

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*Alfred Owre, Dentistry's Militant Educator.* By NETTA W. WILSON. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1937. xvii, 331 p. Illustrations. \$4.00.)

This is an interesting story. To the Greeks of ancient times it would have been the perfect story. It begins in tragedy and it ends in tragedy. And the author, with the consummate art which seems artless, has let the story tell itself.

The subject of this biography is no stranger to Minnesota. There is no part of the state in which there are not still people who knew him personally. And once to have known him is always to remember him, for his was a vivid personality. The many traits by which he was marked, his definite convictions on so many matters of human concern, his wide interests in literature and art, philosophy, and social problems, his exceptional taste in so many fields are all clearly revealed in this book.

The story moves on in engrossing fashion from his birth in Norway, as an alien to his native land, through his youth in Minneapolis, where, as oldest boy in a family of brilliant children, he was forced by circumstances to assume responsibilities which would have halted the career of any ordinary person. But Alfred Owre was no ordinary person. Overcoming one obstacle after another, he pushed on toward the achievement of his life ambition. Too little, perhaps, is said of his early associates who helped to point his goal. Some of them, it is certain, as members of his faculty at the University of Minnesota, were to aid him in attaining it. Possibly their modesty deprived the author of the material which would have filled this gap. The influence of President Northrop, of his instructors at the university, of his friends during his days as a practitioner, is clear. The unfolding of his dream for the advance of his profession, from the day when he entered the faculty of the school of dentistry at the University of Minnesota to the time when he retired as dean of the college of dentistry of Columbia University, appears as an unbroken chain of dramatic incidents.

To improve his profession, to make it serve all mankind in fullest measure, appears as the keynote to this amazing life history. It was this which led him to seek every important center in this country or abroad from which he might gain ideas for its improvement. It was this, as much as personal satisfaction, which led him into the study of medicine and dietetics, of art, of literature, and of society. It was also this which brought him so many struggles. Ordinary mortals are usually content with some advance and, when that is achieved, prefer to enjoy its fruits. They tend, in fact, to resent any suggestion that they must continue to strive, to change their ways for better ones. But such was not his way. His constant self-criticism, his constant search for improvement, though doubtless resented by some even in Minnesota, was so uniformly crowned with success, so definitely helpful to the profession, that any such resentment was overwhelmed by the general appreciation which his advances ultimately won. Had he been a more ordinary mortal, he doubtless would have remained at Minnesota to end his days in the contemplation of the fact that his efforts had given us one of the finest colleges of dentistry in the world.

Instead, he accepted the arduous task of providing Columbia University with a similar college, even better if possible, for it was in a larger center. That effort was to involve similar struggles, similar resentments, and similar triumphs, though he was not to live to see the recognition of his final efforts. His vision of the possibilities of his profession had continued to widen, to include a definite program whereby the gains it had already made were to be made available to all who needed them. Under happier circumstances, even this program might have been achieved, but in the period of the economic depression when professional men were blinded by economic fears, even those who would otherwise have lent him their support failed him. Undaunted, he went on alone, not only without the usual help, but even against unusual opposition. It was a load too heavy for one man to carry, and his death followed not long after his retirement from active duties.

The verbal tributes paid to his memory in the memorial services at Columbia and at the University of Minnesota, sincere and grateful as they were, received additional force from the fact that the colleges in which they were voiced were the concrete embodiment of his life work. From this book it is clear that, in addition, he had left to both universities a wider vision of ultimate service to the whole of society

upon which they and the profession itself may continue to draw for years to come.

Probably the reader, like the reviewer, will become so engrossed in the driving urge which marked Dean Owre's career from early manhood to the end as to pass over those lovable, or even irritating, traits which marked the human side of the man. They too, however, are included in this volume. His walks, around the Twin Cities as well as across three continents; his Spartan practices in food and sleep; the evenings at his home with their feasts of literature and art, as well as of food and coffee brewed by his own hands; his deep sympathy for those in trouble, as well as his intense indignation at injustice of various kinds—all these are recalled or are suggested by the well-chosen illustrations. His biography is no fulsome panegyric. The many facets of Dean Owre's career and personality are presented as they existed together in him. His virtues and his faults, his weakness and his strength are laid out for all to see and judge. And as the reader lays down the book, he will appreciate how perfect is the impressionistic foreword by Dean Guy Stanton Ford summarizing the remarkable career of this leader in dentistry.

Here is the story of a great man who ennobled the profession which he served. The thousands of his students who are practicing the profession in all parts of the world, mindful of the ideals with which he inspired them, will treasure it with special affection. But the people of Minnesota, though they must share him with so many others, may rightly claim him as their own. His story is a story of Minnesota, a story of the part which Minnesota has played and is playing in the transformation of its citizens from foreign lands to serve the national ideal.

AUGUST C. KREY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS

*Bishop Whipple's Southern Diary, 1843-1844.* Edited with an introduction by LESTER B. SHIPPEE. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1937. xxvii, 208 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

Friends of the Right Reverend Henry Benjamin Whipple, Episcopal bishop for Minnesota and well-known through the latter part of the past century for his work among and in behalf of the Indians,

knew of his fondness for southern people and southern climate. Not until his papers were being prepared for cataloguing at the Minnesota Historical Society was it known definitely that his first contact with Dixie was in the winter of 1843-44. Moreover, to the delight of his historical executors, among the documents was found a journal covering this extensive and protracted tour through the deep South.

On October 12, 1843, on the advice of his physician, he left his home, then Adams, New York, for Florida. He traveled on a coasting vessel; hence his introduction to slavery, of which he had heard much while a student at Oberlin, was not gradual. Late in January, 1844, he left Florida to travel through the lower tier of the southern states to New Orleans. Thence he journeyed to St. Louis and thereby saw the lower Mississippi during the heyday of steamboats. From St. Louis he doubled back on the river to Cairo to proceed up the Ohio to Cincinnati. From this river metropolis to Baltimore was a matter of stage lines over the old National Highway to connect with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He reached Baltimore just in time for the Whig convention that nominated Henry Clay. He continued his journal to record his impressions of Washington and Philadelphia and ended it upon his approach to his native New York.

Needless to say, a man of the bishop's humanitarian impulses, though at that time he had not entered the ministry, took advantage of the journey to gather firsthand impressions of slavery with all the enthusiasm that typified the other travelers of the era. Although responsive to the religious stirrings that later led to his ordination as a priest, his reactions to the institution were surprisingly unemotional. His comments were well balanced and at times quite in harmony with the observations of the pro-southern, amiable English journalist and traveler, J. S. Buckingham. But if Whipple was friendly to the system, it was only insofar as slavery was a satisfactory link between the Negro's original state of barbarism and ultimate freedom. He seems to have appreciated in slavery a most effective civilizing agency. Under the hospitable guidance of various plantation owners, the future bishop became sufficiently sympathetic toward the institution so that he recorded without emotion how, during his visit to Mr. Sadler's plantation, the owner demoted one of his slaves for stealing and saw that the culprit was "flogged 75 lashes on the bare back" (p. 40). Had Whipple's erstwhile friends at Oberlin seen his unemotional record of this plantation justice, they would have unquestionably decided

that their humanistic friend had touched too much southern pitch and been unduly contaminated thereby.

After leaving the prolonged hospitality of the south Georgia and northern Florida planters, the future bishop became less and less interested in slavery *per se*. The Georgia crackers, the poor whites, the river "busters," the picturesque frontiersmen along the Arkansas shore absorbed his attention more and more. He deplored their morals, regretted their uncouthness, was quite sure that they were the scum of the earth. The only good he could see in a crew of steamboatmen was when they sang as they approached the shore.

The diarist does not admit it, but his journal bears internal evidence that these uncouth characters intrigued him more and made a far more indelible impression upon his memory than did the cultured gentry of the Old South who all but "sold" him on the merits of slavery. When the South was far behind and its people but a memory, it was not the cultured Southerner that he often quoted to express his own thoughts and emotions. Witness when he saw Professor Morse demonstrate the telegraph! "Wall stranger it jist beats me all up! I never sawed nothing till I saw that" (p. 168).

It is obvious that the "white trash," the river flotsam and the uncouth pioneer, gripped Whipple's imagination as a fruitful field in which one might work for the better life among mankind, and that he did not get excited over the Negro with his well-filled stomach and maundering superstitions. In this respect the journal foretells and explains Bishop Whipple's subsequent decision when, in none too good health, he chose to remain on the sod-house, kerosene-lamp frontier of rigorous Minnesota rather than accept the Archbishop of Canterbury's appointment as bishop to balmy Hawaii. Many preachers would have at once developed a genuine emotion for carrying the light to the lesser breeds and thereby rationalized themselves into a softer berth. But Whipple was a sturdy intellectual with an interest in souls of sturdy men. It was that quality which made him the bishop that he was and makes his little journal the delightful reading that it is.

The editing is exemplary. Minor corrections in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization were frankly made. These were to aid the reader, however, and were not done with the Jared Sparks idea of putting the diarist in a dignified disguise. On the other hand, the editor avoids the more modern, and to this reviewer, equally repre-

hensible practice of perverting the document into a springboard for editorial erudition. This practice freights a published work with such copious footnotes of orientation, explanation, interpretation, disputation, and dialectics that the best of journals may be robbed of any natural charm or vigor it may have had. Concerning that modern type of historical editing, it is time the profession did something violent! Dr. Shippee steers the perfect middle course. He neither dignifies by doctoring up nor denatures by overexplaining. He gives the reader a brief but adequate prefatory biographical sketch of the bishop. Thereafter his editorial contributions are limited to occasional, factual footnotes.

JIM DAN HILL

SUPERIOR STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE  
SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN

*Northwest Passage.* By KENNETH ROBERTS. In two volumes. (Garden City, New York, Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., 1937. 709, 199 p. Portrait. \$10.00.)

Historical novels are frequently neither sound history nor effective fiction, but Kenneth Roberts' *Northwest Passage* is both. Back of it lies a prodigious amount of research, of which the appendix volume in the limited, de luxe edition is proof. There the author reproduces for the first time a French mezzotint of the hero, Major Robert Rogers of the Rangers, he presents a bibliography of nearly four pages, and he publishes 176 pages of documents, including Rogers' letters, original accounts of his breath-taking raid on the Abenaki Indian village of St. Francis in lower Canada, which is the high light of the novel, his petitions to the king to be allowed to lead an expedition across the American continent by way of the Minnesota country and find the Northwest Passage connecting Hudson Bay and the estuary of the "Oregon" River, and the voluminous records of the court-martial which brought an abrupt close to his plans, only partially carried out.

The story is told by a convincing but fictitious artist. Otherwise most of the characters are historical and appear under their own names. One must not infer, however, that Mr. Roberts has not utilized the privilege of the historical novelist by interpreting the personalities of his historical characters to suit the needs of the plot. Thus Rogers becomes a study in the degeneration of a physical Her-

cules who had vision for the British Empire but who was not over-scrupulous regarding the means used for broadening that empire and winning fame for himself. There is considerable historical truth in such a portrayal of Rogers, but in the woods he was hardly such a god as the young artist represents him; nor did he probably sink so low in his life immediately after the court-martial as the novel would have us believe. His wife's character appears largely as the result of the author's imagination, which does not fail him in making her the most subtly delineated and hence the most unforgettable character of the story.

The historian balks a little at the characterizations of Sir William Johnson and Jonathan Carver. There must be a villain and the able, talented superintendent of Indian affairs is made to play the role. Mr. Roberts apparently knows nothing of Carver's own, manuscript narrative of the trips through the Minnesota country, but bases his conception of Carver as a combined Uriah Heep and crafty pedant on his printed *Travels*. This is not fair to Carver, back of whose book lies one of the most tangled stories in American history. It still awaits complete unraveling, but the discovery of his manuscript diaries has done much to redeem his impaired veracity. Mr. Roberts' theory of the reason for changing the course of the exploratory expedition from the Sioux country to Grand Portage is ingenious, but not historically sound. It was only in England, after Carver's death, that the so-called Carver's grant was invented. It was long a famous hoax, but Carver seems innocent of the whole charge of having defied the king's proclamation of 1763 by purchasing from the Sioux in the cave still known by his name many thousands of acres of land in the area about the site of modern St. Paul.

As for the artist's trip up the Missouri with the irrepressible Sergeant McNott, that, of course, is pure fabrication. What the author might well have stressed, but did not, and thereby missed a fine opportunity, was Rogers' plan for a new colony along the upper Mississippi and east to Michilimackinac. It was but one of many "fourteenth" colonies of the sixties and seventies, but its conception makes clear the strength and originality of Rogers' mind and the heights to which his ambition soared.

It may be noted that the published documents contain some wholly or partially new material for Minnesota history: Rogers' letters to Captain James Tute, containing information on the traders, Boyce,

François, and Otherington at "Lakes La Plu and De bouse" (Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods) and on the Winnipeg River; Pierre Fleurimond's testimony telling how he was commandant at Michilimackinac in the French period and of trade methods among the Indians to the west while he was there; and, especially, Ezekiel Solomon's account of wintering "near the Falls of St. Antonies" in the winter of 1766-67, and of the attempts of the Spaniard, Laverne, to win the Sac, Fox, and Sioux tribes to the Spanish interest.

