

Our Smaller Quarterly

THE SLIMNESS of the present issue probably will bring home to readers more forcibly than anything else the fact that the Minnesota Historical Society is economizing. Our economy, unfortunately, is born of necessity. During the past decade printing costs have soared, until a single issue of *Minnesota History* calls for more than three times the outlay required in 1940. In the same period, however, the society's private income—which must cover printing expenses as well as many other and constantly increasing needs—has remained static. It appears that the only way to meet this emergency is to reduce the cost of the quarterly.

In order to do so, we have found it necessary to give up many of the little niceties that have distinguished *Minnesota History* in the past—the sewing that made it easy to open, the heavy paper stock, the attractive illustrations. To crowd more reading matter onto each page, we have sacrificed the wide margins that framed the type page and the well-spaced lines that made for easy reading. But all this notwithstanding, we still have been forced to restrict the length of the issues by cutting out many of the features formerly printed. The director's annual report will no longer appear in the quarterly, and meetings of the society and similar events will not be reported. Our "Historical Scene" will be sharply limited to books and articles and a few recent developments that actually contribute to "Telling the Minnesota Story." There will be fewer articles, and some of them must be shorter than in the past.

News about the society, its activities, and additions to its collections, as well as reports of local historical societies, will, so far as possible, be noted in *News for Members*. Plans for issuing that monthly sheet in an expanded, though cheaper, format are now being made. In time, we hope to use the space thus released in the quarterly for more articles, appropriately illustrated with pictures from the society's rich collection and other sources. If this is to come about, however, the society's private income must be materially enlarged by gifts, bequests, donations, and higher membership dues.

Some New Books in Review

The Land Lies Open. By THEODORE C. BLEGEN. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1949. x, 246 p. \$3.00.)

This slender volume brings together a number of Dean Blegen's articles and addresses on the exploration, settlement, and growth of Minnesota. It is a tribute both to his skill and to his clarity of purpose that, brought together, they do make a book. "I have tried," he writes, "to bring to life—and into focus—some of the many scenes in the long record of human achievement symbolized in Whittier's picture of the open land and the gladdened wilderness. These scenes are drawn from two major themes in American history: the saga of channels to the land . . . and the all-embracing saga of people on the land."

Eleven of the nineteen chapters are devoted to the men, from De Soto to Schoolcraft—the Spanish, French, English, and American explorers, traders, missionaries, and adventurers—who found and marked out the channels to the Minnesota land. The second part of the volume is concerned with the men and women who came to Minnesota to stay. There is a chapter on Henry Hastings Sibley, who in many ways bridged the gap between the trader and the permanent settler. There is another on the land takers—those who settled on the land and made farms out of the wild prairie and forest land. There are chapters on town booming—as much a part of the frontier movement as farm making, on the impact of the Yankees in a land which Fredrika Bremer had pictured as a possible new Scandinavia, on the founding and early tribulations of the state university, on a wagon trip from Wisconsin to Minnesota in the 1870's, and on what the author calls the "Pioneers of the Second Line." The volume concludes fittingly with an essay entitled "North Star Perspective."

The book does not intend to tell the full story of exploration and settlement, but it does illuminate leading themes of that story. Some of the chapters rest upon familiar material, others on new research. The longest chapter, "A State University is Born," is the only one that is fully documented. This excellent treatment might almost serve as the opening chapter in the history of a number of Midwest state universities, so well does it describe the high hopes and great difficulties experienced by these institutions in their early years. Even William W. Folwell's conception of the nature and function of a state university, set forth in his inaugural in 1868, had much in common with the conception of a university outlined on similar occasions by other university presidents in the neighboring states of Iowa and Wisconsin. Everywhere there was a great gap between what was sought and what was immediately attained. But perhaps one of the remarkable things about the Midwest state

universities was not that they encountered so many difficulties in their early years but that they survived at all and became, within the span of a few generations, highly dynamic agencies in a dynamic society.

It is one of the virtues of this book that even in traversing familiar ground it has freshness. It is written with skill, understanding, and sympathy. It illustrates the author's belief that "history is an avenue to understanding the present," and it shows his sensitive awareness of the many factors that have gone to shape the present. "Surely," he writes, "the generating power of the frontier has marked our life. Surely the industrial revolution of modern times and the advancing specialization of society have influenced our ways. But even these forces, great as they have been, do not furnish the full answer for we must never forget that Minnesota is a part not only of section and of nation, but of the world." This is, in short, a book that deserves to be read.

VERNON CARSTENSEN

John A. Johnson, The People's Governor: A Political Biography. By WINIFRED G. HELMES. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1949. ix, 324 p. Portrait. \$5.00.)

This biography is doubly welcome: it is the first scholarly account of John A. Johnson's life, and it will help to lift him and some of his contemporaries from the undeserved oblivion into which they have been sliding. This state has not been so rich in prominent men that it can afford to waste any.

Johnson was born of Swedish immigrant parents near St. Peter in 1861. In a generation when the rise from poverty to position was a fairly common story, fate rather exaggerated the burdens which were loaded upon him. His father, the town drunkard, died in the poorhouse, leaving his family to wage a closely contested struggle to keep alive. John, never soured by hardship and humiliation, worked at various jobs and finally became the editor and part owner of the *St. Peter Herald*, a Democratic organ.

In his day, journalism was nearly as wide a portal to politics as the law. Since personable young Democrats were few in Minnesota, Johnson was soon on the hustings. After early defeats in which his opponents delivered some political rabbit punches to his tender spot—his father's record—Johnson was returned to the state senate in the same election which placed Democrat John Lind in the governor's chair.

Johnson's work and personality left him the virtual leader of his party when Lind retired from politics in 1900. Meanwhile, the Republicans were enjoying the luxury of a schism. The bitterness of this intra-party feud was so great that, when Johnson was nominated for governor in 1904, some of the Republicans helped elect him. He was re-elected in 1906 and 1908, although the Republicans had meanwhile affected an uneasy and loveless reunion.

His continued success was more a tribute to personality than to policy, for Johnson faced no really crucial issues. His political philosophy was not matured, nor his political practice consistent. Even in the fields of his greatest

constructive work, conservation and the reform of insurance company practices, he can hardly be considered a pioneer. Success at the polls in heavily Republican Minnesota, however, brought him prominence, and, infected by the presidential virus, he began to make public pronouncements on national issues. His opposition to the trusts and high tariffs and his mild support of labor would seem to cast him as a moderate progressive.

Despite this tinge of liberalism, Johnson became a leader of the conservative, anti-Bryan wing of his party. He received forty-six votes at the Denver convention of 1908, just as he was becoming widely known through his lecture tours. Had he lived, he might well have been his party's nominee in 1912, but vigorous campaigning hastened his death, which came in 1909.

Dr. Helmes has made an important contribution in this biography. She has worked with scholarly care and used a wide lens to catch Johnson in the setting of his times. Her narrative is interesting, abounds in pointed incidents, and reflects the warm personality of her subject. A few adverse criticisms might be mentioned. There are some defects of style, particularly in the early chapters, with a tendency to detour into interesting but hardly pertinent stories. The author also occasionally disappears into that natural pitfall of the biographer — an inclination toward hero worship. Fortunately, she is not often so trapped, and the narrative sections give the reader ample material to reach his own, and no doubt equally prejudiced, conclusions. In the balance, this is a good and a needed book.

