

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*Lord Selkirk's Work in Canada* (*Oxford Historical and Literary Studies*, vol. 7). By CHESTER MARTIN. (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1916. 240 p.)

There have been few more dramatic incidents in the history of western Canada than the attempt of Lord Selkirk to found a settlement in the Red River Valley in the early part of the nineteenth century. Much has been written concerning his colonizing ventures in addition to the pamphlets which he himself published. By far the most thorough and exhaustive, as well as the most fair and impartial, treatment of the subject which has appeared thus far is contained in the volume under consideration. As the title of the work indicates, the writer has not confined his attention to the Red River Valley enterprise; he includes in chapter 2 a brief account of Lord Selkirk's earlier attempts at colonization upon Prince Edward Island and at Baldoon in Upper Canada. The greater portion of the work, however, is devoted to a study of the Red River colony; and, moreover, to a particular phase of the history of this experiment—the relations between Lord Selkirk and the Hudson's Bay and Northwest companies.

Mr. Martin sketches the story of Lord Selkirk's early life and describes the inception of the idea of colonization, which concerned itself in an effort to turn the stream of Scottish emigration from certain portions of the United States to Canada. There follows an account of the grant to Selkirk by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1811 of the region known as Assiniboia. The tract was located in the Red River Valley and included a territory five times the size of Scotland, extending from Lake Winnipeg southward to the watershed between the northward-flowing rivers and the upper Missouri and Mississippi. It will be seen that a considerable portion of the grant lay within the limits of the present states of Minnesota and North Dakota.

The long and bitter struggle between the Selkirk colony and the Northwest Company, which is the central theme of Mr. Martin's work, was due primarily to the conflicting interests of the

great Montreal trading concern and the Scotch settlers who came into the Red River Valley by way of Hudson Bay. No region throughout the entire Canadian Northwest was of such strategic importance for the trade of the Northwest Company as that of the Assiniboia grant; for not only could its possessors control the lakes and rivers traversed by the voyageurs from Fort William on their way to and from the Athabasca country, one of the richest fur-bearing areas in all North America; but it was also the hunting ground from which the traders in the remote posts of the interior obtained the buffalo meat, or pemmican, upon which they subsisted throughout the long winter months. There was an irreconcilable conflict between the interests of the fur-trader and the settler, which manifested itself not only in the open violence of the Northwest Company, but also in the indifference of the Hudson's Bay traders with respect to the welfare of the new colony. Selkirk, however, proceeded with his plans for colonization, confident of the validity of his legal title to the grant obtained from the Hudson's Bay Company, though it was apparent from the beginning that he must face the opposition of the Nor'westers, who were by no means disposed to acquiesce in the new arrangement.

Mr. Martin has written an accurate and painstaking description of the course of hostilities between the settlers and the employees of the Northwest Company, beginning in 1814, when Miles Macdonell, governor of the colony, issued a proclamation forbidding the export of all pemmican from Assiniboia—a somewhat arbitrary measure directed against the fur-traders—and culminating with the “massacre” of 1816 and the dispersal of the colonists. The latter portion of the book contains a detailed account of Lord Selkirk's efforts to bring the partners of the Northwest Company to justice, and the fruitless and heartbreaking litigation which followed. The concluding chapter is a discussion of Selkirk's aims and influence, in which an attempt is made to summarize the work of the Scotch nobleman and to estimate the value of his achievements.

Mr. Martin has approached his task from the point of view of the scholar who is seeking to discover the truth concerning a series of incidents which has long been a subject of dispute and even of recrimination. A glance at the footnotes and bibli-

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ography reveals the fact that the author has examined an enormous amount of printed and manuscript material, the most important single source consisting of the Selkirk Papers, in some seventy-nine volumes, which are to be found in the Canadian Archives. An effort has clearly been made to maintain a fair and impartial attitude, and, in general, the attempt has been successful. It is apparent, however, that Mr. Martin's sympathies are with Lord Selkirk and the Red River settlers and against the great fur-trading barons and their half-breed retainers. He is careful to indicate Selkirk's mistakes and shortcomings, but his attitude is illustrated by a thinly veiled sarcasm which appears in his rather frequent use of quotations from the correspondence of certain partners of the Northwest Company.

The author professes to believe that the principal significance of Selkirk's work lies in the fact that his effects safeguarded the northwestern part of the continent for the British crown, though it must be confessed that to the casual reader the reasoning upon which this statement is based is not quite clear. Of more significance, it would seem, is the fact that the history of the Red River colony serves as another illustration of the hostility between the fur-trader and the settler which has characterized American history from the beginning. The position of the Northwest Company in 1815 and 1816 is analogous to the attitude of the British government with respect to the Old Northwest between 1783 and 1795. Too little has perhaps been said of the colony from the social and economic point of view. The narrative itself, however, as well as the references to the sources used, reveals the fact that the writer's principal interest is centered in the political aspect of Lord Selkirk's work; and from that point of view Mr. Martin's volume must be regarded as a noteworthy contribution to Canadian history.

WAYNE E. STEVENS

*Third Party Movements since the Civil War, with Special Reference to Iowa: a Study in Social Politics.* By FRED E. HAYNES. (Iowa City, Iowa, The State Historical Society, 1916. xii, 564 p.)<sup>1</sup>

The importance of the rôle played by third parties in American political history since the Civil War is becoming more and more evident as one after another of the propositions advocated by these independent organizations are incorporated into the platforms of the older parties. Students of history and politics, therefore, will welcome this comprehensive work treating of the origin, development, and significance of these movements. The Prohibition and Socialist parties having been excluded from consideration for the sake of unity, the material falls naturally into five parts covering the Liberal Republican, Farmer's, Greenback, Populist, and Progressive movements, respectively. In each part the story of the developments in Iowa has been segregated from the general account and treated more extensively in separate chapters. As Iowa was the center of interest in some of the movements dealt with, the result is comparable to a presentation of *Hamlet* with Hamlet left out, followed by an epilogue in which the hero plays his part as a soliloquy. It would seem that either an intensive study of these movements in Iowa, with the essential background sketched in where needed, or a unified account of the subject in the country as a whole without special reference to any single state, would have been a more valuable contribution. Attempting to accomplish two things at once, the author has not succeeded in doing either with entire satisfaction.

