

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

American City: A Rank-and-File History. By CHARLES RUMFORD WALKER. (New York, Farrar & Rinehart, Incorporated, 1937. xvii, 278 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

So this is Minneapolis! More yet it is by title the "rank-and-file history" of an American city. It is neither, but don't blame the author, nor think the book less worth reading, especially if you live in Minneapolis or Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, or any major city on the Pacific coast. Mr. Walker wrote three vigorous articles on labor strife in Minneapolis for the *Survey Graphic*. They were good reporting in the best tradition of Lincoln Steffens and that is high praise. With supplementary material these articles deserved being put in covers. But the publishers were selling a book and it is fair to presume that they supplied the title, and bulked into 275 pages material that will not take an evening to read. But it will be an evening well spent.

The heart of the book is the story of the labor war in Minneapolis from 1934 to 1936 and it was a war with all the accompaniments of skirmishes, strategy, staff stupidity, open battle, dead and wounded, and treaties that apparently settled nothing to the complete satisfaction of all contenders and that might easily have been agreements signed by statesmen before hostilities broke out. The two belligerents are Truck Drivers Union No. 574 and the labor-baiting, open-shop organization, the Citizens' Alliance. The author leaves you in no doubt as to which in his opinion was in the right. He is for Vince Dunne and the truck drivers. It is from this standpoint also that he presents the role played by Governor Floyd Olson, Mayor Latimer, the intransigent Communists, the conservative American Federation of Labor, the Minneapolis dailies, the background figures of the empire builders typified in James J. Hill, the state defense council of 1917-18, and the leaders of agrarian revolt from Ignatius Donnelly to Townley and Congressman Lindbergh.

The whole story is dramatically told. It moves swiftly through the five brief introductory chapters that sketch the dominance of the empire builders and the growing unrest first of the farmers and then

of urban laborers, each beaten and baffled in their efforts to wring security from a political and social order that seemed to yield power and wealth to those who exploited the mines and forests and controlled railroads, banks, industries, and the grain trade. The sketch is impressionistic rather than historical. There are gaps and minor errors, but after all it adds up to an explanation of the Farmer-Labor party with a leader in Floyd Olson who was more significant than the party in winning victories after 1930.

Turning sharply to Minneapolis in 1934, the author sets the stage for the struggle any objective observer could see years before was inevitable. No matter what later and more dispassionate historians leave in the record, they will not be able to expunge these bloody and shameful pages from the city's history. The interpretation of the leader of the Citizens' Alliance is eminently fair and may well stand together with its background of the industrialists, good and bad, who grouped themselves behind him for the "American principle,"—the open shop. They are the proponents of a dying and distorted interpretation of democracy and, in Mr. Walker's well-documented opinion, represent a city that has no great industrial future. That hardly justifies his idealizing Vince Dunne and local 574. With no sympathetic foresight among employers, they became the inevitable leaders and the voice of labor in one of its most exploited fields. The tragedy is that a new day in employer-labor relations broke through the smoke of battle. The one person who saw most clearly the rights and wrongs and acted vigorously in a difficult political and economic crisis was Governor Floyd Olson. Mr. Walker does him less than justice. The cultural and educational activities that would have rounded out any rank and file history of Minneapolis are dismissed in a page or two. In other pages there are vague allusions to some kind of proletarian culture that is on the way.

The bibliography is sketchy and omits the three most helpful items: Hick's *Populist Revolt*, Blegen's syllabus of Minnesota history, and the article by Henry Bellows in the *Review of Reviews* for July, 1928.

The book will not make any group quite happy, therefore it ought to be read by all for the sake of what it says not about the other fellow, but about them.

GUY STANTON FORD

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

Prairie du Chien: French, British, American. By PETER LAWRENCE SCANLAN, M.D. (N.p., 1937. xiii, 258 p. \$2.50.)

There are few cities in the United States of such a distinctive flavor as Prairie du Chien. Even its name is unusual, mispronounced daily though it be. To explain its distinctiveness is to recount the history of the upper Mississippi Valley for at least two hundred and fifty years. That is the task which Dr. Scanlan has set for himself in a small volume, whose printing and format are a delight to the reader.

The book is composed of two parts, divided by the year 1800, and preceded by an introduction written by Dr. Louise Phelps Kellogg and a foreword by the author. The profuse annotation, the bibliography, and the index are all in the best historical tradition, though the *Galena Gazette* is listed without indication of the date of founding or of the present location of a file. The author has used both printed and manuscript material in many libraries and private collections. In fact, the book is good proof of what the untrained layman, with keen interest and powers of observation, can accomplish in the way of producing a scholarly treatise.

Genealogists will find the lists of explorers and traders of great value, but the average reader will probably pass up such a chapter as that entitled "The Cardinals," which lists in detail the members of an important voyageur family in Canada and at Prairie du Chien without, however, making a single individual come to life. Indeed, it may be charged against the author that his chief concern throughout the book tends to be genealogical and chronological, rather than truly historical.

Since Prairie du Chien's story is interwoven inseparably with Minnesota's, it is not strange to find the volume full of information about such figures in Minnesota history as James Aird, Thomas G. Anderson, Alfred Brunson, the Campbells (Scott, Colin, and Duncan), Jonathan Carver, Ramsay Crooks, Robert Dickson and his son William, Hercules Dousman, Du Lhut, Jean Baptiste Faribault, Henry Monroe Fisher, Duncan Graham, Rene Godefroy de Linctot, the Marins (Claude, Pierre Paul, and Joseph), John Marsh, Nicolas Perrot, Samuel Peters, Peter Pond, the Rocques (Joseph and Augustin), Joseph Rolette, Lord Selkirk, Henry H. Sibley, and Samuel Stambaugh.

The author has not told Carver's story well; in fact, he appears to be under a misconception concerning Robert Rogers' plans for Carver's expedition. Robert Dickson is referred to on page 75 as "a Chippewa interpreter," a phrase that will surely mislead some unwary reader into believing that the Scotsman had Indian blood in his veins. Moreover, Dr. Scanlan makes Prairie du Chien the residence of Robert Dickson, though the latter's biographer, Dr. Louis A. Tohill, places the residence in the Sioux country near Lake Traverse. This biography, by the way, is not cited, nor is the article on Dickson in the *Dictionary of American Biography*. Tilton and Company on page 105 should surely be Tilton and Company, and there should be no s on William A. Aitken's name (page 109).

Relatively more attention is given to the fur-trading period than to later years, though military affairs and the forts erected at Prairie du Chien are emphasized in two chapters. "Civilian Affairs" in two chapters and a very short chapter on "Indian Councils and Treaties" account for other phases of the settlement's life between 1800 and the Civil War. The author, believing that the events of the period since the Civil War "are scarcely history as yet," devotes only a page and a half to the past seventy-five years. Surely he must be persuaded to revise that opinion and bring his story of Prairie du Chien, so admirably begun, quite up to date.

GRACE LEE NUTE

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

Military Affairs in North America, 1748-1765: Selected Documents from the Cumberland Papers in Windsor Castle. Edited by STANLEY PARGELLIS, assistant professor of history in Yale University. (New York and London, D. Appleton-Century Company, 1936. xxxi, 514 p. Maps. \$8.00.)

These documents will be of prime interest to the military historian, for they do more than illustrate the strategy of the war that ended French power in North America. They illuminate it. They are chosen from the valuable collection made by the Duke of Cumberland who, as head of the British army, deserves more credit than he has commonly received. The editor says that he has omitted no important paper that might throw light upon such questions as whether

the strategy of the successive campaigns was best designed to achieve its ends and how far the execution was faulty. The short introductory essay provides an excellent background for the study of these documents, for it contains a penetrating analysis of fundamental conditions. Though most of the items here published bear upon the problem of strategy in the Seven Years' War on this continent, others have to do with other matters, for the editor felt moved to include everything of any value to the historian. Among these are several of more particular interest to students of the upper Mississippi region. They discuss the policy of maintaining interior posts, and were written at the time of Pontiac's revolt. Captain Harry Gordon, an engineer who served under Braddock and Forbes, would have kept only a few posts to secure and to be secured by communication over the Great Lakes. Colonel William Eyre, chief engineer in America, urged a general withdrawal because the posts had lost their value when Britain got the whole country. In the event of trouble with the Indians, they could easily be brought to time by cutting off the supply of arms and ammunition without which they could no longer live.

A. L. BURT

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

Solon Robinson, Pioneer and Agriculturist: Selected Writings, vol. 2, 1846-1851 (*Indiana Historical Collections*, vol. 22). Edited by HERBERT A. KELLAR, director, McCormick Historical Association. (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Bureau, 1936. xvii, 556 p. Illustrations. \$2.00.)

The review of volume 1 of this work in MINNESOTA HISTORY for September, 1936, delineated the place of Solon Robinson in American agricultural history and emphasized the value of his writings as a historical source. The careful and thoughtful editing, commented on with reference to the first volume, has been continued in the second. In addition, the readers are provided with a classified bibliography of the historical materials relating to Robinson's career.