DONALD F. WARNER

Invited and Conquered: Historical Sketch of Tuberculosis in Minnesota. By J. ARTHUR MYERS. (St. Paul, Minnesota Public Health Association, 1949. xvii, 738 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

It was said of a famous man of letters that he had done his work so well that no one who came after him would have the audacity to emulate his toil. Even a cursory examination of this volume cannot but convince the reader unfamiliar with the subject that the author has brought to his labors profound knowledge and an unremitting spirit of inquiry. Those who know Dr. Myers as, among other things, chairman of the board of editors of the oldest medical journal in Minnesota and a phthisiologist of international acclaim, will rejoice to discover that the eminence he has attained in one profession will not be diminished by his temporary entrance into the domain of another.

To the general reader, division of the volume into two sections, tuberculosis in Minnesota from 1659 to 1900, and tuberculosis in Minnesota in the twentieth century, might seem to be an arbitrary decision. Actually it is not, for advancement in knowledge and control of the disease is a major achievement of medicine of the present era; much of what was learned before 1900 is now of antiquarian interest only, even though it is of distinct historical significance. It is valid, then, as Dr. Myers has done, to devote only 107 pages to tuberculosis in Minnesota before 1900, and to give over the rest of the book

to the present century. This means that tuberculosis in the present century is accorded some 580 pages. The author's efforts in this section have been so exhaustive that mention of nearly everything said, written, or done about the disease in Minnesota probably can be found there. In fact, the only omission the reviewer was able to detect in the entire volume was a minor one: lack of reference to the annual reports of the surgeon general of the United States Army, particularly from 1840 to 1870, before a medical literature had arisen in Minnesota. Tuberculosis was not uncommon among troops stationed at the several military posts in Minnesota during that period, and at least one of the reports in question contains a formidable treatise on the diseases of Indians in Minnesota.

Nonetheless, the labors of Dr. Myers are well requited. He has done so well, indeed, that another work on the same subject would be about as useful as the vermiform appendix.

JAMES ECKMAN

Jews in Transition. By ALBERT I. GORDON. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1949. xviii, 331 p. \$4.00.)

Rabbi Albert I. Gordon, who practiced his ministry for sixteen years in Minneapolis, has written a useful, readable, and in parts fascinating sociological description of the changes in the patterns of the religion of Judaism as practiced by the Jews of that city during the past four-score years. Currently there are in Minneapolis some six thousand Jewish families with about twenty thousand members, constituting four per cent of the population. Rabbi Gordon neatly summarizes the changes in their beliefs and practices in and out of the synagogue. Tracing the process from the grandparents of the 1880's to their children and grandchildren, the author concludes that "if there has been a lessening of the ties of formal religion, there has also been a stronger tie with the Jewish people." The meaning of that judgment is being widely discussed in Jewish circles.

Of unusual interest is the chapter on anti-Semitism in Minneapolis—a movement to which Carey McWilliams and Selden C. Menefee had called national attention. Written perhaps too much in understatement and lacking historical illustration and depth, this chapter sketches the pattern of anti-Semitism from the violence of stone-throwing and shotgun-firing to the no less crippling restrictions in housing, employment, social relations, and political equality. Evading the full responsibility of judgment, Rabbi Gordon assigns the causes of local anti-Semitism to three groups, in the following order: the Fundamentalist Baptists, the Scandinavians, and "the upper middle class 'fashionable set.'" The latter, according to the author, owns and administers the banking, milling, transportation, and large-scale merchandising (department store) enterprises—basic aspects of the economic life of Minneapolis from which Jews have been effectively excluded. Which is cause and which is carrier Rabbi Gordon does not stop to analyze or reveal.

Those who, by calling this book a Jewish "Middletown," invite comparison with the Lynds' two volumes, must also note that Rabbi Gordon's method lacks the central virtue of the Lynds: the analysis of their "Middletown" in terms of the fundamental differentiation between what they name "the business class" and the working class. Rabbi Gordon focuses his attention on the Jewish middle class in Minneapolis, although he informs us in passing that there are about a thousand Jewish union members in the city, indicating a substantial working-class Jewish population amid six thousand families. This absence of class differentiation is the major weakness of the volume, and it suggests that another, or at least a supplementary one, is needed.

With reference to the early history of the Jews of Minneapolis, beginning in 1866, Rabbi Gordon adds little to the material available in the *Jewish Encyclopedia* and elsewhere. Startling is his erroneous statement that the Jews who arrived after the Czarist pogroms of the 1880's were "in most instances . . . young men seeking to escape from conscription and thus they came to this country singly, rather than in families," since it is a platitude of American sociology that the large-scale Jewish immigration of that period was uniquely a family migration. If those who went to Minneapolis were in fact single, the reasons for the special phenomenon will have to be explored.

The index is very inadequate. With the limitations noted, the book contributes valuable information.

MORRIS U. SCHAPPES

Wanda Gág: The Story of an Artist. By ALMA SCOTT. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1949. ix, 235 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

It was most fitting for Alma Scott to write the biography of Wanda Gág. As schoolmate and intimate friend of the artist, she perhaps knew her personality and understood her ambitions better than anyone else. It is not always preferable, or even desirable, for a creative life such as Wanda Gág's to be evaluated from a long perspective. Too often the human quality is lost, and with it much of the vitality so necessary for an understanding of the individual artist's contribution. This certainly would seem to be true of Wanda Gág, and Mrs. Scott has attempted to catch that personal element so essential in appreciating the work of the artist. She further benefited by working with Wanda Gág before her untimely death in 1946, on the earlier chapters of the biography.

In all her graphic work, Wanda Gág had rare ability to attain a certain living quality. Especially in the handling of simple and humble everyday subjects has she won a permanent niche among American print-makers. The personal reaction and kinship to the living quality of inanimate things is reflected in her own preface to the print of "Grandma's Parlor": "It was amusing but lonely too, and so when I began to draw, a wave of tolerant mirth flowed through and over my paper. That, I suppose, is why the picture came out as it did, the Grand Rapids dresser atilt with gaiety, the lamp like a

clumsy gosling poising its ridiculous wings for flight, and the two little pitchers swaying and saying, 'let's dance.'"

Mrs. Scott's biography is an extremely readable book. It is composed with a painterly touch, presenting the story against backgrounds familiar to herself, as well as to the artist. The family life at New Ulm is treated most effectively, giving interesting and colorful details about artist Anton Gág, as well as about the first attempts of his talented daughter in the same direction. Indeed, it is the story of the earlier episodes of Wanda Gág's life which reveal how important the Minnesota phase was to be for much of her later inspiration.

This volume is apparently not intended as a historical document, nor is there any attempt at a critical interpretation of the artist's work. A check list of Wanda Gág's prints, published books, and illustrations would have made for a more valuable contribution. Yet this story, written in a pleasant style and generously sprinkled with intimate quotation, undeniably enriches our understanding of the gifted artist. The woodcut headings for the chapters, the liberal use of photographs of Wanda Gág and her family, and reproductions of her best-known prints and drawings help to make this an attractive and noteworthy volume.

E. MAURICE BLOCH

Pictorial Folk Art, New England to California. By ALICE FORD. (New York, The Studio Publications Inc., 1949. 172 p. Illustrations. \$6.95.)

