

History and the Social Web: A Collection of Essays. By AUGUST C. KREY. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1955. viii, 269 p. \$4.00.)

Reviewed by John B. Wolf

PROFESSOR KREY is no stranger to the readers of this journal, yet few will have heretofore read all these essays. Several of them, like "The City That Art Built" or "Monte Cassino, Metten, and Minnesota," are already justly famous in the state; while others like "The New Learning," "The Social Web," and "Society without Education" are better known in circles beyond Minnesota's frontiers. Taken all together, the essays are impressive evidence of the thoughtful scholarship and genial wisdom of one of our most distinguished historians.

As a medievalist, Professor Krey is haunted by the problem that has long bothered historians — the ebb and flow of civilization as manifested by European history from 200 A.D. to 1600 A.D. This is the period that Professor Krey, on his own statement, "patrolled" every year. This is also the epoch which presents the most formidable question about the historical process to be found anywhere: how did the vigorous society of the Western Roman Empire practically disappear; and how did medieval man recover this civilization? Some may find Professor Krey's answer to both parts of this problem too simple, only because they fail to see its implications. He explains that Roman society decayed when Roman educators failed to give youth the skills necessary to control their civilization, and that medieval men regained these skills when schools were re-established to teach theology, law, medicine, the arts, and letters. Any thoughtful reader will quickly discover that the educator is not claiming undeserved importance for his profession; he merely is showing that the schools were, in a very real sense, the cultural barometer of western society.

Unlike so many medievalists, Professor Krey does not stop his research with the opening of the sixteenth century. Thus, he is able to see the reintegration of ancient learning with "modern" experience without the prejudices implied in the word "renaissance." One must read the book, however, to see how skillfully this central thesis is linked to the total picture of medieval society. Professor Krey often warned his students to avoid the historian's "tunnel vision." This volume is striking evidence of his ability to heed his own admonition.

The first part of the book is concerned with the dynamic forces of history; the second is a brilliant interpretation of the interrelations between modern society and its roots in the past. As a former student, a colleague, and a friend of the author, this reviewer finds much that is familiar, yet he is struck time and again with both the penetrative observation and the skillful presentation in this volume. The essays should be a useful antidote for the narrow provincialism so often manifest in our day. They underline Goethe's observation that "he who does not know what happened before he was born, forever remains a child."

No one can ever predict what will happen to a book. After it is published it assumes a character and a life of its own, apart even from its author, yet it is safe to say that this collection of essays with their kindly humor, their incisive observations, and their scholarly underpinning will find a place both in Minnesota and in the greater world beyond.

CLASSIC PARKMAN

The Parkman Reader, from the Works of Francis Parkman. Selected and edited, with an introduction and notes by SAMUEL ELIOT MORISON. (Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1955. xv, 533 p. Portrait, maps. \$6.00.)

Reviewed by Theodore C. Blegen

NO ONE, I think, is likely to question Professor Morison's statement that Francis Parkman

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is "one of the greatest—if not the greatest—historians that the New World has produced." Much new documentary material relating to his theme has come to light since his death in 1893, but his work as a whole, in accuracy and soundness of method and of judgment, has met the critical test of time and of later research and of newly found documents without serious loss of historical validity. His subject—the fateful drama of France and England in North America from Cartier to Montcalm, with its setting in the vast forests and lakes and rivers and valleys of the continent, and its background of primitive Indian peoples—will never cease to be historically important and interesting. But scholarly research and good judgment of people and events, applied to a great theme, go only a little way toward explaining why Parkman is today a classic.

