the Gardner mill at Hastings, the Ramsey mill on the Vermillion River, the Stanton mill on the Cannon River, and several other "Old Mills of Dakota County" are described by W. E. Harrington in the *Hastings Gazette* for November 27. In the same issue is an article about the early Vermillion River mill from which developed the present King Midas Mill of Hastings. An interesting early picture of this mill accompanies the article. A related industry at Hastings, a cooper shop in which "about 225 barrels a day were completed by the force when business was rushing," is the subject of a detailed narrative in the *Gazette* for December 4. A view of the shop and of its employees, taken about 1880, appears with the article.

The history of a Fillmore County Norwegian settlement, that at North Prairie, is reflected in the story of the local Lutheran church as told by S. T. Severtson in a recent *Eightieth Anniversary Year Book* (1936. 32 p.). According to this writer the history of the congregation can be traced back to 1856, when the Reverend U. V. Koren visited North Prairie and "conducted services, baptized children, administered Communion and performed marriages." From the earliest records of the congregation, which are dated September, 1856, the author takes the names of children baptized and couples married by this visiting pastor. The building of churches, the coming and going of ministers, and the growth of the congregation are described. Special sections are devoted to such subjects as the parochial school, the Sunday school, church organizations, and the cemetery association.

A brief outline of the history of the *Chatfield News* appears in the issue for December 31 to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the founding of the paper.

A biographical sketch of "Francis Hall, Albert Lea's First Mayor" by L. W. Spicer appears in the *Evening Tribune* of Albert

Lea for December 15. The sketch was read by Mr. Spicer before the city council of Albert Lea in connection with the presentation to the city of a portrait of Hall. Some interesting items relating to Hall's activities as a pioneer merchant in the late fifties and early sixties seem to be based upon his business papers. His Civil War service, his election as mayor in 1878, and his activities as a hotel owner and a banker also are described.

The value of church archives for the historian is aptly illustrated in a pamphlet entitled *The First Congregational Church of Minneapolis: A Retrospect of Eighty Years* (Minneapolis, 1936. 29 p.), in which is published an address delivered on November 16, 1931, by Dean Guy Stanton Ford of the graduate school of the University of Minnesota. The occasion for its original preparation was an eightieth anniversary celebration. The address opens with a "tribute to those who in the past have so faithfully kept the records of the church," and special mention is made of the first pastor, the Reverend Charles Seccombe. "Week by week, even day by day, Father Seccombe faithfully and carefully made minutes of the church's history during its first fifteen years," writes Dean Ford. "In this and the records faithfully kept through the following years by the clerks of the church and of the Society, the historian has a rather exceptional body of material recording the regular life and development of the church." An example of Father Seccombe's record is his entry for December 7, 1851: "The First Congregational Church commenced worshipping by themselves for the first time today, in the school-room of the University, for the use of which they are to pay \$1.00 per week." Among the church archives examined by Dean Ford was a volume of the "minutes of the Ladies Benevolent Society from 1860 on," in which he found a "record of all-day meetings, of quilting bees, thimble bees, oyster suppers, and husking bees, of buying church carpets, of underwriting church contributions by what their own scribe calls 'the hard earned dollars the ladies gathered in.'" The roll of members stimulated the imagination of the writer, for upon turning the pages he often found recorded "first admission to the church and then forty years later, perhaps, death; first membership, and then letters of dismissal to all parts of the United States; first the whole family coming in—father, mother, children—and later the baptism of a baby," and then later "marriages and departures



from that same family east and west, north and south." Dean Ford concludes that "If one could follow and summarize all that lies behind the names that are entered on these records, he would have in biographical form much of the history not only of Minneapolis but of the state of Minnesota and the Northwest."

Lists of teachers in and graduates from the Heron Lake public schools are among the items relating to the history of education in this Jackson County community which appear in the *Heron Lake News* for December 3. The sum of \$325.00 was appropriated for school purposes in 1879 according to the minutes of the local school board, which form the basis for an article on the early history of the schools. Some reminiscences of Mr. John Tollefson, custodian of the public school property for more than thirty years, also are presented.