Like its predecessor, volume 2 encompasses a vast array of topics. Its most valuable items are the reports which Robinson made to the *American Agriculturist* of his observations during agricultural tours

of Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, the lower South and the Atlantic seaboard states from 1848 to 1851. His "Lecture upon the Early History of Lake Co., Ind.," consisting of recollections and observations on the genesis of this western county in the thirties and forties, constitutes an informing record of the pioneer period of the Middle West.

The reviews of various numbers of the *American Agriculturist*, prepared for that publication during 1846 and 1847, show the breadth of Robinson's interests. With ability and ease, he gave his views on the French mode of making apple butter, the importation of Merino sheep, patent fences, animal diseases, the use of gypsum, the repeal of the British corn laws, southern agriculture, the management of honey bees, pigsties, strawberries, and so on.

Robinson's kind of homely humor appears at its best in such pieces as "Odds and Ends from an Odd End," "The Pumpkin Dance and Moonlight Race," narrating an incident which occurred in southern Illinois during the presidential campaign of 1848, and the "Hen Show and Hen Fever," which affords pungent commentary on a poultry exhibit at Boston in 1850. His felicity of expression is indicated by the concluding remark of his discussion of "How to Destroy the Canada Thistle." We are told that "'faith without works' will never rid the country of the Canada thistle, any more than in the negro's sermon it could make 'de hog a gemman in de parler.'" And yet I often wondered why the thistles got the better of me when I was a youngster on our farm in southern Minnesota.

EVERETT E. EDWARDS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Presbyterians, 1783-1840: A Collection of Source Materials (Religion on the American Frontier, vol. 2). By WILLIAM WARREN SWEET. New York and London, Harper & Brothers, 1936. xii, 939 p. Maps. \$3.50.)

The second volume in *Religion on the American Frontier* by William Warren Sweet is devoted to the Presbyterians. The first part, pages 3 to 125, is a brief history of American Presbyterianism from the close of the War of Independence to 1840, and is concerned to a large extent with the church as it pushed westward with the

frontier. The second part of this stout volume is devoted to documents and extracts from documents illustrative of the sect's history during the period under consideration. They consist of minutes of synods; session records of individual churches; data relating to Presbyterian educational institutions, the work of Presbyterian missions among the Indians, and home missions; two autobiographies of frontier Presbyterians; and data on the schism in the church that persisted so many years. A detailed and valuable bibliography, excellent maps, a short appendix, and an index complete the volume. It may be noted that the index has not caught all the proper names.

Though the period covered by the volume is too early to be of special interest to Minnesota, there are points at which contacts are made between even this remote outpost's Presbyterianism and that of the regions farther east. The first known Protestant missionaries to the Sioux and Chippewa of the Minnesota country were Alvan Coe and Jedediah Stevens, who reached Fort Snelling in 1829 and made a determined effort to start missions among both tribes. It is instructive to find Coe over a decade earlier urging that a mission and a school be established among the Wyandot Indians at Upper Sandusky. By April 5, 1820, an entry was made in the minutes of the board of trustees of the society "stating that an Indian School had been commenced by the Rev. Alvin Coe, of Greenfield," Ohio. In 1821 he was made superintendent of the school. His connection with it was apparently of short duration, for on December 9, 1822, he was reported as assistant in the missionary family at Maumee and desiring "to be permitted to engage exclusively in the study of the Indian language." When he was denied this privilege he appears to have become insubordinate, for on October 11, 1823, he was before the board for discipline. "The Board being satisfied that Mr. Coe cannot be reconciled to a continuance in the Sole[m]n Se[r]vice in which he is engaged; & feeling unwilling to disclose to the world what they deem the irregular & highly reprehensible conduct of Mr. C. in this office,—On motion Resolved that he and his family be & they hereby are dismissed from the care & patronage of the Westn. Missy. Family." Coe's later missionary career, both before and after his Minnesota experience, has been studied in some detail for the series of Indian mission documents that the Minnesota Historical Society is preparing for publication.

G. L. N.

Norwegian Emigrant Songs and Ballads. Edited and translated by THEODORE C. BLEGEN and MARTIN B. RUUD. Songs harmonized by GUNNAR J. MALMIN. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1936. 350 p. \$3.00.)

In this volume Professor Blegen has gathered some three score poems, songs, and ballads, all of which have grown out of the early years of Norwegian migration to America. He has furnished them with introductions severally and collectively, in order to underline their significance and to fit them into the vast perspective of emigration. Professor Ruud has contributed translations in poetic prose which read pleasantly and bring out most fittingly the sense and spirit of the originals. Eleven songs are supplied with melodies harmonized by Mr. Gunnar Malmin. By this happy co-operation the book has become a work of rare value and constant delight. It is a book for scholar as well as for connoisseur, for Norwegian and American alike. Students of literature and language can join the historian in finding new ideas and stimuli in this unusual volume.

Although the reviewer wishes to call attention to some details which might have been otherwise, he would emphasize that no critique can detract from the outstanding contribution made in this pioneer work about pioneers. To begin with, it may be noted that the title does not strictly correspond to the nature of the contents. Of the sixty compositions reprinted only twenty-four can be described as songs and about ten as ballads; the remaining twenty-six are unmistakably art poems, written in measures not intended to be sung and distinguished by their literary phraseology from the genuine folk compositions. Furthermore, only a dozen of the sixty were actually written by emigrants, and of these only eight in America. The poetry herein contained, then, bears much more on the feelings aroused in Norway by emigration than on the feelings of the emigrants themselves.

One may question further whether the editor has not overlooked certain poems and songs which might have added materially to his collection. One cannot quarrel with his noninclusion of the vast mass of immigrant verse printed in Norwegian-American newspapers of a later date, for the omission of these is clearly a matter of policy. But one wonders why he has not included some of the following of

which he was no doubt aware. Bjørnson's novel *Arne* revolves around the theme of emigration; and the emigrant's longing is most poignantly expressed in Arne's song: "Over de høie fjelde." Ivar Aasen's *Ervingen* (1855) is a drama involving the problems which led to emigration, and the song "Her er det Land, som hugar meg best" is the song of a returned emigrant. Even more direct in its reference is his one-act monologue *Sidste Kvelden elder: Gunnbjørgh paa Haugen* (1887), which describes an emigrant's last evening in Norway, and contains three lyrics. Wergeland's "Norway to America on the Departure of Ole Bull" (1843) is not primarily emigrant literature, yet it was directed to the most famous Norwegian emigrant of modern times. Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* (1867) has as its central figure a man who spent years of his manhood in America, and in the madhouse at Cairo pointed satire is directed at the emigrants through the figure of Huhu (who incidentally is supposed to represent either Vinje, who had thought of emigrating, or Janson, who did emigrate). Finally, since Norway and Denmark were linguistically and culturally joined during much of the nineteenth century, it might not have been amiss to include Christian Winther's famous "Flugten til Amerika." That this was familiar to the Norwegian emigrants is shown by an allusion in Professor Karen Larsen's recent biography of her father, Laur. Larsen (p. 313).

An interesting aspect of the songs and ballads is their melodies. Apparently not one of these had its own melody, but all were composed to some current melody or melodic scheme. Eleven melodies are here printed, but six are merely named. Of these six at least three are familiar and could easily have been found: the chorus from *Fjeldeventyret* (p. 83), "Markje grønnast" (p. 31), and "Vårt land" (p. 337). The songs on page 67 and 258 were clearly intended to be sung to the so-called "stevtone," usually listed under the title "Aa Ola, Ola, min eigen ongie." In all probability the last poem "Korleids dæ gjek" is to be sung to the melody of either "Mil-lom bakkar og berg" or "Dei vil alltid klagja og kyta."

The introductions and comments are uniformly illuminating and helpful. One regrets, however, that there is no information on page 53 about Pavels Hielm, author of the very interesting farewell to Hans Gasmann. His verses declare him to be an ardent admirer of Henrik Wergeland. On page 291 something more about the back-

ground to Jonas Lie's "Farvel til Glommedalen" would have been helpful — something about the speculation in lumber and the financial crash to which he alludes, in which Lie himself was involved, and which drove him away from Kongsvinger to Oslo to become a writer. The ballad style of Johannes Olsen Veseth's poem (p. 67) awakens an interest in the author which is not satisfied.

The principle of translation here adopted is praiseworthy because it relieves the translator of the usual necessities for paraphrase and padding. In his effort to make the translation pleasant, idiomatic English, however, the translator has occasionally been a bit cavalier with his originals. Not that he commits the usual errors of translators — his mastery of Norwegian is unimpeachable.¹ But one senses a certain impatience with the occasional banality of his originals and an excessive solicitude for the readability of the text. Thus he renders the lines "Lad Hjertet i den Norske Barm Slaa friskt og varmt til-lige" as "Be brave and true" (p. 150); "Du vidt og bredt har bragt os om, du premie har vundet" as "You have brought us safely across" (p. 169); and the stanza on page 250 beginning "Har Fædrehjemmet længer da ingen Magt?" has shrunk to practically nothing. Some instances which seem significant to the reviewer are the omission of *Ørknens*, "the desert" (p. 40), *utropa*, "much-touted" (p. 111), *ak*, "alas" (p. 171), *mo' aa klein*, "worn and ill" (p. 222), *møpsamt*, "strenuous" (p. 224); the translation of *rømme*, meaning "thick cream," as "clotted cream" (p. 69), *herremænd*, or "bigwigs," as "great lords" (p. 121), *Frihed*, or "freedom," as "contentment" (p. 180), and *at du er til*, meaning "that you are alive," as "how you are" (p. 311). This reviewer would also take issue with such archaisms as "dales" (p. 32) and "Garth" (p. 208), and with the use of Wineland for Vinland.