Many an earlier historian whose power of research was not inferior to that of Parkman is today forgotten and unread, whereas Parkman's writing is as alive as it was when the first editions appeared. The editor rightly singles out the "gift of vitality" as the key to its lasting quality. The secret of this gift is a mind highly sensitive to nature in all its moods, equally sensitive to the living character and quality of human beings and to their roles in the play of time and circumstance, and, above all, skilled in the self-taught art of fitting the word to the thought. As Mr. Morison says, "In Parkman's prose the forests ever murmur, the rapids perpetually foam and roar; the people have parts and passions." There is a never-failing awareness of setting in Parkman's story. He is not afraid to use adjectives, but does so with precise purpose and deft selectivity. He has a photographic eye that makes one see the campfire on the riverbank, though possibly he lacks the evocative power of a poet who, with fewer adjectives, makes one smell the smoke of the fire.

Professor Morison has tackled the highly difficult task of drawing together in a single volume selections from the major works of Parkman's *France and England in North America*. Omitting the *Conspiracy of Pontiac*, he has fitted into what seems like a designedly contin-

uous narrative chapters from *The Jesuits in North America*, *Pioneers of France in the New World*, *The Old Regime in Canada*, *La Salle and the Discovery of the Great West*, *Count Frontenac and New France under Louis XIV*, *A Half Century of Conflict*, and *Montcalm and Wolfe*. He estimates that his selections amount to only about one-seventh of the total work, but it is remarkable how much of Parkman one seems actually to have at hand. The editor wisely chose not to patch together paragraphs or brief passages, but to present full chapters and sometimes a consecutive series of chapters. Occasionally he helps the reader bridge gaps by writing brief connecting commentaries. And at the beginning, he supplies one of the best short appraisals of Parkman that I have read, beautifully worded, a portrait that takes fully into account the extraordinary physical and nervous difficulties under which the historian did his monumental work, but is not distorted by the omission of the many normal and cheerful aspects of his interests and activities.

Here then in one attractive volume is Parkman—that is, Parkman as historian, for the *Parkman Reader* does not include selections from *The Oregon Trail*, *The Book of Roses*, or the "awful novel" *Vassal Morton*. But Parkman as historian is enough for one book. The range is from the native tribes to the early explorers, the thrust of the French into the West, the coming of settlers and the development of colonies, the epic of the missionaries, society and institutions and morals and manners in the old regime (a whole series of chapters of great interest), the adventures of La Salle and other pioneers of the Mississippi Valley, the deepening struggles of the French and the English for the continent as expansion made conflict and as wars led on to the ultimate climax on the Plains of Abraham. The *Parkman Reader* is a great story greatly told, with discriminative and illuminating editing by Professor Morison.

CIVILIZATION MOVES WEST

Culture on the Moving Frontier. By LOUIS B. WRIGHT. (Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1955. 273 p. \$3.50.)

Reviewed by James B. Stronks

THIS IS a sheaf of rather simple lectures which Mr. Wright, the director of the Folger

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Shakespeare Library in Washington, delivered at Indiana University in 1953. They are variations on a familiar theme—that successive frontier settlements from Jamestown to San Francisco saw a quiet, steady struggle by the “better class of people,” usually a numerical minority and usually of Anglo-Saxon stock, to transplant to their new place the best features of the civilization they had left behind.

In religion, law, language, literature, customs, and social attitudes it was, of course, predominantly the English tradition that won ascendancy. Mr. Wright is interested in telling how this came about, first in the colonies, then in the Kentucky borderland, then north of the Ohio River, and finally on the Pacific coast, citing examples from each region but dealing mainly in general terms. The Middle Border and the Northwest are scarcely mentioned, however, and Minnesotans will not learn anything new about themselves except that the Sleepy Eye Women’s Club studied Shakespeare in the late 1880s.

Mr. Wright describes the transplantation of British civilization by various kinds of frontier cultural agencies. The church, despite some wild and woolly camp meetings, was generally a force for restraint and conservatism amid Western freedom; and with religion often came English learning, for Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists, and especially New England Puritans were prompt to set up academies and colleges as soon as new regions were decently settled. As for secular forces—newspapers, magazines, books, libraries, itinerant lecturers, theaters, and literary societies—all tended to preserve and prescribe an English ideal, and Mr. Wright has sifted old records and previous studies for interesting examples of each. The main cultural channel was book learning. Blackstone’s *Commentaries*, for example, taught the elements of English common law to generations of frontier lawyers, and millions of McGuffey readers carried in their selections a pure strain of British letters throughout the early West.