The steps by which Hutchinson obtained its first railroad connections with the outside world are explained by Gerald White in the *Hutchinson Leader* for October 16. He relates that the Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific road completed its line to Hutchinson in the autumn of 1886. It is interesting to note that the author's chief source of information was a minute book of the town board, which was obtained from the present town clerk by Mr. S. S. Beach, president of the Hutchinson Historical Society.

The mill at Stewartville, which marked the beginning of the village when it was established there by Charles Stewart in 1858, is the subject of an article by C. A. Duncanson in the *Stewartville Star* for December 10. The mill was originally established at High Forest, but Stewart soon moved his equipment to the site of Stewartville. Mr. Duncanson gives an interesting description of the mill equipment and of the methods by which it was operated.

How a stone barnyard enclosure built by William Buck on his farm at High Forest was used as a place of refuge by his Olmsted County neighbors during the Sioux Outbreak of 1862 is related in the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* for November 2. Buck came from Illinois in a covered wagon to settle in Olmsted County in 1855.

"Crookston in 1879" is vividly pictured by William A. Marin in the first installment of a narrative of pioneer life in northwestern

Minnesota which appears in the *Polk County Leader* of Crookston for December 10. "The streets had not been graded nor had the grub holes been filled" when Mr. Marin arrived to make his home in the new settlement. The four streets of the town were "surrounded by heavy woods," he relates, and "large oaks and elms were standing high above the low frame buildings so that the town appeared to be hiding itself in the jungle as if ashamed of its cheapness and its newness."

The presentation to the historical museum conducted by the Rochester Business and Professional Women's Club of the register of the Medary House, an early Rochester hotel, for 1884 and 1885 is announced in the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* for December 1.

The history of the Otter Tail Lake region from the days when the native red men roamed over it, through the period of exploration and the fur trade, to the era of settlement is traced by C. R. Wright in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for November 4. He tells something of the townsites, such as Otter Tail City, Marion, Dayton Hollow, and Fergus Falls, which attracted speculators in the sixties. Mr. Wright also is the author of a "History of the Otter Tail County Fair," which appears in the *Journal* for November 9. In the issue for November 23 is an interesting article about game and hunting in frontier Otter Tail County. According to this account a party of hunters from Fergus Falls returned with more than ten thousand wild geese, ducks, and prairie chickens in 1874, and a lone hunter from Pelican Rapids bagged nine deer in three days in 1878. In the same issue is an account of pioneer industries in Fergus Falls.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Church of St. Matthew of St. Paul, which was celebrated on October 11, is commemorated in a *Golden Jubilee* pamphlet issued for the occasion (80 p.). It includes a history of the church and parish, in which the story is told of their founding in 1886 to meet the needs of a growing German Catholic group living in the West Side district of St. Paul. The fiftieth anniversary on October 18 of another Catholic congregation of St. Paul, St. John's Church in the Dayton's Bluff district, was marked by the publication of a *Historical Souvenir* (80 p.).

That the idea of developing and beautifying Third Street in St. Paul was suggested as early as 1850 by E. S. Seymour in his *Sketches of Minnesota* is brought out in an article on Kellogg Boulevard in the *St. Paul Daily News* for December 16. The pioneer author expressed regret, in writing of St. Paul, "that the land on the edge of the bluff, in the center of the town, was not left open to the public instead of being cut into small lots." The steps by which the modern improvement of the street was brought about also are traced.

The St. Paul winter sports carnivals of the late eighties and of 1916 and 1917 are recalled in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 27. Some scenes from the carnival of 1887, including a view of the ice palace, appear with the article.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Hendricks School of St. Paul, which was observed on October 15 and 16, is the occasion for the publication of an article about its history in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 11.

"Rice County and the Sunday School Movement" is the title of an article by Neva Foster which appears in the *Faribault Daily News* for October 21. She reveals that Rice County was represented by Moses Cole of the Baptist Sunday school of Faribault when the Minnesota State Sabbath School Association was organized in 1859; and she describes the state convention held at Faribault in 1868 at which Dwight Moody appeared as a speaker.