GRACE LEE NUTE

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ST. PAUL

*The Sod-House Frontier, 1854-1890: A Social History of the Northern Plains from the Creation of Kansas & Nebraska to the Admission of the Dakotas.* By EVERETT DICK, PH. D., professor of history in Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska. (New York, D. Appleton-Century Company, 1937. xviii, 550 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

The charm of social history and its wealth of interesting information are revealed in this study by Professor Dick, whose scholarly researches have resulted in a many-sided picture of the experiences of the immigrant in the prairie region. The routes and methods of travel of the settler are traced. His arrival in the new country, the ensuing scramble for land with the clash of rival claimants and other problems of land ownership make a stirring narrative for the opening chapters of the book. The hotels and temporary shelters of the immigrant are described, together with the panorama which greeted his eyes in the prairie town. The author considers the pioneer techniques for providing homes, food, clothing, fuel, and water to create a picture of everyday life. Finance, justice, medicine, sports, religion, education, and Indian relations are all recognized as important phases in a complete social history of the area. Accounts of economic and industrial development, the coming of the railroad, and mechanical improvements in agriculture are interwoven with the story to make it a valuable study of the second half of the nineteenth century in American history.

In its thirty-five chapters the book covers an unusually wide range of subject matter, and the reader will be delighted to find new and interesting details about old and half-familiar subjects. From the



many colorful descriptions a few illustrations may be selected. We are told of Indians in contact with friendly German settlers acquiring the language of the newcomers. Pork and turkey took on a distinctive flavor of grasshoppers because of their overabundance in the diet of the pig and the fowl during insect invasions. The popularity of croquet on the frontier induced manufacturers to provide wickets with candle sockets in 1875. Twisted hay and cornstalks were used as fuel, and special stoves were devised in which these fuels might be used. The author's choice of contemporary illustrations adds clearness and character to these descriptions.

Such picturesque details are woven into a pattern which succeeds in giving a well-developed social history of the period. It can be questioned, however, whether the area indicated in the title is adequately covered in the volume, for the sod-house frontier was not sharply demarcated by the boundaries of the states which Professor Dick has specified—Kansas, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota. Within the four states indicated, moreover, there is a definite emphasis on Kansas and Nebraska, and material illustrating life in the Dakotas is interspersed only occasionally. Several chapters are devoted to routes and methods of travel into Kansas and Nebraska, while the Dakota Territory immigrants are relegated to a footnote (p. 7).

Some fault may be found with the arrangement of material, for many chapter headings are not sufficiently specific to result in clear-cut classifications. Often incidents are repeated with no indication that they have been cited previously. The author describes experiments in silk culture and manufacturing in "Log Cabin Days" (p. 79) and again under "Pioneer Industries" (p. 500). A certain editor's proposal to prohibit horse racing is quoted in the chapter on "Sports" (p. 278) and again in "The Prairie Town" (p. 399), while an elusive barber "gone south to plaster a house" is encountered in the chapter "Along Main Street" and again in "Crude Frontier Customs" (p. 413, 505). Occasionally a topic receives a second consideration and a contrary opinion is expressed. On page 399 note is made of early social distinctions and indications of snobbishness, while on page 502 the author denies the existence of select groups or aristocratic sentiment as contrary to frontier ideals. Lack of summaries and awkward paragraph structure may be responsible for some of the appearance of disorganization. The reader will find that "a

widow who came West with three hundred dollars was considered a lucky prize for a bachelor because she was a rich widow" — a statement that brings the volume to an abrupt close.

The author's desire to use colorful figures of speech occasionally has resulted in a loss of simplicity in style. He describes pioneer editors who "like knights . . . rode about ready to throw down the gauntlet to any editor who could stand the shock of the joust" (p. 428). When this chivalric figure is converted into a buzz saw in the following sentence the reader's imaginative dexterity is called into full play. The factional strife for county seats is likened to the Great Schism, and the comparison results in a lengthy footnote on the medieval papacy (p. 470) which can only appear as an unnecessary display of learning.

Despite exceptional lapses such as these, the author has ably portrayed the social life of his locality. He notes that Lawrence, Kansas, built a bowling alley a few months after its sack by Missourians, and that its inhabitants were busy cutting ice for the next summer during the height of the political struggle over slavery, thus supplementing the usual political narrative of "Bleeding Kansas." The maps printed on the end papers contribute to the appearance of the book, though the addition of others showing county lines and minor towns would aid the reader unfamiliar with the locality.

EVADENE BURRIS SWANSON

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

*Upper Mississippi: A Wilderness Saga.* By WALTER HAVIGHURST.  
(New York and Toronto, Farrar & Rinehart, Incorporated,  
1937. x, 258 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

Mr. Havighurst's volume is the second to be published in a series of twenty-four projected volumes dealing with the rivers of America. The emphasis throughout the series is to be literary and interpretive, not historical. According to the general editor, Constance Lindsay Skinner, the fundamental purpose of these studies is to analyze and present the contributions to American development of the "folk," apparently a generic term for trapper and immigrant, farmer and lumberjack, miner and voyageur.

Few people will quarrel with Mr. Havighurst's main thesis; as he says, he "conceived a Scandinavian-American folk story as the essential narrative of the region" (p. 247). This plan he develops in

various ways: by pointing out the specific importance of Norse immigrant leaders like Cleng Peerson; by tracing impressionistically the peregrinations of the Scandinavians in northern Illinois, in Wisconsin, and in Minnesota; and by revealing in a manner suggestive of Rølvaag the daily life of a typical frontier family through the fictitious characters of Peder Wold and his wife Karen Mari. Nor can there be any objection to the author's vivid and colorful pictures of lumbering and the flamboyant creatures it bred. But there is hardly a word in the volume about early steamboating, about the fur trade, about Indian hostilities and white encroachment upon savage territory, about the discovery and exploitation of iron ore, about the genesis of towns other than Bemidji. Surely these tales and their actors also belong to the complete story of the folk in the valley of the upper Mississippi.

Nevertheless, the volume is well written and is admirably illustrated with woodcuts by David and Lolita Granahan. Mr. Havighurst lards his saga with good anecdotes and graphic descriptions, varying from an account of the famous blizzard of 1873 and the subsequent locust plagues to a recipe for cooking the savory beans of the lumber camps. In his final chapter the author acknowledges his sources and speaks of his obligation to the pioneer scholarship in the history of Scandinavian immigration done by Professors Theodore C. Blegen and George M. Stephenson, as well as to numerous books and documents relating to the early frontier. In these citations and in the text there are a few minor inaccuracies, but they do not detract measurably from a fascinating survey of life in the upper Mississippi Valley during the epic of lumber.

JOHN T. FLANAGAN

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS

*Land Systems and Land Policies in Nebraska: A History of Nebraska Land, Public Domain and Private Property* (Nebraska State Historical Society, *Publications*, vol. 22). By ADDISON E. SHELDON, PH. D., superintendent and secretary, Nebraska State Historical Society. (Lincoln, Nebraska, 1936. xv, 383 p. Illustrations, maps, charts.)

"This is the only book of its kind in the world, so far as known to me. It is, I believe, the only complete study of land in a definite area and in its relation to man from the earliest aboriginal period to the

present date." In this fashion does the author salute the reader in the preface. The book is the fruit of research extending over a period of thirty years. The original manuscript was presented as a doctoral dissertation at Columbia University in 1918. Since that time it has been entirely revised, with many additions in the form of maps, diagrams, tabulations, and illustrations.

To his seminar students Professor Channing was fond of emphasizing the distinction between the grubber and the artist. He conceded that the historical profession has need of both; but the artist invariably carries off the honors. Dr. Sheldon has grubbed out a vast amount of material pertaining to Indian land tenure, federal and state laws and the administration thereof, the political controversies that raged around legislation and proposed legislation, the settlement of the public domain, the chicanery of railroads, the frauds perpetrated on the government and the settlers, the conflict between the cattlemen and the homesteaders, mortgagors and mortgagees, land booms, reclamation, farm tenancy, and related subjects.

The author writes from a rich background. During his long residence in Nebraska he has built up a large circle of friends and acquaintances. As a member of the Nebraska legislature he had a part in framing land legislation and in uncovering frauds; and as superintendent and secretary of the Nebraska State Historical Society he had easy access to material and levied on the advice and assistance of men and women directly and indirectly associated with aspects of the subject of his research. His enthusiasm for the subject was born of a patriotic interest in the state and its people and of the moral indignation of an observer who saw the chicanery of speculators of various hues who lined the pockets of unscrupulous and incompetent public officials and used the courts for their nefarious purposes. He calls men and things by their right names.

Unfortunately, the finished product falls far short of doing justice to Dr. Sheldon's industry and enthusiasm. The author was at the mercy of a printer who presents scant evidence that he has mastered the art of bookmaking. The printer, however, cannot be held responsible for the content and arrangement of the material. The organization is so bad that the volume dangerously suggests a scrapbook, with the material in the text and in the appendix thrown together in hit or miss fashion.

The student of public land history will find an abundance of raw material in the book, but he will have to use it with care and discrimination.

GEORGE M. STEPHENSON

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS

*Early Minneapolis: Personal Reminiscences.* By MARY THAYER HALE. (Minneapolis, privately printed, 1937. 31 p. Illustrations.)

This little book is the personal retrospect of the author as a resident of the city of Minneapolis looking down the years from 1860 to the present time, sketching with light touch a picture of the city in its varied aspects as it grew from a village of five thousand to a metropolitan city of five hundred thousand population. The work was originally written by Miss Hale for the use and pleasure of a circle of her intimate friends; but now, owing to the interest it awakened, it is published through the generosity and public spirit of Mrs. F. G. Atkinson of Minneapolis and very attractively printed "by the hand of Fred T. Phelps, Typographer and Printer in Minneapolis, Minnesota." The writer of this review might as well confess at the outset that he is hopelessly biased and that anyone who expects this to be a critical or an impartial review of the book may be disappointed. Your reviewer has a vivid boyhood recollection of the large square colonial house, painted a mild yellow, standing at the corner of Fifth Street and Minnetonka Street (now First Avenue South), where lived the parents of Miss Hale, with its lawn, sloping down to Fifth Street, surrounded by a new England picket fence which was at once a temptation and a dare to the children of the neighborhood. No sidewalk, not even a wooden one, graced Fifth Street. On the Fourth Street corner of the same block lived the parents of this reviewer. The two families were intimate; intimate and friendly except for one thing. The garden on Fifth Street sloped to the south and was sunny and warm, maturing its vegetables early. The garden on Fourth Street had a northerly slope and was slower in action, a disadvantage which was fully offset by its richer soil, as claimed at least by its proprietor. This question was never really definitely settled and now can never be. Tall buildings have for many years buried both soils and gardens in oblivion.

Andrew T. Hale, the father of Miss Hale, had come to Minneapolis from Connecticut with his family in 1860 for the benefit of his health, as the story indicates. He was a man of high character and ability and withal of considerable substance. During the short years of life that remained to him in Minneapolis he served on the board of education and took an active part in the civic life of the community. He was a type of the fine citizenry with which Minnesota was favored to an unusual degree in pioneer days.

Miss Hale's story is simply and charmingly told. She states at the outset, "as with a growing child it is difficult to have a definite picture for successive stages of growth, so it is with a city. The pictures melt into each other and I can only mention some of the larger outlines of successive eras." We think she has accomplished this in a marked degree. Of the earlier days there are pictures of frame houses scattered all over the raw prairie, with almost no trees except small groves of burr or black oaks. The old ante bellum Winslow House on the east side looked down upon an occasional procession of Red River carts creaking their slow way to St. Paul. Children gathered wild flowers on the banks of the river or on the bluffs and ravines back of the town, along what is now Clifton Avenue. The distant roar of the falls could be heard continuously on summer evenings. There was a memorable trip by steamer in 1861 up the Minnesota River to the Redwood Indian agency, with the "privilege" to the author of shaking hands with the famous Little Crow, the leader of the Indian outbreak of the following year. It must have been a unique sight, especially in the minds and imaginations of those who know and appreciate the gentle qualities of the authoress—the little New England girl and the Indian chief in full regalia. Miss Hale is very fair in her comments on the Sioux Outbreak. As she says, "it was not strange that the Indians resented the loss of their lands and hunting grounds (most people would do the same) and on the other hand it was not possible to reserve rich lands for the use of a few roving savages." A candid statement of the old Indian problem.

Five line drawings based upon old photographs loaned by the Minnesota Historical Society add materially to the atmosphere of the book. A Nicollet House menu for dinner on Thursday, August 16, 1860, is reproduced from a copy loaned by Mrs. George P. Case of Minneapolis. There was certainly no scarcity of food if we may judge from this menu, containing as it does soup, fish, boiled meat,

roast meats, entrees, eleven kinds of vegetables, three kinds of pudding, six kinds of pie, and four kinds of cake to go with the ice cream. A note at the bottom of the reproduction, but not a part of the menu, states that "the charge for regular guests, including room, board and laundry was \$2.00 a week." If this was the charge per week and not per day, living was certainly cheap in Minneapolis in 1860, even though money was scarce.