Because it is made up of a group of overlapping lectures, the book repeats itself a good deal, and because it was meant to be listened to by laymen rather than studied by specialists, it is

light and general rather than solid and detailed. It is based largely on previous specialized studies (some of them by Mr. Wright), which are digested into an easy, readable, yet learned, account.

INFLUENTIAL BOOKS

Our Long Heritage: Pages from the Books Our Founding Fathers Read. Edited by WILSON OBER CLOUGH. (Published for the William Robertson Coe American Studies Program of the University of Wyoming by the University of Minnesota Press, 1955. xv, 297 p. \$4.50.)

Reviewed by Kathryn Turner

THIS COLLECTION makes available selected writings illustrative of the social and political philosophy of western civilization from which the background of knowledge shared by educated men of the eighteenth century was composed. In the opinion of its editor, the attention being given to “American Studies” in today’s colleges and universities has resulted in a lack of emphasis on the inheritance from the western civilization of which seventeenth- and eighteenth-century America was a part. The material included in this volume presents the long heritage of western ideas in a way which stresses the continuity of the new nation with its past. The selections have been chosen on the basis of evidence found in diaries, library lists, and other sources indicating the books most often referred to during the time of the founding fathers. The book may well serve as a supplement to the anthologies used in American studies courses, which generally begin with excerpts from the writings of New England clergymen.

The readings are divided into four sections: “The Classical Heritage,” “The English Tradition to 1700,” “The Continental Stream,” and “The Emerging Pattern, 1700–1790.” Such writers as Blackstone, Trenchard, Bolingbroke, Priestley, Jonathan Mayhew, James Otis, John Adams, and others are represented in the latter section. Though inadequate for the scholar, the brief introductions to each selection will be of help to the general reader. In the appendix are printed such familiar American documents as

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the Declaration of Rights, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights.

The book must bear the criticisms leveled at most anthologies. There will be the inevitable complaints that important figures have been omitted, or that unimportant ones have been included. Readers will grumble (and the editor will probably agree) that the selections are entirely too short for adequate comprehension. But the choice between lengthy selections and a wide representation of authors is the bitter one confronted by the editor of a short anthology, and neither choice can be completely satisfactory. This reviewer feels that there might have been certain more equitable divisions of attention, particularly in the first section, where St. Augustine and Justinian are granted a mere half page each. Also, it is debatable whether abrupt and scattered excerpts—for example, those from Burlamaqui's *Principles of Natural and Political Law*—are more effective than a single, well-chosen passage of greater length would have been. Be that as it may, the selections from Burlamaqui, Pufendorf, Hooker, Grotius, and others are certainly welcome. Lacking the appeal to the publishers of paperback editions enjoyed by Locke and Rousseau, the works of these figures are inaccessible to many students.

Despite the brevity of its selections, the contents of this anthology give a glimpse into the development and continuation of such concepts as nature, liberty, natural law, and the slowly shifting interpretations of these terms through time. *Our Long Heritage* gives emphasis to the idea expressed in its title. It is to be hoped that the student or interested general reader will be led to explore further the material introduced. The list of additional readings appended will be a helpful guide.

FOR INDIAN SPECIALISTS

Social Anthropology of North American Tribes.

Edited by FRED EGGAN. (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1955. xv, 574 p. \$7.00.)

Reviewed by E. Adamson Hoebel

THE OBJECTIVE of social anthropology, as Robert Redfield writes in the preface of this book, is the formulation of general propositions

regarding society. It aims to be a science. Among contemporary social anthropologists, A. R. Radcliffe-Brown, onetime professor of anthropology in the University of Chicago and emeritus professor of anthropology at Oxford, holds a pre-eminent position as a builder of scientific anthropology. Both in the United States and in England, he has trained a brilliant corps of followers who are now making major contributions to our understanding of how primitive societies are organized and how they function. He has set many problems for scientific testing and showed how to get beneath the surface to the inner nub.

