

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

King of the Fur Traders: The Deeds and Devilry of Pierre Esprit Radisson. By STANLEY VESTAL. (Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1940. x, 326 p. \$3.50.)

This is a thriller, a Wild West story, told with verve and abandon, in an easy style befitting the subject. To call it history or biography, however, is beside the mark. Stanley Vestal is known as the recorder of Indian fights and daredevil exploits, but until now he has confined his descriptions to the nineteenth century, to the life of *Sitting Bull*, *Champion of the Sioux*, to the *Mountain Men* of the Rocky Mountain fur trade. It is evident he was attracted to the life of Pierre d'Esprit Radisson by the same "devilry" that he so well describes for the Far West.

Although the type of character may be the same as those with whom he formerly dealt, the background is essentially different and the author is not at home in seventeenth-century New France. For instance, he confuses the intendent Jacques Duchesneau with the well-known Canadian merchant, Charles Aubert de la Chesnaye; he has Radisson living with his parents at Three Rivers, where his father never went. He follows very literally Radisson's own account of his early adventures and exploits, and the people who surround him are puppets or shadows. He admits that a "note of exaggeration" has crept into Radisson's reminiscences, but thinks even these more important than ascertaining what Radisson really did. Historians, he says, "have been too much concerned with dates and places," so he himself makes no new or important study of either dates or places. He accepts the orthodox views, even when these have been proved impossible by other writers. He places Radisson and Groseilliers' "fourth" journey in 1661-63, even when precise documents show that one or both were in Three Rivers within those years. Worst of all, he holds to the myth of the discovery of the Mississippi, despite the fact that most students have long ago rejected Radisson's "forked river" as applying to the upper waters of the Mississippi.

It does not seem to have occurred to the author of this book that

Radisson and his journals are interesting to Middle Western historians because of his explorations, because he was conjecturally the first white man on Lake Superior, the first to build a habitation in Wisconsin, the first to visit the Sioux Indians, that he was the explorer who led the way for the fur traders and missionaries, the first to realize the possibilities of the route into the interior via Hudson Bay. He is concerned with Radisson as a daredevil who gets into and out of innumerable scrapes. "*Toujours l'audace*" is the motto he gives him, and our author admires him for his ability to outwit his rivals, for his incomparable *sang froid* in danger, for his tremendous influence over the Indians.

After taking him through his Midwestern voyages, he shows how he deserted to the English and that his influence led to the founding of the Hudson's Bay Company, which he again deserted for service with France. The author admits that Radisson changed his allegiance to suit his convenience, but excuses this by the unfair treatment he received both from the governors of the great company and from the officials of France and New France. This perhaps explains his motives rather than his conduct, for he seems to have had no loyalty, but to have as readily used his abilities for whichever party paid him best.

That there is a Radisson problem aside from the doughty deeds of his hero this author does not state. He makes no effort to solve the thorny questions of dates and places, and believes that no more material is likely to be found concerning Radisson, who first burst upon the historical consciousness with the finding in 1885 of his journals, in curious and amazing English, at the Bodleian Library, Oxford. Yet the immense archives of the Hudson's Bay Company have only been skimmed, and the Radisson material in France has yet to be garnered. True, Mr. Vestal has presented a considerable bibliography on the Radisson problem, which we wonder if he has himself digested. Probably not, as "dates and places" do not interest him compared with the thrilling deeds of his hero. Stanley Vestal has here given a book of adventure, not a solution of the Radisson problem or even an approximation of the value of the primitive world to which his hero introduces us. The definitive study of the career of Radisson and his place in seventeenth-century exploration is yet to appear, and may be more satisfactory than this account of the *King of the Fur Traders*.

LOUISE PHELPS KELLOGG

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

The Diplomatic History of the Canadian Boundary, 1749-1763. By MAX SAVELLE. (New Haven, Yale University Press, for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: Division of Economics and History, 1940. xiv, 172 p. Maps. \$2.50.)

In this latest addition to the admirable series of studies of the *Relations of Canada and the United States* sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Mr. Savelle collects the widely scattered threads of an involved story of diplomacy and weaves them into a narrative that is readable as well as scholarly and objective. The monograph is the more welcome because less has been known, or at any rate accessible in convenient form, of the particulars of this early period in the history of the Canadian boundary than of the later periods.

Mr. Savelle's subject is dealt with, clearly and with satisfactory conciseness, in nine chapters together with a preface in which the historical background is set up. The first chapter defines the issues. The second, appropriately described as "Diplomatic Futility," sets forth the unavailing efforts of the Anglo-French commission on colonial boundaries, between 1750 and 1754, to reach at least something that looked like common ground. Later chapters deal with frontier action and diplomatic stalemate between 1752 and 1754; the diplomatic crisis of 1755; the appeal to European opinion; colonial diplomacy in war time; Pitt's negotiations in 1761; and the treaty of Paris in 1763. Finally the author brings the threads of his narrative together in a concluding chapter. A bibliography and some very helpful maps round out this very praiseworthy piece of research.

As I read this book — and I should like to say again that it is distinctly readable, which many scholarly books are not — I was reminded of a number of facts that one is inclined to forget. One is that the proposed use of the forty-ninth parallel as a boundary goes back at least to 1719, when it was included in the instructions to the British representatives sent to Paris to settle boundaries between the British and French possessions in America. Many years after the period covered by this treatise the convenience of a purely artificial boundary was recognized, and the forty-ninth parallel became a symbol of almost ideal relations between two neighboring countries.

The extraordinary influence of the ever-advancing frontier upon the character of the people of the United States was brought home to many of us by Frederick J. Turner in a paper read in 1893 before the

American Historical Association, and Turner's conclusions have been confirmed by later historians. Professor A. L. Burt, in a paper presented to the Canadian Historical Association in 1940, "The Frontier in the History of New France," discusses the same problem as it relates to Canada. The argument is not quite so convincing on the Canadian side, because of different conditions, such as the geographical bottleneck between East and West.

Be that as it may, it is interesting to have many of the facts that make up the historical foundations of Turner's theory brought together by Mr. Savelle in convenient form, facts that have to do with the long struggle between England and France, and between New England and New France, over the western boundary of the English colonies. Had France succeeded in stemming the tide of English colonial expansion at the Alleghenies there might have been no basis for the theory.

The French claim was based largely upon prior discovery of the Ohio by La Salle, and as Mr. Savelle's repeated references to these claims seem to imply his acceptance of La Salle's discovery in 1679 as authentic, one wonders if he has read Father Jean Delanglez' examination of the proofs of the discovery in *Some La Salle Journeys* (1938). A careful reading of that closely reasoned argument leaves one with the impression that La Salle's journey to the Ohio rests upon a very insecure foundation. Mr. Savelle writes (p. 77):

The French ministry, guided by such students of colonial affairs as La Galissonnière, had recognized this movement westward [of the British colonies], and, convinced of the justice of the French claim to all the lands between the Allegheny watershed and the Spanish possessions in the Far West, had determined to block it. Basing their claim upon prior discovery and occupation, they were determined, despite the slight value of the disputed areas, to establish the security of New France once and for all by wringing from Great Britain a recognition of the watershed as the boundary between the French and British empires in North America. France was on the defensive: not, indeed, in defense of a profitable empire — for profitable New France never was — but in defense of a colonial possession upon which depended the balance of power, not only in America, but in the Old World as well. Judged on the basis both of its historical antecedents and of the logic of geography, the French position, save as it concerned Acadia, seems to have been the sounder of the two.

This somewhat lengthy quotation seems justified because it sums up the author's interpretation of the French attitude in the vital issue of western boundaries, and his own opinion as to the merits of the French and British cases. I doubt if he has made out an altogether convincing

case for his conclusion that the French position was sounder than that of Great Britain. By "historical antecedents" I presume he means prior discovery and settlement. The only discovery mentioned is that of La Salle, and that, as already pointed out, is open to doubt. Both sides claimed settlement, and it might be difficult to prove conclusively which had the better claim. I am not altogether clear what he means by the "logic of geography." It can hardly be argued, for instance, that the presence of Canada in the far North and of Louisiana in the far South gave the French a better geographical claim to the intervening region east of the Mississippi than the natural expansion of the British colonies to the westward. Nor can one quite see the force of the argument that the retention of the French territorial claims was vital to the balance of power both in America and in Europe. On the contrary one gets the impression from the history of diplomatic negotiations that that was not much more than a bargaining point to frighten Spain into the French camp. The fisheries of Newfoundland and the Gulf of St. Lawrence appear to have been of more importance to both sides than the immense interior of the continent, and both England and France in 1761 and 1762 treated quite seriously the idea of substituting Gaudeloupe for Canada.

At the risk of seeming hypercritical, I suggest that the description of the attack by Boscawen on the French fleet off Newfoundland in 1755 as "treacherously begun" (p. 76) demands some justification. George M. Wrong, in his *Rise and Fall of New France*, calls it "sheer piracy," but I suppose the same might be said of many of the engagements of Drake and Hawkins on the Spanish Main. Piracy in the days of Drake and Hawkins, and even in the days of Boscawen, did not mean what it would mean today; but treachery has always been treachery, and one of the least forgivable of sins.

La Galissonnière, it is said on p. 44, began to construct Fort Rouillé (Toronto) in the summer of 1749 in order to checkmate the influence of Oswego. Percy J. Robinson, in his *Toronto during the French Régime* (which might very well have been included in the bibliography), carries the history of the post near the mouth of the Humber back to a considerably earlier date.

Rightly or wrongly, most reviewers feel it their duty to pick holes in the book before them. I should be sorry to think that in doing that I have led anyone to suppose that Mr. Savelle's *Diplomatic History*

of the Canadian Boundary is anything less than a very well-informed and scholarly piece of work.

LAWRENCE J. BURPEE

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
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American History to 1865. By GEORGE M. STEPHENSON, professor of history, University of Minnesota. (New York, Harper & Brothers, 1940. x, 698 p. Illustrations, maps. \$3.50.)

It is becoming increasingly difficult to write a textbook in American history that is strikingly new, original, or different. New interpretations, inclusive generalizations, and significant developments in this field are likely to appear less frequently in the future than they have in the past. Textbooks for the secondary schools can stress organization, pedagogical apparatus, and simplicity, and thus lend the color of originality to content that is essentially traditional, but at the college level the author is quite definitely limited to the somewhat prosaic task of trying to improve upon the quality of previous presentations. Hence the excellence or inferiority of a new college text must be judged by the number and quality of its details rather than by its attempt toward originality or uniqueness. Professor Stephenson has written a textbook that makes no pretensions to being unique, unconventional, or teratogenic. Its general quality can therefore be determined only by considering some of its detailed characteristics.

American History to 1865 has no main parts or epochs, but is divided into forty-one chapters, which are so arranged as to put emphasis upon outstanding men, events, trends, and developments and at the same time maintain a clear chronological sequence. It contains nineteen illustrations, several of which are reproductions from sources. Seventeen clear and propaedeutic maps are inserted at pertinent places. An extensive and briefly annotated bibliography of thirty-three pages gives evidence of scholarship and furnishes definite guidance for further reading.

The book is written in a clear, direct style with occasional passages of outstanding strength and charm. The author reveals a robust and catholic sense of humor and coins occasional phrases of a picturesque and forceful nature. The West is described as "a region of high religious voltage" (p. 236); the "Methodist exhorter indicted the sinner" (p. 239); and the "speeches of Congressmen, even in the dry

pages of the *Congressional Debates* . . . testify to inspiration drawn from a bottle" (p. 291). Frankness is another quality which is repeatedly demonstrated. Henry Clay is described as "a gambler in politics" (p. 260); Webster was "without scruples in accepting retainers" (p. 306); Cass was nominated "on a platform that evaded the issue" (p. 494).

Being a scholar and an exponent of the scientific method, Professor Stephenson is chary of interpolations, exhortations, interpretations, and pronouncements, but now and then he does yield to the opportunity and cites a moral or implies an opinion. The outbursts of President Timothy Dwight against Jefferson remind the author of contemporary pronouncements against Russia and the Communists (p. 196). A certain "commission had the strength of men of outstanding ability, but the weakness of men of strong individuality" (p. 223). "She was a beautiful, intellectual woman, which may be one reason for her unpopularity with the wives of the members." (p. 294). These instances of personal reactions are, however, exceedingly few and so are all the more convincing when they do appear.

The treatment of wars, particularly the Revolutionary, is somewhat catalogic, but the causes, general developments, and the consequences are fully and adequately described. Most recent textbooks tend to stress the social and economic rather than the military and political. Professor Stephenson agrees with this trend. He has described racial groups, daily life and customs, amusements, literature, and religion. In fact, he has made a notable contribution in the field of religion. He shows that the churches were social institutions of great significance and that their teachings had many effects beyond the organizations themselves. Few general books have described this influence adequately and sympathetically.