It would be tempting to turn from this critique of details and expatiate on some of the fruitful vistas and bypaths opened by this volume. One might write at length about the social attitudes revealed by the poems, or about the linguistic and literary backgrounds which have conditioned their mode of expression. First and last the

¹ Note, however, from the dialect poems the following: *Jentongan*, p. 210, and *Smaa-jentan*, p. 219, both translated as singular instead of plural; *sjølbergen*, p. 221, "self-made" instead of "independent," or "well-fixed"; *dei*, p. 303, "that" instead of "those"; *kva*, p. 305, "shouts" instead of "songs."

book emphasizes once more that the task of the future must lie not in the external, but in the internal history of the immigrant. Here the historian abuts on the territory of the sociologist, the anthropologist, the linguist, the critic, and even the musician. All have their gifts for him, and all can contribute something toward a functional analysis of the cultural processes of immigration.

A scarce half dozen misprints in the Norwegian originals probably could be traced to the editions from which they were taken. The volume is incidentally the more attractive by being a fine piece of bookmaking.

EINAR HAUGEN

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MADISON

Minnesota and the Junior Citizen. By R. B. MACLEAN, president, State Teachers College, Moorhead, Minnesota, and H. E. FLYNN, director of Minnesota high schools. (St. Paul, Webb Publishing Company, 1936. xi, 288 p. Illustrations. \$1.40.)

In his *Great Britain: A Study in Civic Loyalty*, John Gaus emphasizes what he calls "the significance of place." To the reviewer it is regrettable that so little time and attention are devoted to local resources in the presentation of social studies in the junior and senior high schools. The elementary school has done a much better job at this point than the secondary school. The authors of *Minnesota and the Junior Citizen* have done a highly competent piece of work in tracing the historical development of Minnesota. It is obvious that they make no pretense of presenting an exhaustive story, but they give enough information to whet one's appetite.

If we may so order our conception of the school day as to include field trips to points of historic importance and couple these with an assimilation of background material, it seems to the reviewer that pupil appreciation of and interest in his own community will be enhanced greatly. While it may be argued that "ancestor worship" is open to severe criticism, yet pupils ought to be brought up short to a realization of the harsh and sacrificial experience of their forebears. Our present community having been built upon the achievements of the past, it is patently logical that pupils should know the story of that past.

The second half of the book is given over to a consideration of the anatomy of government. Such items as health, recreation, rights, privileges, obligations of the citizen, transportation and communication, and education are discussed by the authors. Without too much moralizing they have made a good case for the salvaging and preserving of the resources, human and material, of the community. They do an adequate job too, in stressing the imperative need for intelligent, participating citizenship not by a few, but by all who make up the community.

ELDON W. MASON

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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

Major Charles Winslow Elliott of Minneapolis ("The University of Minnesota's First Doctor of Philosophy") is a son of Judge Charles Burke Elliott, a portion of whose diary is made public in the present number of the magazine. Major Elliott is the author of a biography of "Winfield Scott, the Soldier and the Man," which is to be published this summer by the Macmillan Company. He entered the regular army as a second lieutenant in 1908, served in the World War, and was retired with the rank of major in 1922. From 1920 to 1932 Major Elliott was connected with the Manlius School at Manlius, New York, successively as professor of military science and tactics, history master, and headmaster and director of instruction. Dr. John T. Flanagan of the University of Minnesota ("Captain Marryat at Old St. Peter's") is well known to readers of this magazine as the author of a series of studies dealing with the visits of noted literary figures to the Northwest. Professor Agnes M. Larson of St. Olaf College ("When Logs and Lumber Ruled Stillwater") has made intensive studies of the lumber industry in the Northwest and is writing a book on the subject. Dr. William J. Petersen of the State Historical Society of Iowa ("Veritas Caput: Itasca") is the author of a book soon to be published by that society on steamboating on the upper Mississippi. Dr. John M. Armstrong of St. Paul ("The Numerals on the Kensington Rune Stone") will be remembered by readers of this magazine as the author of an illuminating article dealing with the Asiatic cholera in St. Paul (see *ante*, 14:288-302). He has made extensive researches in medical and other phases of local history. Mr. Hjalmar R. Holand ("The Climax Fire Steel") is the author of the *Kensington Stone* and has contributed several articles to this magazine. The reviewers include Dean Guy Stanton Ford of the graduate school of the University of Minnesota; Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society; Professor Einar Haugen of the University of Wisconsin, an authority in the field of Scandinavian literature; Professor A. L. Burt of the University of Minnesota; Mr. Everett E. Edwards, agricultural

economist for the United States bureau of agricultural economics and the editor of *Agricultural History*; and Mr. Eldon W. Mason, assistant principal of the Marshall High School of Minneapolis.

Plans have been made for the fifteenth annual state historical convention and summer tour conducted under the auspices of the society. A bus chartered for the occasion will leave the Twin Cities on the morning of June 18 and will return on June 22. The opening day will be marked by two sessions—a luncheon meeting at Little Falls and a dinner and evening session at Detroit Lakes. Among the speakers at the former place will be Dr. John T. Flanagan of the University of Minnesota, who will discuss Edward Eggleston in Minnesota. Professor Charles J. Ritchey of Drake University, Des Moines, will appear on the evening program to describe some adventures in hunting for manuscripts of Northwest interest, and the Reverend Arthur H. Gilmore of St. Paul will read extracts from a diary kept by Daniel Hunt in the fifties while engaged in carrying furs from the Red River settlements to St. Paul over the old Red River trails. On Saturday, June 19, the tourists will proceed to Roseau, where they will join the people of the community and members of the county historical society in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of white settlement in the county. An afternoon program has been planned with Mr. Eddy E. Billberg, president of the Roseau County Historical Society, surveying "Fifty Years of Roseau County," Mr. Harold Lathrop, director of state parks, speaking on the relation of state parks to local history, and Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the state historical society, discussing "Fort St. Charles and the Northwest Angle." A dinner, also to be held at Roseau, will be followed by papers on "Manton Marble and the Nobles Expedition of 1859" by Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society, and on "Fur Traders and Border Posts" by Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts for the same society. Its president, Mr. Edward C. Gale of Minneapolis, will describe an original La Vérendrye document in his possession. Sunday, June 20, will be devoted to a boat trip on the Lake of the Woods to the Northwest Angle, the northernmost point not only in Minnesota but in the United States. On this trip the tourists will be given an opportunity to inspect the site of Fort St. Charles, which was erected on the

southern shore of the present angle in 1732 by the French explorer La Vérendrye. His exploits and those of his sons and his nephew in the Lake of the Woods country will be the subject of a paper presented at American Point, where luncheon will be served. The tourists will go to Warroad for an informal dinner on Sunday evening. On the following morning they will go to Bemidji, where they will attend a luncheon and listen to a number of brief talks. The program of the National Parks Service will be discussed by Mr. Edward A. Hummel of Omaha, the Indian museum at Cass Lake will be described by Mr. F. T. Gustavson of Cass Lake, and a recent discovery made by Dr. William J. Petersen of the State Historical Society of Iowa in relation to the origin of the name "Itasca" will be announced. At Bemidji the tour will officially end. Tourists who travel by bus and any others who desire, however, will go to Douglas Lodge at Itasca State Park for the night and will return to the Twin Cities on the morning of June 22.

At a meeting of the society's executive council on April 12, Mr. Bert Fesler of Duluth was elected to membership in the council to replace Charles E. Adams of Duluth, who died in October. Following the meeting, a special program in which two speakers participated was presented in the auditorium of the Historical Building. Major Charles W. Elliott of Minneapolis read extracts from his father's diary for 1888, and Mr. Rodney C. Loehr presented a paper on "Minnesota Farmers' Diaries," drawing illustrative material from diaries preserved in the society's manuscript division.

The following fourteen annual members were added to the active membership of the society in the first quarter of 1937: Herbert O. Albrecht of Springfield, Pennsylvania; Dr. Charles W. Bray of Biwabik; Mrs. Mary A. Brisley of Robbinsdale; Herbert M. Burns of Duluth; Herman J. Doepner of St. Paul; George Fields of San Francisco, California; G. A. E. Finlayson of Duluth; Nels B. Hansen of Crookston; Jessie C. Hitchcock of Minneapolis; Sarah Larkin (Mrs. A. P. Loening) of Southampton, New York; Ruth S. Lohn of Minneapolis; D. N. Sakols of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Mary C. Sands of St. Paul; and John C. Vanek of Chicago.