Miss Hale tells quietly and simply of the stirring days of the Civil War and then sketches briefly the outstanding incidents of the later decades, not as bare historical events but as reflected in the life of the growing city. And so on to more recent days. In her conclusion she adds this fine sentiment :

Looking back, one sees that whatever is fine and beautiful and noble in the city has come from the spirit of its citizens. Men and women saw the vision of something better and gave time and strength and money to make the vision come true. The pioneers were courageous and hopeful and expected great things. What of the future! There is still need of vision and wise planning, and to make those dreams a reality, there must be courage, sacrifice, constant vigilance and cooperation on the part of all good citizens.

EDWARD C. GALE

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

*The Discovery and Exploitation of the Minnesota Iron Lands.* By FREMONT P. WIRTH, professor of the teaching of history and chairman of the division of social science, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee. (Cedar Rapids, Iowa, The Torch Press, 1937. viii, 247 p. Maps. \$2.50.)

Despite its comprehensive title, this little book is really a study of land entry and ultimate concentration of ownership of iron lands in Minnesota. In his preface, Professor Wirth refers to his work both as "an inquiry into the exploitation of the iron resources" of Minnesota and as a study of the "disposition" of the iron lands "somewhat in detail." By all odds, it is the latter rather than the former.

All quibbling as to terminology aside, however, this is a good and rather thorough study, based almost entirely upon source materials. The author gathered his information on the spot. His perusal of land records, local newspapers, and manuscript materials relating to the participants in the mad scramble has apparently been careful and painstaking. He has seized upon a subject badly needing a historian's

careful approach while many of the actors are yet living and much of the evanescent source material is still extant. A careful bibliography makes the work the more valuable.

That the text is somewhat constricted and condensed is disappointing, but it seems to be the usual fate of doctoral dissertations to be held within bounds beyond which the author himself would much prefer to go. One feels that Professor Wirth knows far more about his subject than he has been able to tell in the space at his disposal. This necessary compromise is probably responsible for the cramped style of certain sections.

After a hurried consideration of the importance of Minnesota iron in our national economy and an account of discovery and early mining booms, the author proceeds to summarize important land legislation, showing the evolution of our land policy. Increasingly liberal legislation, while rapidly putting land into the hands of agricultural settlers, proved entirely inadequate when applied to mineral lands. Whether adequate mineral land laws were, in the nature of things, ever possible is doubtful. But inability of the law to keep pace with developments had as a natural consequence wild disorder in the settlement of our various mineral regions.

The fraud, bribery, and general corruption that have always characterized the disposal of our public lands can never be exonerated, and doubtless are contributory causes to our proverbial American lawlessness. Net results have proved not too vicious in relation to the ultimate disposal of most farm lands, but elsewhere the consequences have been tragic. In the race for success in mineral regions, the highest premiums have gone to those most adept at deceit, dishonesty, and treachery. The laxity and fraud without doubt had dire social consequences, despite the fact that perjury and dishonesty in dealing with the government were condoned by society. Worse yet was the final economic result, the concentration of ownership of our national wealth in the hands of persons and corporations in no way deserving such trust. No one would suggest that our government could with wisdom have retained agricultural lands, but a strong case can be made for state or national ownership of mineral lands.

Professor Wirth maintains an admirable objectivity without concealing his disapprobation of methods and results. His careful presentation of the "Section Thirty Case" details the confused and fluc-



tuating picture of ownership of one section of land, and the following chapter is very instructive as to the types of frauds and abuses practiced. The withholding of names of most persons involved is kind, though it irks the student. It is difficult to remain unbiased in making a study of such flagrant abuse. Let us illustrate by quoting the letter of a mail carrier who signed some names to blank papers and later found that land was being taken up under these names.

When next I saw B——, I told him there must be something crooked, and if there was anything to be made out of that I wanted something. He told me that he had paid P——, Receiver, twenty-five dollars for each of these claims and would make it all right with me. Shortly afterwards, B—— came down to my boarding house with Mr. L—— and paid me one hundred dollars.

He passed the good word along to other members of his family, and each of his brothers earned a hundred dollars in like fashion.

The author cannot refrain from showing his lack of sympathy for those who acquired large holdings by dubious methods. "By these various processes, nearly all in violation of the spirit as well as the letter of the law, the Government was defrauded and valuable lands passed into the hands of a few wealthy individuals or corporations." The short chapter devoted to the Rockefeller acquisition of the Merritt holdings carefully gives both sides of the story, but it is not difficult to see the author's true attitude toward this sordid example of greed.

Professor Wirth places the blame for much of what happened on the indefinite and inconstant policies of the federal government. That our government could not or would not make socially desirable rules for the disposition of our mineral lands seems the saddest part of the story. The author concludes that "The process by which these resources were exploited for the benefit of a few was in its day by too many considered the typical American way and is an example of rugged individualism in action."

HUBERT SCHMIDT

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

*Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota*, nos. 7, 24 — Blue Earth County (Mankato), Freeborn County (Albert Lea). Prepared by the HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY, DIVISION OF WOMEN'S AND PROFESSIONAL PROJECTS, WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION. (St. Paul, The Historical Records Survey, 1937. iii, 76, iii, 91 p.)

For more than twenty years a small group of persons in Minnesota has been hoping for a more adequate administration of public archives in the state. One step was taken when the older records of the territory and state were surveyed and in part transferred to the Minnesota Historical Society. These state archives are now available for use under convenient research conditions in a building where are also housed the correlated materials of research: the printed documents of the state, its newspapers, general reference works, and other manuscript and museum collections bearing on all phases of its past. The use to which these state archives have since been put does not measure the value to the state of their present system of organization.

Another pioneer step has now been taken, under the initiative of the society, toward a proper administration of the archives of the various counties. Inventories of the types or categories of materials which are housed and available in county courthouses have been prepared by the Historical Records Survey, from which the layman may learn the exact nature of these historical source materials, the conditions under which they are preserved and may be used, and the completeness of the sources. The next step in the progress of county archives would seem to be a reorganization of the methods of administration of these records, where such reorganization is necessary.

It is open to question whether the older county archives should be centralized, as some have suggested, at the Minnesota Historical Society, although that organization is entitled by law to the custody of all noncurrent records which the local official may deem unnecessary to the conduct of the business of his office. The present system of administration in county courthouses in some instances, on the other hand, gives no assurance that the most valuable records are safe from fire, theft, water, rodents, and a host of other destructive agents. An alternative to allowing these documents to suffer in such wise is to collect the more valuable noncurrent documents at the society, where they might be given adequate care. The state society, however, is not

provided with facilities necessary for housing the vast bulk of material which would be collected if such a procedure were to be adopted. The society's quarters are already crowded with other collections of all types. On the other hand, from the standpoint of persons wishing to use the documents, it seems likely that the greater proportion would wish to make a perpendicular rather than a horizontal examination — that is, they would probably wish to consult the records of one county, or of one county office, from its establishment to the present day, oftener than specific types of documents throughout various counties. Research at best is arduous, and it is the opinion of many that the original county records should not be preserved at the capital, but rather should be adequately provided for in the county seats, where all the documents of the county are available in one place. This does not mean that it would be unwise to have copies of some of the more significant records among the public archives now at the historical society. This end might be accomplished by a systematic collection of film-slide copies of such documents. Such a procedure would facilitate the use of the documents, make them more generally available, and provide a safeguard against the loss of the originals.

There is no question of the importance of the public archives which are now being inventoried. In the county documents are the basic records concerned with real and personal property. Here alone can one find systematic collections of vital statistics, such as records of births, deaths, and marriages. These two types of basic records alone demand adequate protection. For the proper administration of vital matters such as taxation, public indebtedness, the distribution of estates, education, public welfare, and a dozen others, the loss of the record of previous action would be irreparable. For the first time, in the present series of inventories, the first two volumes of which have now been published, are the facts in the case conveniently arranged for the layman. As an introduction to the inventories proper, the survey published an account of *General Legislation concerning Counties in Minnesota* (1937. 34 p.), which will prepare the layman to use the published inventories and the original documents with understanding; it should also be known to all teachers of political science and civics in the state.

Citizens of Minnesota who are concerned with the future of the state are confident that county governments will not permit their documents to be lost or rendered useless as a result of improper care.

In numerous fields Minnesota has an enviable progressive record, and it would be appropriate if it should now take the lead in the development of an adequate system of administration for its public archives.

G. HUBERT SMITH

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
FORT RIDGELY, MINNESOTA

*The United States: A Graphic History* (*The Modern World Series*, no. 1). Text by LOUIS M. HACKER, pictorial statistics by RUDOLF MODLEY, statistical research by GEORGE R. TAYLOR. (New York, Modern Age Books, Inc., 1937. 243 p. Charts. \$.75.)

Here is history that he who runs may read. "Here is history streamlined," reads the blurb on the jacket. Call it what you will, the book represents a brilliant performance by authors and publisher. It is one of a select few books whose charts and graphs are as scholarly, entertaining, and artistic as the text itself, and in saying this no slighting remark is intended for the author of the text. This economic history of the United States is not intended to compete with conventional textbooks; but authors and publishers had better look to their laurels. This volume is not patterned after a Montgomery Ward catalogue; it has unity, continuity, brevity, and "punch." There are three reels. Part one: "The Establishment of Capitalism"; part two: "The Triumphs of Capitalism"; part three: "Capitalism in Crisis." The bibliography is brief and good. There is no index, but none is needed.

G. M. S.

## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

DR. EDGAR B. WESLEY ("History at Home") is professor of education in the University of Minnesota and is nationally known as an authority on the teaching of the social studies. He has written textbooks in that field and many other works, including a monograph entitled *Guarding the Frontier*. Mr. Everett E. Edwards ("Wendelin Grimm and Alfalfa") is on the staff of the bureau of agricultural economics in the United States department of agriculture. His collaborator, Mr. Horace H. Russell, is on the staff of the social security board in Washington, D. C. Mr. Edwards is a frequent contributor to this magazine, his last contribution having been an analysis of agricultural periodicals. Mr. G. Hubert Smith ("Count Andreani: A Forgotten Traveler") has directed the recent excavations at Fort Ridgely under the National Park Service. He is both a field archaeologist and an investigator of historical problems. The reviewers include Professor A. C. Krey of the University of Minnesota, who delivered the society's annual address some years ago on "History and the Machine Age"; Dr. Jim Dan Hill, president of the Superior State Teachers College and author of *The Texas Navy*; Mr. Edward C. Gale of Minneapolis, president of the Minnesota Historical Society; Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts for the society; Mrs. Gustav Swanson of St. Paul, who is better known to readers of this magazine as Evadene Burris, the author of a series of articles on home life and conditions in Minnesota in the frontier period; Dr. George M. Stephenson, biographer of John Lind and widely known American historian; Dr. John T. Flanagan, whose articles on the visits of famous writers to Minnesota have been a notable feature in recent volumes of this magazine; and Mr. Hubert Schmidt of Chicago, formerly a teaching assistant in history at the University of Minnesota.

The superintendent has been elected a member of the advisory board of the American Council of Learned Societies for a term of four years from 1938 to 1942. The council, a federation of twenty societies, was organized in 1919 for the advancement of the humanistic

studies. It is supported chiefly by the Carnegie Corporation and the Rockefeller Foundation. The advisory board awards scholarships, advises on publications, and serves the council in other ways.

A program of "Finnish Folk Songs and Folklore in Minnesota" was presented by Miss Marjorie Edgar of Marine under the auspices of the society in the auditorium of the Historical Building on the evening of November 30.

At a meeting of the society's executive council on October 18, Mr. G. Hubert Smith of the National Park Service read a paper on "Archaeology and History" and Mrs. Helen Dunlap Dick of Minneapolis presented the account of the diary of Colonel Josiah Snelling which is published *ante*, 18:399-406.

Among recent users of the society's library and manuscript collections was Miss Honoria Sweetman of County Wexford, Ireland, who was assembling material relating to the Minnesota activities of her father, John Sweetman. The latter organized the Irish-American Colonization Company and founded an Irish colony near Currie in Murray County in 1881. A collection of his papers is owned by the society and an article on his colony has been published in this magazine (*ante*, 9:331-346). Miss Sweetman is planning to write a biography of her father.

A larger number of teachers and pupils in groups visited the society's museum in 1937 than in any previous year. The total recorded for the year is 9,322 individuals in 309 groups. The largest number previously recorded for a single year was 7,050 in 1935.