Any one who essays to write recent American history from the sources is confronted by such a mass of material that he is practically forced either to restrict himself to a very limited subject or to forego any idea of doing exhaustive work. In the field of this book there are available, among other sources, hundreds of files of contemporary newspapers, many of them special organs of the movement considered, and a number of extensive collections of personal papers, notably those of Weller, Weaver, and Donnelly. The latter collection alone numbers over fifty thou-

<sup>1</sup> Reprinted by permission from the *American Historical Review*, 22: 415-417 (January, 1917).

sand documents and would require several months for a thorough examination. The author appears to have chosen the second horn of the dilemma, however. He has dipped into each of these collections here and there, and he has made extensive use of a limited number of newspaper files, but for the greater part of his information he has relied upon such contemporary compilations as the *Annual Cyclopaedia* and upon secondary accounts whenever available. For example, in two chapters covering forty pages, the references to the work of a single secondary writer average one to a page. By the liberal use of quotations, skillfully woven together, the work is given somewhat the character of a mosaic. So far as these embody contemporary sentiment their use may be justifiable, but it is difficult to conceive of any good reason why long quotations from secondary writers should be used to tell a story or to express conclusions which the reader would prefer to have in the author's own words. Not always, moreover, is it clear whether or not the quoted matter represents the convictions of the author, and almost always it is necessary to hunt for an obscure reference in the back of the book in order to ascertain the source of the quotation.

In spite of these defects of organization and style, the work is an addition to the literature on the last half-century of American history. It brings together in a single volume a large amount of scattered information little known or used by historical writers, and it makes clear the unity and general significance of the third-party movements. Much monographic work will be needed, however, on various phases of the subject in separate states or sections before an entirely satisfactory general account can be written.

As always with the publications of the State Historical Society of Iowa, the book is attractively printed and bound and has an admirable index. The failure to include a bibliography is to be deplored, and the grouping of notes and references at the end would seem to be an unnecessary concession to the popular reader. This sensitive personage, who is supposed to be annoyed by footnotes, will probably be equally annoyed by the reference numbers, which run to four figures.

SOLON J. BUCK

*History of Redwood County, Minnesota.* Compiled by FRANKLIN CURTISS-WEDGE. Reviewed by JULIUS A. SCHMAHL, secretary of state. In two volumes. (Chicago, H. C. Cooper Jr. and Company, 1916. xiii, viii, 1016 p. Illustrated)

Until a model history of a Minnesota county shall have appeared, the student will probably be less interested in the content than in the execution of such county histories as are put forth from time to time in this state. It is so with the *History of Redwood County*. In subject matter the work is similar to most county histories, particularly to the histories of other counties located within the same settlement area, the valley of the upper Minnesota River. In its execution, however, this history shows a degree of progress, and thereby contains elements of promise, which distinguish it from other histories produced by the same company and from the general run of commercial histories. It is therefore not enough, in this connection, merely to label it "a county history of the familiar commercial type," and dismiss it with a recapitulation of its class characteristics.

Among the distinctive features of the *History of Redwood County* is the presumably unusual degree of authoritativeness attaching to it, not only because it was compiled by an experienced worker in the field of county history, but also because it was "reviewed" by a man whose standing and whose knowledge of the subject admirably fitted him for that service. Another feature, especially welcome to the student, is the use of references at the end of each chapter to the authorities upon which the chapter is based. An excellent map of the county also marks a step in the direction of supplying indispensable aids to a complete understanding of the text. With reference to the Cooper histories alone,<sup>2</sup> an improvement is to be noted in the relative arrangement of the historical and biographical matter. The plan, hitherto followed, of devoting a chapter here and there to "biographical reviews" is here discarded for the more logical division of the whole into history and biography, a separate volume being devoted to each. The two volumes are also somewhat more attractive in appearance than others of the same origin.

<sup>2</sup> For a review of two Cooper histories, those of Wright and Renville counties, in conjunction with a number of other county histories, see MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN, 1: 378-386.

But not a few of the old faults still persist, while some of the new virtues have little more than a promising foothold. There is no improvement in the matter of indexes: the historical volume has none. The map of the county, already referred to, should face the text instead of the table of contents. Illustrations, with the exception of the frontispiece, are all located in the volume of biographies, although a number of them properly belong with the historical narrative. References to authorities and sources are too general as a rule; for example, among the "references" appended to chapter 7, "The Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society (fifteen volumes)" are cited without specifying volume or page. Other references bring out the fact also that the text to which they are appended is not only, as professed, a compilation, but also that it is a compilation from compilations, not *ad infinitum* perhaps, but to an extent which greatly diminishes the value of the work as a contribution to Minnesota history. A particularly clear indication of this second, third, or perhaps fourth hand character of some of the material used is to be found in the "Authority and References" at the end of chapter 5: "This chapter is a somewhat free compilation from articles by Return I. Holcombe in 'Minnesota in Three Centuries,' and by P. M. Magnusson in the 'History of Stearns County.' These articles were in turn compiled from other sources. To this material, the editor of this work has added numerous notes and facts, gathered chiefly from 'The Aborigines of Minnesota,' and from Part 2, of the 'Eighteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology,' 1896-97. Information has also been gathered from the 'History of the Sioux Massacre,' by Charles S. Bryant, and contained in the History of the Minnesota Valley, 1882. The article in Minnesota Valley book was in turn compiled from the 'History of the Minnesota Indian Massacre,' by Charles S. Bryant and Abel B. Murch, 1863." A more direct use of the primary sources, together with closer attention to the aids essential to the ready finding, interpreting, and supplementing of information in the text, would have been desirable.