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

The society lost five active members by death in the first three months of 1937: Dr. Henry S. Plummer of Rochester, January 1; Charles E. Villaume of St. Paul, February 2; Oscar Mitchell of Duluth, February 17; Robert D. Cone of Minneapolis, March 2; and Arthur W. Armatage of Minneapolis, March 20.

As a special WPA project, nearly three thousand pamphlets in the society's collection have been classified and filed in metal cases. They may be readily located by means of subject cards placed in the public catalogue.

A total of 1,594 readers used 8,541 books and pamphlets in the society's library in the first three months of 1937. During the same period, in the newspaper division 598 readers consulted 1,077 bound volumes of newspapers and 19,397 current issues. The manuscript collections of the society have been used by 350 readers during the quarter, a number exceeding that for the entire year of 1927.

Ninety classes and special groups visited the society's museum during the first quarter of the present year. Of these, twenty-four were classes in community life problems from Minneapolis junior high schools. A total of 2,657 teachers and pupils came to the Historical Building as members of these classes.

The superintendent presented talks and addresses on "Immigration and the Westward Movement as Reflected in Songs and Ballads" before the Twin City History Teachers' Club meeting in Minneapolis on February 4, on "A Gallery of Salty Minnesotans" before the Rotary Club of St. Paul and the Faculty Women's Club of the University of Minnesota on February 23 and March 20, and on the "Magna Charta of the West" before the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution meeting in St. Paul on March 10. He also attended a meeting of the board of the Norwegian-American Historical Association in Chicago on February 17, where he discussed the editorial program of that organization. Mr. Babcock spoke on the society and its work before the Parent-Teacher Association of Nokomis Junior High School of Minneapolis on January 26, and on "Minnesota Paper Money" before the St. Paul Numismatic Association on February 9. "A Boyhood at Old Fort Snelling" was described by Miss Nute for officers and their wives at the fort on February 2 and in a radio talk over station WTCN on March 23; she

spoke over the same station on "Old Grand Portage" on March 16; she presented a "Bird's Eye View of Minnesota History" before the Cosmopolitan Club of the University of Minnesota on March 6; and she described some of her "Adventures in European Research" for members of the Macalester Study Club of St. Paul on March 18. Miss Ackermann gave illustrated talks on "Pioneer Days in Minnesota" at St. Stephens Lutheran Church of Minneapolis on March 7 and at the Roosevelt School of South St. Paul on March 11.

ACCESSIONS

A large and important collection of the papers of Charles A. Lindbergh, Sr., has been built up for the society with the co-operation of his children and other members of his family. The bulk of the papers relate to the decade from 1907 to 1917, when Lindbergh was a Minnesota representative in Congress, and to the period between 1917 and his death in 1924. Others, however, throw light on his activities as a business man at Little Falls and on the career of his father, August Lindbergh, both in Sweden and the United States. The active interest of members of the Lindbergh family explains in large measure the growth of the collection, which is an example of the effectiveness of deliberate planning in the building up of a group of papers. Among those whose gifts have been added to the collection are the Congressman's daughter, Mrs. Eva Lindbergh Christie; his son, Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh; his widow, Mrs. Evangeline Lindbergh; his half-brother, the late Perry Lindbergh; his sisters, Mrs. William Butler and Mrs. Joseph Seal; his brother, Mr. Frank Lindbergh; and Mr. Martin Engstrom, Mr. Carl Bolander, Mr. C. S. Wright, Mr. Gifford Pinchot, Mrs. A. M. Opsahl, Mr. P. P. Ornberg, Professor Gunnar Westin, Mr. Walter Titus, the Chase National Bank, the firm of Edwards, O'Loughlin and George, and Mrs. Marion A. Baker. Anyone who has letters or other papers written by this leader of American political and economic thought is invited to present them to this collection.

The field notes of the survey for the Sioux-Chippewa boundary line authorized by the Indian treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1825 have been copied by the photostatic process from the originals filed with the division of surveys of the general land office in Washington, D. C. The survey was in charge of Major John L. Bean, whose oath of

office, together with the affidavits of his assistants, is among the documents. The notes cover both the random survey, made from east to west, and the true survey, from west to east. Both were made in the summer of 1835. The record affords the first scientific account of Minnesota geography from the St. Croix to Otter Tail Lake, about at the latitude of St. Cloud.

Fifty-six documents relating to Fort Ridgely and Fort Ripley in the period from 1848 to 1885 have been copied for the society by the photostatic process from the originals in the war department and the general land office in Washington, D.C. Included are data on the establishment of the two posts, maps of the two reservations, a report on the inspection of the garrisons in 1857, a ground plan of Fort Ridgely, giving the location and description of the buildings in 1868, and an account dated 1873 of the attempted sale of the Fort Ripley reservation.

The Hutchinson family, Jane Grey Swisshelm, economic conditions in Minnesota, the burning of the steamer "Galena," the attractions of St. Paul, Methodist churches in Minnesota, and the growth of Hamline University are among the subjects touched upon in articles recently transcribed for the society from the *Boston Daily Journal* for 1851 to 1859 and the *Zion's Herald* of Boston for 1879 to 1881. Files of the papers are in the Boston Public Library and the Congregational House in Boston. Calendar cards have been made for other items in these newspapers relating to crops, the ginseng trade, and politics in Minnesota.

Accounts of a trip from Massachusetts to Rochester, Minnesota, in 1856 and of pioneer life in Olmsted County are included in the reminiscences of Miss Marion L. Sloan of Rochester, as recorded in an interview by Mrs. Zalia Ratcliff, a worker on the historical records survey. Miss Sloan mentions a visit of Clara Barton, the Red Cross organizer, to Rochester in 1859.

Diaries, time books, and accounts kept in the fifties and sixties by Otis A. Pray, a millwright from Maine who settled in Minneapolis in 1857, are the gifts of his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Pray of Minneapolis. Pray built flour mills in the frontier towns of Minneapolis, Afton, and St. Cloud.

Calendar cards for letters received by the Indian office from 1861 to 1865 have been completed recently by Dr. Newton D. Mereness, agent at Washington for a group of midwestern historical societies. They indicate that in these years licenses to trade with the Minnesota Indians were issued to William H. Forbes, Louis Robert, Clement H. Beaulieu, Robert Fairbanks, Francis Roy, Edwin Bell, Nathan Myrick, and others. Among other subjects discussed in the letters are the activities of Henry Elliott as blacksmith and Nelson Drouillard as carpenter for the Indians at Grand Portage, the services of Dr. A. W. Daniels and Dr. M. R. Wickersham as physicians for the Sioux and the Chippewa, respectively, claims for depredations committed by the Sioux in 1862, the removal of the Sioux and the Winnebago from Minnesota, the sale of the Winnebago trust lands, the Chippewa treaty of 1863, and the resignation of Thomas J. Galbraith as Sioux Indian agent. Information is also to be found in these documents about half-breed scrip issued to Nacisse Frenier, Stephen Bonga, Angus M. and Francis A. Robertson, and Elizabeth and Theodore Borup.

The parts played by Captain John Jones in the defense of Fort Ridgely in 1862, the Sibley expedition of 1863, and a march to Devil's Lake in 1865 are described in letters and affidavits included in a box of his papers presented by his son, Mr. John Henry Jones of St. Paul. Among them is a letter written in 1881 by Edwin A. C. Hatch, describing the attack on Fort Ridgely. "We were surrounded by Indians most of the time," he writes, "and several attempts were made by the Indians to capture the Post. John Jones late Capt. of 3^d Minnesota Battery was stationed there as Ordnance Sergeant. Owing to the death of Capt. [John S.] Marsh & the illness of Lieut. [Thomas P.] Gere he was for a time in charge of the fighting men and I think it largely due to his bravery as a man and his soldierly qualities that the Fort was saved from capture." With the papers are several contemporary, and hitherto unknown, photographs of Fort Ridgely procured by Captain Jones, and small pictures of Camp Smith, Camp Parker, and Camp Slaughter on the route of the Sibley expedition.

Muster rolls and official returns for the pay, clothing, and equipment of members of Company K, Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, in the Civil War are among the papers of a member of the

company, Captain Theodore G. Carter, recently presented by his daughter, Mrs. Nona Hocking of St. Peter. The collection, which fills three filing boxes, includes letter books kept at St. Peter from 1867 to 1876 and at Deadwood, South Dakota, from 1899 to 1906, and the minutes of meetings and other papers of the South Dakota society of the Sons of the American Revolution from 1899 to 1906.

Four letters written by Lyman W. Ayer while serving as a member of the Second Battery of Minnesota Light Artillery in the Civil War, and a letter written from Crow Wing in 1875 by his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth T. Ayer, a missionary to the Chippewa, have been presented by the James Jerome Hill Reference Library of St. Paul.

Mr. William R. Lovell of Livonia Township, Sherburne County, who served as a member of Company B, Ninth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, in the Civil War, has presented his reminiscences of the defense of Hutchinson in the Sioux War and an account of his imprisonment in the South.

Sixteen letters written between 1868 and 1878 by Stephen R. Riggs, the missionary, extracts from letters written between 1862 and 1883, and a copy in Riggs's handwriting of a manuscript by James W. Lynd are the gifts of Mr. H. S. Morris of Sisseton, South Dakota, a grandson of Riggs. The letters were written to Riggs's daughter, Martha Riggs Morris.