Three sustaining members — Truman P. Gardner, Den E. Lane, and Dan I. York, all of St. Paul — and thirty annual members joined the society during the quarter ending December 31. The names of the annual members follow: Leonard Blom of Willmar, Dr. Elwin R. Bray of St. Paul, Dr. Mary Bassett Bray of Biwabik, John H. Brown of International Falls, Mrs. Emma Crandall of Minneapolis, Ruth Creglow of St. Paul, A. F. Diehn of Round Lake, Mrs. Marie S. Dorety of St. Paul, Dr. Thomas E. Drake of Haverford, Pennsylvania, Judge John W. Finehout of St. Paul, J. D. Hartzler of Partridge, Kansas, J. P. Kinney of Washington, D. C., Mayor George E. Leach of Minneapolis, Mr. Clarence B. Michel of St. Paul, Willard

A. Morse of Minneapolis, Lilly L. Oehler of St. Paul, Mr. and Mrs. Francis G. Okie and Richardson B. Okie of White Bear Lake, Jean F. Peck of St. Paul, Clarence S. Peterson of Baltimore, Maryland, Connie Reimbold of St. Paul, Florence E. Reinmuth of Minneapolis, Dr. Robert Rosenthal of St. Paul, Mrs. Robert Sanford of Palisade, Eliza A. Schlenk of St. Paul, Albert M. Sheldon of Minneapolis, Henry D. Thrall of Minneapolis, Carl Vitz of Minneapolis, and Mrs. T. C. Williamson of Winnebago.

The society lost nine active members by death during the last three months of 1937: George J. Ries of St. Paul, October 7; Luther S. Cushing of St. Paul, October 11; Mrs. William W. Skinner of St. Paul, October 28; H. Thomas Quinlan of St. Paul, November 2; James A. Nowell of St. Paul, November 16; Mrs. Edward N. Saunders of St. Paul, December 19; Mrs. George S. Wilson of Minneapolis, December 19; Frank B. Kellogg of St. Paul, December 21; and Preston T. Jackson of St. Paul, December 30.

Writing under the pseudonym of "Robert Avar," Mr. Robert Beveridge, who has directed much of the society's microfilm work, presents the first of a series of articles on the society's use of the miniature camera in the December issue of *Leica Photography*. "Why Copy?" is the title under which he explains the reasons for making film copies of manuscripts and rare materials in the collections of the society and other organizations.

In a recent letter to the superintendent, Mr. Everett E. Edwards of the United States department of agriculture expresses his appreciation of the articles on "Some Sources for Northwest History" which have appeared from time to time in *MINNESOTA HISTORY*. "I have cited a number of them in a bibliographical contribution called 'References on Agricultural History as a Field for Research,'" Mr. Edwards reports. "Especially noteworthy," in his opinion, "is Rodney C. Loehr's article on farmers' diaries as a historical source. It is the best analysis of one specific kind of source of special interest to agricultural historians that has been made."

The volume of *Norwegian Emigrant Songs and Ballads* edited and translated by Mr. Blegen in collaboration with Martin B. Ruud has been selected by the American Institute of Graphic Arts as one of the "Fifty Books of the Year" for exhibition in 1938. The book was

published by the University of Minnesota Press late in 1936. With forty-nine other "examples of American bookmaking, selected on the merits of physical attractiveness, suitability to purpose, and the success with which the designer has met the problems imposed by editorial content and conditions of production," the volume was placed on display at the New York Public Library early in February. The exhibit will be shown later in many parts of the United States.

During the last three months of 1937, members of the society's staff presented nineteen talks and addresses on various subjects relating to Minnesota and Northwest history and the activities of the society. The superintendent spoke on "Preserving Records" before members of the Telelaget in Minneapolis on October 5, on "The Scope of Minnesota History" at a meeting of the Pathfinders' Club of Minneapolis on October 19, on the history of Marine and plans for its centennial celebration at Marine on October 27, on "Immigration and the Westward Movement in Ballad and Song" before members of the faculties of Hamline University and Macalester College at St. Paul on November 2, on "Grand Portage and the Early Fur Trade" at the Center for Continuation Study on the campus of the University of Minnesota on November 4, on "Conquistador, Black Robe, and Trail Blazer" before the Colonial Dames of Minnesota meeting in Minneapolis on November 22, and on "Pioneering Social Frontiers" before the Minneapolis College Women's Club on November 22. Miss Nute presented talks on Radisson and Groseilliers at meetings of the St. Paul Rotary Club on October 12, the Exchange Club of St. Paul on November 3, and the American Association of University Women at Hibbing on November 15; she spoke on the history of the "Rainy Lake Post, 1731-1900" before the American Association of University Women at Minneapolis on November 1; and she was interviewed on the work of the society over radio station WMIN in St. Paul on October 29. Mr. Babcock described the "Fascination of Minnesota History" for members of the Legislative and Study Club of St. Paul on October 6, the Midway Club of St. Paul on December 8, and the Gymal Doled Club of Minneapolis on December 10; he represented the society at the dedication of a memorial to Joseph Rolette at Pembina on October 13; and he gave illustrated talks on early Minnesota for classes from Mechanic Arts High School on October 22 and 25.



## ACCESSIONS

A list of goods made up at Grand Portage on July 22, 1775, for trade in the Northwest is among some accounts of Peter Pond in the period from 1773 to 1775 that have been copied by the photostatic process from originals in the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library and in the Buffalo Historical Society. The documents reveal that in 1773 Pond formed a partnership with Felix Graham, who furnished equipment and trade goods and received in return furs for sale in New York and London.

The fur trade of the upper Mississippi Valley is the subject of an agreement made by Ramsay Crooks of the American Fur Company with Joseph Rolette, Hercules L. Dousman, and Henry H. Sibley on August 15, 1834, a photostatic copy of which has been made for the society from the original in the Edward E. Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library, Chicago. Among other items in the same collection copied for the society are a letter of John Marsh written from Prairie du Chien on April 17, 1831, relating to the Carver grant; a trader's account book; and a Dakota vocabulary.

A reminiscent narrative by Roswell P. Russell, who settled in Minnesota in 1839 and was employed at different times in the sutler's store at Fort Snelling, as a fur trader, a surveyor, and receiver of the Minneapolis land office, has been copied on film slides from the original in the possession of his granddaughter, Miss Corah L. Colbrath of Duluth. Russell's account of his trip upstream along the Mississippi and Lake Pepin shores to the Minnesota country is of special interest. Alexander Graham was his guide, and among the frontier characters that he encountered on the way were James Wells, the fur trader, and Daniel Gavin, a missionary to the Sioux at Red Wing.

The diaries kept from 1856 to 1859 and from 1873 to 1908 by Lewis Stowe, a Le Sueur County farmer, have been presented by his grandson, the Reverend Walter H. Stowe of New Brunswick, New Jersey. Of special interest are the diaries for the years from 1874 to 1878, when Stowe served as Indian agent on the White Earth reservation in northern Minnesota. Included also are some accounts, meteorological records for the years from 1858 to 1865, and a hotel register for the Waterville House.

Descriptions of La Pointe, Mantorville, Anoka, Faribault, and Sauk Rapids, and references to Forts Ridgely and Ripley in the fifties are to be found among the transcripts of items of Minnesota interest in the *New York Tribune* made recently for the society from a file in the Boston Public Library. Material on the state Republican convention of 1855 and the removal of the Winnebagos also is to be found in recent transcripts.

Letter books, account books, ledgers, and check stubs are included among thirty-five volumes of the papers of Truman M. Smith, a pioneer St. Paul banker, that have been added by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Charles T. Smith of St. Paul, to the collection of his papers already in the possession of the society (see *ante*, 5:225). A register of the Ramsey County district school that Smith's children attended also is included in the gift.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Ralph Harris of La Crescent a long series of diaries kept from 1858 to 1901 by his grandfather, John S. Harris, has been photographed for the society. Harris was a pioneer horticulturist at La Crescent, and his diaries record the results of numerous experiments in the raising of fruits and vegetables in a northern climate. State and county fairs and meetings of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, of which he was an active member, are described, and daily weather records are included. In the collection are also account books, scrapbooks, diaries, and other records kept by Harris' son Frank in the seventies. The latter was deeply interested in ornithology, and his papers are of special value for records and descriptions of Minnesota birds, their nests, and eggs.

A large collection of the papers of William B. Mitchell, a pioneer resident of St. Cloud, covering the period from 1872 to 1928, has been received from his daughter, Miss Eleanor Mitchell of St. Paul. Among Mitchell's correspondents were many prominent Minnesotans, including Alexander Ramsey, Ignatius Donnelly, Stephen Miller, William Windom, Cyrus Northrop, John S. Pillsbury, and David M. Clough. The reports prepared by Henry Z. Mitchell while he was serving as postmaster at St. Cloud from 1861 to 1867 and a military cape that he used are included in the gift.

A Chippewa grammar compiled by the Reverend Ottmar Cloeter between 1862 and 1868 from notes taken while he was stationed as

Lutheran missionary at Crow Wing has been presented by his son, the Reverend Ottmar Cloeter of St. Paul. The little booklet was bound in buckskin by the author.

Eighty-seven "America letters," written by Ole Nielsen, Sr., his sister, Gro Nielsdatter, and his brother, "Little Ole," from southern Minnesota and northern Iowa in the sixties and seventies, have been copied from originals in Norway by Mr. Arne Odd Johnsen of Oslo and added to other Nielsen letters received earlier (see *ante*, 18:316). Some of the elder Nielsen's letters were written at Estherville, Iowa, and others from Luverne, where he settled on a farm about 1875. He reports that 1877 was a "fairly good year," for "we were almost spared from grasshoppers."

Minutes of meetings of the Congregational Church of Lake Benton between 1880 and 1916, a register of baptisms, and miscellaneous papers are among a group of church records presented by Mr. A. E. Tasker of Lake Benton.

A license to practice medicine in Minnesota issued to Dr. Henry W. Brazie in 1883 is one of six items from his papers presented by Mrs. Jonathan E. Painter of Minneapolis. The gift also includes certificates of Brazie's appointment as member of a commission to examine the Minnesota hospitals for the insane, and a membership roll of the "Michigan Boys in Blue," an organization of Civil War veterans.

Minutes of meetings from 1887 to 1924 of the Minnehaha Grange of Richfield Township, Hennepin County, have been presented by the organization through the courtesy of Mr. Joseph Ball of St. Paul. Changes in agricultural methods and farm life are reflected in the programs presented at the meetings. These minutes form a valuable addition to the records received from the same grange in 1936 (see *ante*, 17:98).

Miss Theresa Ericksen of St. Paul, a veteran nurse of the Spanish-American and World wars, has presented a filing box of correspondence and other papers, and a scrapbook of clippings relating to her service with the Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, her work as superintendent of the Pleasant Day Nursery in St. Paul, and the

activities of the societies of the United Spanish War Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Minnesota.

Letters written by Brigadier General La Roy Upton from 1902 to 1908 while he was stationed at military posts in California, New York, Illinois, and the Philippines as a captain in the First United States Infantry have been presented by his sister, Mrs. Rose Upton Bascom of Framingham, Massachusetts. They have been added to the collection of General Upton's World War papers already in the possession of the society (see *ante*, 3:144). A photograph of General Upton is included in Mrs. Bascom's gift.

Twenty filing boxes of correspondence, reports, and petitions, eleven letter books, and two scrapbooks of clippings from the archives of the Minnesota game and fish commission have been transferred from the Old Capitol. Reports of game wardens from 1901 to 1906, records of fish produced and distributed at state hatcheries from 1917 to 1921, and letter books kept by the executive agent of the commission in 1895 and from 1898 to 1904 are included.

A wealth of material about the development and promotion of northern Minnesota in the second decade of the present century is to be found in twelve boxes of the papers of Mathias N. Koll of Cass Lake, presented by his son, the Reverend Jude T. Koll of Collegeville. Many of the papers relate to the activities of the Northern Minnesota Development and the Minnesota Scenic Highway associations, both of which Koll served as secretary. There is also material relating to the Theodore Roosevelt International Highway Association, the Ten Thousand Lakes of Minnesota Association, the Northern Minnesota Sheep Growers Association, the Cass County Development Association, and several Cass Lake organizations. A large number of interesting and valuable pictures of northern Minnesota scenes and communities and many miscellaneous Minnesota newspapers are included in the gift. Most of the latter date from the years from 1910 to 1919.

Term papers on "The Negro in Minnesota" by Lorraine Tews, on "The North Star Grange" by Ruth D. Beddie, and on "The Care of the Socially Inadequate in Minnesota Up to 1900 with Special Emphasis on the Work of the State Board of Corrections and Chari-

ties" by Frank J. Petrich have been presented by the authors. They were prepared at the University of Minnesota.

A typewritten "Short History of the Minneapolis Municipal Airport (Wold-Chamberlain Field) and Memorandum of the Principal Official Transactions from Its Inception Up to the Present Time" has been presented by the Minneapolis board of park commissioners. The document is accompanied by plats and drawings showing plans for lighting and developing the airport. There is also a report on the operation of the airport in 1929 and 1930, giving the number of planes, passengers, and trips.