The author of this attractive volume undertakes to present "more completely than has hitherto been offered in any single work" the historical backgrounds for various types of primitive painting and drawing in the United States. It is, therefore, satisfying to discover that she has not overlooked the vast heartland of America that lies between New England and California. That the Midwest made a not unimportant contribution to American primitive art becomes evident as one examines both text and illustrations.

In her report on "Portraiture," Miss Ford devotes a section to "Those Who Went West," using as an example Isaac A. Wetherby, a painter who worked in Illinois and Iowa as well as in New England. Her discussion of "Landscape Painting" includes comments on the panorama, with special attention to the Mississippi movies of men like John Banvard and Henry Lewis. "Unfortunately," writes Miss Ford, "but one of the American primitive panoramas has survived. This is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society." Her reference, of course, is to John Stevens' panorama of the Sioux War, which she describes as a "remarkable primitive example of frontier story-telling with a paint brush." A frame from this unique series of oil paintings is among the scores of pictures reproduced in the volume. Included also are examples of the work of such painters of the frontier scene as Seth Eastman and Samuel Seymour. A "Chippewa Indian Petition" of 1849 illustrates "American Indian Primitive Painting."

By extending her interests beyond the Alleghenies and westward across the continent, Miss Ford has opened up new vistas to the art historian. For Minnesotans—student and collector alike—her work suggests rich possibilities for activity in a little-known field.

BERTHA L. HEILBRON

This Is Illinois: A Pictorial History. By JAY MONAGHAN. (Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1949. vi, 211 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

The Story of Illinois. By THEODORE CALVIN PEASE. (Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1949. xviii, 284 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

It has often been said that an effective picture is worth a thousand words. The opening double-spread illustration of Jay Monaghan's compendious Illinois picture book demonstrates this aptly. Superimpose a railroad crossing and a field of corn upon a flat and hazy countryside, and you have the elements which made the state the economic heart of the Midwest. Dr. Monaghan has gathered a multitude of first-rate pictures of the commonwealth he serves as state historian, and has arranged them in a congruent and sensible fashion. Particularly helpful are the little maps preceding each chapter, which locate the illustrations that follow.

At the same time, the book demonstrates the limitations of the picture book as history. It is not "A Pictorial History," since the gaps in illustrative resources are so great—and so inevitable—that it is impossible for an editor to give the sense of flow and interrelationship which is the essence of "history." It is impossible to make such a book a tight-knit whole, as an author can with words. Pictorial material is relatively inflexible and—unless new pictures are drawn to fill in gaps—incomplete. A worker with words, however, can shape, trim, and polish his medium for the maximum effect. But for all that, words alone lack the impact and the sense of reality which pictures give. One is constrained to conclude that an interpreter of the American scene needs both.

There is both text and illustration in a companion volume issued simultaneously by the Illinois State Historical Society in celebration of its fiftieth anniversary. But the pictures are unhappily lumped in the center of the book, where they lose most of their illustrative value. The book is a revised edition of Professor Pease's compact and excellent *Story of Illinois*, first published in 1925. The author completed the revision before his death in 1948, but the volume still reflects the old emphasis on pre-Civil War days so common in state histories. Twelve chapters and 186 pages take the reader through 1868, as population passed the two-million mark; four chapters and 75 pages bring him up to the present, by which time population had reached four times that figure. One of the four chapters is devoted to World War I—an evident holdover from the heavy emphasis given to what was, in 1925, the world's most epic struggle. With only two pages, World War II is more in proportion to the actual impact of a foreign war on state development.

Pease's volume is one of the better state histories; it is unfortunate that its revision could not have brought into better perspective those post-Civil War years when the influence upon the nation of industrial Illinois and its noisy, bustling railroad metropolis, Chicago, was so great. The reviewer is aware of the difficulties of writing state history in more recent times, when currents of nationalism tend to wipe out the special individuality of component units of the nation. But there is still a great deal of spade work to be done in social and economic materials on the local and regional level; state historians must tackle the last century manfully, and with insight. Because of the discouraging complexity of national economic growth, American historians have tended to generalize without sufficient attention to regional deviation from the alleged pattern. Local historians, therefore, have a vast reservoir of unexploited social and economic material to tackle.

But the Illinois State Historical Society and its lively director are to be congratulated upon making available these useful companion volumes in a field — state history — where there is little that can honestly be labelled exciting. Dr. Monaghan's own volume is certainly one of the very best of state pictorial compendia.

EARLE W. NEWTON

The Territorial Papers of the United States. Compiled and edited by CLARENCE EDWIN CARTER. Volume 14: *The Territory of Louisiana-Missouri, 1806-1814.* (Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1949. v, 915 p. \$2.75.)

This is the second of three volumes on the Louisiana-Missouri Territory, which comprised all the Louisiana Purchase north of the present state of Louisiana. It contains a wide variety of documents, including acts of Congress, advertisements for postal routes, applications, commissions, depositions, instructions, memoranda, militia orders and muster rolls, newspaper editorials, petitions and representations to Congress, presentments to grand juries, proclamations, recommendations, and resolutions, as well as numerous letters. The documents touch upon territorial politics, appointments to office, land claims and surveys, lead mines, Indian relations and trade, postal routes, organization of the militia, and operations of the regular army. There are also materials on the impact of the Burr conspiracy upon the territory, and on the military operations involving the defense of the western frontier against Indian attack during the War of 1812. Some documents supplement those already published in the volume on *Illinois Territory, 1809-1814* on events of the War of 1812 on the western frontier.

The numerous signatures to memorials, petitions, recommendations, and other kindred documents published in this volume afford a mine of information for those interested in genealogy. The editors have succeeded well in the tedious and difficult task of deciphering these signatures, which are often spelled phonetically and appear in different forms in various documents.

The volume contains a limited amount of source material touching upon early developments in that part of the territory which is included in the present state of Minnesota. The hundred-page comprehensive index makes the volume readily usable as a work of reference.

WALTER PRICHARD

Atlantis: The Antediluvian World. By IGNATIUS DONNELLY. Edited by EGER-TON SYKES. (New York, Harper & Brothers, 1949. xv, 355 p. Illustrations. \$4.50.)

When this book was originally published some sixty-seven years ago, a reviewer in the *Dial* for 1882 pointed out that it would "command attention and arouse discussion. If Atlantis," he writes "was the primitive home of civilized man and civilized humanity, there is a world of ethnographic and historic theory to reconstruct." The reviewer was indeed correct; in the years that followed a considerable amount of work based on the Donnelly hypothesis was done both in Europe and America. As time passed it became obvious to those who studied the problem seriously that Donnelly's work was the genuine core of what has been termed "Atlantology." The present edition presents anew Donnelly's thesis — that Plato was truthful in his account of Atlantis, that it did exist in what is now the mid-Atlantic, and that it can be traced by a comparative study of cultures in the Old World and the New. Furthermore, the editor adds some novel supplementary material and corrects the errors of fact that Donnelly made because his scientific information was inadequate.

For the Atlantologists then, the book has scientific value; but for the historians of Minnesota and the Middle Border it poses other problems. *Atlantis* was the literary product of a man prominent in Minnesota political life, a man definitely in the environment of the robust settlement of the state, yet one who was thinking in a climate of opinion quite distinct from that of his own country. As one reads the book and tries to fit it into the literature of the author's time and place, it seems almost an island of intellectual Europe in an American sea. In fact, the same may be said of almost all Donnelly's nonpolemic writings, and it may, in part, account for his seemingly undying popularity. The literary man and the environment are sorely in need of reconciliation.