Six volumes of accounts of the wholesale drug firm of Noyes Brothers and Cutler of St. Paul for the years from 1868 to 1919 and two letter books kept by a member of the firm, Winthrop G. Noyes, from 1906 to 1910 have been presented by Mr. Levi T. Jones of St. Paul. Some of the letters relate to the activities of the building committee of the St. Paul Y.M.C.A., of which Mr. Noyes was chairman, the St. Paul Society for the Relief of the Poor, and the Minnesota pure food and drug laws.

Seventeen items from the papers of Randall B. Graves, relating to the townsite of Fremont City in Wright County in the sixties, are the gifts of Mrs. Alta Graves of Minneapolis. Certificates of shares in the townsite are included.

Eight volumes and some miscellaneous items for the years 1877 to 1903 from the papers of Emerson Cole, a Minneapolis lumber manu-

facturer, have been received from his daughter, Miss Vera Cole of Minneapolis. The papers relate to Cole's business activities as a member of the firm of Cole and Hammond and as president of the National Building, Loan and Protective Union, later the Pioneer Savings and Loan Company of Minneapolis.

A copy of a poem written by Jennie D. Moore upon graduating from the Minneapolis High School in 1879 is the gift of the author, now Mrs. Janet D. Lewis of Los Angeles, California.

The hotel register of the American House at Renville in the period from 1880 to 1886 is the gift of Mr. Allen Dodge of that village.

A volume of minutes from 1883 to 1891 of the Heart and Hand Society, an organization of young men of the First Congregational Church of Minneapolis, has been presented by Mrs. Frank M. Boyd of Minneapolis. The gift includes a number of printed programs and newspaper clippings, some of which relate to the eightieth anniversary celebration of the church in 1931.

Account books kept in 1894 and 1895 by Thomas K. Gray, a Minneapolis druggist, are among a group of papers received from the T. K. Gray Drug Company of Minneapolis. The same firm has presented an old-fashioned drug bottle and twelve glass lamp chimneys of various styles and sizes.

A volume of minutes and printed programs of the annual conventions of the Waseca County Sunday School Association from 1904 to 1923 has been presented by Mrs. George Wilson of Waseca.

Two genealogical charts of the Faribault family in France, Canada, and the United States from 1669 to 1937 have been presented by the compiler, Mr. E. Rodolphe Faribault of Ottawa, Canada.

The Hennepin County Bar Association has presented biographical sketches of the following deceased members: George M. Blucker, Ernest S. Clary, Horace D. Dickinson, Walter H. Hennesey, Napoleon A. L'Herault, John P. Nelson, Floyd B. Olson, Amasa C. Paul, and Mose S. Winthrop. Sketches of Robert R. Brown, George E. Childs, and Lester D. Rogers, deceased members of the Waseca County Bar Association, have been presented by that organization.

Copies of biographical sketches of early residents of Crow Wing and Morrison counties, which have been prepared by workers on museum projects in those counties, have been filed with the society.

A walnut sewing table that is said to have belonged to Harriet Bishop is the gift of Mrs. C. E. Clifton of Evanston, Illinois.

Gowns dating from the forties and the seventies, wraps, millinery, and dress accessories have been added to the costume collection by Mrs. F. L. Washburn of Minneapolis.

Mr. James K. Ogden of Minneapolis has presented a set of ebony doll furniture that he made with a scroll saw about 1880.

A series of pencil sketches depicting Minnesota and Wisconsin scenes, made by W. E. Slosson of New York while on a visit to the region in the summer of 1883, has been presented by Mr. Arthur E. Gilbert of New York, through the courtesy of Professor R. A. Gortner of the University of Minnesota. The drawings, which were made in a small notebook, include sketches of scenes at Fort Snelling, Minnehaha Falls, Lake Minnetonka, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Lake St. Croix. A drawing of the Bijou Opera House of Minneapolis is the gift of Mr. Theodore Hays of Minneapolis. Pastel portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rouleau of St. Paul have been received from Miss Rose Trombley of St. Paul, and a pastel portrait of Dr. B. H. Ogden of St. Paul is the gift of his widow.

NEWS AND COMMENT

"At its worst the pioneer's world offered to even the most barren of lives, something of amusement, of social relationship, of joys and sorrows over and beyond the material, and at its best a richness of background which afforded a setting for lives more complete and rich in many respects than is possible today." Thus writes R. Carlyle Buley in presenting "Glimpses of Pioneer Mid-west Social and Cultural History" in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for March. Amusements enjoyed by the frontiersman, his clothes, his speech, his sense of humor, his table manners, his morals, his attitude toward drinking and temperance, his "lack of respect towards sovereign authority," and many other subjects are discussed, and all are richly illustrated with examples drawn from travel narratives, newspapers, and other contemporary sources, largely for the area of Ohio and Indiana before 1850. The writer concludes that the "cultural life, and the institutions of the pioneers were as fresh and simple as the log houses which they built, inelegant and crude, but with lasting qualities." A valuable study of the "Swedish-American Press and the Election of 1892" is contributed by O. Fritiof Ander to the same issue of the *Review*.

The completion of the *Dictionary of Books Relating to America, from Its Discovery to the Present Time*, begun by Joseph Sabin in 1868, should have a special interest for readers of this magazine, since the final volumes were issued under the editorship of Mr. R. W. G. Vail, a former librarian on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society. In 1930 he became joint editor with Dr. Wilberforce Eames, who had taken over the task left unfinished upon the death of Sabin in 1881. The magnitude of their undertaking may be judged from the fact that the work as completed in 1936 consists of 172 parts and that it ends with serial number 106413. Among the librarians whose contributions to the *Dictionary* are given special recognition by Mr. Vail in his "Introduction" is Miss Elsa Nordin of the Minnesota Historical Society. It may be added that this society owns a complete set of Sabin.

A critical discussion of "The Pulitzer Prize in History" and the books for which it has been awarded since 1926 is contributed by Bernard DeVoto to the *Saturday Review of Literature* for March 13. Mr. DeVoto makes special mention of two books published in Minnesota in 1931, one by the University of Minnesota Press and the other by the Norwegian-American Historical Association—the *Populist Revolt* by John D. Hicks and *Norwegian Migration to America* by Theodore C. Blegen—and offers the opinion that they "are better books than some that have received the prize in other years, and much more entitled to it than General Pershing's" narrative of his experiences in the World War, which received the award in 1931.

B.L.H.

Information about thirty-five Minnesota historical organizations is to be found in a booklet entitled *Historical Societies in the United States and Canada: A Handbook*, which has been published by the Conference of Historical Societies (Indianapolis, 1936. 136 p.). According to Dr. Christopher B. Coleman, secretary of the conference, who supplies a "Foreword," the *Handbook* "is intended to be, first, a current address book of historical societies and similar historical organizations in the United States and Canada and, second, an introductory source of information about their more salient activities and resources."

The National Archives has announced that a guide to the federal archives of the United States is being compiled on the basis of information assembled by deputy examiners who are making preliminary surveys of material in Washington and by WPA workers engaged in a survey of records to be found outside the District of Columbia. "The guide will be published in parts as completed, and each part will describe the records, both in and outside of Washington, of one of the major agencies of the Government or of a group of minor agencies."

The part played by the Daughters of the American Revolution in the organization of the historical records survey under the WPA is emphasized by Jean Stephenson and Ellen S. Woodward in an article entitled "Rediscovering the Nation's Records," which appears in the *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine* for November, 1936. The work of the survey is described as "probably the

greatest single contribution to historical and genealogical research that can be made, and one that is of far-reaching consequences."

The treaties of 1837, particularly that negotiated at Washington with northwest Indians, including Sioux from the Minnesota country, are the subject of a brief article by William J. Petersen entitled "The Second Purchase" in the *Palimpsest* for March. The experiences of the Indians—Sioux, Sauks, and Foxes—who went to Washington are described.

The comings and goings of David Thompson in the West from 1801 to 1822, including many visits to Grand Portage and Fort William, are described by J. B. Tyrrell, the editor of Thompson's *Narrative*, in an article on "David Thompson and the Columbia River," which appears in the *Canadian Historical Review* for March. His article is published in answer to one on "The North West Company's Columbian Enterprise and David Thompson" by Arthur S. Morton in the September issue of the same magazine. Mr. Tyrrell contends that Duncan McGillivray was at Grand Portage in 1801, when, according to Professor Morton, with Thompson he "crossed the Rocky mountains to the Columbia river near its source."

"The Gallant Captain and Brother Jonathan" is the title under which Arno Bader describes the American travels of Captain Frederick Marryat in the autumn number of the *Colophon*. The author does not mention the British visitor's journey to the upper Mississippi and Mendota in the summer of 1838.