Most county histories are defective in organization, and this work affords an excellent opportunity for an elaboration of that oft-repeated criticism. An analysis of the general arrangement of the material will best illustrate what is meant by faulty organ-

ization. The first fifteen chapters of the historical volume deal for the most part with the physical features of the county, with conditions and events prior to the beginnings of permanent settlement, and with the political status of the region in its evolution from Spanish territory to a Minnesota county of its present dimensions. The materials for these chapters are so arranged as to present on the whole a fairly coherent and unified introduction to the history of the county proper. The individual chapters, however, are rather loosely organized. In the first chapter, for example, the purpose, apparently and quite properly, is to acquaint the reader in a general way with the location and character of the county and with the main features of the present life of the community, but this purpose is partly defeated by the inclusion of statistical and historical material which properly belongs in the body of the work. Though it carries the title "Geographical Conditions," the chapter includes paragraphs on such subjects as trading centers, nationality, and education.

The organization of the much larger mass of materials which relate to the actual settlement and development of the county is even more open to criticism. These materials are embodied in a series of loosely correlated topical narratives which deal with distinct phases, and embrace varying periods, of the county's history. In these chapters whatever of continuity and unity the preceding narrative may have possessed disappears, not so much because the topical method is employed, as because of the utterly haphazard arrangement of the topics. Chapters on "Pioneer Experiences" (33) and "The Pioneer Period" (41), which, chronologically considered, might well appear earlier in the series, are placed, the one in the middle, and the other well toward the end. Any number of accounts which are chiefly important for later periods precede them, and there is no apparent connection between them and the chapters among which they are found. On the other hand, chapters which do not fall so readily into a chronological scheme, but which relate to a common phase of the history, are distributed without particular reference to such relationship. The following chapters relating to farm life in the county, for example, occur in the series as follows: "Live Stock" (23), "Ditching" (24), "Butter and Cheese Making" (29), "Agriculture of Today" (30), and "The Redwood Hol-



stein Farm" (37), with chapters on such topics as physicians and surgeons, newspapers, churches, townships, and villages, intervening. Such an arrangement of materials as this results in a lack of recapitulations, allusions, and summaries, by means of which a more central viewpoint might have been maintained. In other words, the series of chapters produces the effect of a mere collection of separate articles on detached subjects rather than of an orderly, connected, and forward-moving succession of narratives contributory to a main theme.

It is clear that a county history, if it is to be a real history, must be thoroughly organized on the basis of some comprehensive and intelligible plan. The question, then, naturally arises as to what methodological principle or principles may be followed to the best advantage in the construction of such a plan. Obviously, the broad divisions of the whole subject will be chronological, and the question really arises only when it comes to dealing with that period which is concerned with settlement and development, and which embraces the history of the county proper. Ought this complex subject to be subdivided chronologically according to periods, which, in turn, may be considered in their several phases; or ought it to be subdivided logically according to phases or topics, which may be dealt with in an approximately chronological order? The latter is, in general, the method followed in the Redwood history. Although the full possibilities of this method are not, as has been seen, brought out in this work, and may not have been exhausted by other county histories, it is the one commonly employed, and is therefore the one with the limitations of which students are most familiar. A study of the results so far obtained by its use warrants the assertion that the topical method does not encourage a thorough preliminary study of all discoverable relationships between one set of facts and other sets of facts, and too often leads to the writing of fragmentary sketches. It does not require a rigid selection of significant facts, and so leaves room for the inclusion of much insignificant detail. The topical method must fail, even with proper transitions from one subject to another, to convey an adequate sense of the evolutionary character of the subject—of the gradual unfolding of the community life in all of its various phases.

On the other hand, both the advantages and the limitations of a method predominantly chronological, as applied at least to Minnesota county history, have yet to be demonstrated. It is believed, however, that this method might be used, and used to advantage. Suppose, for instance, that the chronological method had been followed in the history proper of Redwood County. The settlement and development period would then have been divided into a number of sub-periods. In fact, it might have been treated in accordance with an outline of the story of Redwood County which is introduced in chapter 2 "for purposes of consistent study." In this outline the "Agricultural Era," as it is called, is divided into "The Pioneer Period, 1864-1872," "The Grasshopper Period, 1873-1877," "The Period of Rapid Growth, 1878-1905," and "The Modern Period, 1906-1916." Had this outline been used consistently as a working plan instead of being offered to the reader merely as a key to the finished work, the work itself might have served "for purposes of consistent study." Matter relating to the pioneer period, instead of being distributed among widely scattered chapters on "County Commissioners and Their Meetings," "Highways and Bridges," "Education," "Difficulties Overcome," and so on, might have been worked up into a well-rounded history of the county, in all its various phases, during that particular period. The same method might have been followed for other periods. This chronological grouping of the various phases of the county's history would have tended to give them a significance which they otherwise lack. Railroads, for instance, instead of being treated as railroads merely, might have been considered also as a factor in the development of the county at various stages, a factor with or against which other factors were operative. It so happens that the beginnings of railroading in the county were contemporaneous with the famous grasshopper scourge, yet the chapter on railroads in this history contains not the slightest indication of that fact. A comprehensive account of the period, whether it were best called "The Grasshopper Period" or not, would have served to bring out the effect of the scourge upon the construction and operation of railroads, and the separate or combined effect of these two factors upon the progress of settlement and growth. In a word, it would seem that a fundamentally chronological treatment would have

resolved the great variety and extent of material into a unity approximating, as nearly as the limits of thought and language allow, the essential oneness of the community life.