Just as the book was not iconoclastic when it first appeared, it is not so today. It presents interesting reading in this new and abbreviated version, and, for those Minnesotans who know Donnelly's style only through hearsay, it will afford an excellent introduction to his work. A short foreword by the editor will put the reader at ease with the subject, while an appreciation of Donnelly in the field of Atlantology serves to distinguish the work.

MARTIN RIDGE

Desperate Men: Revelations from the Sealed Pinkerton Files. By JAMES D. HORAN. (New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1949. xx, 296 p. Illustrations. \$4.00.)

This work deals first with the James and Younger gangs, then with that crew of hoodlums commonly known as the "Wild Bunch." The author is a New York City newspaperman who also writes books, of which this is the fourth. It is a good book, too, and it is not the fault of Mr. Horan if "the sealed Pinkerton files" seem to have been leaking information these many years. Either that, or the Pinkerton information was far from exclusive in the first place. I found the book entertaining, but not at all as "revealing" as the jacket blurb would have the reader believe.

Mr. Horan performs a great public service, however, by his careful and detailed study of the Pinkerton "bombing" of the Samuel farmhouse, during which the mother of the James boys lost an arm. It was unfortunate that the old lady was thus injured, but she was no innocent bystander; nor was the explosion from a bomb. It was a flare, and that it hurt anybody was wholly accidental; yet a succession of writers on the James boys have led the public to believe that the heartless Pinkertons attempted to destroy the James-Samuel family by high explosive. The book also contains a good account of brave Louis Lull, a Pinkerton man killed by the outlaws.

In regard to the "Wild Bunch," Mr. Horan has assembled probably all that is known of these Wyoming outlaws, who were led by Butch Cassidy, a young and amiable Mormon gone wrong. They were more amusing than the James-Youngers, but they were bad enough, and were permitted to roam only too long. At least one of them, Harry Tracy, was as cruel and as senseless a killer as Jesse James himself. In the portion on Tracy, the author has apparently leaned too heavily on reports in New York newspapers, which are and always have been notoriously weak in regard to the geography of the western United States. Hence, Tracy is said to have been killed in Creston, Oregon, which is a little more than five hundred miles from where this thug committed suicide in Washington.

STEWART H. HOLBROOK

High on Manitou: A History of St. Olaf College, 1874-1949. By WILLIAM C. BENSON. (Northfield, The St. Olaf College Press, 1949. xviii, 366 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

On the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of St. Olaf College at Northfield, Professor Benson of the college's faculty of political science has written a *festschrift*—a history of the college since its establishment in 1874 by a Norwegian Lutheran church body. Any history of an immigrant-American church college has general interest for the student of the history of immigration and religion in America, and to this will be added the interest of the people of the upper Midwest region. Taking his title from the name of the hill on which the college has been built, the author presents a

general, administrative history of the development of the institution from "St. Olaf's School" to the modern institution with its impressive facilities and large student enrollment. With many appropriate illustrations, an end-paper map of the campus, a good index, and a binding in the college colors of gold and black, the book does credit to both author and publisher and serves well its anniversary purpose.

The author has utilized the official records of the faculty and the board of trustees, the records of the Lutheran church bodies that have supported the school, college and student publications of all kinds, certain manuscript collections, and some newspapers. The materials used seem in general to be those directly connected with the operations of the college, and in themselves they constitute an impressive body of records. For a more broadly conceived college history, a student would need to explore other sources as well, but those used suffice for the present purpose.

The volume is organized according to the presidential administrations of Thorbjörn N. Mohn, John N. Kildahl, Lauritz A. Vigness, Lars Wilhelm Boe, and Clemens M. Granskou. After an account of the circumstances of the founding of this school on the Minnesota frontier of the 1870's, the author presents the significant administrative developments and changes of the successive presidencies: the difficult early years, the gradual abandonment of the academy, the winning of permanent church support, the continuous problems of finance, the building of a college plant, the broadening of the curriculum to fit changing needs, the impact of national crises, including two World Wars and the depression of the 1930's, the many changes of faculty, the changing character of the student body, and the ever-present enthusiasms, interests, and foibles of the young men and women who passed through the doors of the college. Throughout, the spirit of dedication to the ideals of Christian education is emphasized.

CARLTON C. QUALEY

Recollections of Early University Days. By ELMER E. ADAMS. (Fergus Falls, Minnesota, 1949. vii, 124 p. Portrait.)

First as a student in the class of 1884 and later as a regent and member of the university committee in the Minnesota legislature, Elmer E. Adams has a long record of association with and devotion to the University of Minnesota. From these various positions he watched the development of the "U" from four buildings and a horse shed in 1878 to the sprawling modern campus of today. On the occasion of the fiftieth reunion of his class, Mr. Adams wrote for publication in the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* a series of reminiscent articles, which have been revised for the present book. They have not, however, been brought up to date, and consequently end with the period of the 1920's.

"It is not my purpose," Mr. Adams says at the outset, "to write history but to give recollections and impressions," which may preserve some of the color of early university life. Over the years he collected in a chest in his attic items

pertaining to the "U," and from this store of clippings, notes, letters, and reports he compiled his recollections.

Perhaps the most interesting portion of the book is the section on Mr. Adams' student days from 1878 to 1884. He entered the "Fourth Class," designed to prepare students for college, and graduated with the last class under President William W. Folwell. He tells of the beginnings of student life on the campus, of the inception of sororities and fraternities, student publications, drama, athletics, and the "ag" school. He describes the inevitable student pranks, and gives many interesting details of life in "Bed Rock" and "Hard Scrabble," the principal student boardinghouses in those days.

The book is arranged in only the loosest chronological order, beginning with Mr. Adams' student days and progressing through his services as regent and legislator. Much of the book is devoted to his memories and sketches of fellow students, of such early teachers as Maria Sanford, and of such administrators as William W. Folwell, Cyrus Northrop, George E. Vincent, and Marion Burton.

JUNE DRENNING HOLMQUIST

In a pamphlet entitled *Minnesota's Forgotten Martyr* (1949. 34 p.), the Reverend Emmett A. Shanahan, who is pastor of St. Mary's Church at Warroad, attempts to do justice to an all-but-forgotten Minnesota hero—a Jesuit missionary of the 1730's, Jean Pierre Aulneau. Briefly, but with accuracy and skill, Father Shanahan tells how Father Aulneau reached the newly established Fort St. Charles on the Lake of the Woods in 1735, stayed through a winter with the La Vérendryes, father and sons, wrote letters to France telling not a little of this outpost of the French empire—letters found by great good luck in Aulneau's birthplace in France in 1889—and departed with one of La Vérendrye's sons and nineteen other Frenchmen in June, 1736, for Michilimackinac. But their destination never was reached, for a native war party, undoubtedly Sioux, fell upon the little company on an island in the Lake of the Woods and massacred all of them. The Sieur de la Vérendrye had their remains taken to the fort and interred, some of them beneath the chapel. Father Shanahan devotes several pages to an account of the modern search for the massacre island and the site of Fort St. Charles, and recounts how a Canadian party of Jesuits in 1908 was successful in unearthing the bones of the martyr and his companions within the stockaded area formerly occupied by La Vérendrye's post.