References to the Schoolcraft family and a sketch of the career of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, which appear in Arthur B. Gregg's volume on *Old Hellebergh* (Altamont, New York, 1936), give a Minnesota interest to this history of the New York community in which the discoverer of Lake Itasca was born. Schoolcraft's exploits as explorer and Indian agent and his contributions to science and literature are outlined briefly. Of special interest are the record of his baptism in the Dutch Reformed Church at Hellebergh, and accounts of his parents, his education, and his connections with the glass factories of the neighborhood. Mr. Gregg announces that correspondence between Schoolcraft and his father "regarding the early glass making in New York state has been unearthed by Harry Hall

White and will form the basis of a book on the Schoolcrafts." Mr. Gregg's narrative, which is based largely upon contemporary and manuscript sources, is an unusual and valuable community history.

Following the Riel rebellion of 1869, the "misunderstanding concerning an amnesty to those involved in the rebellion did more than any other factor to delay the return of harmony," writes Jonas A. Jonasson in a discussion of "The Red River Amnesty Question," published in the *Pacific Historical Review* for March. He points out that it was not until 1875 that a general amnesty for all except the leaders of the rebellion was proclaimed.

"Early pictorial records of the scenery and aborigines of Canada" to be found in the work of Paul Kane, Alexander Hunter Murray, and R. M. Ballantyne are discussed by W. J. Phillips in an article entitled "Art in the Archives" which appears in the March issue of the *Beaver*. Kane, according to the author, "has a place in Canadian art, and it is secure because of the anthropological and historical aspects of his work." Murray and Ballantyne were in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, which encouraged their artistic endeavors. Ballantyne's descriptions of the Red River country and of the Lake of the Woods, which he visited in 1841, are quoted. "Red River Settlement is," he wrote, "an oasis in the desert . . . on one of the vast prairies of North America." He found the Red River "neither grand nor picturesque." Of the Lake of the Woods, however, he wrote: "There is nothing, I think, better calculated to awaken the more solemn feeling of our nature . . . than these noble lakes, studded with innumerable islets suddenly bursting on the traveller's view as he emerges from the sombre forest rivers of the American wilderness." Reproductions of Canadian scenes by the three artists under discussion illustrate the article.

The history of the Canadian north shore of Lake Superior receives considerable attention in the "Golden Jubilee" edition of the *Daily Times-Journal* of Fort William, issued on February 23. "The port at the mouth of the Kaministiquia river was only just emerging from the status of a fur-traders' fort into that of a modern harbor" in 1887, when the *Fort William Journal*, the first daily newspaper in the community, was established, according to a writer for this issue. Among the subjects of more than local interest discussed in the num-

ber are transportation by rail and boat, particularly shipping on the Great Lakes, and wheat raising in the region to the west of Fort William.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

The appearance of volume 20 of the *Dictionary of American Biography* marks the completion of this invaluable reference work, which has been made available to scholars through the efforts of the American Council of Learned Societies (New York, 1936). Appropriately, the final volume includes a "Brief Account of the Enterprise," in which is outlined the story of its organization and progress since 1924, when it was planned. The completed work contains the biographies of 13,633 persons. Here, writes Professor Allan Nevins, is a "monument in which the nation might well take more pride than in Boulder Dam or the Golden Gate Bridge." In these twenty stout volumes, he asserts, "is more of our history than has ever before been written." The question may well be asked, How much of Minnesota history is to be found in the *Dictionary*? A survey reveals that the careers of 258 of the individuals whose biographies appear therein are in some way identified with the North Star State. Nine are to be found in the final volume; sketches of the others have been called to the attention of readers of this magazine as each volume of the *Dictionary* has appeared. The roles played in the history of the state and the nation by Minnesota doctors, lawyers, politicians, artists, authors, historians, journalists, explorers, fur traders, Indian chiefs, churchmen, missionaries, soldiers, scientists, educators, business men, and others are here given recognition, often for the first time in a work of national scope. In these volumes, writes Mr. Nevins, "scores, in some volumes even hundreds, of small men and women for the first time take their due place in our history." He insists that it is this array of second-rank people, "each with some noteworthy relation to the general stream of the past, which gives these twenty volumes their richness. They populate the American scene. They illustrate its variety, energy, color, and scope as no history yet published begins to do."

The great variety of individuals included is well illustrated in the sketches of Minnesota interest that appear in volume 20. Here are to be found accounts of careers as diverse as those of Henry B. Whipple, first Protestant Episcopal bishop of Minnesota, and Thomas

Coleman Younger, one of the desperadoes captured after the Northfield bank raid of 1876. These are contributed by Grace Lee Nute and W. J. Ghent, respectively. Lester B. Shippee is the author of biographies of Joseph A. Wheelock, pioneer St. Paul editor, and William Windom, representative and senator from Minnesota and secretary of the treasury. A sketch of a former secretary and librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society, J. Fletcher Williams, was prepared by its present superintendent, Theodore C. Blegen. The volume contains also accounts of Frank F. Wesbrook, dean of the medical school of the University of Minnesota, by H. E. Robertson; of Newton H. and Horace V. Winchell, geologists, by George P. Merrill and Philip B. McDonald; and of John G. Woolley, the prohibition leader, who practiced law in Minneapolis in the early eighties, by W. E. Shea. Why Frederick Weyerhaeuser, the well-known lumber magnate, was overlooked is a question difficult to answer. Minnesotans will be disappointed to find missing also the name of Edwin Whitefield, an American artist who used his talents in promoting certain Minnesota townsites in the late fifties. The number of important and representative Minnesotans omitted in the work as a whole is, however, small.

An abstract of an address on "Man and His Habitat" presented by Professor Darrell H. Davis of the department of geography as one of the annual series of Sigma Xi lectures during the past winter at the University of Minnesota, appears under the title "Environment Changes in Minnesota" in the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* for March 13. For the period of white occupation, writes Professor Davis, the "most significant changes in the physical environment have been those in fauna and flora, mineral wealth, drainage conditions and soils."

Hubert L. Moeller is the author of sixteen elementary articles on the "History of Minnesota," the first of which appeared in the *Minneapolis Star* for February 1. Succeeding articles have been published in the Monday issues of the paper. The series opens with a brief account of the Minnesota Indian tribes, and later articles deal with early explorers, the fur trade, the founding of Fort Snelling, and the like.

"The Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota" is the subject of two articles by Charles R. Walker which appear in the *Nation* for March

13 and 20. The party, writes Mr. Walker, "has functioned actively for more than fifteen years. It has four times elected a Governor. . . . Today it is no longer a 'third party' but the first party of the state." The second article is devoted to a report of an interview with the late Governor Olson, in which he discussed the "nature of the party, its practical operation, and its ultimate goal."

Ten Years of Publishing by the University of Minnesota Press are surveyed in a pamphlet recently issued by the press. Earlier publishing ventures of the university, such as that of the seventies and eighties of the last century, when the reports of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota were issued, are mentioned; and the organization of the present press in 1925 and the beginning of its work of publication in 1927 are described.

"Names and Personalities in Education in Minnesota" from the days when John Marsh conducted classes for the children of officers at Fort Snelling to the present are mentioned briefly by A. C. Krey in an article in the *Minnesota Journal of Education* for January. He notes the work of the missionaries in establishing schools for Indian children, the arrival of Harriet Bishop at St. Paul, the laying of the foundations for a system of education in the territorial period by such leaders as Martin McLeod and E. D. Neill, the establishment of the first normal school at Winona as a result of the efforts of Dr. J. D. Ford, and the growth of the state university under Dr. Folwell and later leaders. An article dealing with "Public School Support in Minnesota—State Aid" by Fred Engelhardt and T. J. Berning appears in the February issue of the *Journal*. The authors deal chiefly with legislation by means of which Minnesota schools have obtained state aid from 1878 to the present.

The role of the Scandinavians in Minnesota life is treated breezily and superficially by William Seabrook in an article entitled "Imported Americans," which appears in the March issue of the *American*. Much of his information was drawn from interviews with Scandinavian-Americans—a farmer, a university professor, a musician, an author, a housewife, and the like. Visits to a rural community, to Minneapolis, to the state Capitol in St. Paul, to St. Olaf College, and to the lumbering and mining areas of northern Minnesota are described.

The hardships endured by traveling men in Minnesota and Dakota in the winter of 1881, when most of the railroads in the region were blocked by snow, are vividly described by W. W. Bell in a narrative reprinted in the *Hills Crescent* for March 4 from a Middlebury, Vermont, newspaper of 1892. The writer was snowbound with more than a hundred other business men at Worthington late in February. "After staying here five days, a party of us decided the only way to reach St. Paul would be to foot it," and despite stormy weather they reached that place in safety, Bell records. He relates also that the heavy snows and enforced leisure of this severe winter made skiing popular. "This was a great winter for sport," he writes, "that being all there was to do to while away the time, and men and women, old and young, had to try the Norwegian snowshoe," which is described as "about 8 feet long and from 4 to 6 inches wide, turned up at the toe."

That the "Greyhound Bus System Was Born in Minnesota" is revealed in an article about its history which appears in the *Minneapolis Star* for February 25. In 1914, according to this account, "Eric Wickman, whose business career is practically a history of commercial bus transportation in America, established the first inter-city bus service in the northwest, with Hibbing as headquarters." The first bus took workmen from Hibbing to the nearby mines. In 1916 a transportation company was organized, and by 1918 it was "operating a fleet of 18 buses throughout the northern part of Minnesota."