Some of the chapters deserve specific mention. Chapter 5 is an excellent example of a synthesized picture of the varied and disparate English colonies. Chapter 10, describing the development of the states during and after the Revolution, deserves commendation because it presents the basic backgrounds out of which the national government emerged. Most general treatments deal almost wholly with the national scene. Chapters 11 and 17 enable the reader to appreciate the course of the development of our public lands. This enormously significant aspect is too frequently given a catalogic treatment which hides

its importance. And chapter 17 contains another valuable phase—it describes how the frontier tended to produce democracy. Many who pronounce the Turner hypothesis would stammer with confusion if they were asked to give specific instances of its operation. Those who might be caught in this predicament should read the latter half of chapter 17 with great care. Chapter 18 gives an unusually impressive account of the growth of state governments. Chapter 25 is a thrilling narrative about thrilling events. Chapters dealing with the Kansas-Nebraska Act, "Popular Sovereignty in Practice," and the "Great Decision" are solemn and dramatic. Chapter 27 is an excellent treatment of our immigrants, unhappily named "The Immigrant Invasion."

After a rather meticulous search, the reviewer can cite only one error and he mentions it merely because he could find none of greater consequence. The treaty of Greenville did not provide for the cession of "southeastern" Ohio (p. 180) but for southwestern Ohio and southeastern Indiana. Of more importance, he wishes to dissent strongly from the unmerited stricture upon Spanish achievements contained on page 6. Also he declares that Monroe's veto message of 1822 was not "pedantic" (p. 280); that *Miles Register* was not like the *Literary Digest* (p. 284); and that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* does not present "a one-sided picture of slavery" (p. 478). Of the three slave-owning homes described by Harriet Beecher Stowe, two present almost idyllic conditions for the slaves.

A still more important criticism is the one that the early part of American history is simply not given. How can one write an American history and ignore the Spanish and bring in the French merely for the dramatic purpose of throwing them out in 1763? Bolton seems to have labored in vain. And now, of all times, our historians should labor diligently, not merely to aid national policy, but to repair a long-standing wrong which their neglect has done to Latin America. Since Professor Stephenson chose to so restrict and delimit his treatment, he should have apologized by calling it merely "A History of the United States with a Brief Treatment of the Colonial Period insofar as It Touched Our Area." This paragraph is a criticism not of what was done but of what was not done. What has been done is superb.

EDGAR B. WESLEY

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MINNEAPOLIS

Norwegian Migration to America: The American Transition. By THEODORE C. BLEGEN, dean of the graduate school in the University of Minnesota. (Northfield, Minnesota, The Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1940. xii, 655 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

Since the times when Claus L. Clausen and Svein Nilsson urged their immigrant countrymen to write up their experiences for publication in the press, Norwegian Americans have shown a keen awareness of their historical role in the great transatlantic movement of mankind. This interest, less filiopietistic than in the case of some other national groups, has produced a stream of historians of Norwegian immigration, beginning in the latter part of the nineteenth century with Knud Langeland and Rasmus B. Anderson, and reaching higher levels in the work of such later scholars as Hjalmar R. Holand, George T. Flom, O. M. Norlie, Carlton C. Qualey, and Theodore C. Blegen. The same interest led to the establishment of the Norwegian-American Historical Association in the centennial year of the arrival of the "sloop folk" and to the founding at Decorah of a unique museum of Norwegian-American pioneer life. Under the auspices of the Norwegian-American Historical Association there has been carried forward an integrated program of collecting and editing source materials and of publishing scholarly articles and books of a far-ranging character.

Backed by this fine tradition and the growing accumulation of original records and monographic studies, Dean Blegen has produced a book that is outstanding in the historiography of American immigration. It forms a companion piece to his volume *Norwegian Migration to America, 1825-1860* (1931), which traced the genesis and early expansion of the Norwegian efflux with due reference to its Old World background. In this new work he carries the story on to the present time, but devotes the lion's share of his attention to the settlers' adjustment to American life in both the pre-Civil War and the later periods. To the reviewer the treatment would have been less confusing if the chapters continuing the theme of the previous book had been placed at the beginning rather than in the latter part of the present volume; but aside from this consideration, the author cannot be charged with lack of clarity in either organization or expression.

Dean Blegen offers a thick slice of American history concerning

which little has hitherto been known in regard to the Norwegian newcomers or, for that matter, in regard to any other immigrant folk. The story constitutes an essential part of the national record, for, as has often been pointed out, the American way of life has been the product of a collaboration of peoples from many lands. He examines the process of acculturation in its most varied aspects—not only with reference to bread-and-butter activities and problems of religious and educational transition, but also to such homely and vital matters as speech, dress, diet, and social customs. Very illuminating, for example, is the comment of an immigrant regarding servant girls: "The first Sunday after their arrival in America they still wear their usual old Norwegian clothes; the next Sunday, it's a new dress; the third, a hat, a parasol, a silk shawl, new clothes from top to toe."

Nearly every phase of the adjustment involved a persistent struggle between those who, wishing to conserve the values of the Norwegian heritage, feared a too rapid and complete Americanization; those who embraced the new ways with uncritical enthusiasm; and those who sought a sane middle course. Dean Blegen's steady hand follows this conflict into many bypaths while treating in some detail the interplay of forces in the domains of religion and education.

Facts are the oils from which he paints his canvas, but these are invariably subordinated in such a way as to high light the picture as a whole. In very considerable degree Dean Blegen's account of American transition is built out of the experiences of countless unimportant persons whose lives illustrate the process in terms of their personal reactions. He does not neglect the "great," but, quite properly, he cares more about what was going on at the grass roots of society. His generalizations arise from what the many did and said and felt rather than the few. He clothes his findings in a prose that always pleases and is frequently distinguished.

In the case of so splendid an achievement, criticisms may seem invidious; but since the volume is certain to serve as a model for similar studies of other immigrant elements, a few comments may be justified. The subject of intermarriage deserves considerably more than a single, perfunctory reference, for such unions are an acid test of assimilation. Did the Norwegians intermarry most readily with other Scandinavian groups or with non-Scandinavian stocks, and how quickly, and under what conditions? Moreover, little is said about the experience of the

Norwegians in large cities, though the map on page 511 shows significant concentrations in Greater New York, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and elsewhere. A comparison of the nature and speed of acculturation in urban as contrasted with rural environments might well have been enlightening. The failure to consider this matter leaves many questions unanswered. The volume also contains meager information as to the reaction of the American population to the newcomers; and, by the same token, it offers no discussion of the influence of Norwegian immigration on American life at all comparable to the brilliant summary of the influence of emigration on life in the motherland. This last omission may have been prompted by the author's desire to avoid the charge of overstating his case, a fault not uncommon in some earlier historians of immigrant groups.

In physical appearance the volume measures up to its contents. Besides the appropriate jacket designed by Jane McCarthy, there are many contemporary illustrations and also attractive decorations by John L. Ellingboe at the heads of the chapters. The appendix comprises a critical essay with new information concerning "John Quincy Adams and the Sloop 'Restoration.'"

ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER

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The Mingling of the Canadian and American Peoples, volume 1, *Historical*. By the late MARCUS LEE HANSEN. Completed and prepared for publication by JOHN BARTLET BREBNER. (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1940. xviii, 274 p. Maps. \$3.00.)

The Immigrant in American History. By MARCUS LEE HANSEN. Edited with a foreword by ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER. (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1940. 229 p. \$2.50.)

These two volumes complete the trinity of studies from the pen of the late Professor Hansen, the first of which — *The Atlantic Migration* — was reviewed in *Minnesota History* for September, 1940. From the standpoint of scholarship, workmanship, and contribution to knowledge, *The Mingling of the Canadian and American Peoples* is undoubtedly the best. All three studies suffer somewhat from the circumstance that failing health and simultaneous occupation with large

projects taxed the author's energies beyond reasonable bounds. Both Professor Schlesinger and Professor Brebner have executed with credit the difficult assignments of editing and seeing through the press manuscripts that were left unfinished or needed revision.

Professor Hansen has achieved success in correlating the events on both sides of the international boundary that produced the migration of peoples of kindred blood and institutions, whose histories are similar and yet so dissimilar. His familiarity with the geography of the North American continent and with the larger aspects of political history is evident on many pages. The thesis of the book is that the Canadian advance and the American advance were not parallel but integral. Perhaps it was the inherent difficulty of the task of presenting the wealth of detail that blurred the picture and made the style heavy. As in *The Atlantic Migration*, the author's partiality to certain types of material sacrifices the intimate touches that are so appealing and significant to many students of human migration.

The beginnings of settlement on the Atlantic seaboard, the migration of the Loyalists, the preference of emigrants from Europe for the United States, the effects of the American Civil War, the lure of American industry, the conquest of the West, the turn of the tide toward Canada at the close of the nineteenth century, and the unusual state of affairs in the postwar years — these events and others — are supplemented by illuminating observations about the pioneering qualities of the Americans and the Canadians, the role of propaganda, the unusual number of Americans who “skedaddled” to Canada to escape the draft during the Civil War, the peculiar character of the migration of the French Canadians, and charts and maps. The study supersedes all others in the field and testifies to the careful planning of Professor James T. Shotwell, the director of the series in which the volume appears.

The Immigrant in American History is a brief volume of essays that have appeared elsewhere in print or were delivered in the form of public lectures. The author's delightful style almost disarms his critics. The chapter on the “Migration across the Border” is an excellent preparation for the reading of the larger study; and the chapter on “Immigration as a Field for Research” charted the course for the author's own explorations. “The Odyssey of the Emigrant” is one of the best descriptions of life on board an emigrant ship that

has yet appeared. When the author tries his hand at interpretation, he sometimes betrays his unfamiliarity with a great body of material which other students have exploited.

It is at least open to question if the emigrant from Europe was such a novice at pioneering as Professor Hansen presents him, although the disagreement may lie in the definition of the term "pioneering." In the chapter on "Immigration and Democracy" the student of Minnesota politics would question the statement that every time Knute Nelson sought re-election, he commanded the almost unanimous support of the Scandinavians. In his stimulating challenge to the conventional interpretation of Puritanism, he provokes challenges to his own and reveals unfamiliarity with the European background of the immigrant churches and with the chain of events that produced Know-Nothingism. Undoubtedly the immigrants, individually and collectively, were influenced by their new environment in religion and in morals as well as in material things; but the Puritanism in the immigrant churches is also explained by the fact that their founders had imbibed the spirit before landing on American shores, either through contact with returned emigrants or through the medium of translations of sermons and tracts or out of disgust with the spirit and polity of "worldly" established churches.

Professor Hansen calls attention to a neglected aspect of cultural history when he suggests that the influence of German immigration was counteracted by the great influx of settlers from England. He expresses surprise that the English, who have contributed the most to American culture, have received the least attention from students of immigration. This observation in turn suggests another, namely, that the time has come for some sort of agreement on the definition and scope of the terms "immigration" and "immigrant."

The author of these volumes was one of the pioneers in the study of the history of immigration; and if the reviewer has correctly sensed the spirit that animated his research, he may be certain that he would have welcomed disagreement with his conclusions because he was painfully aware of the tentative character of his own studies and of the vast amount of research that must be done before a definitive history of what he calls the "Common Man's Utopia" can be written.

GEORGE M. STEPHENSON

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MINNEAPOLIS

The Illinois. By JAMES GRAY. (New York, Farrar and Rinehart, Incorporated, 1940. x, 355 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

The Illinois is not a spectacular river. Broad, slow-moving, calm, it has given rise to no great growth of legend, its valley has no name for beauty, its destructive power has been so thoroughly tamed that it rarely makes headlines even in flood times.

But the Illinois has a history. Two hundred and sixty-eight years ago Marquette and Jolliet first passed over its smooth waters; for nearly a century thereafter it was a highway of empire. Little French villages grew up on its shores or not far from it, only to yield, after placid decades, to the irresistible tide of American settlement. Great names of the nineteenth century—Lincoln, Douglas, Grant, Lovejoy, to name but a few—were associated with it, while in the twentieth, Masters, Lindsay, and Sandburg have kept alive its fame. And through all the years it has carried commerce—first by flatboat, then by river steamer, finally by steel barge.