GRACE LEE NUTE

The Historical Scene

WITH A DEFINITION of "Who and What is a Pioneer," Carl W. Drepperd opens his pictorial volume on *Pioneer America: Its First Three Centuries* (Garden City, 1949. 311 p.). "To be a pioneer," writes Mr. Drepperd, "is to have a certain state of mind that can be best characterized as full of faith," as well as "to be at liberty to indulge in constructive contemplation," and to "have freedom of action; freedom to do." What such pioneers produced, the "concrete relics of the social history" of these people in America, is the theme of Mr. Drepperd's book. He expresses the belief that "a volume could be written about the history of every single object ever made and offered for sale in this country."

"If languages grow and change only as they accompany the daily activities of men and women, the vocabulary of the frontiersman should constitute an index to the pioneer struggles which resulted in the conquest of a continent." Thus writes C. Merton Babcock in an article on "The Social Significance of the Language of the American Frontier," published in the December issue of *American Speech*. Mr. Babcock believes that "Words have a quality of historical, social, and spiritual significance," and that "an intimate acquaintance with the American idiom should reveal the complete social history of the American people." Scores of words and expressions that reflect the westward movement of the frontier and the pioneer's ever-changing experience are enumerated and discussed by the writer. In his opinion, the frontiersman's vocabulary "reveals the nature of the pioneer conquest of the American wilderness," since it "reflects optimism, the spirit of conquest, exploitation, godlessness, antagonism toward restraint, rugged individualism," as well as the "buoyancy and exuberance which minimized the obstacles" the pioneer encountered.

Among the great American collections of historical documents to be represented in William S. Jenkins' forthcoming *Monumenta Americana* will be that of the Minnesota Historical Society. Under the auspices of the Library of Congress, the author has spent several years visiting the great American research centers and microfilming documents. The films will be deposited in the Library of Congress, and Mr. Jenkins' volume will serve as an index to the millions of items to be found among them. It will also be useful as a finding list for material on any one region available in widely scattered depositories. The completion of the project was announced in *Time* for January 2, which gave emphasis to the dramatic features of the vast undertaking.

Sections on collecting, preserving, and using pictures are included in G. Hubert Smith's pamphlet on *Pictures and History*, published by the American

Association for State and Local History as volume 2, number 3 of its *Bulletins* (1949. p. 75-99). The writer, formerly curator of the museum in the Minnesota Historical Society, gears his discussion to the needs of the leaders of local historical organizations, advising them to collect and keep "as many local pictures as can be found," since "it is hard to anticipate the needs of the historians of any community." He points out that pictures are among the "most useful and interesting kinds of historical resources," and that they "afford almost unlimited possibilities" both for the professional historian and for those whose interest in history is only casual. Four illustrations — a portrait of a St. Paul merchant of the 1850's and three Minnesota scenes — add greatly to the interest and value of the pamphlet.

To the December *Bulletin* of the New York Public Library, Frank Weitenkamp contributes a detailed and informing discussion of "Early Pictures of North American Indians." In reviewing the work of artists and draughtsmen who pictured the red men from the sixteenth century to the nineteenth, the writer considers some who left rich pictorial records of the natives of Minnesota and the Northwest. Included in this survey are such significant figures as Samuel Seymour, J. O. Lewis, John Mix Stanley, Paul Kane, Seth Eastman, George Catlin, and Karl Bodmer. Mr. Weitenkamp is the author also of a shorter article, published in the *New York Historical Society Quarterly* for October, in which he tells "How Indians Were Pictured in Earlier Days," and presents illustrations to show "how pictures of the Indian advanced from the purely fictitious through the dubious to the realistic."

The "story of the efforts to Christianize the Red Men of the North" is reviewed by L. A. Rossman in a "year-end booklet" entitled *Christianizing the Chippewas* (Grand Rapids, 1949. 9 p.). Missionaries, both Catholic and Protestant, who penetrated the Lake Superior country in their effort to convert the Chippewa are mentioned, and the mission stations and schools they established are described and evaluated.

J. Herbert Cranston is the author of a full-length biography of *Etienne Brûlé, Immortal Scoundrel* (Toronto, 1949), the coureur de bois who explored the Great Lakes country and lived among its Indians during the early decades of the seventeenth century. The writer gives to Brûlé full credit for the "discovery of the Grand Lac — Superior."

Some "Midwestern Discoveries in Swedish Archives" and private collections made during the summer of 1949 by Nils William Olsson are described in the December *Bulletin* of the American Swedish Institute. While traveling in Sweden, Dr. Olsson reports, he found a valuable series of diaries kept by Gustaf Unonius, some important daguerreotypes and photographs taken in Milwaukee and Chicago, as well as a "cache of over one hundred letters that originated in Chicago and Bishop Hill." The material, much of which has been copied by microfilm, was assembled for the newly organized Swedish Pioneer Historical Society, which has headquarters in Chicago.

Since transportation and other means of communication are of major concern to James Blaine Walker in his recently published *Epic of American Industry* (New York, 1949. 513 p.), it is not surprising to find that James J. Hill plays an important role in the narrative. In a chapter entitled "Railroads Open the Prairies," the steps by which the Great Northern Railroad came into being are recorded, with emphasis upon the activities of Hill, Norman W. Kittson, and Donald A. Smith, later Lord Strathcona. The "Financial Adventures" of Hill and Edward H. Harriman as "Railroad Chieftains at War" are reviewed in another chapter. Recognized, too, by Mr. Walker is the importance of Minnesota's iron resources. The "Mesabi iron ore deposits," he writes, "coupled with accessible sources of coking coal, were enough in themselves to make any nation great."

"To sketch in broad outline the lives and work of a selected group of men, each of whom, in his own way, made a priceless and enduring contribution to the advancement of our agriculture and, in many instances, to world agriculture" is the object defined by Edward Jerome Dies in writing his *Titans of the Soil: Great Builders of Agriculture* (Chapel Hill, 1949). To every one of the twenty-six men — scientists, inventors, political leaders, teachers — whose careers are here outlined, writes Mr. Dies, the American farmer "owes a reverent debt of gratitude." Among those whose inventions and discoveries influenced the development of Minnesota agriculture radically are John Deere of steel plow fame; Cyrus Hall McCormick, who invented the reaper; Stephen M. Babcock, whose name was immortalized by a "simple butterfat test"; Mark A. Carleton, "wheat explorer"; and George H. Shull, "creator of hybrid corn."

In one chapter of his monumental work on *Art and Life in America* (New York, 1949. 547 p.), Oliver W. Larkin traces "Westward the Course of Landscape" by following pioneering artists like George Catlin, Karl Bodmer, Alfred J. Miller, and John Mix Stanley across the continent. He gives attention, too, to the pictorial record that Captain Seth Eastman produced at Fort Snelling, and to the work of the panorama painters, especially Henry Lewis. For the latter, writes Mr. Larkin, the "spectacle of empire's westward course asked for dimensions beyond those of the normal picture, and he applied his scene painter's technique to the production of a panorama." The narrative, which carries the story of American art to 1945, contains mentions of some modern Minnesotans, including LeRoy S. Buffington, architect, Paul Manship, sculptor, and Adolph Dehn, painter.