A Dutch translation of Father Louis Hennepin's *Description de la Louisiane*, published at Amsterdam in 1688 under the title *Beschryving van Louisiana*, has been added to the society's growing collection of Hennepin items. Among the engraved illustrations is what may be a contemporary portrait of the Belgian friar who discovered the Falls of St. Anthony in 1680. There is also a map that does not appear in the original French edition of 1683. Another recent addition to the society's Hennepin collection is a photostatic copy of his rare *La morale pratique du Jansenisme*, published at Utrecht in 1698. The book was written in reply to a priest of the Jansenist sect who asserted that Hennepin's writings were false and that he had not seen the places in the New World that he described. The original of the volume copied for the society is in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

An oil portrait of the Reverend Alfred Brunson, pioneer Methodist missionary to the Minnesota Sioux at Kaposia, is the gift of Mrs. Mary Brunson and Mr. Frank Brunson of St. Paul.

California gold pieces dated 1852, 1854, and 1856 have been presented by Miss Ella Pier of Upper Red Hook, New York; and ten paper notes issued at Lavuka in the Fiji Islands in 1872 and 1873 are the gifts of Mrs. John E. Page of St. Paul.

Mr. George W. Johnson of St. Paul has added nineteen pieces of telephone equipment to the large collection previously presented by him (see *ante*, 18:319).

A handsome Governor Winthrop desk of cherry dating from 1789 is the gift of Miss Nell C. Field of Milwaukee. Mrs. H. W. Kings-

ton of St. Paul has presented several patchwork quilts, a tray, a shredder, and a chopping knife; three pieces of mulberry ware china dating from 1850 have been received from Mr. Willard G. Crewer of St. Paul; and a chopping knife made in Iceland is the gift of Mr. G. S. Bardal of Minneota.

Miss Margaret D. Lindley of Minneapolis has presented suits, hats, puttees, a revolver, a canteen, and other items of military equipment used by Mr. William C. Lindley while he was serving with the Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in the Spanish-American War. A shot gun, a small powder horn, and a powder flask dating from 1854, and three pistols are the gifts of Mr. Willard G. Crewer of St. Paul.

A wedding bonnet, slippers, hose, and lingerie worn in 1868, from the estate of the late Mrs. M. M. Wheeler of St. Paul, have been presented by Mrs. George W. Smyth of St. Paul. Other recent additions to the costume collection include a Paisley shawl dating from 1859, from Mrs. A. S. Dean of Minneapolis; a white tarlatan dress, gloves, and slippers worn in 1879, from Miss Eugenie F. McGroarty of St. Paul; an Alaska seal jacket, an eiderdown dolman, an infant's dress, fans, and a reception gown worn in 1885, from Mrs. Edwin P. Capen of Los Angeles; a black shoulder cape of silk, jet, and lace dating from 1892, from Miss Julia Nilson of St. Paul; and gowns, wraps, hats, and other articles of wearing apparel from the estate of the late Mrs. J. B. Gilfillan of Minneapolis, received through the courtesy of Mrs. Edward S. Avery of New York. Mrs. Avery has presented also a picture of the Falls of St. Anthony in 1857, a view of Minneapolis in 1865, and pictures of two Minneapolis schools in 1882; and several Minneapolis scenes, including one of the suspension bridge across the Mississippi, have been received from Mrs. Capen.

## NEWS AND COMMENT

"SOME SUGGESTIONS to American Historians" was the subject of the presidential address presented by Dr. Guy Stanton Ford, acting president of the University of Minnesota and a member of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society, before the American Historical Association meeting in Philadelphia on December 30. "One can trace the strands that form the present and will appear in the future pattern of America . . . in every state of the old Northwest of 1787," according to Dr. Ford. "They are vivid and unmistakable in the new Northwest," he continues.

Within the state I know best I seem to dwell on the boundaries of advancing industrialized America and retreating agricultural individualism. The great river visible to me each day runs even now in its short course from its source to my own threshold the gamut of American history from virgin forest and Indian settlements, past farms and factories worked by every major immigrant stock, past mills and educational institutions founded by pioneers from New England and the East, past a city whose streets have been reddened by industrial warfare. That river and that Northwest area outlined in 1787 have held the nation together in every major crisis under the Constitution.

Dr. Ford's address appears in the January issue of the *American Historical Review*.

An analytical index to the twenty volumes of the *Dictionary of American Biography* has been issued by the publishers, Charles Scribner's Sons (1937. 613 p.). This "epitome of our national life in all its varied aspects" is a guide not only to all persons about whom articles were written, but to all contributors, all states and countries in which the subjects of articles were born, all names of educational institutions that they attended, all occupations in which they were engaged, and all "topics of importance discussed in the *Dictionary*." By using this index, Minnesotans will learn that nineteen of the individuals whose biographies appear in the *Dictionary* were natives of the North Star State, that four attended Carleton College, and three, the University of Minnesota. Readers of this magazine may be interested also in the fact that nine of the articles in the *Dictionary* were written by the superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, eight by the curator of manuscripts,

Dr. Grace Lee Nute, twenty by one of its vice-presidents, Professor Lester B. Shippee of the University of Minnesota, and twenty-one by a former superintendent, Dr. Solon J. Buck of the National Archives.

A new edition of the *Growth of the American Republic* by Samuel Eliot Morison and Henry Steele Commager has been brought out by the Oxford University Press (1937. 702, 695 p.). Because of the expansion of material for the earlier period and the addition of almost two hundred pages on the period since 1917, the new edition is in two volumes. The first volume covers the period from 1763 through the Civil War and follows the first edition very closely. The second volume is a complete revision of the post-Civil War period and contains many new chapters in order to bring the account down to the present time. The work of revision has been admirably done and the chapters on the events of the recent years are excellent. A new and outstanding feature of the entire work is the great number of remarkably fine maps, charts, and graphs, the second volume alone containing some twenty-seven such valuable and unusual aids for the student fortunate enough to have the *Growth of the American Republic* for a text.

ALICE FELT TYLER

Mr. Everett E. Edwards contributes a stimulating study of "Middle Western Agricultural History as a Field of Research" to the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for December. Since the writer feels that the Middle West's "agriculture has probably been of greater importance to the nation than that of any other region," he has undertaken to suggest phases of the subject "that are particularly deserving of the attention of the historians." He finds that Wisconsin is the only one of the twelve states constituting the Middle West that has an adequate modern history of agriculture; Edward V. Robinson's volume on Minnesota, published in 1915, is out of date. Among the subjects that Mr. Edwards suggests are in need of study are the relation of immigrant groups to agriculture and rural life, the history of agricultural implements and machinery, the marketing of agricultural products and co-operative marketing, the history of the rural home and community, and the relation of the farmer to politics.

A valuable list of "Military Roads in the United States" is included in a multigraphed pamphlet on *Military Roads* issued by the National Highway Users Conference (Washington, 1935. 20 p.).



Information is presented on the locations, builders, mileage, and cost of the roads listed, and the years that each was maintained and the numbers of modern highways that follow the same general routes are given. Among the Minnesota roads listed are those from Fort Snelling to Fort Leavenworth, from Mendota to Wabasha and to Mankato, from Minneapolis to Fort Ridgely, from Point Douglas to Fort Ripley and to Duluth, from Swan River to Long Prairie, from Mankato to the Missouri River, and from Duluth to the Bois Fort Reservation.

"Upper Mississippi River Improvements" from 1820 to 1930 are listed in a multigraphed pamphlet recently issued by the Minneapolis City Planning Commission under the title *Historical, Construction, Operating Data and General Information Relative to the Upper Mississippi River Nine Foot Channel* (1937). Locks and dams constructed on the upper river between the Twin Cities and Alton also are listed and are located on a map.

In celebration of the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Northwest Territory, the commission appointed by Congress has issued a pamphlet on the *History of the Ordinance of 1787 and the Old Northwest Territory* (Marietta, Ohio. 95 p.), accompanied by a colored pictorial map. The various chapters treat the history of the discovery and exploration of the area, its settlement and the organization of government, the evolution of the states into which it was later divided, and the significance of its history in that of the United States as a whole. The material is intended for school use. It is somewhat uneven in quality, and while treating some subjects, such as the authorship of the ordinance, in great detail, it leaves some other matters with scant mention. The most valuable part of the publication is the map. This is suitable for mounting, and it is unfortunate that only on its reverse is the text of the ordinance available. The map, though well drawn, is rather crowded with facts placed in little blocks near the areas with which they deal, causing a confusion that could have been avoided by placing the matter in the cartouche. It should be mentioned that the Wisconsin River and Nicolas Perrot's post at Prairie du Chien are misplaced. G. H. S.

Patrick Campbell's rare and little-known volume of *Travels in the Interior Inhabited Parts of North America in the Years 1791 and*

1792, originally published in 1793, has been issued by the Champlain Society in a new edition with an introduction by H. H. Langton (Toronto, 1937). In his narrative Campbell mentions several individuals who figured in Minnesota history, among them Count Paolo Andreani, who visited Grand Portage in 1791. Campbell encountered the Italian count after his return from Lake Superior on the St. Lawrence above Montreal "with a crew of ten or twelve Canadians in one birch canoe." There are references also to members of the Patterson family, one of whom, Charles, was an early trader on the Minnesota and upper Mississippi rivers, and to Lord Edward Fitzgerald, who was in the Minnesota country in 1789.

An essay on "William Joseph Snelling, Forgotten Critic" is contributed to the October issue of the *Philological Quarterly* by John T. Flanagan, a frequent contributor to MINNESOTA HISTORY. Snelling, a son of Colonel Josiah Snelling for whom the fort at the mouth of the Minnesota River was named, spent some years in the Northwest before embarking upon a literary career in Boston in 1828. By that time, according to Mr. Flanagan, "he knew the northwest from personal experience as few white men did, and he combined with his practical knowledge a certain flair for the artistic presentation of it." Thus he "was ready to play a not inconspicuous part in the world of letters." How he played that part is the central theme of Mr. Flanagan's essay.

Bishop Henry B. Whipple, Jay Cooke, and other historical characters figure in a novel entitled *Railroad West* by Cornelia Meigs (New York, 1937). The story centers about a young engineer who walks from Brainerd to the Rockies while engaged in surveying the route for a railroad. The author's careful regard for historical accuracy makes her story, which is written for youthful readers, of value for school and public libraries.

L. I. B.

Chapters of A. W. Ricker's history of "The Birth and Growth of the Northwest Farmers Union" continue to appear in the monthly issues of the *Farmers Union Herald* of South St. Paul (see *ante*, 18:323). In the November issue, the author deals with the story of the American Society of Equity.

*The Journal of Rudolph Friederich Kurz: An Account of His Experiences among Fur Traders and American Indians on the Missis-*

*issippi and the Upper Missouri Rivers during the Years 1846 to 1852* has been translated from the original German by Myrtis Jarrell and edited by J. N. B. Hewitt for publication by the Smithsonian Institution as number 115 of the *Bulletins* of the Bureau of American Ethnology (1937. 382 p.). Kurz was a well-known Swiss artist. Like Catlin, he went into the American West to study and sketch the Indians. In order to finance his undertaking, he served as a clerk at certain Missouri Valley trading posts, including Fort Union. Although his travels were confined to the lower Mississippi and Missouri valleys, his *Journal* includes numerous comments on Indians and half-breeds from the Minnesota country who visited the western posts. References to Sioux and Chippewa occur frequently in the narrative, and on one occasion Kurz presents an account of a Red River hunt as he heard it from the lips of some half-breeds who appeared at Fort Union in search of employment. The published *Journal* is followed by reproductions of forty-eight of Kurz's sketches.

In a volume of *Sagas of the Old Northwest*, LeRoy G. Davis includes the "Legend of Wan-na-han and Singing-heart," a tale which has its setting in the Sioux-Chippewa warfare of 1839 (n.p., 1937). Mr. Davis presents the romantic legend in verse, but he follows it with a "Historical Note" about the battle of July 4, 1839, on the Rum River near Anoka.

One of the pioneers of American medicine included in James T. Flexner's *Doctors on Horseback* (New York, 1937) is Dr. William Beaumont, whose career as a scientist is closely identified with the history of the frontier Northwest. The author describes as the "drama of one of the strangest collaborations in history" the story of the experiments conducted by Beaumont at Mackinac and Fort Crawford on a Canadian voyageur, which resulted in the publication in 1833 of the doctor's *Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice*. Portraits of Beaumont and of Alexis St. Martin, the voyageur, appear with the article.

"There appears to be one genuine record on stone left by the Norsemen" writes A. D. Fraser of the Kensington rune stone in an article on the "Norsemen in Canada" which appears in a recent issue of the *Dalhousie Review*. "To me, as a student of archaeology, the most convincing point in its favour is the condition of the stone," he con-

tinues. He finds that the "Kensington stone shows definite marks of weathering" that cannot be accounted for "on any other ground than that which assumes its exposure to the elements, letters and all, for generations or centuries."

Plans are under way for a nation-wide celebration commemorating the tercentenary of the founding of the first Swedish settlement in America by a group of colonists who landed near the present site of Wilmington, Delaware, in the spring of 1638. Features of the celebration in the East will be the unveiling on June 27 of a monument designed by Carl Milles to mark the spot where the first Swedish settlers landed; the dedication on the following day of the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia; and a parade of the states and pageant in the same city on June 29. An official party from Sweden, headed by Crown Prince Gustaf Adolph, will participate in these ceremonies, and will then proceed westward. The prince and his party will spend two days in Minnesota where they will attend a special celebration to be held in Minneapolis. A state commission, of which Dr. G. Arvid Hagstrom is acting chairman and Senator Victor E. Lawson secretary, is planning Minnesota's participation in the tercentenary. The anniversary will be observed in many localities that have large Swedish populations, as well as in Minneapolis.