It must be admitted that it is much easier to outline than to execute a work along these lines. It may be that the more ideal method would prove the less practical. It ought, however, to be put to the test. And even if the topical method continues to determine the final form of the county history, a thoroughgoing preliminary analysis and synthesis of the raw materials in accordance with chronological principles will be absolutely essential to an adequate treatment of the several topics—to the production, in short, of a real history.

FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK

## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

The stated meeting of the executive council December 11 was open to the public and an audience of about fifty was present. Memorial addresses were presented in honor of Major Return I. Holcombe and Captain Henry A. Castle, the former by Dr. Warren Upham, and the latter by Hon. Gideon S. Ives. Mr. Sydney A. Patchin read a paper on "Banking in Minnesota in the Territorial Period." The annual meeting of the society was held January 15. Following the business session, at which the usual reports were presented, the society adjourned to the House Chamber for the annual address, which consisted of a memorial in honor of James J. Hill by Mr. Joseph Gilpin Pyle. This part of the meeting was open to the public and the audience numbered about seventy-five.

The following new members, all active, have been enrolled during the quarter ending January 31, 1917: Sydney B. Dean, Rhoda J. Emery, Mrs. Marion R. Furness, Jesse A. Gregg, John D. Hicks, Lydia M. Ickler, Frank J. Ottis, Frank Schlick, and Kathrene S. Sleppy of St. Paul; Frank G. McMillan, Maren Michelet, Franc M. Potter, and Edward S. Thurston of Minneapolis; Thomas J. McElligott of Appleton; Richard A. Costello of Graceville; Samuel M. Gillelan of Bridgeport, Connecticut; and Leland S. Kemnitz of Detroit, Michigan. Deaths among the members during the same period were as follows: Ferdinand Willius, St. Paul, November 7; Emerson Hadley, St. Paul, November 11; Chester A. Congdon, Duluth, November 21; Ansel Oppenheim, St. Paul, December 9; Captain J. Stearns Smith, St. Paul, December 19; Ether L. Shepley, St. Paul, January 2; George Thompson, St. Paul, January 7; and Captain Axel H. Reed, Glencoe, January 21.

The November number of the press bulletin issued by the Wisconsin Historical Society contains the following item under the headline "Minnesota to Have Splendid Historical Library Building." The paragraph was published in a number of Wisconsin papers. "The Minnesota Historical Society, founded as

was ours in Wisconsin, when the commonwealth was in its infancy, has never possessed an adequate or suitable home. This defect will soon be remedied, however, for a splendid building to house the Society's collections and activities is in process of erection by the State and will be ready for occupancy it is expected, some time during 1917. The histories of Wisconsin and Minnesota are inseparably linked together. Two decades ago Wisconsin provided a suitable home for the State Historical Society whose library at Madison is the most notable historical library west of Washington. That our neighbor on the west has at length made provision for so fine an historical library building is a cause for congratulation throughout all the Northwest."

The superintendent of the society attended the annual meeting of the American Historical Association at Cincinnati during the last week in December and represented the Minnesota Historical Society at the Conference of Historical Societies held in connection with the meeting.

#### GIFTS

A record book and some papers of the Clearwater Guards of Clearwater, Minnesota, have been presented by Mr. E. K. Whiting of Owatonna. They were found among the papers of his father, the late Samuel Whiting of Clearwater, who was orderly sergeant of the company. The record book contains the constitution adopted December 31, 1860, a list of members enrolled from January 3 to September 23, 1861, by-laws adopted March 15, 1861, and minutes of meetings from January 7 to May 22, 1861. Mounted in the book is a copy of the printed circular containing the proclamation of Ignatius Donnelly, "Governor *ad interim*," of April 16, 1861, calling for a regiment of volunteers for the Civil War, and "Special Order, No. 1" of Adjutant General Acker announcing plans for the organization of the regiment. The Clearwater Guards voted on April 22 not to volunteer the services of the company, but a number of its members enlisted in Company D of the First Regiment, and on May 22 the "Guards" turned out to escort them to the boat which was to take them to camp.

From the Minnesota Boat Club, through Mr. George B. Ware, secretary, the society has received the first minute book of the club, covering the years from its organization in 1870 to its incorporation in 1873, and also the first log book entitled "A True Story of a Number of Bad Boys Who Went Rowing on the Sabbath Day." Mr. Ware states that the directors of the club feared that during a change of officers these books might be lost and that they desired to deposit them where their preservation would be assured and where they would be accessible to members at any time. It is to be hoped that other organizations will see the wisdom of depositing their early records with the historical society.

Mrs. Ida W. Wilson of Cohagen, Montana, has presented a collection of some hundreds of letters and papers which belonged to her husband, the late Wilford C. Wilson of Minneapolis. The collection consists largely of material relating to members of the Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Mr. Wilson served in this regiment during the Civil War, and for several years had been gathering biographical data concerning its members, which he expected to publish in some form. It is understood that before he died, in 1911, he had secured about all the information available.

Mr. John W. Jackson of Stillwater has presented to the society two interesting old volumes of business accounts. These were originally the property of John McKusick, a Stillwater pioneer of the early forties and one of the Maine men who helped lay the foundations of the lumber industry in the St. Croix Valley. The volumes contain a journalized record of transactions in logs, lumber, real estate, and general merchandise in the period from 1848 to 1859. As the entries are detailed and legible, there is offered a wealth of information upon such subjects as the kinds and prices of commodities, the cost of labor and of manufacture, and the names, needs, activities, and movements of the people of that time and region.