In 1937, after Professor Radcliffe-Brown had left this country to accept the chair at Oxford in his native land, seven of his Chicago students brought together the results of field work done under his stimulus in the form of a book on *Social Anthropology of North American Tribes*. The work was published as a testimony of affection and esteem for their master. It was also a major contribution to our understanding of the tribal organization and certain aspects of the social life of the Cheyenne and Arapaho, Kiowa-Apache, Fox, Eastern Cherokee, Klamath, and Plains Indians generally.

The original book, so valued by anthropologists, soon became out of print. Now, eighteen years later, it is again available with the original chapters unchanged and with two new chapters added. One of the latter, a contribution by Sol Tax, describes the historical development of theoretical social anthropology from the time of the publication of the French Jesuit missionary Joseph François La Fittau's *Customs of the American Savages, Compared with the Customs of Ancient Times* in 1724 to the early work of Professor Radcliffe-Brown. In the second new chapter, Mr. Eggan summarizes in detail the numerous specific studies done on the social anthropology of American tribes from 1937 to the present. Both contributions maintain the high level of the original work.

The volume is indispensable to the specialist on American Indian tribes, providing he has the technical and professional background to comprehend it. The work is certainly not aimed at amateurs, nor even at the intelligent nonprofessional layman. The alert historian, however,

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will find it an eye opener to what modern, scientific anthropology can reveal about the inner social structure of supposedly simple tribal societies.

EARLY EXPLORATION

Conquest by Man. By PAUL HERRMANN. (New York, Harper & Brothers, 1954. 455 p. Illustrations. \$6.00.)

Reviewed by Val Bjornson

JUSTIFICATION for this magazine's review of this big, profusely illustrated volume is doubtless the section devoted to the Kensington rune stone. In Michael Bullock's English translation of the conclusions of the fifty-year-old Berlin historian and geographer, Paul S. Hermann, the reader will find no cautious weighing of claim against counterclaim. Mr. Hermann accepts in toto Hjalmar Holand's version of the historic Douglas County "find." Adding to generous discussion already given the expedition which the rune stone dates in 1362, Mr. Hermann says flatly: "But the story of this feat is no flight of fancy, nor is it mere hypothesis. It is established fact."

Mr. Hermann started work on *Conquest by Man* in 1936. World War II intervened. After service in a motorized unit in Italy and elsewhere and capture by American troops on the Elbe, he got back to the University of Berlin, where he had received his Ph.D., and completed the original German edition of this unusual work in 1952.

A volume on early explorations isn't unusual, but what makes that designation appropriate for this one is the effort made to get off beaten paths and into lesser-known ventures. The Viking voyages, the Greenland settlement, Leif Eriksen's discovery of America in the year 1000, are all covered. But, largely because their record is so well known, the voyagings of Columbus receive less attention.

How man got where he is, geographically, is the one connecting link between a wide variety of unrelated historical side lights. Art work of the Stone Age, as uncovered at Altamira in Spain, is shown to be strictly "modern" in im-

portant particulars. Difficult voyages of great length, undertaken by Egyptian sailors fifteen hundred years before Christ; Greek legends; Roman imperialism; the Crusades; Marco Polo and the early Spanish explorers; the redskins, where they came from and the culture they developed—these topical high lights cover only in part the enthusiastic range of Mr. Hermann's interest in man's wanderings by sea and land.

The German professor cites more than a hundred and seventy works in his bibliography, indicating the wide reading done for a book which he deliberately tries to make "rather more entertaining than is usual in works dealing with such a forbidding subject as ancient history." One impression the book definitely leaves is set forth as an aim in its foreword: "to weaken the very widespread conviction that our progress in the technological aspects of civilization represents, in any real sense, a greater achievement than those of our forebears."