The first locomotive used in the Minnesota Valley was the "Shakopee," which was purchased in a machine shop at Columbus, Ohio, and shipped with five flat cars and two box cars "by rail to La Crosse and then by barge to Credit Landing" on the present site of Savage. This information is presented in an article, published in the *Watsonwan County Plaindealer* of St. James for January 21, about the history of the railroad running west from St. Paul to Mankato, St. James, and Worthington, which is now part of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha Railway. The road was chartered in 1864, and construction began in the following year. Pictures of several early locomotives accompany the article.

The growth of the Railway Express in Minnesota from 1863 to the present is outlined in the *Daily People's Press* of Owatonna for

March 4. The use of stages and steamboats for transporting express before the railroads were completed is noted. In 1864 "the fur and game business was at its height" in St. Paul, and it "gave the Express Company a large tonnage and long haul," according to this account.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Monthly meetings of the Anoka County Historical Society were held at Anoka on January 4, February 1, and March 1. At the March meeting a sketch of J. H. Gates, a pioneer Anoka teacher, by Ramsey Benson, was read by Theodore Nelson, and the reasons why a historical society is of value to a community were explained by U. G. Herrick of Minneapolis. Mr. Herrick declared that the members of a local historical society are banded together "for the purpose of diligent labor in recording not only the history of their own generation, but in digging deeply into the past to help uncover and re-establish the almost forgotten stories of people and their doings." He advised members of the Anoka County Historical Society to "preserve our keepsakes, fill our questionnaires, and spend seven minutes each day of our lives in keeping up a daily diary." Mr. Herrick's paper appears in full in the *Anoka Herald* for March 10 and 17, and Mr. Benson's narrative is published in the issue for March 24. Mr. Herrick has drawn up a useful questionnaire which he is distributing widely among pioneer residents of Anoka County. On it he asks for information about parentage, education, church and lodge affiliations, and the like. When the questionnaires are filled out, he expects to turn them over to the state historical society for permanent preservation.

The work of collecting historical material for the Becker County Historical Society was discussed by Mr. Harry Peterson at a regular meeting of the society, held at Detroit Lakes on January 21.

In Beltrami County the WPA is assembling historical material for preservation by a county historical society, which is being planned. The project, which is under the supervision of Mr. Martin Widsten of Bemidji, is described in the *Blackduck American* for January 27.

Some of the exhibits installed in the new building of the public library and the Brown County Historical Society at New Ulm are described in the *New Ulm Review* for February 18. They include

photographs, tools, and other objects used in the homes of pioneers, and a collection of autographs assembled by Mr. F. W. Johnson of New Ulm. The exhibits are arranged on the first floor of the new structure, which is described in the *Review* for February 11 and the *Brown County Journal* for February 5.

The historical society organized at Cass Lake last December (see *ante*, p. 109) adopted, at a meeting held on March 15, a constitution and bylaws and a new name—the Chippewa Region Historical Society. Residents of Walker and of the Leech Lake region are actively interested in the new organization. The society is co-operating in the work of the museum at Cass Lake, which is under the direction of Mr. F. T. Gustavson. The museum is particularly interested in collecting Indian artifacts and objects illustrative of the lumber industry in northern Minnesota.

Minutes of meetings held by the Chippewa County Pioneer Association in 1870 and 1875 were read at a meeting of the Chippewa County Historical Society at Montevideo on March 15. They revealed that "in establishing a museum, the society is carrying on the work started" by the pioneer organization of the seventies. Extracts from a diary kept by Mrs. Frank Stay in 1862, when the Sioux Outbreak occurred, were read by her daughter, Mrs. Henry Van Dyke. Mr. David Fisher, president of the society, announced that the organization now has seven cases for the display of historical materials and that its museum will be opened to the public in the near future.

Brief historical descriptions of the objects displayed in the museum of the Clay County Historical Society at Moorhead have been prepared for the use of visitors, according to an announcement in the *Moorhead Daily News* for February 27.

The register of the museum of the Crow Wing County Historical Society at Brainerd shows that more than four thousand visitors viewed its exhibits in 1936. This fact was revealed at the annual meeting of the society, which was held at Brainerd on February 17. During the same period, about eight hundred biographies of pioneers were prepared for preservation by the society. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Dr. A. K. Cohen, president; W. A. Spencer, vice president; Mrs. Sarah Heald, secretary; and Mrs. J. M. Hayes, treasurer.

At a meeting of the Fillmore County Historical Society, held at Lanesboro on January 21, Mrs. John Mills of Preston presented her reminiscences of pioneer life in Sumner Township.

Mr. H. J. Hirschheimer of La Crosse, Wisconsin, stresses the need for a Houston County historical society in a letter to Mr. H. E. Wheaton, which appears in the *Hokah Chief* for March 4. "Houston County is rich in historical setting," writes Mr. Hirschheimer. "It has an interesting history and there are only a few of the pioneers left to tell the story." Among the topics for study by a local historical society suggested by the writer are pioneer life and steamboating on the Root River.

The proceedings of the county commissioners of Morrison County from 1856, when the county was organized, to 1873 have been copied as one feature of a WPA project conducted with the co-operation of the Morrison County Historical Society. Biographies of more than four hundred pioneers have been compiled for preservation by the society.

"Henry M. Rice and the Winnebago" was the title of an address presented by Theodore Estabrook at a meeting of the Rice County Historical Society at Faribault on February 15. It appears in installments in the *Faribault Daily News* for February 16, 17, and 18. Other speakers on the program were J. W. Astley and Arnold Denler, who described the index of Rice County newspapers made by WPA workers under the supervision of the historical society. "I cannot say too much in praise of this practical index system," said Mr. Astley, who recently located material about early telephone lines in Rice County through using it. Excerpts from Faribault papers relating to telephone service from 1878 to 1897 appear in the *News* for February 19.

The museum of the Roseau County Historical Society will occupy two rooms in a new municipal building, which is nearing completion at Roseau.

A report about the St. Louis County Historical Society and its collections of maps, pictures, books, manuscripts, museum objects, and the like, prepared by its president, William E. Culkin, appears in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for January 3. The names of the 165 people

who constitute the membership of the society are included in the report.

Hundreds of objects used and owned by Swift County pioneers are now on display in the museum of the Swift County Historical Society at Benson, which was officially opened to the public on March 30.

The Watonwan County Historical Society inaugurated at Antrim on March 22 a series of monthly meetings featuring the histories of the townships in which they are held. About a hundred and twenty-five people gathered in the town hall to hear a program of talks, which included reviews of the history of the township by Frank Dewar of Lewisville and of the story of the local schools by Mary Ellen Lewis of Lewisville. A collection of Indian objects, most of which were found in the county, was placed on display for the meeting.

Essays dealing with local history submitted in a contest sponsored by the Wilkin County Historical Society have been appearing in the *Gazette-Telegram* of Breckenridge since January 6. The subjects and names of the authors of some of the essays follow: the post office known as Miller's Station or Jacksonville, by Bertha Otteson, January 6; the settlement of Champion Township, by Helen L. Nash, January 13; the arrival in covered wagons of a group of Norwegian immigrants in 1871, by Mrs. Olaf Lein, January 20; some reminiscences of the late R. A. Partridge, a Campbell pioneer, recorded by Virgil Shaffer, February 3; some recollections of Reuben Messer of McCauleyville, by his daughter, Mrs. Clarence Cardinal, February 17; the history of the Breckenridge schools, by Charles E. Holmgren and John Schmitt, February 24 and March 3; and the history of McCauleyville and Roberts Township, by Mrs. Cardinal, March 17.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The history of the club house owned and used by the Ramsey Farmers Club of Anoka County is reviewed by Mrs. Clifton Clark in the *Anoka Union* for March 3. The writer reveals that the building was erected by the Ramsey Christian Union Church in 1889, and she presents a list of those who contributed to the building fund.

In a pamphlet entitled *The Story of the Old Spoon*, Lydia Sohlberg Deere describes the experiences of her grandparents, who emi-

grated from Sweden in 1854, lived for a decade on the Wisconsin frontier, and finally settled in Douglas County, near Alexandria (1937. 51 p.) The writer presents a vivid picture of the country store which her grandfather opened on his homestead. "In the store was everything that the farmer and his wife needed," she writes. Among the wares were "calicoes and gingham for the women, suits and overalls for the men, shoes and boots . . . red striped stick candy . . . boxes of coiled chewing tobacco which looked like rope," barrels of sugar, dried peas, and of "little dried prunes and salt herring and mackerel which savored of Norway and Sweden," garden tools, cutlery, patent medicines, and the like. In exchange for these articles fur pelts, cases of eggs, and "rolls of butter which the women brought tied up in squares of cloth" often were accepted. The local post office was located in the store and the "mail stage stopped four times a week on its route between Alexandria and Morris. The stage accommodated passengers also and these mostly were drummers, from whom Gustaf bought goods." Although the book is informing and charming, it would have had greater historical value if the author had used full names and located places with more exactness.