Mr. Frederick B. Yates of Stillwater, former surveyor general of logs and lumber for the first district with headquarters at Stillwater, has presented three volumes of the records of that

office which he preserved as curiosities when old records were being disposed of to make room for new. Two of the volumes are a record of log marks that were entered in the period from 1854 to 1875. Entries prior to March 1, 1857, according to a statement in the first volume, were "taken from a Book kept by Robert Hasty, as Surveyor General, and now on file in the Sur. Gens. Office." The record includes, besides the marks, descriptions of the marks, owners' names, dates of entries, dates of transfers, and names of subsequent owners. A third volume is a record of "orders" from 1858 to 1879, the same being the surveyor general's authorization by log-owners to scale and release to purchasers stated quantities of logs from the boom.

A number of old account books, manuscript maps, and miscellany, which were at various times brought into court in Washington County as exhibits by litigants who never reclaimed them, have been secured through the kindness of Mr. David A. Connors, clerk of the district court. Among them are four account books, for the years 1883 and 1884, of the steamer "Jennie Hayes," a boat which carried freight and passengers on the St. Croix River between Stillwater, Taylors Falls, and intermediate points. The set includes a cash book, a journal, a ledger, and a freight book. The last is of special interest as a source of detailed information about river transportation at that period, for it contains a daily record of trips made, showing the kinds and quantities of freight carried, together with the names of shippers and consignees, the loading and unloading points, and freight charges. Another record is that of the corporate proceedings, from 1874 to 1883, of Seymour, Sabin, and Company, a Stillwater manufacturing concern in which former United States Senator Dwight M. Sabin was interested. The maps referred to show the rights of way through Washington County of the St. Paul and Chicago, the Lake Superior and Mississippi, and the Minneapolis and St. Croix railroads, together with the towns through which they passed and the chief topographical features of contiguous territory. They are officially certified, and bear the dates 1870, 1871, and 1887, respectively.

Mr. Charles A. Lammers, city clerk of Stillwater, has donated a series of six pamphlets and books containing charters and

ordinances of the city of Stillwater, together with rules of government of the city council and special laws affecting Stillwater. These publications are dated 1858, 1871, 1873, 1874, 1881, and 1887, respectively. With the exception of the *Amendment of City Charter*, 1873, which was published by authority of the legislature, they were authorized by the city council. The city of Stillwater was incorporated in 1854. Subsequent alterations in the charter to the year 1887, city ordinances from 1854 to 1887, and special laws from 1858 to 1887 are included in the series in question. Accompanying the series is a pamphlet containing the charter prepared and proposed by the board of freeholders in 1915.

With the addition of ten recently acquired issues the society's set of Stillwater city directories now includes seventeen volumes covering the years 1881-85, 1887, 1890-1915. For the new acquisitions the society is indebted to Miss Mary E. Corson, librarian of the Stillwater Public Library, Charles A. Lammers, city clerk, F. E. Holcombe, and F. M. Welch, all of Stillwater.

The society has received a file of census schedules which contain the official returns made by Washington County census takers in connection with the national and state censuses in the years 1850, 1860, 1870, 1875, 1880, and 1885, together with a local census of Stillwater taken in 1853. The former material appears to be duplicated by similar records on file in the state archives, with the exception of a considerable number of important schedules for 1860 and all of the schedules for 1880. The acquired file will therefore supplement the material already available as a source of exceedingly valuable information about the people, activities, and institutions of Washington County.

Three well-worn school books—a speller, a grammar, and an arithmetic—have been received from Mrs. M. M. Bolles of Stillwater. Mrs. Bolles, as Mary Maria Carli, used these books in school at Stillwater in the forties and early fifties. They therefore illustrate one phase of the very beginnings of elementary education in Minnesota.

The society has received from Miss Ina Firkins, reference librarian of the University of Minnesota, a volume of *Poems* by



her brother Chester Firkins (Boston, 1916. 198 p.). Mr. Firkins was born in Minneapolis in 1882 and attended the University of Minnesota. At the time of his death in 1915 he had attained the distinction of being considered among the most promising of the younger journalists and poets. The verses contained in the present collection, arranged for publication by Miss Firkins, appeared in various periodicals and newspapers during the last twelve years and represent the best of his work. Of particular interest are the poems of the Northwest.

Professor John H. Gray, head of the department of economics in the University of Minnesota, has presented a specially bound volume containing a collection of twenty separates or reprints of articles written by him. The volume includes also an autographed photograph of the writer, a copy of the sketch of his life in *Who's Who in America*, and a list of his writings complete to September 12, 1916, and including 354 items.

## NEWS AND COMMENT

The *Proceedings and Addresses* of the National Association of State Libraries at its nineteenth convention in June, 1916 (100 p.) contains the usual report of the association's committee on public archives summarizing the progress of archival work in the different states during the year. From this it appears that the Arkansas Historical Commission has received from the various state departments "thousands of volumes of original records," under the provisions of the act establishing the commission, which authorizes the turning over to it of any public records "not in current use." In Connecticut many state and local records have been taken over by the archives division of the state library, and "under the direction of the examiner of public records, the land records of the several towns are being systematically indexed, standard ink and paper are being prescribed for public records, and new vaults and safes constructed." The State Historical Society of Kansas devotes a part of its new building to archival work and a mass of material turned over by the insurance department is now being sorted. The recently appointed archivist of Kentucky is "engaged in sorting and classifying a large file of mixed papers which for some years had been lying in one of the cellars of the old capitol." In Massachusetts the archives division is compiling a card index to valuable state archives. Oklahoma now has a law authorizing the transfer of non-current records to the historical society. The division of public records of Pennsylvania has arranged many volumes of county papers as well as state and provincial records. Rhode Island has a state record commissioner who supervises the making of public records throughout the state. The Virginia legislature has appropriated four thousand dollars for shelving and filing cases for the records being arranged and indexed by the department of archives and history of the state library. Non-current records are turned over to the state library in Washington, but the library has no facilities or funds for arranging them. West Virginia has a bureau of archives and history which is