Of this history Mr. Gray has succeeded in making a lively, readable book, partly because of his emphasis on the romantic and picturesque, partly by his own gift of phrase. For the fact that he did not set out to write the weighty dullness that too often passes for "serious" history, he should not be criticized. Nevertheless, his book would have been the better for a little more of the historian's regard for accuracy. His most serious derelictions are his account of the death of Pontiac and his acceptance of the Starved Rock legend as fact, but a good many minor slips reveal either carelessness or lack of real familiarity with the valley of the Illinois and its history.

These deficiencies notwithstanding, *The Illinois* will serve a useful purpose in introducing many who would otherwise be unaware of it to a rich and colorful history.

PAUL M. ANGLE

ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY
SPRINGFIELD

The Michigan Constitutional Conventions of 1835-36: Debates and Proceedings (University of Michigan, *Publications, History and Political Science*, vol. 13). Edited by HAROLD M. DORR. (Ann Arbor, The University of Michigan Press, 1940. xi, 626 p. \$5.00.)

This is the most significant publication of its kind which has appeared within recent years and it deserves a more detailed review

than has been undertaken in the present instance. It is a book which should be of some interest to students of the history of Minnesota, inasmuch as the whole of that state from 1834 to 1836, and a portion of it from 1818, was a part of the Michigan Territory. It should also not escape the attention of those whose interest is in the comparative study of political institutions in the expanding nation.

The work falls into several parts and sections, but for present purposes it may be stated briefly that the documentary portion embodies the debates and minutes of the convention of May-June, 1835; the debates and minutes of both conventions of 1836, that of September, known as the "convention of dissent," and the succeeding one of December, commonly called the "convention of assent"; committee reports and papers of the three conventions; a republication of six of the principal public acts respecting the admission of Michigan into the Union; and appendixes containing the record of roll calls of the 1835 convention and that of the convention of September, 1835, and a brief bibliographical note. The volume is further implemented by a competent and serviceable index, and by an introductory essay of some fifty pages which supplies the historical setting for the documents which follow. Professor Dorr has succeeded in disentangling the complicated threads of Michigan history during the fateful years 1834-36, particularly in relation to the controversy with Ohio over the boundary line between that state and Michigan Territory. He adds little that is new in his narrative; nevertheless, it is a well-balanced, succinct, and highly useful guide.

The original record of the debates in the convention in question, taken down by the official reporter, has been lost, though the journal itself was printed soon after the conclusion of the convention sessions. Professor Dorr has collected excerpts from such contemporary newspapers as the *Free Press* and the *Detroit Journal*, which contain both the minutes and the debates insofar as the latter were reported. And they seem to have been fairly completely taken down by the reporters, though of course with the political bias of their respective newspapers. The editor has, however, taken the pains to reproduce accounts of the same speeches made on the floor of the convention found in more than one newspaper. Interlarded with these items are relevant excerpts from the official *Journal*, all the entries then being arranged chronologically. One finds, therefore, a continuous story of the first

convention, which is embellished with some of the most interesting debates the present reviewer has ever read. It is plain that frontier state-making, as illustrated in the present instance, was not inferior to similar procedures in the older eastern states; but this was by no means unique in the West. Nor is it unusual that the work of this first constitutional convention should have turned out to be, on the whole, of a conservative character.

Why was there a second convention, and then a third? The facts are too well known to require restatement in detail. The constitution as drafted and adopted by the convention was duly submitted to Congress. It must be kept in mind that the convention sessions were held in Detroit against the backdrop of the so-called Toledo war, which was precipitated by the rival claims of Ohio and Michigan over their dividing boundary. As the facts stand today, there was little substance to the claims of Ohio. But it turned out that the administration hardly dared, on the eve of a national election, to defy the wishes of Ohio, as well as those of Indiana and Illinois, whose northern boundaries were placed in theoretical jeopardy by Michigan's claims. And so, as John Quincy Adams put it, the issue was now "perfumed with the thirty-five electoral votes of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois." Jackson, who had already destroyed, for patronage purposes, the rather highly professional territorial administrative class that had grown up through the years, now proved amenable to the desires of the Democratic politicians of the Midwestern states—he approved an act of Congress which provided for the admission of Michigan into the Union, but under what Michigan believed to be humiliating terms. The southern boundary was fixed in accordance with the demands of Ohio, with compensation to Michigan in the form of an extension of its northwestern boundary beyond Lake Michigan. Furthermore, the constitution was then to be submitted to a new convention chosen directly by the people. This series of events, then, accounts for the September convention of 1836, which rejected the amendment with respect to the boundary. The debates and minutes of this convention are in the present volume. This rejection was followed by a period in which a kind of revolution occurred in Michigan; it resulted in the calling of the December convention, which signified its approval of the Congressional stipulation. The records of this convention are also present.

The volume is singularly free of errors. Although the reviewer has had no opportunity to check the printed text at the source, a careful reading of every page has disclosed nothing suspicious so far as the textual matter is concerned.

CLARENCE E. CARTER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Wolves against the Moon. By JULIA COOLEY ALTROCCHI. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1940. xvi, 572 p. \$2.75.)

This is a novel based on the life of the founder of the American branch of the Bailly family. In Minnesota history Alexis Bailly is the chief representative of that family, but he nowhere appears in this novel. Joseph Bailly of Michigan and Indiana is the hero; his half-breed wife, Marie, the Wing Woman, is the heroine. The story begins in old Quebec in 1794 and ends, for all practical purposes, in the vicinity of Chicago in 1834. Its theme, fairly well concealed, is the disappearance of the frontier in the Old Northwest. Though Joseph Bailly's fur-trading activities take him as far afield as Slave Lake and New Orleans, the real theater of his operations lies in the triangle between Mackinac, Fort Wayne, and Chicago.

As a historical novel the book's pace is rather faster than average, despite the almost numberless characters that are introduced. Most of them are taken from history, but a few, notably the villains, seem to be creatures of the author's imagination. A simple romance binds the long and episodic story together. The author contrives to keep the reader's interest by means of skillful dialogue and clever choice of dramatic scenes. A genuine feeling for the atmosphere of the frontier pervades the book, so that even the very critical historian is satisfied. An excellent knowledge of French-Canadian customs and language surprises and charms the sensitive reader, who, alas, has grown accustomed to awkward caricatures of voyageurs' and habitants' mannerisms and phrases. Some of the characters and scenes are so well drawn that the reader feels justified in hoping that the author will continue to write novels of the fur-trading period in American history.

GRACE LEE NUTE

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

Growing Pains: Diaries and Drawings for the Years 1908-1917. By WANDA GÁG. (New York, Coward-McCann Inc., 1940. xx, 479 p. Illustrations. \$3.75.)

For Minnesotans this is an important book. It is not merely the diary of an ambitious and intelligent girl faithfully kept from the age of fifteen to twenty-four—"a veritable case-history in adolescent psychology," as the foreword calls it—but a compelling record of certain cultural forces at work in this state during the prewar years from 1908 to 1917. The story is admirably told, with its factual material woven into a perplexing fabric of dreams, doubts, and tremendous personal effort that is the youthful experience of this remarkable artist.

The cultural forces are particularly fascinating to watch as they unfold through the book and they are important to us because they are an integral part of a tradition that is Minnesota's. One is a creative drive and capacity for hard work that is inherited through generations and consciously encouraged. Anton Gág, Wanda's father, was a painter and cabinetmaker who had ambitions to become an artist. Even though this activity was limited to Sundays in the attic, the remarkable canvas hanging in the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society today shows that he had the possibilities. The plaintive command to his daughter on his deathbed, "What papa couldn't do Wanda will have to finish," became associated with her own well-developed love of drawing and the relentless necessities of family support which fell largely on her own shoulders. The conviction that art was life itself, and the pathetic struggle of the oldest girl in a poverty-stricken family of eight toward selfrealization, are dramatic factors in themselves. At the same time they are experiences that can be discovered in the background of many an outstanding American artist and intellectual today.

A second element revealed in this diary is the help and encouragement given to art and the artist by a responsible society. Miss Gág records with gratitude the help given for the bare necessities of living by kindly neighbors and relatives, from painting the house and sawing the wood to bringing bread and mending the children's socks. Neighbors and the corner drugstore helped to market her drawings, editors of Twin City newspapers took personal interest in helping her along, and where funds were lacking the art schools were willing to do their

part through scholarships: "any time you are ready to come to art school, just write to me and we'll find some way for you to go. Minnesota needs you" (p. 112).

To those who have supported art institutions in Minnesota this will indeed bring a justifiable sense of pride. But it also calls forth a question. What has happened to Wanda Gág and scores of other nationally known artists from this state whose work is the product of this personal and collective effort? The answer is simply that their support as professional artists has been limited and the great majority of them have found it profitable to live elsewhere where there is a readier market for their pictures. Perhaps this book, recording the *Growing Pains* of one of these personalities, may contribute something to the understanding and appreciation not only of the struggle, but also of the artistic expression that has been achieved in the process.

LAURENCE SCHMECKEBIER

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

Insurgency: Personalities and Politics of the Taft Era (Columbia University, *Studies in History, Economics and Public Law*, no. 470). By KENNETH W. HECHLER, Ph.D., lecturer in government, Barnard College and Columbia University. (New York, Columbia University Press, 1940. 252 p. \$3.00.)

To the growing list of works dealing with the progressive movement of the early twentieth century, Dr. Hechler, in his study of Republican Congressional insurgency from 1909 to 1911, has made a distinct if limited contribution. The author opens his monograph with a background chapter on the historical and geographic roots of insurgency and proceeds in a series of chapters to consider the insurgent leaders and the issues on which their revolt was based.

Insurgency, Dr. Hechler holds, was, in the main, "a middle-western agrarian protest differing little from similar waves of discontent that had arisen in this area during the last quarter of the nineteenth century." Political unrest existed in the East and the Far West, but, the author insists, with less intensity than in the Middle Western corn and wheat regions. The insurgents were, in a word, the direct descendants of the Populists, and their grievances, except currency, were those of Populism. This sharp historical and geo-

graphic delimitation of insurgency permits the author to dismiss with inadequate treatment the relationship of the political revolt to the broader contemporary reform movement. Insurgency was the political expression of the quest for social justice that marked the opening decades of the century; and the insurgents, it would seem, can best be evaluated by considering them as one of a number of diverse groups bent on reform. One may also be permitted the privilege of suspecting that all reformers after 1896 were not simply latter-day Populists.

The Congressional history of insurgency, the principal theme of this study, is treated adequately. In the House of Representatives the outstanding battle occurred on the question of the power of the speaker, "Uncle Joe" Cannon, and the defeat of the regulars in March, 1910, was a signal triumph for the insurgents. In the Senate another notable conflict was waged on the Payne-Aldrich tariff. Despite the sustained and dramatic efforts of the insurgents, however, few schedules of the tariff measure were altered. Less well-known struggles of the insurgents took place on the issues of income tax legislation, the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, postal savings banks, railway rate regulation, and Canadian reciprocity.

Dr. Hechler's identification of the insurgent leaders is of particular interest. His thumbnail sketches add little of significance to what is known of these men; what is important is his evaluation of the parts played by the individual insurgents. The two outstanding leaders were, of course, George W. Norris in the House and Robert M. La Follette in the Senate, but to these names must be added a dozen others: in the House, E. H. Madison and Victor Murdoch of Kansas, Miles Poindexter of Washington, John M. Nelson of Wisconsin, and C. N. Fowler of New Jersey; in the Senate, Albert B. Cummings and J. P. Dolliver of Iowa, J. L. Bristow of Kansas, and Albert J. Beveridge of Indiana. Minnesota contributed two leaders to insurgency—Senator Moses E. Clapp and Representative Charles A. Lindbergh. Lindbergh is characterized by Dr. Hechler as "one of the most advanced of the Insurgents in his economic thinking."

One point as to the sources used by Dr. Hechler must be emphasized. In addition to the obvious official sources, the contemporary press, biographies and autobiographies, and numerous manuscript collections (of which those of Senator Bristow and Senator Poindexter

were most important), the author added a source available to few historians—interviews with men and women directly or indirectly connected with the events of his story. The fifty persons listed in the bibliography as the subject of personal interviews undoubtedly contributed much to the author's understanding of the men and issues of insurgency. Many interesting details regarding the organization of the insurgents and their negotiations with the Democrats and many interesting personal judgments would have been lacking in this study had the author failed to make these personal contacts.

There is an obvious advantage in writing history of this kind before the principal actors have all passed from the scene. If all authors can use the interview as competently as Dr. Hechler has, the practice ought to be encouraged.

ROBERT H. BAHMER

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Shipstead of Minnesota. By MARTIN ROSS, assisted by KATHERINE FERGUSON CHALKLEY. (Chicago, Packard and Company, 1940. 140 p. Portrait. \$.60.)