The fiftieth anniversaries of the *Duluth Skandinav* and the *Superior tidende* were the occasions for a special supplement issued jointly by the two papers on December 3. It contains articles tracing the history of the *Skandinav* from 1887, when it was established by Michael F. Wesenberg, to the present, and of the *Tidende*, which was established at about the same time. Other articles include sketches of Norwegians who were prominent in Wisconsin politics, reminiscent accounts of Duluth in the eighties, and historical accounts of the eleven Norse-American churches in Duluth, and the four in Superior, from the time of the organization of the first Lutheran church in 1870. The issue also contains articles tracing the growth of electrical power development in the Arrowhead country and describing iron mining.

Many of the events enumerated by Ruth A. Gallaher in an article entitled "A Decade of Iowa Centennials, 1938-1947," which appears in the July issue of the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, are of significance for Minnesota as well as Iowa history. When Iowa Ter-

ritory was created on June 12, 1838, for example, it included what is now Minnesota west of the Mississippi; Bishop Mathias Loras became the first Catholic bishop of much of the present state of Minnesota when he arrived at Dubuque in 1839; and several of the dragoon companies that marched through Iowa in the forties also passed through parts of Minnesota. The rapid development of towns, cities, newspapers, schools, churches, and the like described by Miss Gallaher occurred in Minnesota a decade later than it did in Iowa.

Much information about the history of higher education in Iowa is to be found in a volume commemorating the *Ninetieth Anniversary of the State University of Iowa* (160 p.). In it appear the addresses presented at Iowa City on February 24, 1937 — Founders' Day for the university. An account of the establishing of the school is included in a paper by Benj. F. Shambaugh entitled "The Old Stone Capitol Remembers." Among the speakers who participated in a conference on higher education was President Lotus D. Coffman of the University of Minnesota, who discussed "Problems of Higher Education."

*The Railroads of Wisconsin, 1827-1937* is the title of a pamphlet recently published by the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society (Boston, 1937. 72 p.). The lines built by each railroad operating in Wisconsin are listed with the dates of construction and mileage.

"Some Recollections of Thomas Pederson," installments of which have been appearing in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, include memories of two years spent on a Douglas County farm, described in the December issue. The author left his Wisconsin home in the late seventies to live for a time with an uncle, Johannes Hanson, near Alexandria. To the same number of this magazine, Albert O. Barton contributes an article on "Muskego: The Most Historic Norwegian Colony." He relates that the log church built by the early Muskego settlers "was removed to the campus of the Lutheran seminary at St. Anthony park, Minneapolis [*sic*], to be preserved as a memorial."

"The Story of Fort Sisseton," which was established as Fort Wadsworth on the Coteau des Prairies of northeastern South Dakota in 1864, is reviewed by Edward A. Hummel in the *South Dakota Historical Review* for April. The fort, according to the writer, was

built after the Sioux Outbreak of 1862 "to give assurance to the pioneer that a similar disaster would not occur" and to "protect the wagon routes to the recently discovered gold fields of Idaho and Montana." In the same issue of the *Review*, Herbert S. Schell surveys the history of "The Dakota Southern, A Frontier Railway Venture of Dakota Territory." An attempt by Moses K. Armstrong to gain support for the project in Minnesota in 1868 is described.

That Hazen Mooers established a post on the west shore of Big Stone Lake in 1819 and thus became the first white resident of what is now Roberts County, South Dakota, is the assertion made by the writer of an article in the *Sisseton Courier* for December 2. The article is one of a series of "Stories of Roberts County," most of which have been written by H. S. Morris (see *ante*, 18:456). Much of the information about Mooers, who was later engaged as a trader at Little Rock on the Minnesota River near the present site of Fort Ridgely State Park, is based upon material in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

"The sagacity of the men who launched the [Nonpartisan] League publications and their enterprising proselytism were undoubtedly the greatest single factors in the immediate success of the League movement," writes Joseph H. Mader in an article on "The North Dakota Press and the Nonpartisan League," which appears in the *Journalism Quarterly* for December. He notes that the "first League publication, the *Nonpartisan Leader*, made its appearance at Fargo" on September 23, 1915, and that it was removed to St. Paul in 1918 when the headquarters of the national organization were established there. By 1919, according to Mr. Mader, "the League controlled, in addition to its official organs, the *Nonpartisan Leader* and seven state *Leaders*, three North Dakota daily newspapers, and, through its affiliated bureau, directed the policies of a chain of weekly newspapers" in North Dakota and Minnesota.

*Dakota Days, May 1886-August 1898* are described by Edson C. Dayton in a little volume of reminiscences recently issued for private circulation (1937. 128 p.). The author went to Dickinson in search of health in 1886 and engaged in cattle ranching in western North Dakota. He tells of numerous trips between Dickinson and

Minneapolis, and gives much information about social and economic conditions in frontier Dakota.

A marker commemorating the career of a prominent Minnesota pioneer, Joseph Rolette, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies at Pembina on October 14. The inscription calls attention to Rolette's services as a "Frontier Leader and Pathfinder." The monument was erected over Rolette's grave in the Pembina cemetery. A sketch of his life and other items relating to his career appear in the *Souvenir Booklet* issued at Pembina on the occasion of the dedication.

The organization of the Hudson's Bay Record Society, which plans to publish one volume each year in association with the Champlain Society, has been announced by the Hudson's Bay Company. Sir George Simpson's Athabasca journal and report of 1820-21 will make up the first volume, to be published in 1938.

"The North West Company of Canada was one of the first examples of big business in North America," writes W. S. Wallace in an article entitled "The Lords of the Lakes and Forests," which appears in the autumn number of *Queen's Quarterly, A Canadian Review*. "Montreal, its financial headquarters, became a city filled with fur-trade magnates," he continues, "and Fort William on Lake Superior, its wilderness headquarters, became at the height of the season, when the partners held their annual meetings, a thriving and throbbing outpost of over three thousand souls." Mr. Wallace's description of the lives of the Nor'westers is drawn from the narratives of such traders and partners as Peter Pond, David Thompson, Gabriel Franchère, and Jean Baptiste Perrault.

"In about the year 1841 the Red River settlement began to do business with St. Paul . . . by the queerest, crudest, homeliest method of transportation known to man," writes W. E. Ingersoll in the *Winnipeg Free Press* for December 16. His account of the Red River cart trade, in which he gives special attention to the trading activities of Norman W. Kittson, is only one of several articles of Minnesota interest that appear in two sections of the *Free Press* devoted to "Transportation and Industry." Mr. Ingersoll contributes also an article about steamboating on the Red River and the stage line

that connected Georgetown and Fort Garry. The co-operation of James J. Hill with Canadian leaders in bringing railroads to the Winnipeg country is touched upon in several articles. Among the many illustrations are early views of Fort Garry, pictures of the "Anson Northup" and the "International" on the Red River, and a St. Paul scene showing Red River carts.

### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

The value of the county archives inventory that is being made by the Historical Records Survey of Minnesota is brought out in the following editorial in the *St. Paul Dispatch* of December 21:

The object of this valuable and much needed project was to list the contents of the archives in Minnesota's 87 counties. When these county inventories are published the state will be in possession for the first time of a complete description of the documents and historical materials in general which are housed in the various county seats. From the information so painstakingly gathered it will be possible for anyone interested to learn the contents, state of completeness, and condition of the records in any county office in Minnesota. The value of the undertaking to historians, lawyers, and others concerned with public records cannot be over-estimated.

One of the facts brought out by the survey is the general inadequate housing of the county archives. It is hoped the revelation will speed a rectification of this deplorable condition.

The editorial appeared after the publication of the first volume of the inventory, dealing with the records of Freeborn County preserved at Albert Lea.

How "State Place Names Have Meanings" is explained by George H. Primmer in articles appearing in the *Minnesota Journal of Education* since November. Minnesota geographic names that are suggestive of location, land forms, climate, coasts, crops, and soil are discussed by Mr. Primmer. Accompanying each article is a map of Minnesota showing "Place Names Selected for Geographic Relevance." Miss Stella Louise Wood contributes to the December issue of the *Journal* a "Brief History of the Kindergarten in Minnesota," in which she points out that the first Minnesota kindergarten was established at the Winona State Normal School in 1880. The beginning and development of kindergartens in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Duluth and the establishment of training departments in the various Minnesota normal schools also are noted. The writer also



presents some information about the Institute of Child Welfare opened at the University of Minnesota in 1925 for the training of nursery-school and kindergarten teachers.

A study of *Minnesota's Browns Valley Man and Associated Burial Artifacts* by Albert Ernest Jenks has been published by the American Anthropological Association as number 49 of its *Memoirs* (1937. 49 p.). It includes sections on the discovery of the skeleton and accompanying artifacts, on the geology of the site where they were discovered, on the "skeletal parts," and on the artifacts. Numerous illustrations accompany the text. A brief description of the "Browns Valley Man" is included in Dr. Jenks's article on "Recent Discoveries in Minnesota Prehistory," which appears *ante*, 16:1-21.

A memorial association which has for its object the restoration and preservation of the Donnelly home at Nininger was organized at Minneapolis on December 5. Mrs. Nora S. Smith was named president. An active member of the executive committee is Senator Victor E. Lawson of Willmar, who plans to prepare a pamphlet about Donnelly for distribution by the association. Senator Lawson is the author of a sketch of Donnelly which appears in the *Minnesota Leader* for October 2.

That only two states in the Union — Massachusetts and California — had boards of health in 1872 when Dr. Charles N. Hewitt of Red Wing drew up a bill for the establishment of such a board in Minnesota is brought out by Dr. L. B. Wilson in an article on the "Development of Public Health Medicine in Minnesota," which appears in the *Proceedings* of the staff meetings of the Mayo Clinic for December 8. Dr. Hewitt's services as secretary of the board from 1872 to 1897 and as professor of public health in the University of Minnesota are described and evaluated. The work of his successors on the board of health, Dr. H. M. Bracken and Dr. Albert J. Chesley, and the activities of such leaders in Minnesota public health work as Dr. Frank F. Wesbrook and Dr. Orianna McDaniel also receive attention. But perhaps Dr. Wilson's most interesting comments relate to the great bacteriologist, Dr. Walter Reed, who, it is revealed, conducted experiments in the biology laboratory of Central High School while he was stationed at St. Paul as an army surgeon in 1893.

Both the Minnesota State Prison at Stillwater and the reformatory at St. Cloud receive favorable comment in Blake McKelvey's volume on *American Prisons: A Study in American Social History Prior to 1915* (Chicago, 1936). Minnesotans who figure in the narrative include Hastings H. Hart and Henry Wolfer.

The student of social history will find a wealth of material relating to Minneapolis homes in a *Financial Survey of Urban Housing*, prepared by the WPA under the direction of David L. Wickens and published by the United States department of commerce (1937. 1245 p.).

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Northwestern Pediatric Society, which was organized by six Twin City pediatricians in 1912, was celebrated at St. Paul on December 8. Speakers participating in the program included Dr. J. T. Christison, who reviewed the history of the society, and Dr. F. C. Rodda, who recalled the early development of the pediatric department in the medical college of the University of Minnesota.

"As soon as the iron mines opened in northeastern Minnesota, the Ukrainian immigrants followed the movement in that direction, and today the iron-mining communities of Chisholm, Hibbing, Eveleth, Virginia, and others count Ukrainian groups in the polyglot element of their population." Thus writes Wasyl Halich in a recent monograph on *Ukrainians in the United States* (Chicago, 1937. 174 p.). He includes Minneapolis among the "largest centers of Ukrainian population in the United States," and he notes national organizations in a number of other Minnesota communities.

The October issue of the *Allsvensk samling*, a magazine published at Göteborg, Sweden, is an elaborately illustrated Minneapolis and St. Paul number. Among the articles included are accounts of the Swedes and their churches in Minnesota, of various Swedish organizations in the Twin Cities, and of instruction in the Swedish language at the University of Minnesota.

In the sixtieth anniversary number of the *Minnesota Missionary*, issued in October, the Reverend Francis L. Palmer reviews the history of this Episcopal church paper. He notes that a complete file is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Mr. George H. Primmer is the author of a study of "Railways at the Head of Lake Superior," which appears in a recent issue of *Economic Geography*. After discussing plans for railroads from the southern Minnesota settlements to the head of the lakes in the fifties, he asserts that "Of ten lines early chartered to Superior City none materialized, but their planning enticed a considerable population." He reviews in some detail the story of the building of the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railway, over which the "first St. Paul train reached Lake Superior at Duluth August 1, 1870, in 16 hours." Among other roads that receive attention are the Northern Pacific, the Great Northern, the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha, the Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Sault Ste. Marie, the Duluth and Iron Range, and the Duluth and Northeastern.