required by law to devise and adopt "a systematic plan for the preservation and classification of all the state archives of the past, present, and future." Even the Philippine Islands have a division of archives in the Philippine Library and Museum, which has arranged and indexed many old documents, and the activities of the "historian of Porto Rico" have resulted in the classification of some of the valuable archives of that territory. The report of the committee is followed by a paper by Waldo G. Leland on "The Archive Depot." All this material is to be found also in the *Papers and Proceedings* of the American Library Association for 1916.

The *Sixth Biennial Report* of the North Carolina Historical Commission for 1914-16 (1916. 26 p.) is a notable record of progress in state historical work. The secretary of the commission, Mr. R. D. W. Connor, reports the completion of the classification and filing of the executive papers from the state archives, about forty thousand documents, and the beginning of similar work on the legislative papers. Ten collections of personal papers also were arranged during the biennium, thousands of documents were reinforced, restored, and mounted for binding, sixty-two volumes of mounted papers were bound, and a considerable number of manuscript collections were calendared or indexed. Besides acquiring many valuable collections of private papers the commission received parts of the older records of nine counties of the state. Through the North Carolina division of the United Confederate Veterans a gift of twenty-five thousand dollars, to be devoted to the preparation of a history of the state's part in the Civil War, was received from a private individual; while another friend of history established a research fund amounting to five hundred dollars annually, which is used to defray the expenses of trips to various parts of the state for the collection of historical material.

The Canadian government has issued the *Report of the Work of the Public Archives* for the years 1914 and 1915 (1916. 20, 25, 255, 471 p.). The last pagination consists of a very valuable "Catalogue of Pamphlets, Journals and Reports in the Public Archives of Canada, 1611-1867, with Index."

The province of Manitoba has established a board of trustees of the archives and provision has been made in the new Parliament buildings at Winnipeg for their preservation and arrangement under the direction of the provincial librarian.

In a table recently compiled by the Minnesota Tax Commission the annual expenditures for historical work in six northwestern states are given as follows: Minnesota, \$23,868.70; Wisconsin, \$66,505.61; Michigan, \$6,526.37; Indiana, \$1,622.85; Ohio, \$31,547.08; Iowa, \$35,487.65. The figures are for the fiscal year ending in 1916 for Ohio and in 1915 for all the other states. The table is printed in a pamphlet entitled *Comparative Cost of State Government* (1916. 78 p.), issued by the commission as a separate of chapter 10 of its *Fifth Biennial Report*.

The *Twentieth Biennial Report* of the board of directors of the Kansas State Historical Society (Topeka, 1916. 93 p.) contains the proceedings of the annual meetings of 1915 and 1916. Bound with it is a *History of Kansas Newspapers* (Topeka, 1916. 320 p.), which contains biographical sketches of a large number of Kansas newspaper men, statistical notes on the counties, cities, and towns of the state, detailed information about all Kansas newspapers and magazines, and lists of the society's files.

"The Freedom of History," by George L. Burr, the presidential address at the meeting of the American Historical Association in December, is published in the January number of the *American Historical Review*. A timely article in the same issue is "Social Relief in the Northwest during the Civil War," by Carl R. Fish. This study is based largely on the mass of Civil War papers from the Wisconsin governor's office recently turned over to the Wisconsin Historical Society, and naturally centers around the movement in that state, although developments in some of the other northwestern states are considered for purposes of comparison.

The December number of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* contains the annual article on "Historical Activities in the Trans-Mississippi Northwest," by Dan E. Clark, in which mention is made of various phases of the work of the Minnesota Historical Society. Under the heading "Additional Verendrye

Material" Messrs. Doane Robinson and Charles E. DeLand take exception to some of the arguments presented by Mr. O. G. Libby in his paper on "Some Verendrye Enigmas" in the September issue and Mr. Libby defends his position.

An article "Concerning Catholic Historical Societies," by Waldo G. Leland, secretary of the American Historical Association, in the January number of the *Catholic Historical Review* is packed with valuable suggestions, most of which are pertinent to any historical society.

*Nicolet Day on Mackinac Island*, number 6 of the *Bulletins* of the Michigan Historical Commission (1916. 32 p.), consists of an account of the "exercises at the unveiling of the tablet commemorating the discovery and exploration of the Northwest; held on Mackinac Island, July 13, 1915, under the auspices of the Michigan Historical Commission and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission." The principal address on the "Life and Character of John Nicolet" is by Rev. Thomas J. Campbell, S. J. Number 7 of the same series, entitled *Lewis Cass Day on Mackinac Island* (1916. 43 p.), is an account of the unveiling of a memorial tablet on August 28, 1915, and contains an address on the life of Cass by Edwin Henderson.

The issues of the *Bellman* for January 13, 20, and 27 contain a series of articles by Randolph Edgar entitled "The Path of Hennepin," consisting largely of extracts from the works of Hennepin, Carver, and Laurence Oliphant, describing the upper Mississippi region in 1680, 1766, and 1854, respectively. The articles are illustrated by reproductions of cuts in the original works.

The November issue of the *Western Magazine* contains an article entitled "Glimpses into Early Northwestern History—Early French Forts and Footprints on the Mississippi," and an account of "Wabasha, Minnesota," by C. L. Llewellyn, which is partly historical.