The handsome catalogue, with several hundred illustrations and an informing text, issued by the City Art Museum of St. Louis for its *Mississippi Panorama* loan exhibition of the fall of 1949 (227 p.) constitutes a permanent reference work for anyone interested in the "life and landscape of the Father of Waters and its great tributary, the Missouri," in the nineteenth century. Pictured in the volume are more than half of the three hundred "paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, river boat models and steamboat appurtenances"

assembled for this important exhibit, as well as some views from the University of Pennsylvania's panorama by Dickeson and Egan from which the event drew its title. Charles van Ravenswaay provides background material for the entire event in an essay on the "Character and History of the Mississippi," and Perry T. Rathbone contributes a valuable survey of "The Art of the Mississippi." A feature of the catalogue that is of special interest to historians consists of quotations from travelers' accounts, explorers' records, early newspapers, and other sources describing many of the scenes and localities pictured. The upper Mississippi is well represented in the catalogue, as are such significant limners of the Minnesota scene as George Catlin, Seth Eastman, Henry Lewis, Ferdinand Pritchard, and others. Incidentally, several of the Minnesota Historical Society's more important oil paintings were included in the exhibition. For the student of Mississippi River history and art, this catalogue is a "must." It is therefore good to know that copies still may be obtained from the City Art Museum of St. Louis at three dollars each.

"Fort William of the Fur Trade" — the entrepot of the western trade that replaced Grand Portage in the early years of the nineteenth century — is the subject of an article by W. Stewart Wallace appearing in the December *Beaver*. The writer exploits both written narratives and pictorial materials relating to the Lake Superior post, making a new contribution in the form of a hitherto unpublished view of the fort in 1812. The work of Robert Irvine, an Orkneyman who entered the service of the North West Company about 1811, the picture has long been preserved by members of his family living in Toronto. Mr. Wallace found that by comparing the picture with Gabriel Franchère's description of the post as it appeared in 1814, "one can identify most of the buildings." To give the reader an opportunity to make a similar comparison, the writer quotes an English translation of Franchère's account.

Professor W. L. Morton is the author of a study of "Agriculture in the Red River Colony" which appears in the *Canadian Historical Review* for December. There he advances the theory that the Red River rebellion of 1869-70 was caused chiefly by the fact that "the three customary sources of food in Red River — the buffalo hunt, the fisheries, and agriculture — were in a critical condition," and that "they could no longer feed the native population." He presents a wealth of evidence to show that agriculture, especially wheat raising, "had overcome the hazards of the Red River climate," but "long coupled with the hunt and bound to the river side," agriculture "was incapable of filling the place of the hunt."

Under the title "Sitka, Salmon and Shipwreck, 1889," James Taylor Dunn tells the story, in *Alaska Life* for July, of a Minnesota woman's trip to Alaska sixty years ago. The heroine of Mr. Dunn's story is his great-aunt, Elizabeth Taylor, daughter of James Wickes Taylor, American consul at Winnipeg. The writer quotes from letters in his own collection of family papers, as well as in the Taylor Papers owned by the Minnesota Historical Society. Some

interesting pen-and-ink drawings from Miss Taylor's sketchbook illustrate the article.

A "three-room sod house at McCook, Nebraska," in which the writer was born is described in detail by Flora Dutcher in the *Journal of Geography* for December. Miss Dutcher tells how the sod was cut, how the blocks "were laid grass side down," how the rooms were planned, how the window frames were built, and how other details of construction were carried out. She describes, too, the special techniques required by the housekeeper who presided over the affairs of life in a sod house. In rooms that "had no floor except the hard packed earth," for example, rag carpets were spread over a "thick layer of sweet smelling prairie hay," which eventually turned to fine dust and had to be cleared out at housecleaning time. And Miss Dutcher recalls that the "great, recessed windows were thirty inches deep, or the width of the sod wall, and always full of house plants." The kitchen, which was in a lean-to, was "papered with newspapers," but it was "never as snug and comfortable as the sod part of the house."

Many phases of the Michigan scene receive emphasis in a handbook edited by Lewis Beeson and published by the Michigan Historical Commission under the title *This Is Michigan: A Sketch of These Times and Times Gone By* (Lansing, 1949. 64 p.). It presents a series of brief articles that round out a picture of rural and urban life, nationality contributions, industrial power, education, government, and the general development of the automobile state. Sections on important dates, selected statistics, and a bibliography increase the usefulness of the pamphlet. This collection of historic and descriptive sketches, each written by a specialist in his field, should be of help to teachers, students, and visitors to Michigan. It makes good reading for all who are interested in the state's story. P.C.

The Villa Louis at Prairie du Chien, formerly the home of the famed fur trader Hercules L. Dousman, has been presented to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin by the F. R. Bigelow Foundation of St. Paul. Accompanying the gift are the sum of \$30,000 to be used in putting the house and its outbuildings in first-class condition, and an annual grant of \$5,870 for maintenance. The latter will be supplemented by admission fees paid by visitors to the historic mansion, which will be operated as a museum. Since Dousman was an important figure in the fur trade of the entire upper Mississippi Valley and was closely associated with Henry H. Sibley, residents of Minnesota as well as of Wisconsin will be glad to know that the house in which he lived and worked will be preserved.

In an article on "Chautauqua and the Midwest" appearing in the December number of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Harrison John Thornton gives some attention to the Pierian Circle organized in the Minnesota State Prison at Stillwater in the 1890's. Readers of *Minnesota History* will recall Professor Frank Buckley's detailed history of the Minnesota Chautauqua organization

published in the issue for December, 1948. Lars Gunderson, the leader of an expedition "From Minneapolis to the Klondike in 1889," described by Carl L. Lokke in the same number of *Minnesota History*, figures also in the same writer's article on "A Madison Man at Nome," published in the current *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. The present narrative centers about the Alaska career of George V. Borchsenius, whose story was exploited by Rex Beach in his novel, *The Spoilers*.

TELLING THE MINNESOTA STORY

MINNESOTA IS REPRESENTED by four articles in the winter number of *American Heritage*, which features the state's Centennial commemoration of 1949. Dr. Grace Lee Nute contributes a historical setting for the "Late Frontier" of the Minnesota Arrowhead and border lake country, showing how it has passed through successive stages as a fur traders', a missionaries', a fishermen's, a lumbermen's, and a miners' frontier. An essay by Dean Theodore C. Blegen, "North Star Perspective," surveying the "three ages of Minnesota's growth," is reprinted from his recent volume, *The Land Lies Open*. The work of some of the more important "Frontier Artists" who produced "an authentic picture of pioneer Minnesota" before the day of the camera is reviewed by Bertha L. Heilbron. The contributions of Minnesota's foreign population groups, as they are reflected in the St. Paul "Festival of Nations," are the subject of the fourth article, which is by Nora O'Leary Sorem. Each article is elaborately and appropriately illustrated. Among the Minnesota pictures reproduced in color is Francis Lee Jaques' view of "The Painted Rock of Crooked Lake," the original of which is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society.