This slender, paper-bound volume is not a definitive life of Senator Shipstead. The material is confessedly incomplete and secondary, hastily organized without final consideration of balance and proportion. Professor Ross calls it a preliminary sketch to a proposed full-measure biography.

Within the granted limits, the sketch is concise, systematic, and skillfully written. It is no bare individual chronicle, but a convincing attempt to portray Shipstead as the representative of a twentieth-century Jeffersonian agrarianism brought up against machine-age industrial and social problems. Prominent figures on both sides receive discerning attention. There is Altgeld of Illinois, a martyr of democracy, who showed Shipstead the cost of political pioneering; Lindbergh of Minnesota, who carried forty-fives in his antiwar campaign of 1918; President Coolidge, who shared more than one carefully hoarded cigar with Shipstead; Kellogg, Warren, and other conservative senators with whom Minnesota's independent clashed.

Shipstead's own career is plotted with understanding emphasis upon the influence of his progressive father, his experience with urban

and rural problems in Chicago and in Glenwood, and the bitter disillusion of the World War. He emerges as a man of unique significance, a "non-political officeholder," a man aloof from party ties and the usual sources of political power, virtually alone in the Senate, but exerting influence by virtue of careful preparation, earnest foresight, and a reputation for personal disinterestedness.

Professor Ross very frankly finds Shipstead a sympathetic subject. Critics of the Senator will find little comfort in this presentation of the issues, but it should prove timely reading for those to whom current domestic and international problems present a disturbing challenge.

WILFRED O. STOUT, JR.

UNIVERSITY OF CHATTANOOGA
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

GRACE FLANDRAU ("St. Paul: The Personality of a City") is a native of St. Paul who is widely known as a novelist. In addition to works of fiction, her writings include a book of travel, *Then I Saw the Congo* (1929), and numerous articles. Dr. John Francis McDermott ("An Upper Mississippi Excursion of 1845") is a member of the English faculty in Washington University, St. Louis. In 1938 he published a study of *Private Libraries in Creole Saint Louis*, and last year a translation of *Tixier's Travels on the Osage Prairies* appeared under his editorship. Dr. Arthur J. Larsen ("The Minnesota Historical Society in 1940") is the superintendent of the society. Bertha L. Heilbron ("The 1941 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society") is the assistant editor of this magazine. Sarah A. Davidson ("St. Paul in 1849") assisted Dr. Theodore C. Blegen in preparing for publication the narrative of Samuel W. Pond, which appeared in installments in this magazine last year under the title "Two Missionaries in the Sioux Country." Book reviews have been contributed to the present issue by Dr. Louise Phelps Kellogg, senior research associate on the staff of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; Lawrence J. Burpee, a Canadian member of the International Joint Commission; Professor Edgar B. Wesley of the college of education in the University of Minnesota; Dr. Arthur M. Schlesinger, Francis Lee Higginson professor of history in Harvard University; Dr. George M. Stephenson, professor of history in the University of Minnesota; Dr. Paul M. Angle, librarian of the Illinois State Historical Library at Springfield; Dr. Clarence E. Carter, editor of the *Territorial Papers of the United States*; Dr. Grace Lee Nute of the society's staff; Dr. Laurence Schmeckebier, chairman of the fine arts department in the University of Minnesota; Robert H. Bahmer of the staff of the National Archives in Washington, D. C.; and Professor Wilfred O. Stout, Jr., of the department of history in the University of Chattanooga.

Since the superintendent's report on the activities of the society in 1940, including the last quarter of the year, is published elsewhere in

the present number of this magazine, only a few supplementary items are mentioned in the present section.

A tribute is paid to the society and its library staff by Mr. Charles B. Elwood of St. Paul on a recently published chart of *Certain European Origins of the Elwood-Mosher Family* (1940). "The family history from which this Chart is compiled," writes Mr. Elwood, "has been made possible only thru the existence in Saint Paul of the unusually comprehensive Genealogical Library of the Minnesota State Historical Society and the fine courtesy of its staff."

Under the heading "Our Fabulous Fauna," the *Duluth News-Tribune* of January 2 comments editorially on Miss Marjorie Edgar's description of "Imaginary Animals of Northern Minnesota," published in the December issue of this magazine. The "marvelous creatures in our own American mythology," according to the writer, should in time do much to enrich American literature.

A paper on "The Lure of Old Frontenac" which Dr. Nute presented before a session of the seventeenth state historical convention under the auspices of the society at Frontenac Inn on June 17, 1939, has been published in the *Bulletin* of Hamline University for October, 1940.

The problems involved in arranging the society's collection of the "Business Papers of Emerson Cole" are described by Miss McCann in the *Bulletin* of the Business Historical Society for December. The writer tells how the manuscript volumes and papers presented in 1937 by Miss Vera Cole (see *ante*, 18: 210) were arranged and catalogued, and how the society "was able to discover the significance of these papers for the business history of Minnesota and the United States."

A paper on "Re-building the Grand Portage Stockade," presented by Mr. Babcock before a meeting of the American Association of Museums at Detroit, Michigan, on May 22, 1940, is published in the issue of *Museum News* for December 15.

The *Cokato Enterprise* of January 16 reprints the account of the local historical museum at Cokato that appeared in the December issue of this magazine (*ante*, 21: 440-442).

The thirty-one members who joined the society during the last quarter of 1940 include one life member, Mrs. Mary Case Warner of Wayzata, and the following annual members: George W. Anderson of Minneapolis, Elizabeth M. Bachmann of St. Paul, Lawrence H. Bennett of St. Paul, the Reverend Walter B. Beach of Montevideo, Mrs. Richard Blacque of St. Paul, Mrs. Carl A. Blad of St. Paul Park, Mrs. C. E. Denney of St. Paul, James T. Dunn of Olean, New York, John E. Fitzgerald of North St. Paul, Eda D. Flagg of Winona, Sara L. Fletcher of Minneapolis, A. V. Gardner of St. Paul, Marion Snelling Hall of Cincinnati, William P. Harrison of Duluth, Hibbert Hill of Minneapolis, Lieutenant Colonel John R. Holt of Fort Snelling, Moses C. Jones of Wayzata, Mrs. Robert G. Morrison of Minneapolis, R. B. Nelson of Luverne, Theodore L. Nydahl of Mankato, the Reverend Emmett O'Donnell of St. Paul, Mrs. Richardson B. Okie of Minneapolis, Elmer Olson of Minneapolis, M. M. Opegard of Grand Forks, North Dakota, Mrs. Howard Sargent of St. Paul, Harold M. Sims of St. Paul, Alfred F. Soucheray of St. Paul, Robert O. Sullivan of St. Paul, Arnulf Ueland of Minneapolis, and J. R. Wiggins of St. Paul.

The historical societies of Carver, McLeod, Sibley, and Stearns counties, and the Minnesota Archaeological Society recently became institutional members of the society.

The society lost seven active members by death in the three months from October 1 to December 31: Mrs. O. D. Wisner of Minneapolis on October 13, Dietrich Lange of St. Paul on November 19, Edward C. Congdon of Duluth on November 27, the Reverend Maurice D. Edwards of St. Paul on December 3, Albert Kaiser of Bagley on December 7, Francis A. Chamberlain of Minneapolis on December 17, and E. Fitch Pabody of Minneapolis on December 17.

Nineteen addresses and talks were presented by five members of the staff in the last three months of 1940. The superintendent spoke on the "Function of the Sibley County Historical Society" at a meeting of that organization in Henderson on October 11, on the "Story of Transportation in Minnesota" at the House of Hope Church in St. Paul on November 1 and before the Exchange Club of St. Paul on December 11, and on the "County Historical Society and Its Work" before the Hennepin County Historical Society at Edina on

November 27 and the Otter Tail County Historical Society at Fergus Falls on November 30. Miss Nute gave talks on "Wilderness Marthas" at meetings of the Women's Club of Hibbing on October 17 and of Gamma Phi Beta at the University of Minnesota on November 7, on "Microphotography" before the Minnesota Library Association in St. Paul on October 21, on "Research in European Archives" before a history seminar in Hamline University on October 30, on "The Voyageur" at the House of Hope Church on November 27, and on the "French on Lake Pepin" before the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society at Lake City on December 11. Members of the latter organization heard Mr. Babcock speak on "Indians in the Lake Pepin Valley" on October 8. He spoke also on the "Indian Medicine Society and Indian Life" in the Historical Building on October 14 (see *ante*, 21: 409), and on "Minnesota Indian Life" before a Minneapolis chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on October 19; and he described an "Illustrated Ramble through Minnesota History" for the Stearns County Historical Society at St. Cloud on November 30. "Bridging Minnesota's Past" was the subject of a talk given before the Merriam Park Club of St. Paul by Mr. Beeson on October 4; and "Some Frontier Holiday Celebrations" were described by Miss Heilbron at a meeting of the Washington County Historical Society at Bayport on December 12.

ACCESSIONS

Transcripts of some fifty articles prepared between 1856 and 1860 by C. C. Andrews, a Minnesota pioneer who later attained prominence in the fields of diplomacy and forestry, have been made from the file of the *Boston Post* in the Boston Public Library by Miss Harriet L. Fisher of Brookline, Massachusetts. Andrews traveled extensively in Minnesota, using stages and steamboats and visiting such communities as old Crow Wing and the settlements of the Red River Valley. In his letters he describes these places as well as such older settlements as St. Paul, he tells of a visit with the Chippewa chief Hole-in-the-Day at Gull Lake, and he gives information about hotel accommodations, transportation facilities, local politics, and frontier social life and conditions. Miss Fisher has also located in the *Post* and copied for the society a series of letters written in 1865 and 1866 by Oliver H. Kelley, the Minnesota agricultural leader who

founded the Grange. Kelley describes the resources of various sections of Minnesota and reports on Horace Greeley's address at the state fair of 1865.

A Civil War diary of 1864, kept by Truman Tyrell, a member of the Twenty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, has been photographed for the society through the courtesy of Mr. H. W. Tyrell of Philbrook. Copies have been made also of the issues of the *Natchitoches* [Louisiana] *Daily Union* for April 2 and 4, 1864, in Mr. Tyrell's possession. These numbers of the *Union* were printed on ledger paper by Union soldiers who had taken over the equipment of a local press and made use of whatever paper stock was available.

Diaries kept by Paul H. Rosendahl in 1865 and 1873 have been presented by Mr. Peter Rosendahl of Spring Grove, through the courtesy of Mr. P. N. Narveson of that community. In a volume for 1863, already in the possession of the society (see *ante*, 9:177), Rosendahl records his experiences as a member of the Sibley expedition. The newly acquired diaries tell of his activities while serving as a corporal with the First Regiment of Mounted Rangers from Minnesota, and of his later career in Houston County, where he became register of deeds.

An account of the survey of the route of the Northern Pacific Railroad through northern Minnesota in 1870 is given by James A. Andrews, a member of the party that made the survey, in a reminiscent narrative presented by Mr. Willis H. Miller of Hudson, Wisconsin. The author describes the Sauk River Valley, presents sketches of the members of the party, and discusses some of their activities.

Two boxes of letters received by James Gray in 1899 and 1900 and seventeen scrapbooks of articles by or about him have been presented by his son, Mr. James Gray of St. Paul. Some of the scrapbooks contain material relating to Gray's activities as mayor of Minneapolis in 1898 and 1899 and to his campaign as Democratic candidate for the governorship in 1910. The series as a whole covers the period from 1892 to 1916 and consists for the most part of articles that Gray wrote while engaged in newspaper work for the *Minneapolis Journal* and the *Minneapolis Times*. Most of the articles written between 1914 and 1916 relate to national affairs, since

in those years Gray was serving as Washington correspondent of the *Journal*.

The early history of St. Louis County is the subject of a paper by Mr. Otto Wieland of Duluth recently presented by the author. He has also presented copies of twelve papers read in 1908 and 1909 by Thomas H. Pressnell before a Duluth chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic on "Incidents in the Civil War." Pressnell, who served with the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and other regiments, gives personal recollections of his experiences in the war.

A substantial addition to the papers of the recently disbanded St. Paul Fire Insurance Patrol (see *ante*, 20:330) has been presented through the courtesy of Mr. Roy H. Jefferson of St. Paul. This material, which is on cards, consists of indexes to the organization's records of fires, fire losses, and insurance coverage from 1910 to 1919.

The papers of the Upper Mississippi River Improvement Association, consisting of three letter books for the years from 1905 to 1910, ten boxes of correspondence for the period from 1912 to 1917, the minutes of the transportation committee for 1918, and other items have been presented by the St. Paul Public Library. Included are some addresses and correspondence of Thomas Wilkinson, who served as president of the association, and the correspondence of its secretary, Hiram D. Frankel.