"About Buffalo: Their Range, Extermination, and Possible Domestication" is the title of "A Report Submitted to Sir George E. Foster, Chairman of the Dominions' Royal Commission, by

Isaac Cowie, Winnipeg," and published in the *Manitoba Free Press* of Winnipeg, November 11, 1916.

The region immediately adjacent to Trempealeau Mountain in Wisconsin has been set aside recently as a state park through the efforts of Dr. Eben D. Pierce of Trempealeau, assisted by the Wisconsin Historical Society, and through the generosity of Mr. John A. Latsch of Winona, Minnesota. Historic interest attaches to Trempealeau Mountain by reason of the fact that Nicolas Perrot passed the winter of 1685-86 encamped at its base, and that later, in 1731, René Godefroy, Sieur de Linctot, sent out to establish a post among the Sioux, built a fort near the same spot.

A faellesraad, or common council, of Norwegian societies known as bygdelags was organized at a meeting in Minneapolis, November 17, 1916. The council is composed of two delegates from each of the thirty-five bygdelags in the country, which have a total membership of about forty thousand heads of families. The word bygdelag is applied in Norway to a district inhabited by those speaking the same dialect; from this fact these societies in the United States derive their name. To each society or bygdelag belong Norwegians from all parts of the country who are descendants of residents of that particular district or bygdelag in Norway. The object of these societies is to cultivate common acquaintance among those from the same district, and to gather and record historical and biographical material relative to the members. The purpose of the central council is to form a connecting link between different societies and to have charge of matters of common interest. A. A. Veblen of Minneapolis was elected president of this body; D. G. Ristad of Red Wing, vice-president; Rev. L. P. Thorkveen of St. James, secretary; Dr. C. L. Opsal of Red Wing, treasurer; and C. D. Morck of Minneapolis, keeper of the archives. A movement is on foot to have the material collected by the bygdelags deposited in the new building of the Minnesota Historical Society.

The Old Settlers' Association of the Head of the Lakes and the Old Settlers' Benefit Association held their annual banquet at Duluth on December 13, 1916. The membership in the former

organization is limited to those who have resided at the head of the lakes for twenty-five years or more. The principal address was given by Judge William Steele, and there were short talks by Harvey W. Dietrich, W. B. Patton, and others. The December 13 issue of the *Duluth Herald* contained a list of the officers elected at the business session.

Pursuant to a suggestion from the Read's Landing Association of the Twin Cities, the post-office department has changed the name of Reed's, Minnesota, to Read's. The change is in the interests of historical accuracy, as the village took its name from its founder, Charles R. Read.

The faculty and students of the law school of the University of Minnesota have begun the publication of a monthly magazine entitled the *Minnesota Law Review*, the first number of which appeared in January, 1917. Some of the articles in the first three issues are "Rights in Soil and Minerals under Water," by Oscar Hallam; "The Minnesota State Bar Association," by Stiles W. Burr; and "Charitable Gifts and the Minnesota Statute of Uses and Trusts," by Edward S. Thurston.

The recent discovery among the archives of the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association of old records of the St. Anthony Board of Trade, including minutes of meetings of a committee charged apparently with the task of selecting a name for the town of Minneapolis, resulted in the reopening of the famous controversy over the origin of the word. At the request of the editor of the *Minneapolis Journal*, Judge J. B. Gilfillan, a resident of Minneapolis since 1855, gathered together all the available data relating to the subject in the form of a comprehensive and authoritative report, which was published in that paper in its issue of January 7, and which later appeared in pamphlet form under the title *Who Named Minneapolis* (7 p.). The *Journal* of December 3 contains a facsimile of the minutes of one of the meetings, together with comments on the men composing the committee by Dr. L. P. Foster, who attended the meeting.

*An Historical Sketch of the Grand Army of the Republic in Minnesota from Its Organization August 1, 1866, to August 1,*

1916 (16 p.) has been "published by the Department of Minnesota G. A. R., through Levi Longfellow, Department Patriotic Instructor." The pamphlet, which was compiled by Past Department Commander Watson W. Hall, gives the place and date of each annual encampment, the number of posts represented, the total number of members reported by the posts, and the name of the department commander elected. The highest number of members given was 8,343 in 1892, since when the ranks have been depleted by death until only 2,907 were reported at the fiftieth annual encampment, June 8 and 9, 1916.

*Woman Suffrage in Minnesota* is the title of a pamphlet compiled by Dr. Ethel E. Hurd and published for the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association by the Inland Press of Minneapolis (1916. 52 p.). Its purpose is "to furnish a ready reference for suffrage workers of Minnesota," and to this end the compiler has gathered much valuable statistical data on the various activities of the association since 1847. Of especial interest are the sections devoted to "Early Efforts and Pioneers," and "Legislative Work," the latter being a résumé of the attempts from 1867 to 1915 to secure the passage by the state legislature of measures favoring enfranchisement of women.

The *Annual Report* of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs for the year 1916-17 (146 p.) contains a description of the prize gavel belonging to the federation. Peculiar value attaches to the gavel because of the fact that the woods used in its construction were taken from historic objects or buildings, two of the pieces being from the old Methodist mission house at Red Rock and the Sibley house at Mendota.

*Howe's Souvenir History of Lamberton, Minnesota* (1916. 98 p.) is the title of the third pamphlet on the towns of Redwood County issued by Mr. Charles W. Howe of Redwood Falls. It consists of a brief historical sketch, with accounts of the schools, churches, and business firms of Lamberton, and some reminiscences of pioneers, followed by sixty-four pages of biographical sketches of leading business men and farmers of Lamberton and vicinity.