HISTORY IN MAPS

Mapping the American West, 1540-1857: A Preliminary Study. By CARL I. WHEAT. (Worcester, Massachusetts, 1954. Reprinted from the American Antiquarian Society, *Proceedings*, vol. 64, part 1, p. 19-194.

Reviewed by Herman R. Friis

CARL I. WHEAT, a Californian with an indefatigable interest in western Americana—especially in the compilation of cartobibliographies and in the history of mapping in the West—has done it again. This work and his earlier contributions, notably his *Maps of the California Gold Region, 1848-1857*, have placed his name in the forefront with those of other contemporary specialists in assembling, evaluating, describing, and publishing the records of our American West. Indeed, there are few scholars who can match Mr. Wheat's enthusiasm, his boundless energy, and his deep devotion to research and publication. These qualities are well illustrated in this "preliminary study." To those of us who have attempted projects similar to Mr. Wheat's, there is an especially deep appreciation of the prodigious amount of searching

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and evaluation that has been necessary to produce the quality and quantity of information that is here included.

In this study Mr. Wheat presents a kind of analytical descriptive history of the cartography of the American West as reflected in selected examples of the principal maps produced for the area. The author must have been guided in his selection by the excellent basic works in the field, notably those of Henry R. Wagner, Charles L. Camp, Lawrence C. Wroth, Woodbury Lowery, Louis C. Karpinski, J. Philip Lee Phillips, and Pedro Torres-Lanza. But Mr. Wheat has gone well beyond these authorities. He has visited many depositories, examined and appraised thousands of maps, and fitted the cartographic jigsaw puzzle into a neat framework of narrative discussion that makes interesting and informative reading. Indeed, there is no better source.

In his narrative, Mr. Wheat relates to the maps of the time the historical significance of the knowledge gained from geographical explorations and military expeditions. He frequently points out the differences between fact and fancy that account for the wide disparities apparent in maps of the same area. The text is conveniently divided into ten chapters, the first nine of which are arranged in chronological order. Chapter 10, "The Cartographic Forest," is a kind of recapitulation of the significant cartographic contributions made during the more than three hundred years covered by this work.

Mapping the American West is admittedly a preliminary publication and should be viewed in that light. Nevertheless, this reviewer feels that certain aspects of the presentation are open to criticism. Although he provides readers with many valuable references, the author often fails to tell them where the maps described may be consulted. It is to be hoped that in his final work Mr. Wheat will give a complete, well-documented description of each map, together with precise information on its file number and the repository in which it may be found. Without this, much of the value of his contribution will be lost.

It seems generally hazardous to compare and contrast, as Mr. Wheat so frequently does, the works of map makers, and to relate them to other maps of the same area, because often all the facts are not known. It is difficult and, without a positive statement from the author, often

well nigh impossible to say that portions of maps have been derived from those made by others. Unfortunately, Mr. Wheat rarely quotes the complete title of a map, and rarely indicates its scale and dimension. This, of course, makes it difficult to identify the maps discussed. A standard identifiable cartobibliographic description of each map might easily have been included in a footnote. One of the basic sources of published maps of the United States, the Congressional serial set, is not included as a reference — a particularly unfortunate omission in view of the fact that this remarkable series of publications is so generally available.

Despite these criticisms, this reviewer feels that Mr. Wheat has made a valuable contribution to American history. Indeed, this study is the best available on the history of the mapping of the United States. Students of the West, particularly, will want copies for ready reference.

UNROLLING THE MAP

Exploring the Northern Plains, 1804–1876. Edited by LLOYD MCFARLING. (Caldwell, Idaho, The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1955. xi, 441 p. Illustrations, maps. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by M. Catherine White

THIS IS THE STORY of the Plains region from the Canadian border to the valley of the Platte River, told in the words of men who explored or traveled through it from the time of the Louisiana Purchase to the year of the Custer battle on the Little Big Horn. It was the region of the fur trade, the Black Hills gold rush, and the final subjugation of the Plains Indians; its two great river valleys, the Missouri and the Platte, provided the chief routes to the Far West.