Mr. Charles Mason Remey of Washington, D. C., has presented typewritten copies of thirty-five volumes of material relating to his family. The volumes, which were arranged and edited by Mr. Remey, include extracts from diaries, letters, and personal reminiscences of his grandfather, Charles Mason, a pioneer Iowa jurist, and of his parents, Rear Admiral and Mrs. George Remey. They are elaborately illustrated with copies of family portraits, photographs, newspaper clippings, letters, and documents.

The results of a survey, made by the Minnesota Historical Records Survey, of vital statistics records in the state are set forth in a manuscript report presented through the courtesy of Mr. Jacob Hodnefeld of St. Paul. It indicates the bulk of the material, the dates covered, the arrangement and indexing of the records, the depositories, and

the custodians. The information is listed by counties, with a summary for the entire state.

Mrs. Ragnhild Brodie of New Orleans and her mother Mrs. E. H. Hobe of St. Paul have presented a handsome carved and painted Norwegian drinking bowl dating from 1777.

A gun barrel dating from the fur-trade period, which was unearthed at Ponemah on the Red Lake Indian Reservation, is the gift of Colonel C. E. Whitney of St. Paul. A forty-five caliber rifle, model of 1879, has been presented by Mr. W. J. Volkert of St. Paul.

Nearly ten thousand negatives of pictures taken in 1940 by photographers for the *Minneapolis Tribune* have been added to the society's collection of negatives. An interesting series of pictures showing the building of a Chippewa canoe has been copied through the courtesy of Mr. H. D. Ayer of Vineland.

Mrs. Charles R. McKenney of North St. Paul has presented files of four newspapers, three of which were edited and published by her husband, the late Charles R. McKenney. For many years McKenney was an active member of the Republican party in Minnesota, and for thirty-four years he was enrolling clerk of the national House of Representatives. Mrs. McKenney's gift consists of files of the *Rushford Star* from August 9, 1877, to August 13, 1885; the *Lake City Sentinel* from August 22, 1885, to August 13, 1887; the *North St. Paul Sentinel* from August 27, 1887, to May 29, 1907; and the *Pepin* [Wisconsin] *Star* from September 4, 1884, to August 27, 1885. No other file of the latter paper, which was edited and published by George E. Kirkpatrick, is known for the period covered.

A photostatic copy of an article by George Wicker entitled "In the Battle with the Chippewa," which appeared in the *Illustrated Home Journal* of St. Louis for April 1, 1899, has been received from Miss Lillian Wicker of St. Paul, a sister of the author. Wicker was a member of the expedition that went to Leech Lake in October, 1898, to suppress the Indian uprising of that year, and he here records his experiences, particularly in the battle of October 5. The periodical in which Wicker's article appeared was edited by the Reverend J. A. Detzer, who was pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer of St. Paul in the late 1890's. The article was copied from a rare file

of the *Journal* in the possession of the publishers, the Louis Lange Publishing Company of St. Louis.

Minnesota families are included in several of the genealogies acquired by the society during the last quarter of 1940. Jeremiah Selby, for whom Selby Avenue in St. Paul is named, is mentioned in a *Short Sketch of Some of the Descendants of William Selby* by Fred E. Fowler (Brookfield, Ohio, 1939. 130 p.). The Eastlick family, some of whose members were killed near Lake Shetek in the Sioux Outbreak of 1862, and the Cooley, Day, and other families in Minnesota are traced by Adele Andrews in her *Ancestors and Descendants of Giles and Hannah Cutler Day* (1940. 147 p.).

Part of a letter written by Daniel B. Rice from East Chain Lake, Martin County, on June 24, 1866, is printed in a *History of the Nickey Family in America, 1700 A.D.-1940 A.D.* by Ella M. Milligan (Denver, 1940. 236 p.). An account of the Rice families of Fairmont and Minneapolis and of the Nickey, Murphy, and allied families of Todd County are included in this volume.

The Thorne Family, Its Branches from the Parent Tree by John M. Thorne (Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1935. 77 p.) contains a chapter on the Thornes in Hastings, Minnesota, where John L. Thorne started a bank in the late 1850's. The author describes some of his childhood experiences in Hastings and mentions a number of local families, including the Le Ducs, the Donnellys, the Pringles, and the Folletts.

Other genealogies received recently include: Walter D. Barnes, *Barnes-Bailey Genealogy* (Baltimore, Maryland, 1939. 173 p.); Ernest B. Comstock, *The Barnes Lineage, Line of Descent from Thomas Barnes of Hartford, Connecticut* (Dallas, Texas, 1937. 16 p.); Clarissa T. Bass, *Descendants of Deacon Samuel and Ann Bass* (Freeport, Illinois, 1940. 223 p.); Daniel H. Bertolet, *A Genealogical History of the Bertolet Family, Descendants of Jean Bertolet* (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1914. 260 p.); Grace C. B. Toler, *Addenda to the Genealogical Record of the Descendants of Richard Blood-Baptist Hicks and Allied Families* (Mounds, Illinois, 1939. 31 p.); Anna A. Wright, *Notes on Nichols-Brown-Moore Families, 1776-1939* (Ithaca, New York, 1939. 23 p.); Lewis L. Burritt, *The Burritt Family in America; Descendants of William Burritt of Stratford, Connecticut* (Rockford, Illinois, 1940. 272

p.); Ernest B. Comstock, *The Ancestry of Ernest Bernard Comstock, Dallas, Texas* (Dallas, 1936. 18 p.); Ernest B. Comstock, *The Comstock Family in America* (Dallas, Texas, 1938. 41 p.); Fred E. Crawford, *The Early Ancestors of the Crawfords in America* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1940. 81 p.); John N. Cross, *William Cross of Botetourt Co. Va., and His Descendants, 1733-1932* (Columbia, Missouri, 1932. 258 p.); Ruth S. D. Eddy, *The Eddy Family in America; Supplement of 1940* (Boston, 1940. 180 p.); Gertrude M. Graves, *A New England Family and Their French Connections* (Boston, 1930. 245 p.); Inglis Stuart, *Mayflower Ancestry of Elizabeth Ely Goodrich and Her Descendants* (Rhinebeck, New York, 1932. 239 p.); Georgia G. Wisda, *Gosney Family ily Records 1740-1940 and Related Families* (Corydon, Indiana, 1940. 325 p.); Irene M. Gower, *Gauer-Gower Family* (Allentown, Pennsylvania, 1939. 68 p.); Rollie F. Headlee, *The Headlee Family in America* (Denton, Texas, 1936. 70 p.); Aaron and Leah Herschlikowitz Family Association, *History Book and Family Tree* (1938. 47 p.); Margaret L. Wiesenbergs, *A Genealogical Record of the Lampert Family* (Lakewood, New Jersey, 1939. 47 p.); Pierre-Georges Roy, *La famille de la Porte de Louvigny* (Levis, Canada, 1939. 47 p.); Harry S. Blaine, *Some Ancestors and Descendants of Avery Leonard of Seneca County, Ohio* (Toledo, 1933. 42 p.); George R. McClure, *The McClure Family of the Line from Richard McClure, Sr.* (McPherson, Kansas, 1938. 6 p.); Robert M. Woods, *McDills in America, A History of the Descendants of John McDill and Janet Leslie of County Antrim, Ireland* (Ann Arbor, 1940. 210 p.); George R. McClure, *Genealogy, Daniel Martin, His Parents, Five Sisters* (McPherson, Kansas, 1939. 19 p.); Bessie P. Lamb, *A Genealogical History of the Poole, Langston, Mason Families and Kindred Lines of Upper South Carolina* (Enoree, South Carolina, 1931. 251 p.); Arthur W. Anderson, *The Story of a Pioneer Family (Prendergast)* (Jamestown, New York, 1936. 15 p.); Lester D. Prewitt, *Notes on the Prewitt-Light, Ringler-Hollowell and Allied Families* (Forest City, Iowa, 1939. 30 p.); Fanny L. S. Meadows, *Descendants of Reade or Reed* (Cleveland, Ohio, 1937. 59 p.); Joseph B. Reynolds, *The Peter Reynolds Family of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania* (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1940. 46 p.); W. C. Sharpe, *Records of the Sharpe Family in England and America from 1580 to 1870* (Seymour, Connecticut, 1874.

34 p.); Edward L. Burchard, *Contribution to the Genealogy of the Family of John Shellenberger Who Arrived in America in 1754 from Switzerland* (Chicago, 1939. 123 p.); Joseph B. Snyder, *History of the Family of Snyder (Schneider) (Snider) More Particularly of the Branch Headed by Frederick and Son, William of Whitley County, Kentucky* (St. Louis, 1940. 72 p.); Willis M. Stebbins, *Genealogy of the Stebbins Family Including Kindred Lines of Swetland, Wilcox and Cheney Families* (Lincoln, Nebraska, 1940. 123 p.); Dan V. Stephens, *Stephens Family Genealogies, 1690-1938* (Fremont, Nebraska, 1940); Elvira S. Bryant, *Genealogical Record of the Stewart Family* (Bolton, Vermont, 1940. 27 p.); Anson Titus, *The Titus Family in America* (Dallas, 1938. 20 p.); *The Tercentenary Dedicatory Volume of the Tupper Family Association of America, Incorporated* (Worcester, 1940. 93 p.); and James L. Wilmeth, *Wilmot-Wilmoth-Wilmeth* (Philadelphia, 1940. 374 p.).

Among local histories added in the last three months of 1940 are: *Vital Statistics Copied from Town Records* of Penobscot, Maine (North Brooksville, Maine, 1940); Mollie H. Ash, *Cecil County Maryland Signers of the Oath of Allegiance Sworn by County Justices March 2nd, 1778* (Elkton, Maryland, 1940. 41 p.); Clifton Johnson, *Historic Hadley, Quarter Millennial Souvenir, 1659-1909* (Northampton, Massachusetts, 1909. 40 p.); *Probate Records of the Province of New Hampshire 1764-1767* (*State Papers Series*, vol. 38—Concord, 1940. 483 p.); *Centennial, Saint Mary's Church, Pine Creek, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania* (1940. 95 p.); Elsie Murray, *Te-a-o-ga; Annals of a Valley* (Athens, Pennsylvania, 1939. 64 p.); Gertrude S. Kimball, *The Correspondence of the Colonial Governors of Rhode Island 1723-1775* (Boston, 1902. 2 vols.); Mary J. Canfield, *The Valley of the Kedron: The Story of the South Parish, Woodstock, Vermont* (South Woodstock, 1940. 323 p.); C. G. Chamberlayne, *The Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, Hanover County, Virginia, 1706-1786* (Richmond, 1940. 672 p.); Mary M. Mack, *History of Old Grove Street Cemetery, Danville, Virginia* (Danville, 1939. 54 p.); *Two Centuries of Nazareth 1740-1940* (Nazareth, Pennsylvania, 1940. 276 p.).

L. M. F.

NEWS AND COMMENT

"IF CERTAIN TEXTS are doomed to destruction, as wars in the past have destroyed many records of earlier civilizations, we have now, at least, at our disposal methods of preserving their contents through documentary photography," writes Dr. L. Bendikson of the Huntington Library in the *Library Journal* for October 1. He stresses the need for reproducing our documentary treasures and for storing film-slides in safe places in order to ensure their preservation in case of war.

In a discussion of the "History of American Agriculture as a Field of Research," which appears in *Agricultural History* for July, Louis B. Schmidt suggests a number of problems for study in this field. Among them are histories of the public lands, of agricultural industries, of the marketing of agricultural products, of farmers' organizations, and of agricultural education. Biographies of most of the men who have "contributed to the advancement of agriculture" in the United States, including a number of Minnesotans, also remain to be written. Profitable studies of most of the subjects suggested could be made in Minnesota.

In order to provide a "handy guide to the movements of La Salle, which can be used as a check against the literature already published," Father Jean Delanglez has compiled a "Calendar of La Salle's Travels, 1643-1683," which appears in the October number of *Mid-America*. It is the writer's purpose to indicate "where La Salle was during the first forty years of his life, that is, from November 1643 until November 1683, or from the month and year of his birth to the month and year when he left Quebec, never to return to New France." References to sources accompany the entries.