A new series of sketches by Dr. Caryl B. Storrs, entitled "Visitin' 'Round in Minneapolis," has been appearing in recent issues of the *Minneapolis Tribune*. Two of the sketches are especially noteworthy contributions to Minneapolis bibliography. In the issue of December 19 Dr. Storrs describes the changes that have taken place in the business center of the city in the last fifty years, particularly in that section which he so aptly denominates the "Greenwich Village" of Minneapolis, closing with a brief history of the firm of Janney, Semple, Hill, and Company, a portrait of whose founder, Mr. T. B. Janney, accompanies the article. The other sketch, in the *Tribune* of January 14, may be called a musical history of Minneapolis, the material for which the author obtained partly from an old scrapbook of programs and newspaper notices belonging to Mr. A. M. Shuey, and partly from the owner of the book himself, who has been connected with the musical life of the city since 1866. A portrait of Mr. Shuey appears with the sketch.

The commission authorized by the legislature of 1915 to consider the advisability of establishing a state park at the Toqua Lakes in Big Stone County submitted its report favoring the proposition to the 1917 legislature on January 15. A statement in this report to the effect that the site is historic by reason of its being the scene of the last fight between the Chippewa and the Sioux in May, 1869, called forth some interesting accounts of the battle which took place at Shakopee in 1858, which the narrators, for the most part eye witnesses of the event, believe was the last hostile encounter between these two tribes. The most notable of these accounts are the following: "Toqua Lake Fight is Called a Myth," by Richard Pfefferle, in the *New Ulm Review* of January 17; "Remembers Last of the Chippewa-Sioux Battles," by Frederick Fritsche, in the *Review* of January 24; and letters by W. H. Smith of Washington and E. J. Pond, son of the well-known missionary, Rev. S. W. Pond, which appeared under the title "Authentic Data on Indian Battle" in the February 9 and 16 issues of the *Scott County Argus* of Shakopee.

A series of articles containing material of some value on the Pillager band of Chippewa Indians at Leech Lake, their uprising in 1862, coincident with the Sioux outbreak, and the later dis-

turbances of 1875, appeared in the *White Earth Tomahawk* for January 4 and 11, in the form of a sketch of Major James Whitehead by Rev. C. H. Beaulieu. Major Whitehead was the junior member of the firm of Sutherland, Rutherford, and Company, which engaged in the fur trade at Leech Lake from 1859 to 1863. He played an important part at various times in assisting the state authorities to bring to punishment members of the Pillager band responsible for acts committed against the whites; and, because of his knowledge of, and influence with, these Indians, he was appointed United States Indian agent at the Leech Lake Agency in 1875.

An account of the first Swedish settlement in Minnesota is published under the title "Settlingen i Minnesota—Chisago Lake eller 'Swede Lake'" in part 3 of the *Chisago County Press* (Lindstrom) for December 21. The article is taken from the journal of the late Dr. Eric Norelius, one of the foremost of the early settlers of the region and the author of a reliable work on the history of his countrymen in America. It contains sketches of many Scandinavian immigrants, some autobiographical material, and an account of the geography, flora, and fauna of the region. Pictures of P. A. Cederstam, the first pastor, of the house of Peter Berg, where church services were first held, and of the old church at Chisago Lake accompany the article.

The January 27 issue of the *Minneapolis Tribune* contained an interesting sketch, by Elizabeth McLeod Jones, of the old village of Traverse des Sioux as seen to-day by the curious visitor and as it appeared in the days of its importance when it was one of the most prosperous trading posts in Minnesota Territory. Mention is made of fur-traders, missionaries, and other well-known pioneers who lived at the post for a time, and some account is given of the treaty negotiated in July, 1851, with the Sioux. The article is accompanied by pictures of several old buildings dating back to the early fifties.

An article in the January 7 issue of the *Minneapolis Journal*, by Mr. John L. Johnson of Minneapolis, contains material on economic conditions and land values in the early days. The Johnson family emigrated from Sweden in 1852, and in 1854 came to St. Paul. Fifteen years later they settled on a tract of

land in Sibley County on the Minnesota River opposite Belle Plaine, a site known as Johnson's Landing in old steamboat days. The son later removed to Minneapolis, where, as a building contractor, he had charge of the erection of the first grain elevator in Minnesota.

In an article contributed to the *Minneapolis Journal* of January 24, Mr. Warren Upham of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society gives an exhaustive account of the first discovery and early explorations of Lake Minnetonka, together with an explanation of the meaning of its name, which was coined by Governor Ramsey. At the conclusion of the article Mr. Upham gives his version of the naming of the city of Minneapolis and an account of the "origin and first use of the name Minnehaha."

Mr. Luther H. Nichols of North Yakima, Washington, whose parents were among the first white settlers of Brown County, in a letter to the *New Ulm Review* of January 24 relates his recollections of events connected with the early history and organization of that county. The experiences of the Nichols family and their neighbors along the Little Cottonwood River during the Sioux outbreak of 1862 are described at some length.

The St. Paul Outdoor Sports Carnival, which took place during the week beginning January 27, furnished the occasion for a descriptive article on the St. Paul ice palace carnivals of 1886, 1887, and 1888, which appeared in the *St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press* for December 17. The material for the article, as well as the accompanying illustrations, was drawn largely from a pamphlet issued as a carnival supplement by the *Dispatch* in 1889. The December 24 issue of the *Sunday Pioneer Press* contained a picture and an account of the Windsor Carnival Club of 1886.

Tales of the social pleasures, festivities, and recreations, and of the hospitality enjoyed by the early-day residents of Minneapolis during the Christmas holiday season are related by Mr. Caleb Dorr, Dr. L. P. Foster, and Mr. Frank O'Brien in the *Minneapolis Journal* of December 24. Reminiscences of a similar nature by Major Edwin Clark of Minneapolis appear in the *Minneapolis Tribune* of the same date.



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