The first settlement in Oakland Township, Freeborn County, was known as the "Tow Head Settlement," according to the Reverend W. E. Thompson, whose account of the community appears in two installments in the *Glenville Progress* for February 4 and 11. A large number of poplars grew in the vicinity, and the "great amount of tow or cottony substance from the poplars gave the name to the people and the location," according to the writer. He asserts that the first settlers came from Illinois in 1855.

Plans for a celebration to commemorate the centennial of the arrival of the Swiss missionaries, Daniel Gavin and Samuel Dentan, in the village of the Sioux chief, Red Wing, are being formulated at Red Wing.

The organization of the Excelsior Pioneer Association, a colonization company that had its origin in New York in 1852, is described in a letter written from Excelsior in March, 1858, which is published in the *Minnetonka Record* for February 26. "There were sixty-two names enrolled, but only a fraction of the members came," according to the writer of the letter, "and instead of sixty-two families in the

village the first winter, there were but three! Thus the Colonial Association ended — in moonshine." The letter also gives interesting information about economic and social conditions and about an academy in the new community. Although unsigned, the letter probably was written by the Reverend Charles Galpin.

In a series of articles entitled "The Elegant Eighties in Minneapolis Society," Agnes von Scholten, formerly society editor for the *Minneapolis Journal*, is presenting in that paper "a story of the development of the city from a social viewpoint." Her articles have been appearing in the Sunday issues of the *Journal* since January 31. She describes costumes worn by women of the eighties, a New Year's Eve ball at the West Hotel, sleighing parties, card parties, a fashionable wedding, and the like.

The minutes of the St. Anthony board of education for 1860 have been used by Walton Streighliff in the preparation of an article about the early schools of this section of Minneapolis for publication in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for February 21. The author relates that in 1860 St. Anthony had fewer than a thousand inhabitants of school age. Four primary and three intermediate schools were established, and before the end of the year a high school was opened.

An interview with Mr. David Gossler, who was a compositor on the *Minneapolis Tribune* for half a century following 1884, is reported by Norman Christensen in the *Tribune* for January 31. Printing methods of the eighties, improvements since that time, and the *Tribune* fire of 1889 are among the subjects discussed.

The history of the New England Furniture Company of Minneapolis, which was established by W. L. Harris in 1887, is the subject of an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for March 28. Pictures of the buildings occupied by the store and of the original force of ten that operated the business accompany the article.

The eighty-second anniversary of the *Hokah Chief* is commemorated in its issue for March 18, which includes a sketch of the history of the paper by its editor, Herbert Wheaton. He records the services of former editors — Charles Reynolds, who began the publication as the *Minnesota Leader*, Hiram Ostrander, who gave it its present name, Henry L. Hohll, and Wesley Moe.

In early articles of a series about "Le Sueur County and Its Pioneer Citizens," which has been appearing in the *Le Sueur News-Herald* since January 6, the Reverend J. H. Sellie tells of the organization of the county and the beginnings of settlement. Three of the sketches deal with the careers of natives of Le Sueur who gained fame — Dr. William J. Mayo, the surgeon, January 27; Tracy R. Bangs, jurist, February 3; and George T. Plowman, architect and etcher, February 10.

The record book of the Litchfield Cemetery Association, covering the period from its organization in 1870 to 1890, is the basis for an article about the early history of the organization in the *Litchfield Independent* for March 3. The original members of the association are listed.

The minutes of the first meeting of the county commissioners of Morrison County, which took place on May 1, 1856, appear in printed form in the *Little Falls Daily Transcript* for January 15.

"Some of the little red school houses that dotted the prairies were made of sod" in pioneer Nobles County, according to an article in the *Worthington Globe* for February 11. It deals with a school opened in Bigelow Township in 1879 in an "abandoned settler's cabin, built of sod, with a roof of timbers and crude shingles and small four-light windows." The teacher was D. D. Potter, a medical student. Lists of pupils who attended classes in this primitive school are taken from grade books still in existence. A number of letters from former residents of Nobles County, describing pioneer life in the vicinity, also appear in this issue of the *Globe*.

The Tattersall Hotel at High Forest is described as the "oldest hotel building in Olmsted County" in the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* for January 13. The days when the inn was the center for the social activities of a prosperous community are recalled in this issue, which includes a picture of the structure as it now appears. In the issue of the same paper for March 3 is an account of the old Metropolitan Theater of Rochester, which is being razed to make way for a modern store building. Theatrical attractions that have been produced in Rochester since 1902, when the theater was built, are listed.

The opening of St. Mary's Hospital at Rochester by the sisters of St. Francis in 1889 is pictured as a direct result of the cyclone of

1883 by Julius W. Haun in an article entitled "Mercy Rides the Clouds," which appears in the *Commonweal* for February 12. The writer points out that the need for a hospital became apparent after the storm, when members of the religious order helped Dr. William W. Mayo to care for the injured.

Recollections of early schools in the vicinity of Stewartville are presented by two pioneer residents of the neighborhood, Mrs. Martha Bonner Worthy and C. A. Duncanson, in the *Stewartville Star* for January 7 and 14. The settlers of the middle fifties "all turned in and built a log school house one-half mile south from the village," according to Mr. Duncanson. "There were no desks, the seats were made of slabs from the sawmill, supported by legs milk stool fashion. . . . The scholars brought along such books as they had."

St. Luke's Hospital at Fergus Falls, which was built with funds raised by private subscription in 1902, is the subject of an article in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for March 16. A sketch and a portrait of Dr. O. T. Sherping, one of the founders of the hospital, appear in the same paper for March 20.

Detailed descriptions of living and working conditions in the prairie region of northwestern Minnesota in the eighties are presented by William A. Marin in a series of articles appearing in the *Polk County Leader* of Crookston (see *ante*, p. 116). Among the subjects discussed are the "Prairie Primitive," January 14, "Booms and Blizzards," January 21, "Life in a Prairie Sod House," February 11, 18, and 25, and early French-Canadian and Norwegian settlers in Polk County, March 11 and 18. The Norwegians, the author relates, came in after the thirteen towns in the eastern part of the county were opened for settlement in 1885. After the coming of the French-Canadians, according to Mr. Marin, several towns were given French names, "one of the Crookston weekly papers ran a column in the French language," and a French amateur theatrical society was organized. Some sections of the narrative were originally published in MINNESOTA HISTORY for June, 1931.

A "History of White Bear's Boy Scouts" by Russell Wallin appears in three installments in the *White Bear Press* for January 8, 29, and February 12. From the organization of the local troop in 1916, its activities for each year through 1936 are traced. Historical

sketches of the churches of White Bear Lake by Otto B. Griffin have been appearing in the weekly issues of the *Press* since February 12.

Speaking before the students of the local senior high school on January 29, Mr. E. Howard Fitz of Fairmont repeated the valedictory address that he presented when he was graduated from the St. Paul high school in 1875. He recalled that his class consisted of only seventeen graduates, but that the exercises, which were held in the opera house, were attended by fifteen hundred people. Extracts from his address appear in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* for January 29.

A vivid account of a great blizzard in 1873 by Michael Holden appears in the *Fairfax Standard* for February 11. The writer was caught in the storm while hauling wheat from his home at Beaver Falls to Willmar. His four companions on the trip perished.

The progress of journalism in a Minnesota college for half a century is described in the *Manitou Messenger*, the weekly newspaper published at St. Olaf College, Northfield, for January 12, which is a "Fiftieth Anniversary Issue." The paper was established as a monthly literary magazine in 1887.

Poll lists and township records have been used by Frank H. Boobar in the preparation of a history of Fair Haven, the first installment of which appears in the *Annandale Advocate* for January 14. He tells of the first settlers, Thomas C. Partridge, Henry Root, and Sylvester Wolcott, who staked a claim on the site in 1856; of the organization of the township in 1859; of the arrival of early settlers, including many from Maine; of early town meetings; and the like. A copy of the first poll list, which included forty-four names, is included in the installment published on January 28.

The issue for January 14 of the *Record* of St. John's University at Collegeville is a fiftieth anniversary edition. It includes a brief history of the paper, which was first published in January, 1888, and an account of the alumni association organized in 1883.

"The fencing problem was quite an item" for the pioneers of the sixties, writes Mrs. Francisca L. Spanier in the *Richmond Reporter* for January 28. In this and several later issues she presents reminiscences of pioneer life near Cold Springs, where her father settled in

1859. "The first fences were put up of split rails some of which were 12 and 14 feet long logged up zig zag about 8 or 10 rails high," she continues. "A little later fence posts came into fashion and poles were fastened to the posts with wooden pegs and still later nails were used."

Extracts from the journal of Elder Edward Ely relating to the Rollingstone colony near Winona have been assembled by Mr. Orrin F. Smith and published in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for February 20 and 22. The colony was established on the present site of Minnesota City in 1852 by members of the Western Farm and Village Association, most of whom came from the East. The settlers were dissatisfied with the original site, however, and many of them soon removed to Wabasha Prairie, or Winona. An account by Captain Russell Blakeley of the "Dr. Franklin," the steamboat on which many of the settlers traveled up the river from Galena, also appears in the issue for February 22.



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