Dr. Elliott Coues is one of the "Ornithologists of the United States Army Medical Corps" whose careers are discussed in detail by Edgar E. Hume in the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* for November. The author brings out Coues's connection with the boundary commission that surveyed the line from the Red River to the Rocky Mountains in 1873 and 1874, and describes the publications

that resulted from his field work in the Canadian border country. Coues's interest in "early explorations west of the Mississippi River" also is noted, and the many valuable documents in this field that he edited and made available to historians are listed. Colonel Hume also is the author of an account of the "Foundation of American Meteorology by the United States Army Medical Department," which appears in the February issue of the *Bulletin*. It includes some mention of weather records kept at Fort Snelling after 1819.

An important paper on "Indian Trade Silver of Canada," recently presented before the Minnesota Archaeological Society by the Canadian anthropologist and ethnologist, Marius Barbeau, is the feature of the October issue of the *Minnesota Archaeologist*. A study of records of the fur trade and of the letters written by traders leads Mr. Barbeau to the conclusion that "North American silvercraft . . . can no longer be considered a really ancient one, nor should the Indians be credited with having had much, if anything, to do with its development except in having been willing customers, providing furs at the counter and receiving trinkets and other trade goods in return." He expresses the belief that "silver ornaments found in undated Indian graves in North America" date from the period of the fur trade. Most of the Canadian pieces that he has examined, Mr. Barbeau records, "bear the mark of the silversmiths who made them, nearly all of them from Montreal and Quebec." Many of the ornaments discussed are pictured with the article. In the same issue appear brief illustrated articles by George A. Flaskerd on "Minnesota Silver Trade Articles" and on "Indian Peace Medal Issues," and an account by Wesley R. Hiller of the "Manufacture of Bone Fish-Hooks and Stone Net Sinkers by the Mandans."

The "Promotional Activities of the Northern Pacific's Land Department" are discussed by Siegfried Mickelson in the December issue of the *Journalism Quarterly*. Emphasis is placed on a campaign beginning in 1897 and directed by F. W. Wilsey which had for its object the filling of "unsettled sections of northern Minnesota and North Dakota." It was conducted through the columns of rural weeklies in seven states, chiefly in the Northwest. The writer believes that the enormous growth in population in both Minnesota and North Dakota in the two decades from 1890 to 1910 is evidence of the suc-

cess of the railroad's campaign. The article is based in large part upon the archives of the Northern Pacific Railroad in St. Paul.

The ninetieth anniversary of the founding of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad and of the inauguration of rail service for Aurora, Illinois, was marked at that place on October 21. A wealth of material about the history of the Burlington appears in a special edition of the *Aurora Sunday Beacon-News*, issued on October 20. The expansion of the Burlington from a few miles of road in Illinois in 1850 also is reviewed in the *Morning World-Herald* of Omaha, Nebraska, for September 2, which devotes an entire section to articles about the history of the road. Both papers include occasional references to the portion of the Burlington that connects the Twin Cities with Chicago.

In a series of articles entitled "At Work and Play on the Rivers," appearing in the Sunday issues of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Dorothy Warren has included several dealing with steamboats and steamboatmen on the upper Mississippi. Her article for October 20 deals with the careers of Captains Henry and William Leyhe, owners of the "Golden Eagle," with which in 1939 they "inaugurated the first through passenger service on the Mississippi river between St. Louis and St. Paul in 23 years." An interview with Chief Engineer Ralph Tinker, reported in the issue for October 27, includes recollections of steamboating on the upper river in the 1890's. A large collection of steamboat pictures owned by Captain Samuel G. Smith of St. Louis is described in the article published on November 3.

Little has been published about the lumber industry, and even less has been recorded of one of its principal figures, Frederick Weyerhaeuser, who dominated the white pine industry of the Northwest for half a century, and whose name, through his descendants, is still associated with the country's leading lumber interests. The lack is partially filled in *Frederick Weyerhaeuser: Pioneer Lumberman* (1940. 62 p.) recently published by Dr. William Bancroft Hill and Mrs. Louise Lindeke Weyerhaeuser. Therein Dr. Hill presents his father-in-law's recollections of his childhood on a farm near Mainz in Germany, his journey and first experiences as an eighteen-year-old immigrant to America in 1852, and his settlement in 1856 at Rock Island, Illinois, where within a few years he and a partner purchased the

lumber mill in which he started as a night fireman. The brief biographical section closes with 1869 and does not touch on the Minnesota scene, though it is said that when Weyerhaeuser first saw the timber on the Chippewa, he "wanted to say nothing about it. It was like the feeling of a man who has discovered a hidden treasure." In another section appear Mrs. Weyerhaeuser's delightful personal recollections of her father-in-law. She tells of his family life, his removal to St. Paul in 1891, and his golden wedding anniversary. Written solely for his grandchildren, the book in no way attempts to offer a formal history of Weyerhaeuser's astonishing career, but in the character sketch of the man much of his later success is suggested. The story of what occurred between Weyerhaeuser's purchase of the Rock Island mill and the golden wedding is still to be written. Its record "remains only in old account books, abandoned dams, cutover lands and flourishing towns. . . . Farms stand where stately pine trees stood; railroads that once were solely for carrying logs are now parts of continental systems." It is to be hoped that this history will some day be given to the Northwest. S. A. D.

An address on *The Mid-West Lumber Cycle*, presented by Laird Bell before the American branch of the Newcomen Society meeting in Chicago on November 2, 1939, has been published as a pamphlet (1940. 36 p.). The author's intimate association with the lumber industry of Wisconsin and Minnesota gives a special value to his account of its rise and decline. He describes the westward movement of the lumber industry, which was motivated by the "appetite of the country for wood"; he explains early logging methods, practices, and terms; and he describes some of the personalities who developed the industry. Among the latter, Mr. Bell gives a prominent place to Frederick Weyerhaeuser, the "man who became in later years the unquestioned leader of the industry." The story of his operations on the Chippewa River in Wisconsin is presented in some detail.

Students of immigration history should find much of interest and value in *Common Ground*, a new periodical issued under the editorship of Louis Adamic by the Common Council for American Unity. It undertakes, among other things, "to further an appreciation of what each group has contributed to America." Prominent among the groups represented in the initial number are the Swedes, whose role in the settlement of the Northwest is discussed by Professor

George M. Stephenson in an article entitled "When America Was the Land of Canaan." This is a condensed version of an article by the same author which appeared in the issue of *Minnesota History* for September, 1929. An "America Ballad" of Swedish origin appears both in the original language and in a translation. Of more general interest is Dr. Arthur M. Schlesinger's article on "Immigrants in America."

From Many Lands by Louis Adamic is an honest attempt to give the point of view, and picture the American background, of some of the immigrants of the past fifty years and their descendants (New York, 1940. 350 p.). From the histories of Croatians, Armenians, Greeks, Slovenians, and others, the author has made a very interesting book, and one needed for a better understanding of the American people. I found most fascinating the story of "Ma" Karas from Bohemia and the saga of the Polish family; I thought least interesting the long, personally told story of the American-born Japanese youth. Minnesota appears seldom in the book except in the chapter called "The Finnish Americans," which is comparatively short, but well done. It starts with the story of an Oregon Finn, a seventy-five-year-old fruit rancher who is like many a Minnesota homesteader in his thrift, his love of his land, and his unceasing hard work to improve it. Uneducated — as he left Finland in 1890, when it was under Russian rule — he is intelligent and likes good things — the *Kalevala*, of course, and Sibelius' music, as he hears it with his sons and their families on the gramophone. They are all proud of the old log cabin, still standing on their land, which was the first building of the homestead — and this might well be on a Finnish farm in St. Louis County.

Mr. Adamic says, in speaking of Finnish miners in Michigan and Minnesota: "Traditionally, the Finns are farmers, woodsmen, trappers and fishermen, with a passion for the open, silent places, and disposed to go into difficult enterprises without a boss over them; and so a large proportion of them got out of the mining and smelter towns and camps as soon as they saved enough to go on the land." As we know, the land was rocky and full of stumps, but the Finns were used to that, and "In the Great Lakes country one still hears it said that the language best understood by the stumps and boulders is Finnish." There is a good deal about the Finnish co-operatives, which the author

thinks a valuable expression of the well-known "Finnish clannishness." He gives credit to the strong influence of the Lutheran church, even among Finns who are not church members; he does not mention the important cultural groups, such as the Kaleva Society and the numerous choral clubs, which have a social and educational influence. While the revival in recent years of the old custom of celebrating *Laskiainen* (Shrove Tuesday) is given attention, there is no mention of the popular, wide-spread, and enduring celebration of Midsummer Day. *From Many Lands* finds that most Finns have improved their lot by coming to the United States, and have responded with gratitude and loyalty. In 1898 a Minnesota settler wrote to his brother in Finland: "I have come to love this immense land, with its broad sky line, great lakes, limitless wilderness, and freedom."

MARJORIE EDGAR

A sketch of "George W. Patten: Poet Laureate of the Army" is contributed by Philip D. Jordan to the fall number of the *Journal* of the American Military Institute. After his graduation from West Point in 1830, Patten served with the Second United States Infantry at various frontier posts, including several in Minnesota and Dakota.

Students of Northwest history will find useful a compact *Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in the United States: Iowa*, which has been compiled and issued by the Iowa Historical Records Survey (Des Moines, 1940). The arrangement is by cities having libraries with manuscript holdings. Each library is briefly described, with information about its staff, its hours, its building, and its field of interest. This is followed by a statement about the size and nature of its manuscript holdings, with the names of individuals for whom collections of letters are available. A convenient index adds to the value of the *Guide*.

William J. Petersen is the author of a series of five articles on "The Beginnings of Dubuque" that appear in the November issue of the *Palimpsest*. In the first, which bears the title "The El Dorado of Iowa," the writer gives a general picture of the upper Mississippi region and tells of the explorers whose narratives introduced it to prospective settlers.

The beginnings of settlement in the vicinities of Prairie du Chien, Dubuque, and Galena are discussed by Glenn T. Trewartha in the *Annals* of the Association of American Geographers for June in an article bearing the title "A Second Epoch of Destructive Occupance in the Driftless Hill Land (1760-1832: Period of British, Spanish and Early American Control)." Although the area under consideration includes part of what is now southeastern Minnesota, no specific references to that section are made.

The comments of two Minnesotans—Nathan Myrick and Dr. Lafayette H. Bunnell—on "The Mormons of Mormon Coulee" near La Crosse are quoted by Albert H. Sanford in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for December. Myrick, who was one of the founders of La Crosse, removed to St. Paul in 1848, and Dr. Bunnell was a pioneer settler on the west bank of the Mississippi near Winona. Both could recall the little colony of Mormons from Nauvoo, Illinois, who settled in a valley south of La Crosse in the 1840's. Of considerable Minnesota interest also is an article in the same magazine on the "Life of John Lawler" of Prairie du Chien by William B. Faherty. In the spring of 1874 Lawler completed the pontoon bridge across the Mississippi between Prairie du Chien and North McGregor, and, according to this account, he later built similar structures at Stillwater and Wabasha. Lawler's interest in Irish Catholic colonies in Minnesota and other states also is mentioned. One of his sons, Daniel Lawler, became a prominent St. Paul lawyer and politician. In the same issue, P. L. Scanlan discusses "The Military Record of Jefferson Davis in Wisconsin."

Nathan Myrick figures prominently in a sketch of Harmon J. B. Miller which appears in series 5 of the *La Crosse County Historical Sketches*, a publication of the La Crosse County Historical Society (1940). Both men settled on the site of La Crosse in the early 1840's and there they were associated in business and were among the owners of the original townsite. Another article of more than local interest is an account of "Boys' Games and Sports" of the period following the Civil War, by Dr. D. S. McArthur. He explains such games as "duck-on-the-rock" and "one-old-cat," and tells of hunting and fishing expeditions, picnics, and boat rides that the pioneer boy enjoyed. Mention should be made also of an article by Harold Weisse

on "Types of Architecture Illustrated in La Crosse and Vicinity," since the cabins, stores, and residences of the Wisconsin frontier probably were much like those erected in Minnesota.

Brief sketches of the forts that have existed since 1738 on or near the site of Winnipeg are presented by F. W. Howay in an account of "Some National Historic Sites in Western Canada," in the *Canadian Geographical Journal* for October. The list includes Fort Rouge, Fort Gibraltar, Fort Garry, Lower Fort Garry, and Fort Douglas.