The *List of Doctoral Dissertations in History Now in Progress at Universities in the United States* issued by the American Historical Association in September, 1949, includes only five distinctly Minnesota subjects — "St. Paul and the Far West, 1853-90" by Helen Kaslo, "The Post Office on the Minnesota Frontier" by John H. Lowe, "The Catholic Church on the Minnesota Frontier" by Joseph L. Powers, "The Rise of Duluth as an Ore Port" by Sister Ann Edward Scanlon, and "The Progressive Movement and the Railroads in Minnesota" by Wilfred O. Stout, Jr. Under other headings, however, are listed numerous topics that might well throw light on the story of the North Star State. Among them are "History of Land Use and Land Ownership in the Prairie States" by Margaret R. Beattie, "Northern Reaction to Reconstruction, 1862-72" by William Cochrane, "Stephen H. Long's Western Enterprises" by Patrick L. Halley, "Agricultural Development Work of the Burlington Railroad" by Clifton C. Jones, "The Middle Western Frontier as Seen through the Eyes of Foreign Travelers" by Byron Y. Fleck, the "Life of Charlemagne Tower" by Leonard H. Bridges, a biography of Ignatius Donnelly by Martin Ridge, "The Black Hawk War" by William T. Hagan,

and "The Wisconsin Lumbering Frontier: The Daniel Shaw Lumber Company" by Arthur R. Reynolds.

Based largely upon manuscript Minnesota census schedules and records of the general land office preserved in Washington are two recent pamphlets by Clarence Stewart Peterson. The first contains a printed list of what the author describes as *Swift County's First Pioneers* (73 p.); the second, which is mimeographed, lists *The Red River Valley Territorial Pioneers* (20 p.) who lived in Pembina County when the census enumerations of 1850 and 1857 were made. The names of all persons who were under twenty-one years of age are omitted from both booklets, and information about those included is limited to name, age, and place of birth. Thus the usefulness of the lists in preparing family histories and analyses of population is sharply restricted. Unfortunately, many errors have been made in reading, interpreting, and copying names from the originals—particularly the French names so frequently encountered in the Red River country. For example, "Josette" was copied as "Poutle," and "Beauprie" was interpreted as "Beanpin." The dissemination of the riches found in the census schedules is to be encouraged, but listings should not be published until they have been carefully collated with the originals.

L.M.K.

Those who visit the Minnesota Historical Society's building in order to use its genealogical collection will read with interest Marion Miller Bagley's pamphlet, *Our Forefathers*, published by the Greysolon du Lhut chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Duluth, 1949. 16 p.). In the opening section, which is entitled "Searching for One's Ancestors: A Detailed Account of Twenty-five Years Work by an Amateur Genealogist," the writer tells of the interest in family backgrounds which first led her to the reference room of the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. As she began her own collecting activities, Mrs. Bagley reports, she joined various historical societies, including that of her home state. Suggestions for the "Beginner in Ancestral Research" and lists of pertinent reference books available in Duluth and Superior are other features of the booklet.

Of unusual value for genealogists is an article, in the July-August-September issue of *Le bulletin des recherches historiques* of Quebec, on "The French-Canadian Background of a Minnesota Pioneer—Alexis Bailly." The author, Edward C. Bailly of White Plains, New York, is a descendant of the well-known Minnesota fur trader, whose membership in the first territorial legislature gave special interest to his career in 1949. Among Minnesota records, the writer could find little about Alexis Bailly's forebears. Canadian archives and publications, however, yielded a wealth of information. For example, Mr. Bailly reveals, the Minnesota trader "was the son of Joseph Bailly, also a fur trader with many ventures extending from Montreal to Mackinac and Grand Portage, on the west, and to New Orleans, on the south." The writer shows, too, that Alexis Bailly's French-Canadian background included, in

addition to the name of Bailly de Messein, "by which his grandfather and earlier ancestors were known, such other illustrious Canadian family names as Aubert de la Chesnaye and Aubert de Gaspé, Juchereau, Denys, Le Neuf, Le Gardeur, de Vercherères and de Villiers." Notes on each of these families are included in the present narrative. The writer concludes that much of the romantic French and Canadian background of men like Alexis Bailly "has become a part of the Minnesota and American heritage."

Extracts from five letters written from Minnesota between 1863 and 1887 by "Rufus Philbrook, Trapper," are quoted by Ralph S. Palmer in the *New England Quarterly* for December. The writer draws upon a group of letters that Philbrook, a Maine fur hunter who was lured to Minnesota by reports of "how plenty of game was here," wrote to his friend, Manly Hardy of Brewer, Maine. In his first letter from the West, dated October 25, 1863, Philbrook reports that on his way he learned of a rich harvest of furs to be gathered near the headwaters of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. To his dismay, however, he found that the "hostill s[i]oux indians made it impossible to hunt there without being killed every few days." Two years later the trapper from Maine reported from a Minnesota logging camp that there was a "Grate chance to work out here as wages are good and business will be very lively this spring and summer." By 1887 Philbrook had turned to farming near Minneapolis, because the "country is settling so fast and fur so low and I suppose I have been growing old all these years."

A Minnesota controversy that echoed in the halls of Congress and was reflected in debates led by the state's two senators, Morton S. Wilkinson and Henry M. Rice, is analyzed in great detail by Roman J. Zorn in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for December. Under the title "Minnesota Public Opinion and the Secession Controversy, December, 1860-April, 1861," he shows how the "North Star State manifested great concern over the national crisis" during the months between Lincoln's election and his inauguration. "Not until the cannon thundered at Fort Sumter did the secession movement cease to be the chief issue on trial before Minnesota's courts of public opinion," writes Mr. Zorn. How the controversy was reflected in the Minnesota press, both Republican and Democratic, is clearly shown by the writer, who quotes the opinions of editors in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Faribault, Red Wing, Henderson, Shakopee, St. Peter, Chatfield, Mankato, and many other communities. "Only after the South Carolinians bombarded Fort Sumter did unanimity return to the North Star State," according to the writer, and then "virtually all Minnesotans reacted with belligerent nationalism."

Incorporating a letter from the Minnesota Historical Society's collection of Henry M. Rice Papers is an article contributed by Donald D. Parker of the South Dakota State College at Brookings to the *Daily Argus-Leader* of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for December 4. The letter, which was written on December 17, 1861, by Joseph R. Brown, warns Rice, then representing Minnesota

in the United States Senate, of the danger of an Indian uprising in his home state. To protect the frontier, Brown suggests taking some of the Red River mixed-bloods, with their skill as horsemen and their knowledge of Indian warfare and character, into the government service. If the suggestion had been followed, it seems "possible, perhaps even probable," writes Professor Parker, that "there would have been no Indian uprising just eight months" later.

The colorful career of Governor John A. Johnson and the progressive program of reform which marked his administration are reviewed by John D. Hicks in an article on "The Legacy of Populism in the Western Middle West," published in *Agricultural History* for October. "It would have been strange indeed if so pronounced a movement for reform as was manifest in Wisconsin and Iowa has failed to affect Minnesota," writes Professor Hicks. He points out, however, that "not until the election of 1904, when John A. Johnson, a Democrat, won the governorship, in spite of Minnesota's normal Republicanism, was any very genuine progress registered" in the North Star State.

"How Music Developed in the Major American Cities," including Minneapolis, is the subject of an illustrated volume edited by Quaintance Eaton and published under the title *Musical U.S.A.* (New York, 1949. 206 p.). The Minnesota chapter, which is contributed by Norman Houk, traces the story of local musical activity back to the singing societies and amateur concerts of the 1850's. Although the founding and development of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra under Emil Oberhoffer and later directors receives more attention than other topics, the writer does tell something of the Thursday Musical, musical activity at the University of Minnesota, schools of music in the Mill City, and the contributions of chamber music groups.