The flour mill built at Dundas in the late fifties was used as a church "whenever a travelling minister could be found," according to Mrs. William D. Taylor, whose brief "Church History in Dundas" appears in a pamphlet about the Holy Cross Protestant Episcopal Church at Dundas published in September, 1936. Of interest also is an "inventory of graves in Holy Cross churchyard."

That the first school at Walnut Grove was opened in 1873 by Lafayette Bedal, who "taught his classes in his own home," is brought out in a history of the local school district which appears in the *Walnut Grove Tribune* for November 12. The growth of the school from the original class of fifteen pupils, is traced and the various buildings that it has occupied are described.

Miss Gertrude Gove's detailed history of St. Cloud during the Civil War period has attained impressive proportions, for installments of its eleven chapters appear in the *St. Cloud Daily Times and Journal Press* from September 30 to November 28 (see *ante*, 17: 489). The author pictures the growth of the town's business district, the development of courts and judicial business, the establishment of churches and schools, the participation of St. Cloud citizens in the Civil War, the effect of the Sioux War upon the community, and many other phases of local life and growth that one expects to find in a community history. But Miss Gove goes much farther. She shows how Civil War issues were reflected in proslavery and antislavery groups, working the story of the rivalry of Mrs. Swisshelm and S. B. Lowry into her narrative. She tells of the development of the city as a distributing center, and she explains how the Red River traffic influenced that development. Her pictures of social life and conditions are detailed and excellent, including discussions of such subjects as homes, architecture, furniture, and amusements. The narrative is well worth publication in book form.

Historical sketches of "Stearns County Churches" prepared by C. S. Wright as part of his work as county supervisor of the Minnesota historical records survey have been appearing in the *Melrose Beacon* since November 19. Among the subjects of sketches are churches in Melrose, St. Cloud, Richmond, and Sauk Center. Some of the articles have appeared also in the *St. Cloud Sentinel*. During October the latter paper published four articles on "Stearns County Pioneers" by the directors of the Stearns County museum project. They deal in general terms with such subjects as prices, food, social life, wages, and industries.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Minnesota State Public School at Owatonna was marked by a three-day celebration on October 28, 29, and 30. A feature of the first day's program was the presentation of a history of the school by Mr. H. J. Jager of Owatonna, who served on the staff of the school for more than thirty-six years. His historical review was followed by a tribute to Galen A. Merrill, who was superintendent of the school from the day of its founding in 1886 until his death in 1934. Mr. Jager's paper appears in two parts in the *Daily People's Press* of Owatonna for November 3 and

4. A program published by the school includes brief sketches of its history and of Merrill's contributions to its progress.

An interview with Mr. H. B. Thornton of Chicago, which appears in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for November 28, is an interesting and valuable addition to the record of communication in Minnesota. Mr. Thornton became manager of the Northwestern Telegraph Company's Winona office in 1872 and he served under this firm and later under the Western Union until 1913. He recalls that when he went to Winona it "was the nerve center of the Northwest." A railroad disaster of 1871 at Winona is the subject of an article in the *Republican-Herald* for December 21. It deals with the collapse of a railroad drawbridge across the Mississippi on May 27, two days after it had been opened to traffic.

As the feature of a celebration marking the eightieth anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Winona on October 13, Mrs. James D. McMartin presented a review of the history of the church and the parish. Her paper, in which she describes the organization of the church by fifteen pioneers on August 31, 1856, appears in full in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for October 14.

Several articles in the *Wright County Journal-Press* of Buffalo for December 10 call attention to the fact that this issue marks the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the paper. Some reminiscences of pioneers, a brief account of early schools, and a facsimile reproduction of an early issue of the *Buffalo Journal* appear in this number.

The sixty-fifth anniversary of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Wood Lake, which was celebrated by members of the congregation on November 1, was marked also by the publication of a pamphlet in which the history of the church is outlined by Charles F. Hall. An account of the Sunday school is furnished by Frank L. Swan, and Mrs. Harry Payne recounts the "History of the M. E. Ladies Aid Society of Wood Lake."



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