In a pamphlet entitled *A Story of the Early Days of the Company in Western Canada*, the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company presents an interesting record of its beginnings in Winnipeg in 1866. It uses as a point of departure an advertisement of its Red River agency appearing in the *Nor'-Wester* for November 3, 1866. This advertisement, which is signed by the company's local agent, R. C. Burdick, is reproduced in the pamphlet. Some information about early policies written at Winnipeg is drawn from an old ledger in the company's home office in St. Paul. A sketch of Burdick also is included.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

The diaries and letters of Ignatius Donnelly are copiously quoted in a series of "Nininger Notes" that have been appearing in the *Hastings Gazette* since July 26, 1940. The passages were selected and the connecting narrative was provided by Elsa Krauch, hostess at the Donnelly House at Nininger. The story of Donnelly's trip to Minnesota in the spring of 1856 and of his search for an appropriate townsite in the new territory is covered in the installments published from July 26 to September 27. It opens with the youthful traveler's impressions of Chicago, which looked to him "as if a gigantic board-yard had been worked up over night into a multitude of small half-finished houses, and these had been dropped at random over the face of a dead flat prairie." Then follow Donnelly's accounts of a visit to Iowa City, of the voyage up the Mississippi from Davenport, of the settlements along the river, and of his arrival in St. Paul. The diarist records his meeting there with John Nininger, and tells of their visits to various townsite locations. Donnelly "considered Manomin," writes Miss Krauch, "he nibbled at Chisago City, he visited

Kaposia, and he lingered at Pine Bend long enough to price the land with interest—but none of these appealed to him as did the plateau he had noted "on his trip upstream. Finally, he and Nininger "paid large prices for the farms" occupied by John Bassett, Peter Caleff, and Jesse M. Stone, and established the town of Nininger. After October 4, Miss Krauch contributes only occasional articles based upon Donnelly's later diaries and papers. In her article for November 15, she records that over three hundred visitors from eleven states went through the Donnelly House during the season of 1940.

Before the end of 1940, the Minnesota Historical Records Survey completed and published five more volumes in its *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota*. In them are listed records found in the courthouses of Chippewa County at Montevideo (no. 12—177 p.), of Meeker County at Litchfield (no. 47—119 p.), of Otter Tail County at Fergus Falls (no. 56—184 p.), of Renville County at Olivia (no. 65—132 p.), and of Rice County at Faribault (no. 66—128 p.). Each volume includes a historical sketch of the county covered, an account of its governmental organization, and some notes on the housing and care of its records. It is noteworthy that inventories for twenty-seven counties had been made available in published form before January 1.

The vast amount of work accomplished by the eight sessions of the Minnesota legislature that convened during the territorial period is "shown fully and comprehensively in the volume of Statutes of Minnesota 1849-1858" writes William Codman in an article on the "Beginning of Government in Minnesota" which appears in installments in the *Winona Republican-Herald* from December 26 to 31. This and other volumes in the author's personal library serve as the basis for his narrative, which opens with an explanation of French and British claims in Minnesota East and West. He tells how parts of what is now Minnesota were included in the Louisiana Purchase and in Wisconsin and Iowa territories, and he describes the organization of Minnesota Territory in 1849. An account of the first meeting of the territorial legislature in the Central House in St. Paul is followed by a brief analysis of the "Territorial code" produced by this and successive legislative sessions. Special attention is given to the creation of the original counties of the territory, and an account is

included of the authorization for and results of the census of 1857. The framing of the state constitution and the admission to statehood are described. The acquisition of Indian lands, particularly through the treaties of 1851, is noted; and some attention is given to Supreme Court decisions relating to Indian land titles and their application to the Carver claim. The Winona County members of the territorial legislatures are listed, and other material of special interest in southeastern Minnesota is included.

An important contribution to the recorded history of higher education in Minnesota is President Guy Stanton Ford's biennial report for 1938-40, a section of which has been published by the University of Minnesota Press in a pamphlet entitled *The Making of the University: An Unorthodox Report* (1940. 62 p.). Therein Dr. Ford, "who knew intimately all his predecessors," characterizes their personalities — Dr. Folwell, with whose arrival in 1869 the "university's history became a navigable stream"; Dr. Northrop, who "put flesh upon its bones, assurance in its bearing, and light in its eye"; Dr. Vincent, whose "vitality and dynamic personality . . . will long be remembered"; Dr. Burton, the "first native of Minnesota to be president of the university"; and Dr. Coffman, "an acknowledged leader among schoolmen . . . whose powers of growth made him at the time of his death an outstanding educational statesman." Dr. Ford discusses the university as a "vantage point from which to view the mind and working of American democracy," and stresses the importance to the institution of the "combination in our population of the early New England and seaboard pioneers and the . . . later settlers of European origin of those nationalities whose intelligence and enterprise and traditions made them sons of the American spirit before they had learned the language."

"Memories of Minnesota" university in the early 1890's, when she was a student there, and from 1899 to 1912, when she served on the faculty, are presented by President Ada L. Comstock of Radcliffe College in the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* for November 30. She gives special emphasis to changes that she witnessed in the position of women on the campus.

The history of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs is exploited in a section of the *Minneapolis Star Journal* for October 24,

which marks the fiftieth anniversary of the organization. Mrs. M. A. Crinkley presents some "Facts about the Federation's Growth" since 1890, giving attention both to the national and the state organizations. A survey of the "First Fifty Years" by Mrs. H. B. Ritchie is included, as are some recollections of "Early Club Days" by Mrs. Cyrus Wells.

A short sketch of "The Missionary as Practitioner: Dr. Thomas Smith Williamson," by Dr. Arthur S. Hamilton, serves as an introduction for the reprinting of two articles by Dr. Williamson in the October and November issues of *Minnesota Medicine*, where they form sections of an extensive "History of Medicine in Minnesota." The missionary's account of "Diseases of the Dakota Indians" is reprinted from the *Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal* of 1873 and 1874; his report on "Dakota Medicine" appeared originally in 1869 in Stephen R. Riggs's *Tah-koo Wah-kan; or the Gospel among the Dakotas*. Their inclusion in the present series makes these early Minnesota medical studies available to physicians throughout the Northwest. The "History" is continued in the December issue of *Minnesota Medicine* with the first installment of a "History of Medicine in Dakota County."

Two *Social Studies* prepared with WPA assistance and issued recently by the Minneapolis board of education include some material of local historical interest. A section on the "Origin and Development of the Minnesota State Board of Health" appears in a volume on *Trends in Health and Medicine* (1939. 96 p.), and statistics on certain communicable diseases in the state are given in a supplement issued in 1940. A study of *Industry in Minnesota* (1940. 105 p.) devotes some space to industries of the "past and present," giving emphasis to lumbering and flour milling.

The address on the "Development of the Motorbus Industry on the Mesabi Range" which Mr. L. A. Rossman of Grand Rapids presented before the Mountain Iron session of the eighteenth state historical convention on August 10, 1940, has been published as a pamphlet entitled *A Romance of Transportation* (15 p.). Mr. Rossman has provided several interesting illustrations, including a group picture of twelve of the eighteen motorbusses that the Mesaba Transportation Company was operating in 1918.

Interviews with and letters from pioneers, newspaper files, and county records have been used extensively by Anna Himrod in compiling a volume recently issued in multigraphed form by the Minnesota Historical Records Survey. It is entitled *The Cuyuna Range: A History of a Minnesota Iron Mining District* (1940. 168 p.) and, according to the "Preface" of Mr. Jacob Hodnefield, it provides a "fresh approach in a new field," since the story of iron mining in this locality "has been largely unrecorded." Here are presented brief chapters on early references to ore in the region, the beginnings of exploration for iron, the formation of mining companies, railroad building, early ore shipments, the opening of certain mines, the war boom, and the like. Almost a third of the volume is given over to statistical tables, a chronology, and directories of mines and mining companies.

An interview with Mrs. Marcia Doughty Pike, a Minnesota pioneer who was a child of ten at Mankato when the guilty Sioux were executed following the outbreak of 1862, is reported by Mary Evelyn Young in the *Sunday Oregonian* of Portland, Oregon, for November 17. A contemporary view of the hanging at Mankato, still in Mrs. Pike's possession, is reproduced with the article. She removed to Oregon after her marriage to Alonzo Pike in 1869, and she has since been a resident of that state.

Historians as well as naturalists will find articles of interest and value in the *Conservation Volunteer*, the new monthly periodical of the Minnesota conservation department (see *ante*, 21: 440). Paul R. Highby, for example, contributes to the November issue the "Story of Minnesota Beaver," telling how the animal once so important to the local fur trader has again become plentiful in an area from which it had all but vanished. The "Historic Nerstrand Woods" and the Big Woods area of which it was once a part are the subject of an article by Harvey Stork in the same issue, and Gustav Swanson is the author of an account of the "American Elk in Minnesota." Some interesting pictures of the "Wild Rice Harvest" of 1940 in Hubbard County also appear in the November number.

Biographical sketches of more than forty individuals who attained prominence after emigrating from the Scandinavian countries to the

United States are presented in part 6 of a series of multigraphed volumes on *Immigrant Contributions to American Life* (1940. 80 p.), prepared under WPA auspices and published by the office of the county superintendent of schools of Los Angeles County, California. As is to be expected, sketches of a number of Minnesotans are included in the present volume. Among the Norwegians whose careers are reviewed are Jacob Fjelde, the sculptor; Olive Fremstad, the opera singer; and Martha Ostenso and O. E. Rølvaag, the novelists. The list of immigrants from Sweden includes three prominent figures in the political history of Minnesota—A. O. Eberhart, John Lind, and Charles A. Lindbergh. Part 5 of the same series, which is devoted to “persons who changed their citizenship from Canada to the United States” (1939. 78 p.), includes a sketch of James J. Hill. Each volume is accompanied by a detailed bibliography.

Biographies of some prominent Minnesotans appear in volume 11 of the new series of the *Encyclopedia of American Biography*, recently issued under the editorial direction of Winfield S. Downs (New York, 1940). Included are sketches of Drs. Charles H. and William J. Mayo; of Senator Frank B. Kellogg; of John C. Acheson, president of Macalester College; of Harry H. Whiting and Samuel E. Smith, business executives; of Colonel Cephas W. Carpenter, a pioneer stagecoach operator; of William P. Kenney, who served as president of the Great Northern Railroad; of William F. Darling, a civil engineer; and of Emerson W. and William F. Peet, insurance executives.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

At a meeting of the Anoka County Historical Society, held at Anoka on December 9, the following officers were elected: Paul C. Heard, president; Miss Julia DeLong, vice-president; Lynn French, treasurer; Theodore A. E. Nelson, secretary; and Mrs. L. J. Greenwald, corresponding secretary. Quarterly meetings to be held in March, June, September, and December were planned for the coming year.

Miss Alice Braden was named president of the Becker County Historical Society at a meeting held at Detroit Lakes on December 3. Other officers elected at the same meeting include Mr. Walter Bird, vice-president; Mrs. E. J. Bestick, secretary; and Mr. Joseph Rund-

lett, treasurer. A review of the article on "Steamboat Transportation on the Red River" by Marion H. Herriot, which appeared in the September issue of this magazine, was presented by Miss Braden.

Some recent additions to the museum of the Blue Earth County Historical Society are described in the *Mankato Free Press* for October 23. Among them is a rosewood spinet that was purchased by James A. Stewart of Northfield for his daughter in 1864. The use of the museum collections by pupils from a fourth grade class in the Mankato State Teachers College is noted in the *Free Press* for October 10. The pupils in this class were making a special study of local history and were compiling a booklet of materials relating to the subject.

The museum of the Carver County Historical Society, which is located in the school building at Mayer, arranged a special opening before the society's annual meeting on October 18. More than a thousand items have been assembled and placed on display since the society was organized early in the summer of 1940. All the officers of the society, of which Mr. O. D. Sell of Mayer is president, were re-elected at the meeting in the village hall which followed the opening of the museum. In the *Waconia Patriot* for November 14, Mr. Sell explains "What a Historical Society Means to Carver County," and in the same paper for November 28 he lists some of the objects that will be welcome additions to its museum collection.

At the annual meeting of the Chippewa County Historical Society, which was held at Montevideo on October 17, Mr. Joseph Geroy was re-elected president, the Reverend Walter B. Beach was named vice-president, Miss Petra Storaker and Mrs. L. N. Pierce were elected recording and corresponding secretaries, and Mrs. Chester Charter was named treasurer. Some recent exhibits in the society's museum, especially a display of objects found during the recent excavations on the Lac qui Parle mission site, are described in the *Montevideo American* for October 11. Some information is given also about the indexing of newspapers in the society's files.

The Hennepin County Historical Society continued to hold regular meetings throughout the fall and early winter months. At a meeting held in Minneapolis on October 2, Mr. Arthur T. Adams showed a series of early views of Hennepin County and explained them in an

informal talk. On October 30, members of the society gathered in Eden Prairie, where a round-table discussion of pioneer days in the vicinity was led by Mrs. Victor C. Anderson. An address on "The County Historical Society and Its Work" by Dr. Arthur J. Larsen of the state historical society was the feature of a meeting at Edina on November 27. On the same occasion, Mrs. Jennie Pratt, a pioneer resident of Minneapolis, spoke on early days in that city.

Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society, spoke on the "Indians in the Lake Pepin Valley" before a meeting of the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society on October 8. Officers elected for the coming year include Mr. R. C. Bartlett, president; Mr. Francis Kemp, vice-president; Mr. Emil Bombach, secretary; and Mr. M. L. Erikson, treasurer. At a meeting of the society on December 11, Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts for the state historical society, discussed some "Interesting Sidelights on the Early French Explorations in Lake Pepin Valley," giving special attention to French posts in the area.

Permanent officers for the newly organized McLeod County Historical Society (see *ante*, 21:444) were elected at a meeting held at Glencoe on October 29. They are Mr. S. S. Beach of Hutchinson, president; Mrs. Isabelle Zrust of Glencoe, vice-president; Mrs. Harry White of Hutchinson, secretary; and Mr. W. S. Clay of Hutchinson, treasurer. Plans were made for quarterly meetings to be held in various parts of the county. Notes about the society's activities and additions to the museum at Hutchinson appear from time to time in the *Hutchinson Banner* and the *Hutchinson Leader*.

Judge Nels M. Egen of Warren was elected president of the Marshall County Historical Society at a meeting held at Warren in December. Other officers named at the same time include O. M. Mattson, vice-president; Mrs. W. A. Knapp, secretary; and Mrs. J. J. Pagnac, treasurer.

Plans for the organization of a historical society in Meeker County were made at a meeting held at Litchfield on December 13. A committee of which Mr. H. I. Peterson is chairman and Mr. D. N. Tharalson, secretary, was named to make plans for a permanent organization.

Recent additions to the collections of the Nicollet County Historical Society are listed in the *St. Peter Herald* for October 25. Included is a bottle used by a pioneer St. Peter druggist in 1858, several items from the homes of early Norwegian settlers in the county, and portraits and group pictures of several pioneers.

The report on the activities of the Otter Tail County Historical Society in 1940 presented at its annual meeting on November 30 by its secretary, Mr. E. T. Barnard, is reviewed in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for December 2. Among the society's recent accessions is a painting of Fergus Falls in 1880, which was displayed in connection with the meeting. The principal address of the session was presented by Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, who discussed the local historical society and its work.

Plans for monthly meetings and for a more active program of collecting were made by the Polk County Historical Society at Crookston on December 8. Judge Nels B. Hansen was named president of the organization, Dr. Paul Hagen was elected vice-president, Mrs. Bert Levins, secretary, and Mr. John Saugstad, treasurer.

Mr. Frank H. Klemer was the principal speaker at a meeting of the Rice County Historical Society held at Faribault on October 22. He presented a detailed "History of Faribault Woolen Mills, 1865-1940," reviewing the development of an important local industry of which he is president. His paper appears in full in the *Faribault Daily News* for October 24 and 25. Officers elected at the same meeting include Mr. Carl L. Weicht of Northfield, president; Mrs. Howard Bratton of Faribault, vice-president; Miss Laura Babcock of Northfield, secretary; Miss Mabel Pierce of Faribault, corresponding secretary; Mr. Donald Scott of Faribault, treasurer; and Mrs. H. C. Theopold, curator. A talk, illustrated with lantern slides, on the early history of Northfield, was presented by the historical society's newly elected president before members of the Northfield Lion's Club on December 9.

A recent addition to the list of local historical societies in Minnesota is that in Sibley County, which was organized at Henderson on

October 11. Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, addressed those who had assembled to organize the new society, explaining the work of such societies and their significance in the community and the state. Temporary officers were elected; they are A. L. Poehler, president; Arthur Sander, vice-president; Einar Rogstad, secretary; and G. A. Buck, treasurer.

"An Illustrated Ramble through Minnesota History" was presented by Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society, at the annual meeting of the Stearns County Historical Society, which was held in St. Cloud on November 30. Talks on the significance of the local society's museum and on its collections were given by Mr. E. Stockinger and Mr. E. J. Peterson. The Reverend Walter Reger of St. John's University was elected president of the organization. Other officers for the coming year include D. S. Brainard, vice-president; Mrs. Otto Metzroth, secretary; and J. B. Pattison, treasurer.

The log cabin that is now being used as a museum by the Waseca County Historical Society was open to visitors on two Saturday afternoons in October. A marker indicating the site of the first white settlement in the county was dedicated by the society on October 6. The addresses presented on this occasion by Chief Justice Henry M. Gallagher of St. Paul and Judge Fred W. Senn of Waseca are outlined in the *Waseca Herald* for October 10. A review of the society's work during the past year appears in the *Herald* for December 5.

Experiences as a member of the Stillwater fire department during more than forty years were recalled by James McGann in a talk before the Washington County Historical Society on October 7. At a meeting at Bayport on December 12, Miss Bertha L. Heilbron of the state historical society described "Some Frontier Holiday Celebrations" in Minnesota, and the Reverend C. E. Benson of Stillwater recalled some of the customs associated with the observance of Christmas in Sweden.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

Brief accounts of some of the steamboats that plied the waters of the upper Mississippi River in Aitkin and Crow Wing counties from 1870 to 1916 are presented by Mrs. T. B. Morris in the *Aitkin Repub-*

lican for November 7. A picture of one of these boats, the "Oriole," appears with the article. The *Republican* for October 10 includes the report of an interview with Tom Skinnaway, a Chippewa Indian of the Swatara district of Aitkin County. He recalls some of his experiences as United States marshal among the red men, and tells stories of the long conflict between the Chippewa and the Sioux. The fears aroused in Aitkin by the Leech Lake uprising of 1898 are the subject of an article in the *Republican* for December 19.

The final installment of the recollections of LeRoy G. Davis, a pioneer resident of Brown County, is published in the *Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch* for December 5. Sections of this interesting and unusual narrative of frontier life have been appearing in that paper since January 11, 1940 (see *ante*, 21: 210).

The opening to settlement in 1900 of four townships, the "last free land" to be homesteaded in Clearwater County, is recalled in the *Farmers Independent* of Bagley for November 28. Accompanying the account is a reproduction of an advertisement that was widely circulated at the time from Bagley, where the land office was located. Many of the settlers who filed claims in Clearwater County in 1900 are listed in the article.

That early settlers of Cottonwood County believed that there were coal beds in the vicinity is brought out by E. E. Gillam in an article in the *Windom Reporter* for December 27. The writer quotes reports of the finding of coal from a local newspaper of 1876, and he tells of Governor Stephen Miller's interest in the matter.

The issue of the *Dodge Center Star-Record* for November 14 is a fiftieth anniversary edition, commemorating the establishment of the *Dodge County Star* by Edgar Stivers in 1890. A review of the career of Mr. Stivers, who is still connected with the paper, appears in the issue with an account of the history of the *Star-Record*. There is also a list of business houses that were located in Dodge Center when the paper was founded.

How the city of Rushford was incorporated in 1868 and the village of the same name originated in 1885 is explained in an article in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for December 14. According to this account, the city is completely surrounded by the village, which corre-

sponds in outline to the township. Some information about early settlement in the vicinity is included.

A section on "Agricultural History and Statistics" is included in a pamphlet by P. R. McMiller and others dealing with a *Soil Survey of Kanabec County, Minnesota* (43 p.). The booklet has been issued by the bureau of chemistry and soils of the United States department of agriculture as series 1933, no. 27. It traces the development of agriculture in the county from 1856, when Brunswick Township was settled and farming began in the area.

The South Fork Grange in Kanabec County is the subject of a historical sketch appearing in two installments in the *Ogilvie Sentinel* for December 5 and 12. The grange was organized in March, 1932, with thirty-nine charter members.

The fact that the history of Kittson County had not previously been made the subject of a published volume lends special interest to *Kittson County (A School History)*, compiled by workers engaged in the Minnesota WPA writers' project and issued under the joint sponsorship of the Minnesota department of education and the Kittson County Historical Society (1940. 69 p.). Much useful information is included in this work, which in seven chapters and an appendix surveys the story of Minnesota's northwesternmost county from the glacial period to the twentieth century. There are chapters on the Indians, on explorers and fur traders, on the colorful "Pembina Period," on the organization and early settlement of the county, on pioneer social life, and on the changes wrought by the present century. The difficulty encountered in locating material for the later chapters is noted in the introduction—the local pioneers "simply did the work that had to be done, and in it they saw nothing that was momentous or worthy of being set down for historians of the future. Consequently little documentary historical material is to be found." There are many errors in the earlier chapters; La Vérendrye, for example, did not reach the Lake of the Woods in 1731 (p. 12), and a mention of "Alexander Henry, Jr.," (p. 24) is doubtless intended as a reference to the nephew of the elder Alexander Henry.

The issue of the *Le Center Leader* for October 31 commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the village. A feature of the number is a detailed chronology, based upon a file of the *Leader*

and covering the years from 1895 to 1929. Among special articles included are a brief history of the *Leader*, a short historical sketch of LeSueur County, and an account of the ginseng trade conducted by the pioneer settlers of the region. Some interesting reminiscences are contributed by Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Kegley, who continue their narrative in the issue of the *Leader* for November 14.

Some of the early history of St. Paul, particularly of its Catholic community, is sketched in a review of the "Story of St. Bernard's Parish," which appears in a booklet issued to commemorate its *Golden Jubilee* (St. Paul, 1940. 107 p.). St. Bernard's is described as a "filial parish" of the Assumption Church, which has been a center for Catholic activity in St. Paul since 1856. Priests who have served St. Bernard's parish since 1890, its parochial school, the church building, the services to the parish of members of the Benedictine Order, the choir, and many other phases of church history are touched upon.

Students of agricultural history will find of interest and value a year-by-year review of the progress of the Renville County Farm Bureau appearing in the *Franklin Tribune* for November 7. The history of the organization is based upon its records, which cover the years from 1913 to 1940. The educational work of the 4-H Club, which like the Farm Bureau was organized in Renville County in 1913, is the subject of another article in the same issue of the *Tribune*.

The eighty-fifth anniversary of the founding of Northfield is the occasion for the publication, with the *Northfield News* of October 31, of a special "Pioneer Days" section. Featured therein is an article by Carl L. Weicht on the early settlement of the Cannon Valley and the founding of the city in 1855 by John W. North. How he selected the site, acquired the land, surveyed and platted the town, and built a mill are recounted. Other articles in the section deal with the settlement of the Big Woods area, with the story of the Northfield Lyceum, with an early business structure known as the Scriver Block, and with the town's early churches. Among notable illustrations are a view of Bridge Square about 1875, a picture of the Lyceum Building, a Cannon River panorama showing some of the early mills, and a number of interesting portraits.

The role of Charles F. Johnson in the early history of Duluth and the interesting record of life there that he left in the form of diaries

and sketches are briefly described by Jack McBride in an illustrated feature article appearing in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for November 17. Half a dozen of Johnson's sketches of the Duluth region are reproduced with the article. The writer announces the recent gift of the Johnson collection to the Minnesota Historical Society (see *ante*, 21: 414).

A history of the Salem Mission Church of West Duluth by Erik Dahlhielm is presented in a booklet entitled *Fifty Years with Christ*, issued to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the church in 1940 (20 p.). The church was organized by a group of Swedish immigrants in October, 1890.

The conditions under which a railroad engineer of the 1870's worked are recalled in an article by William H. Neal appearing in the *Watonwan County Plaindealer* for December 12. Neal began service with the Minnesota Valley Railway in 1869. Most of the experiences that he recalls had their setting in St. James, which was reached by the railroad in 1870.

The founding of a newspaper at Monticello by George Gray in the late 1850's is recalled by his son, C. W. Gray, in some "Reminiscences" appearing in the *Monticello Times* for October 10. Mr. Gray lists the various owners and editors of the paper, describes its early equipment and policies, and recalls some of his own boyhood experiences in its office. In a second group of recollections, published in the *Times* for November 14, Mr. Gray recalls some of the characters who were familiar figures in frontier Monticello.

The story of the Farmers Union in Wright County is outlined by Mrs. David Johnson in the *Farmers Union Herald* of South St. Paul for October. She undertook to record the story of the Union in her home county, she writes, because "when we understand the troubles of the union here, we understand the problems of the average farmer." The Wright County local was organized, according to Mrs. Johnson, in 1919 as the result of the efforts of George Blodgett of Waverly, who had enjoyed the benefits of Union membership at his former home in Iowa.



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