For the purpose of this book, the editor considers anyone an explorer "who goes and sees and comes back and tells," whether he be soldier, scientist, journalist, prince, or priest. Among the twenty-eight writers represented are such well-known names as Lewis and Clark, Frémont, Prince Maximilian of Wied, Audubon, and Custer as well as the less familiar ones of

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Father de Smet, Indian agent Joshua Pilcher, and army engineers W. S. Stanton, William Ludlow, and Edward Maguire. The thirty-six accounts are arranged in five parts under the titles "Along the Missouri," "On the Great Medicine Road," "Across the Plains and Badlands," "To and from the Black Hills," and "Exploring the Warpath."

Students of Western history who have read many of the original publications but do not possess copies of them, will welcome this volume for its reference value and for the opportunity it affords to sample again these early accounts. The editor has written a brief introduction to each chapter and has added notes relating to the text. He has also appended a chronology for the period from 1803 to 1877, a bibliography, and a detailed index.

The general reader, however, may find the anthology less satisfactory. Some chapters will capture his interest but he will find them too fragmentary to satisfy his curiosity, and the original publications, for the most part, are not readily available for purchase or reading. The editor, an artist by profession, has furnished excellent maps of particular areas, but no large map of the region showing the principal places mentioned in the various chapters is included. The map on the front end papers locates only the three main rivers of the area covered and the Black Hills. It is difficult, therefore, for the reader to relate the travels of one writer to those of another and to fit them all into the geographical framework.

Compilers of anthologies and bibliographies are confronted with the problem of selection, and there are always those who criticize their choices. This reviewer regrets the omission of selections from Thaddeus A. Culbertson's *Journal of an Expedition to the Mauvais Terres and the Upper Missouri in 1850*, and from Philippe Régis de Trobriand's journal, *Military Life in Dakota*. Both works are listed in the bibliography, though the latter is entered under the name of the editor only. Omitted from both the anthology and the bibliography is *Solitary Rambles and Adventures of a Hunter in the Prairies*, published in London in 1853, a very readable account by the noted Irish explorer and geographer, John Palliser. Captain James L. Fisk's emigrant expedition from Minnesota to Montana in 1862 is referred to in the chronology, but the reports of that expedition and

of the one for 1863, published by the government, are not listed. The bibliography is more than adequate, however, and includes both out-of-print and current publications.

WARFARE IN THE WEST

Civil War on the Western Border, 1854-1865.

By JAY MONAGHAN. (Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1955. x, 454 p. \$6.00.)

Reviewed by Kenneth Carley

MANY CIVIL WAR historians have trained a spotlight on the bloody seven-year curtain raiser along the Kansas-Missouri border, only to switch their focus eastward for good after the firing on Fort Sumter. Jay Monaghan, former Illinois state historian, likewise begins with early strife on the Western border, but he stays there to the end of the Civil War itself. Thus, the last two-thirds of his fast-moving, well-documented chronicle deals with a neglected phase of Civil War history.

The first third of the book tells a more familiar story—how Stephen A. Douglas reaped the whirlwind with the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 and its "squatter sovereignty" doctrine. Under its terms, settlers were to decide for themselves whether Kansas should be slave or free. Although this may sound fair enough, it didn't work out very well. Soon there was brutal guerrilla warfare between proslavery "border ruffians" from Missouri and free-soil Kansas "jayhawkers." Both sides were guilty of excesses, the most notorious of which was the Pottawatomie massacre of proslavery settlers by wild-eyed zealot John Brown and his followers.

After several rigged elections and much bloodletting, free-soilers gradually won the upper hand as warfare spread over the nation. Mr. Monaghan finds it no trick at all to shift to the actual war in the West, because it was marked by the same type of formless fighting between guerrilla bands that had been going on for years in Kansas and Missouri.