The harbor at Grand Portage is described by Major A. B. Jones as "geographically the most remote, historically the oldest, and economically, at the present time, of the least importance" of the "Great Lakes Harbors of Minnesota" in an article appearing in the July *Bulletin* of the Minnesota Federation of Architectural and Engineering Societies. The author reviews the historical backgrounds of this "oldest port" in Minnesota and of the harbors at Grand Marais, Two Harbors, and Duluth. Of particular value is his account of the development and economic significance of the latter port.

Under the title "The Lengthening Shadow of Two Men," Neil M. Clark reviews the careers of two Minneapolis bankers, Mr. Clive Jaffray and Mr. Edward W. Decker, in the *Nation's Business* for November. A wealth of information about the financial development of the Northwest in the past half century is presented by the author, who tells how these men brought about the formation of the Northwest Bancorporation and the First Bank Stock Corporation.

County agricultural extension work in Minnesota, which began twenty-five years ago in the state, is the subject of an article in the *Springfield Advance-Press* for October 14. The first county agent in the state, according to this account, began work in Traverse County in September, 1912. An account of the work in Nicollet County, which began two years later, is contributed to the *St. Peter Herald* of December 10 by E. M. Nelson.

A charming picture of frontier life in Minnesota in the sixties and seventies is presented by Anna Lathrop Clary in a volume of *Reminiscences* written for her children and privately printed (1937. 107 p.). The writer's father, the Reverend Noah Lathrop, migrated about 1858 from Indiana to Minnesota, where he joined the Minnesota conference of the Methodist church at Red Wing and began a career as a frontier preacher at Cannon Falls. Later, as a Methodist circuit rider, he took his family to Anoka, St. Cloud, Paynesville, Northfield, Lake City, and other Minnesota communities. Perhaps the most interesting portions of the narrative relate to the experiences of the Lathrop family on a woodland claim near Paynesville while the father was engaged as presiding elder of the St. Cloud circuit. Mrs. Clary furnishes her readers with a detailed picture of domestic life in this frontier home, telling how it was built, arranged, and furnished, what food was served at various seasons of the year and how it was prepared, what the members of the family of various ages read, and how her mother kept house. Among the many revealing passages are the following:

Pa bought a washing machine and a wringer. . . . I needn't add that it was not electric. We also had a little portable sewing machine screwed to a table and turned by hand. It had a chain stitch, and though the stitching was carefully fastened at the end, it would catch on a bush sometimes and ravel out. Pa brought home a whole bolt of unbleached muslin at a time from which we made our sheets, slips, underwear and petticoats. . . . When one of us needed shoes, Pa laid a paper on the floor, we set a foot on it, and he marked the outline with a pencil. . . . He brought home the first metal lamp he saw. . . . We had burned candles up to this time. Of course, we still used candles as we had only the one lamp. But the kerosene lamp with a wick about half an inch wide was a great improvement for reading.

Among the seventy-five *Works of Edwin Howland Blashfield* reproduced in a recent volume with an introduction by Royal Cortissoz (New York, 1937) are two murals from the Minnesota state Capitol. One represents "Minnesota, the Granary of the World," and the other, "The Headwaters of the Mississippi."

#### LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

All the officers of the Anoka County Historical Society were re-elected at a meeting held at Anoka on November 1. They are Dr. Scipio Bond, president; Mr. Milo Pomeroy, vice-president; Mr. Theodore A. E. Nelson, recording secretary; Mrs. C. E. Chase, cor-

responding secretary; and Mr. Lynn French, treasurer. The section of Anoka that was known as "Slab Town" was the subject of a paper presented by Mrs. Herbert Mountfort of St. Paul, and the community's early transportation facilities were described in a paper by William Mahany that was read by Mrs. Mahany.

Father Benno Watrin of Ponsford was the speaker at a meeting of the Becker County Historical Society at Detroit Lakes on December 7. About thirty-five people heard him discuss the history and customs of the Chippewa Indians, among whom he has worked as a missionary.

The Brown County Historical Society has eighty life members, according to an announcement in the *New Ulm Daily Journal* for November 18. Plans for a membership campaign and for an annual meeting were made at a meeting of the officers of the society on November 17. An editorial praising the work of the society and of its president, Mr. Fred W. Johnson, appears in the *Journal* for November 19. It credits him with compiling "much of the historical data regarding the early settlement and pioneer period . . . which would have been lost, had it not been collected within a few years." Pictures, manuscripts, and other items relating to the history of West Newton and Ridgely townships were displayed in the society's museum in December.

More than eight thousand visitors who registered viewed the exhibits of the Chippewa Region Historical Society in its museum at Cass Lake in the summer of 1937, according to the *Cass Lake Times* of October 14. The visitors included residents of thirty-six states and of seven foreign countries.

At the annual meeting of the Chippewa County Historical Society, which was held at Montevideo on October 4, the following officers were elected: David Fisher, president; the Reverend E. I. Strom, vice-president; Miss Louise Gippe, secretary; and Mrs. J. Simons, treasurer. The work and activities of the society were explained at a meeting of the Milan Parent-Teacher Association on September 27. Mrs. L. N. Pierce and Miss Edwina Gould of Montevideo, both of whom have been active in promoting the interests of the society, were the speakers.

The Cottonwood County Historical Society joined forces with the local old settlers' association to form the Cottonwood County Historical and Old Settlers Organization at a meeting held at Windom on October 1. Officers elected for the coming year include Mr. P. G. Redding, president; Mr. E. J. Gove, vice-president; Mr. N. J. Bell, secretary; and Mr. H. E. Hanson, treasurer. Among the speakers was Mr. E. E. Gillam, who presented a reminiscent account of pioneer days in Cottonwood County. His paper appears in full in the *Windom Reporter* for October 8.

Mr. Carl Wright of Brainerd was elected president of the Crow Wing County Historical Society at a meeting held at Brainerd on December 9. Other officers named at the meeting are Mrs. Agnes Murray, vice-president, Mrs. J. A. Hayes, treasurer, and Mrs. Sarah Heald, secretary.

Members of the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society who attended its annual meeting on October 18 named G. M. Dwelle to serve as president for the coming year, Mrs. G. W. Selover as vice-president, Mr. W. H. Pletsch as secretary, and Mr. M. L. Erickson as treasurer.

Under the heading "Museum Notes," the *Hutchinson Leader* publishes brief paragraphs about objects on display in the museum of the McLeod County Historical Society. Accessions of unusual interest are noted in some of the issues.

Menyel's Grove near Argyle was selected as the site of the summer meeting and picnic to be held under the auspices of the Marshall County Historical Society in 1938 at a meeting of the society at Warren on November 8. Officers elected at the same meeting include Judge Bernard B. Brett, president, and Mr. Oliver M. Mattson, vice-president.

An invitation to the Martin County Historical Society to hold its summer meeting and picnic of 1938 at Sherburn was received from the Sherburn Business Men's Association and accepted at the annual meeting of the society on October 4. The officers of the society—Judge Julius E. Haycraft, president, A. M. Nelson, secretary, and E. Howard Fitz, treasurer—were re-elected.

Under the editorship of Frank B. Lamson, two pamphlets dealing with *Meeker County History* were issued in 1937 for the Meeker County Historical Society. The first, which is devoted to the third commissioner district of the county, relates in large part to the township and village of Dassel (64 p.). The local grain market, the bank, a seed company, the fire department, churches, schools, and the like receive attention. Some information about Collinwood and Ellsworth townships also is included. Sketches of Forest City, Forest Prairie, Kingston, Watkins, Kimball, and Darwin appear in the second pamphlet, which deals with the fourth commissioner district of the county (71 p.).

Officers of the Morrison County Historical Society, elected at the annual meeting held on November 12, are Mr. Val E. Kasperek, president; Mrs. Harry Stillwell, vice-president; Mrs. Warren Gibson, secretary; and Mr. Warren Gibson, treasurer.

Miss Anna Swenson of the Mankato State Teachers College was the principal speaker at a dinner meeting of the Nicollet County Historical Society held in St. Peter on November 3. Residents of the county who have lived in log cabins were honored. An account presented at the meeting of the career of Martin Williams, a pioneer St. Peter journalist, is published in full in the *St. Peter Herald* for November 12.

The need for quarters in which to display and preserve the collections of the Nobles County Historical Society was discussed by its officers at a meeting held at Worthington on November 19. The county board was asked to place a room in the courthouse at the disposal of the society.

At a well-attended meeting of the Otter Tail County Historical Society, held at Fergus Falls on November 20, Mr. E. T. Barnard discussed the work of the society and the Reverend Earl Baumhofer presented an address on "The Pioneer."

That the Polk County Historical Society has acquired the use of rooms in the basement of the courthouse at Crookston was announced recently by its president, Mr. Nels B. Hansen. The rooms will be used for museum exhibits, and a vault makes possible the safe preservation of records. Among the manuscripts in the possession of this

society are records relating to the attempt to establish Columbia County in 1902.

Mr. Charles N. Sayles of Faribault was elected president of the Rice County Historical Society at a meeting held at Faribault on October 28. He succeeds Professor C. A. Duniway, formerly of Carleton College, Northfield, who retired last spring after serving as the society's leader for ten years. At the same meeting Mrs. Joseph Gannon of Northfield was named vice-president of the society, Mr. Theodore Estabrook of Faribault was elected secretary, and Mr. A. R. Leach of Faribault became treasurer. Among the speakers on the program were Mrs. E. H. Loyhed, who defined the "Needs and Purposes of the Rice County Historical Society," and Mrs. E. W. D. Holway, who discussed the "Relation of the Society to the Community." A report on recent progress of the society appears in the *Faribault Daily News* for December 10. Workers engaged in a WPA project have completed the indexing of Rice County newspapers in the society's possession to the year 1920. Exhibits recently placed on display in the society's museum include a diorama of "Tepee Tonka village at Cannon Lake in 1835" and items relating to the history of Rice County churches.

Mr. William E. Culkin, who founded the St. Louis County Historical Society in 1922 and has since served as its president, resigned from that position at the society's annual meeting in Duluth on November 1. Mr. Otto Wieland was named to succeed him. All other officers of the society were re-elected. "Members and friends of the Historical society will be sorry to learn that illness led Mr. Culkin to resign the position he held for so long a time," reads an editorial in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for November 3. "For this generation and for those to come the Historical society is performing an extremely valuable work," the editorial continues. "Few sections have a more romantic story. Were it not for the Historical society some of its most interesting pages might have been lost."

About a hundred people attended a meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society at Eveleth on October 14. Papers on the discovery of iron ore and the mines at Eveleth and on "Eveleth Firsts" were read by W. R. Van Slyke and Leslie J. Tobin, the beginning of local railroad service was described by John H. Hearing,



and the origins of St. Louis County place names were explained by William E. Culkin. Mr. Tobin's paper appears in weekly installments in the *Eveleth Clarion* from October 21 to December 23, and Mr. Van Slyke's narrative is printed in the issues of the *Eveleth News* from October 28 to November 25.

The Reverend Walter Reger of St. John's University, Collegeville, was elected president of the Stearns County Historical Society at a meeting held at St. Cloud on November 6. Mr. D. S. Brainard was named vice-president, Miss Gertrude Gove, secretary, and Mrs. William Sartell, treasurer. For the program that followed the election, Miss Gove read a paper on "St. Cloud before the Civil War," Mr. John Cochrane presented an account of "Pike in Central Minnesota," and Father Pierin Wendt spoke on the history of St. John's University.

A program of work for the year outlined by Mr. H. W. Reineke of Iona, president of the Todd County Historical Society, at a meeting of its officers at Long Prairie on November 1 is presented in the *Staples World* for November 4. Mr. Reineke named committees for the gathering of historical data, the soliciting of memberships, the assembling of Indian objects, and the like.

Pioneer homes in Washington County were the subjects of three papers presented at a meeting of the Washington County Historical Society at Stillwater on October 19. The Parker home at Newport was described by Mrs. Henry J. Bailey of St. Paul Park, the story of the Isaac Staples residence in Stillwater was presented by Mrs. George Supple of Stillwater, and Mr. Roy Strand of Marine told of the house in which he now lives, the Asa Parker home. Officers of the society elected at the same meeting are Mr. E. L. Roney, president; Mrs. Bailey and Mr. Strand, vice-presidents; Miss Annie Connors, secretary; and Miss Grace Mosier, treasurer. Mrs. Grace McAlpine was the speaker at a meeting of the society held at Forest Lake on December 11. She described the celebrations that marked Christmas and New Year's in the St. Croix Valley in pioneer days.

A program of papers and talks about various phases of the history of Madelia was presented at a meeting of the Watonwan County Historical Society held at that place on November 15. Among the

speakers were Mr. S. Hage, president of the society, Mr. Dyer Bill, Mr. Frank Morris, and Miss Alice Wilson.

At the annual meeting of the Wilkin County Historical Society, which was held at Breckenridge on November 15, Mr. H. L. Shirley was elected president, Mr. Bert Huse, vice-president, Mr. Charles E. Holmgren, secretary, and Mr. C. A. Gewalt, treasurer. The activities of the Otter Tail County Historical Society were reviewed by Mr. E. T. Barnard, its secretary.

### LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

Among the articles on Beltrami County history that have been appearing recently in the *Bemidji Daily Pioneer*, are two in the issues for December 7 and 8 relating to the Cass Lake mission station. In the first the writer, Lloyd A. Halseth, tells of the post office established on Cass Lake in 1852 with the Reverend Alonzo Barnard, the missionary, as postmaster. The second article, which is based upon information furnished by Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society, locates the mission and outlines its history. All articles appearing in the series were prepared in connection with a historical project under the WPA.

Impressions of Mankato as a show town, drawn from a circus route book in the possession of Mr. Henry Theissen of Mankato, appear in the *Mankato Free Press* for December 7. Records of performances in the nineties by Ringling Brothers and Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show are quoted. Some pictures from the collection of Mr. Theissen, who is a "veteran of 28 years in the circus," are reproduced in the same issue. One shows billboard advertisements for a Ringling Brothers' performance at Mankato on June 29, 1893.

A "Historical Sketch of the New Ulm Fire Department," presented by Alfred Schroeck at a celebration commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the reorganization of the department, appears in the *New Ulm Daily Journal* for November 19. Although a volunteer fire company was established in December, 1869, it was not until 1887 that the department was formally organized by a city ordinance and was provided with adequate equipment.

The establishment of the *Carlton County Vidette* in 1887 by A. DeLacy Wood is recalled in the issue of the paper for December

16. Editors who followed Mr. Wood and continued the publication of the paper through half a century to the present also are noted.

Early attempts to improve the roads of Cottonwood County are described in the *Windom Reporter* for December 31, which calls attention to the fact that some material relating to the subject was acquired recently by the local historical society. A list of Windom businessmen who in 1910 contributed funds for graveling roads in the vicinity of the village is included.

The "History of Forest Service Development" in Crow Wing County is reviewed by J. H. Hubbard, ranger for the district, in the *Brainerd Tribune* for October 21 and 28 and November 4 and 11. He relates that "in June 1911, a forest ranger, Jefferson Saunders, was appointed in charge of fire protection in the Brainerd region," and that in the next year the first lookout tower in Crow Wing County was erected on Gull Lake. Among the subjects touched upon are laws relating to forests and fire prevention, rangers who have served the district, and the activities of CCC camps in the vicinity.

The founding of the South St. Paul Union Stock Yards in 1887 is recalled and the story of their development during fifty years is outlined briefly in the *South St. Paul Daily Reporter* for December 31. To the late A. B. Stickney of St. Paul, president of the Chicago and Great Western Railroad, credit is given for seeing "with the eye of a prophet the marvelous future of the live stock industry of the Northwest." Some five miles south of St. Paul, he and his associates "planned and built a stock yards covering about forty acres and opened the yards for business without any fuss in September, 1887." Ten years later "Swift & Company occupied the yards packing plant and began to operate the beef, pork and mutton houses to their capacity." The fortieth anniversary of this event is commemorated in the *Reporter* for October 6. Another contribution to the history of the yards, appearing in the issue of November 8, is an account of the Northwest Junior Live Stock Show that has been staged annually at South St. Paul since 1917. To appropriately commemorate the completion of half a century of activity at South St. Paul, a detailed history of the yards should be written and published.

The eightieth anniversary of St. Luke's Church of Hastings, which was commemorated on October 24, was the occasion for the publica-

tion of a booklet containing a brief history of the congregation and sketches of its leaders. Some information about early Episcopal missionary activity in Minnesota also is presented.

In a sketch of St. Nicholas, "the first village in the County of Freeborn," which appears in the *Evening Tribune* of Albert Lea for November 2, William E. Thompson presents a vivid picture of life in a frontier Minnesota settlement of the fifties. He relates that Jacob Lybrand and Samuel M. Thompson, the first settlers on the site, built a sawmill and opened a store there in 1855. Mr. Thompson contributes an account of "Early Settlement on the Shell Rock River near Gordonsville" to the *Tribune* for December 10.

A letter written in 1879 by the Reverend W. C. Shepard, a Baptist clergyman who is said to have established the first church in Wasioja, appears in the *Dodge Center Star-Record* for December 30. The writer records his experiences as an itinerant preacher in Dodge County, where he settled in 1855. He served several communities, including Ashland, where he resided, Claremont, and Mantorville, and after Wasioja was platted in the spring of 1856 he went there regularly. He records that the people of the community took a great interest in the church; one of them "would sweep the house, build the fire, and on stormy mornings, would take his sleigh and go around the town and take the people to meeting." The original letter is in the possession of Miss Hazel Parker of Wasioja.

The story of the library of Albert Lea is traced back to 1873, when it was incorporated, by Leone Olson in the *Albert Lea Evening Tribune* for December 21. She reveals that it did not, however, become an active institution until a group of women organized a library association in 1897.

The first stretch of concrete road in Minnesota was constructed near Red Wing in 1912, according to an article in the *Zumbrota News* for November 5. At the time "few realized what an important part concrete would play in lifting Minnesota out of the mud," for today nearly three thousand miles of highway in the state are paved with concrete.

The records of the Womans Christian Temperance Union of Red Wing and the reminiscences of a charter member were used by Mrs.

C. A. Hanson in the preparation of a history of the organization, the first installment of which appears in the *Red Wing Daily Republican* for October 26. The narrative was prepared on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the union, which was organized on June 20, 1877.

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of its organization, in October, 1937, St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of Minneapolis published an elaborate *Golden Jubilee Album* (243 p.). It contains not only information about the parish, its priests, its churches, the parish school, and church organizations, but also about the "Russian Orthodox Colony in Minneapolis," the first members of which are said to have arrived in 1882. The text is published both in English and in Russian.

The development of Minneapolis as an art center from the organization of the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts in 1883 is the subject of an article in the *Minneapolis Delphian* for September. In the same issue is a sketch of Henry H. Cross, an artist who first visited Minnesota in 1852 and who returned a decade later to paint portraits of many local Indians.

An account of the journey from Norway to Houston County of an immigrant family in 1861 is included in the reminiscences of Mrs. Dagny Wroolie of Delavan, which appear in the *Blue Earth Post* for October 28. Conditions on an immigrant ship and the immigrant home at La Crosse where the travelers stopped before crossing the Mississippi to Minnesota are vividly described.

The establishment of the Oxford community in Isanti County by a group of Swedish settlers in the early seventies is described by Charles Nelson in the *North Star* of Cambridge for November 4. All were members of the Spring Lake Lutheran Church, although some were obliged to walk seven to nine miles to attend services there, according to the writer. He relates that services were not held at Oxford until the late eighties, and that the first church was built there in 1893.

An unusually good church history is contained in a booklet issued to commemorate the *Golden Anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Two Harbors* on March 6, 1937 (23 p.). The founding

of the community, as well as the establishment of the church, is described in the narrative. The facts presented were drawn largely from church archives.

"Electricity was first made available to Hutchinson back in 1900," according to an article in the *Hutchinson Leader* for October 8. Changes in the ownership and management of the local electric plant and the extension of its service are traced in the article.

Under the title "Old Bell Recalls Story of Father Albrecht and Rush Lake Colony," the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* of October 5 publishes an interesting account of a group of German colonists who emigrated from St. Joseph, Ohio, and settled in Otter Tail County in 1866. Under the leadership of Father Joseph Albrecht, they established a colony on Rush Lake and erected a church, a nunnery, and other buildings. In 1879 these structures were destroyed by fire, and a bell originally imported from Germany to Ohio and later brought to Minnesota by Father Albrecht was badly damaged. According to the *Journal*, this bell was unearthed recently in the cemetery at Rush Lake. Plans are being made to present this unusual reminder of a frontier colony to the Otter Tail County Historical Society.

An account of life in Fergus Falls in 1879 and 1880 prepared by Mrs. Charles E. Lewis in 1927 and presented to the Minnesota Historical Society is published in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for December 18. She relates that the first case handled by her husband, a young lawyer, after arriving in Fergus Falls "was to bring suit against the stage driver. . . . Great rivalry existed between the two hotels and the stage driver had broken his contract with Mr. Bell by stopping at the Occidental before driving up to Bell's." In the *Journal* for December 6, C. R. Wright presents evidence to indicate that James Fergus, for whom Fergus Falls is named, visited the site of the future city in 1858. He quotes from a letter, now in the possession of the Wisconsin Historical Society, a statement that Fergus was visiting Joseph Whitford, who located and occupied the claim at the falls. The letter was written by Daniel Shotwell to Increase A. Lapham of Milwaukee on October 25, 1858.

Back to the early seventies when the first Perham school was housed in the rear of a harness shop, R. W. Vance, the present super-

intendent of Perham schools, traces the history of local schoolhouses in the *Perham Enterprise-Bulletin* for October 28. He tells how the needs of a growing community have been met by the construction of larger and larger buildings for the use both of the public and of the parochial schools.

A detailed history of the Poplar Lake Lutheran Church in Polk County, by its pastor, the Reverend G. W. Sanstead, appears in installments in the *Thirteen Towns* of Fosston from October 15 to November 5. The narrative was prepared in connection with the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the congregation, which was organized in December, 1887. Minutes of meetings, lists of members, sketches of pastors, and accounts of settlement by the Swedish pioneers of the region are included.

To mark its fiftieth anniversary, the *Glenwood Herald* of November 18 includes a long and detailed account of its history. The paper was established by Dr. E. W. Fish as the *Central Minnesotan* in 1887, and two years later it was purchased by J. L. Crump and given its present name. Changes in ownership that have taken place since 1889 and papers that have been absorbed by the *Herald* are noted, and much information about the Pope County press is included. Pictures of buildings occupied by the *Herald* and portraits of some of its editors and printers appear with the article. In the same issue is reprinted from the *Pope County Press* for March 11, 1876, an interesting description of Glenwood and Lake Minnewaska. It was written by L. D. Burch for the *Commercial Advertiser* of Chicago, in which it appeared originally on February 26, 1876. Burch asserts that the "lake abounds with the finest fish . . . and every day in the year pickerel and pike weighing from five to twenty pounds may be taken with ease by the greenest angler."

Seventy years of progress by a Norwegian-Lutheran congregation in Pope County known as the Barsness Church are outlined in the *Pope County Tribune* of Glenwood for October 7. The church was originally known as the White Bear Lake Church. Much of the information here presented is based on the diary of the Reverend P. S. Reque, a pioneer pastor who established and served many Pope County congregations between 1869 and 1879.

"A Brief History of St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church" of St. Paul, which was organized with twelve charter members on November 28, 1887, appears in the December issue of a church publication, the *Visitor*. Readers are reminded that an empty storeroom on University Avenue was equipped as a "temporary house of worship" for the original congregation. This was used until a church could be completed late in 1888.

The establishment of the *Renville County Times* at Beaver Falls in 1872 by Darwin S. Hall is recalled in the sixty-fifth anniversary edition of the *Olivia Times*, the successor to the earlier paper. A brief account of its history and sketches of its editors appear in the issue. Articles on the history of Renville County and on individual communities, such as Bird Island, Hector, Renville, Danube, and Sacred Heart, also are included.

A reminiscent article of unusual interest and readability is contributed by George M. Jensen to the *Duluth Free Press* for November 19. In it, Mr. Jensen, who is the manager of the *Free Press*, reviews his experiences during half a century as a printer and publisher. He recalls that he decided to emigrate from his native Denmark and go to America in 1882 after being "given a piece of copy advertising railroad land in the Red River valley." The advertisement, Mr. Jensen continues, "gave information about the unlimited amount of land available under the homestead act and the opportunity to become a land owner at practically no cost. To a land-hungry people this was very attractive, and thousands of people who could raise the price of a ticket to America answered the call." The writer immediately "commenced to consider ways and means" to go to America, and in 1883 he was released from his apprenticeship with a printer and sailed for the New World. At St. Paul, where he first settled, he served as a typesetter for German, Norwegian, Danish, and American publications. He relates that in 1895 he removed to Duluth, where he has since been engaged as a printer and publisher.

Both the legitimate drama and the motion picture theater receive attention in a brief history of the theater in Hibbing by Bertram Sachs which appears in the *Hibbing Daily Tribune* for December 23. Dramatic entertainments of the nineties, concerts and plays produced in



the modern high-school auditorium, and the motion picture house opened by W. J. Rezac in 1911 are mentioned.

The story of electric interurban passenger transportation in the Mesabi Range district is reviewed in the *Virginia Daily Enterprise* for December 24, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the inauguration of the service. Individuals who promoted the enterprise are mentioned, and the equipment used is described. The writer notes that more than a decade has passed since the electric train service was discontinued.

The establishment of a post office in 1856, the taking of the census of 1857, the purchase by a pioneer farmer of a threshing machine in 1858, and other events in the frontier history of Merton Township, Steele County, are described in articles appearing in the *Owatonna Journal-Chronicle* from October 7 to 30. The history of Owatonna Township is the subject of articles appearing in the issues of November 16 and December 3, 7, and 22.



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