For the future historian of one phase of Minnesota's social and cultural history the December issue of *Minnesota Libraries* will be invaluable, for it contains historical sketches of many of the state's county libraries. There are separate articles on the "Clay County Library" by Myrtle T. Rundquist and Mary Cary, on the "Isanti County Library" by Lelia Hall, on the "Kandiyohi County Library" by Lucille Glover, and on the "Nobles County Library" by Wayne R. Bassett. Combined in one article are accounts of the libraries of Blue Earth, Hennepin, Itasca, Lyon, Martin, Ramsey, St. Louis, Stearns, Waseca, and Watonwan counties.

Two members of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society's Forest Products History Foundation contribute articles on phases of the lumber industry to recent issues of *Agricultural History*. The director, Dr. Rodney C. Loehr, is the author of an article in the July number entitled "Saving the Kerf: The Introduction of the Band Saw Mill," in which he reviews the development of an innovation introduced at Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the late 1860's. "From Woods to Sawmill: Transportation Problems in Logging" is the title of Wil-

liam G. Rector's contribution appearing in the October issue. Based in large part upon the papers of the Stillwater lumber firm of Hersey, Staples and Company, the narrative contains a wealth of material about log drives on the St. Croix, as well as information about logging railroads in the Great Lakes area. An article by still a third member of the foundation's staff, Robert C. Johnson, appears in two installments in the spring and summer issues of *Inland Seas*, under the title "Logs for Saginaw: The Development of Raft-Towing on Lake Huron."

Appearing in installments in the monthly issues of the *Soo Line Traffic-gram* since June, 1949, has been an interesting and informing narrative by J. W. Lydon, assistant general passenger agent of the road, dealing with "Some Soo Line History." After sketching some of the railroad history of Minnesota and the Northwest, Mr. Lydon tells of the meeting in the Minneapolis office of William D. Washburn in 1883 which resulted in the organization of the Soo Line. "The company was made up of and financed completely by Minneapolis men," writes Mr. Lydon, with "three fourths of the stock being owned by manufacturers of flour. . . . The promoters were the builders and operators who continued their interest in the road for the rest of their lives."

A fascinating and useful "History Map" of Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne counties, locating early roads and trails as well as seventy-nine sites of historic interest in the area is one of the more significant permanent projects resulting from the Centennial celebration of 1949. Prepared under the auspices of the Stearns County Historical Society, and drawn by its president, Mr. Glanville Smith, the map was published both as a separate and as a full-page spread in the *St. Cloud Daily Times* for October 18. Of permanent value likewise are two handsome granite monuments erected and dedicated by the Stearns County society in 1949. The first, on the Mississippi just below St. Cloud, calls attention to the Beaver Islands named by Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike in 1805; the second marks the site of the vanished village of Maine Prairie Corners, site of a log fort during the Sioux War of 1862. Both monuments are gifts of the Stearns County granite industry.

After calling attention to the beginning of Minnesota Territory a hundred years ago, in the *Amherst Alumni News* for October, John B. O'Brien observes that "Perhaps not many Amherst men know how great was the contribution of an Amherst College graduate to that beginning." He refers, of course, to "James Madison Goodhue, Pioneer Editor," the subject of Mr. O'Brien's contribution to the *News*. Goodhue's role in Minnesota is evaluated, and his importance both as a frontier journalist and as a publicist for his adopted territory is recognized. The writer, however, fails to mention the recognition that Minnesotans gave to Goodhue in 1949 when the Minnesota Historical Society published Mary W. Berthel's *Horns of Thunder*.

In *Jesse James Was My Neighbor*, Homer Croy devotes three chapters to the "Northfield Bank Robbery" and its sequel (New York, 1949). Following

the story of the actual raid, Mr. Croy describes the "Incredible Ride of the Bandits" and tells about the "End of the Minnesota Manhunt." Included in his narrative are stories gleaned from pioneers of 1876 who remember the robbers, folk tales that have grown up about their Minnesota invasion and hazardous escape, and descriptions of relics of the robbery still to be found in Minnesota.

A record of twenty-eight years of teaching English and coaching athletic teams at Macalester College is to be found in Glenn Clark's autobiography, *A Man's Reach* (New York, 1949. 314 p.). He tells, also, of his work in organizing student conventions and the "Camps Farthest Out" for which he became widely known. One of these summer camps, it should be noted, is located on the shores of Lake Koronis in Stearns County.

WHO'S WHO IN THIS ISSUE

WALTER O'MEARA is a New York advertising man who writes as an avocation. He has published stories and articles in the *Saturday Evening Post* and the *Atlantic Monthly*, and he is the author of a novel, *The Trees Went Forth* (1947). The latter is sketched against the background of the Minnesota lumber industry, of which Mr. O'Meara has a firsthand knowledge, since he was born and raised in Cloquet and at intervals worked in sawmills, lumberyards, and logging camps. He attended first the University of Minnesota and then the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1920. The present article — his first in *Minnesota History* — he thinks of "chiefly as an example of how thrilling an excursion into local history can be."

DR. LOUIS JONES, director of the New York State Historical Association at Cooperstown, speaks with authority when he discusses the relationship between "The Historical Society and Folk Culture," since his organization operates what is perhaps the most famous, and certainly the most dramatic, of all American folk museums — the Farmer's Museum. He also is a director of the New York Folklore Society and editor of its *Quarterly*. His interest in the supernatural is exemplified in a volume of ghost stories for boys and girls entitled *Spooks of the Valley* (1948).

DR. CARLTON C. QUALEY, professor of American history in Carleton College, Northfield, served as superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society in 1947-48. Before joining the Carleton College faculty in 1946, he taught in Columbia University and Swarthmore College. His graduate work in history was done in the University of Minnesota and at Columbia University. He has contributed articles and book reviews to this magazine, and he is the author of a volume on *Norwegian Settlement in the United States* (1938).

As research associate on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society's Forest Products History Foundation, WILLIAM G. RECTOR is assisting in the preparation of a history of the lumber industry in the Great Lakes area. A graduate of Dakota Wesleyan College at Mitchell, South Dakota, he is now a

graduate student in history in the University of Minnesota. Earlier articles on phases of lumbering history by Mr. Rector have appeared in the *Southern Lumberman* and in *Agricultural History*.

Varied interests and many sections of the nation are represented by the dozen reviewers who contribute to the present issue evaluations of recent books that touch upon Minnesota and the Midwest. In addition to Dr. QUALEY, they include E. MAURICE BLOCH, curator of drawings and prints at the Cooper Union Museum, New York; Professor VERNON CARSTENSEN of the history faculty in the University of Wisconsin; Dr. JAMES ECKMAN of the section on publications at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester; BERTHA L. HEILBRON, editor of *Minnesota History*; STEWART H. HOLBROOK, author and journalist of Portland, Oregon, who is widely known for his writings in the field of American economic history; JUNE D. HOLMQUIST, editorial assistant on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society; EARLE W. NEWTON, editor of *American Heritage* and director of Old Sturbridge Village at Sturbridge, Massachusetts; Professor WALTER PRICHARD of the department of history in Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge; MARTIN RIDGE, a graduate student in history at Northwestern University, who is working on a biography of Ignatius Donnelly under a fellowship in American civilization; MORRIS U. SCHAPPES of the School of Jewish Studies in New York, who has in preparation a documentary history of the Jews in the United States; and Professor DONALD F. WARNER of the department of history in Macalester College, St. Paul.



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