Violence probably reached its height on the morning of August 21, 1863, when a motley band of Confederate guerrillas under Charles Quantrill swept down on Lawrence, Kansas,

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hated stronghold of free-soilers, and murdered 183 men and boys in cold blood. The raiders also destroyed more than a million dollars worth of property.

Not all engagements in the West took the form of mere bushwhacking. Some were formal battles between regular troops. At Westport, Missouri, in October, 1864, for example, twenty-nine thousand men fought the biggest Civil War engagement west of the Missouri River. In the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, in March, 1862, nearly twenty-seven thousand men took part.

A long procession of interesting personalities tramps Mr. Monaghan's pages. Among the most picturesque are James Henry Lane, the rabble-rousing senator-soldier from Kansas; the flamboyant Jo Shelby, one of the South's best cavalrymen, in whose Iron Brigade were such characters as Jesse and Frank James, Wild Bill Hickok, and two hundred and ninety-pound Sterling (Old Pap) Price.

Mr. Monaghan tells his story with gusto and an understanding born of firsthand investigation. His book would have been even better, however, if it had included a few maps and a short analysis of the importance of Western border warfare in the whole Civil War picture.

FRENCH CANADA

The White and the Gold: The French Regime in Canada. By THOMAS B. COSTAIN. (Garden City, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1954. xii, 482 p. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by W. L. Morton

THIS IS the first volume of a projected series on the history of Canada which, according to Mr. Costain, purports to be "something different." "We all feel the need," he writes of himself and his collaborators, "for a version which would neglect none of the essential factors but would consider more the lives of the people, the little people as well as the spectacular characters who made history, and tell the story with due consciousness of the green, romantic, immense, moving, and mysterious background which Canada provides." Mr. Costain and his associates propose, that is, to write the history

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of Canada more readably, more imaginatively, and more vividly than has yet been done.

It must be said that he has notably failed to do so in the present volume. The book impressed this reader as dull, dry, and pretentious. The author's handling of Northwest exploration is especially confused. Mr. Costain does not know the ground, nor his people, well enough. Duluth, for example, is by error located at the mouth of the Pigeon River. The serious reader will not be persuaded to let Mr. Costain rifle for him the *Jesuit Relations* and Lahontan, nor the lover of good narrative be won from Brehner and Nute. It is a pity that so much industry should have achieved so little.

MISSIONARY TO THE CHIPPEWA

George Anthony Belcourt: Pioneer Catholic Missionary of the Northwest, 1803-1874. By JAMES MICHAEL REARDON, P.A. (St. Paul, North Central Publishing Company, 1955. xiii, 223 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

Reviewed by Grace Lee Nute

THIS FACTUAL biography of a great missionary to the Indians of Minnesota, Manitoba, and North Dakota has no literary pretensions, but it successfully reveals an "old curmudgeon" whose sympathy was ever with the underdog. Based on Belcourt's own extensive correspondence and on faithful research in many places connected with the priest's life, the little volume does belated justice to its subject. Father Reardon is by no means always in sympathy with Belcourt, who had the faculty of making his associates and superiors detest him as vehemently as his red children and other parishioners adored him. At the end, however, by the very sparseness of his praise and the forcefulness of the documents he cites, the author has convinced the reader that Belcourt was as big in spirit and aims as he was in physique.

There are numerous minor errors, such as the misspelling of A. K. Isbister's name and of Assiniboine throughout the book. The brief

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résumés of fur-trade and political history in the Red River Valley prior to Belcourt's arrival, with which the author attempts to orient his reader, also leave something to be desired. When Father Reardon sticks to the sources, which are the mainstay of his narrative, he is more than reasonably correct. To be sure, he mixes his tenses to the utter confusion of the reader, until the latter realizes that whole paragraphs are mere condensations of Belcourt's own letters. These are trivial faults, however, and hardly mar the excellence of the work. As a bookmaking job, less can be said in praise; for example, facing pages are of unequal length. Various other faults point to the need for a good editor for the manuscript. There are several rather inferior plates, and a too-short index in very small type.

For Minnesota history the book adds much to current knowledge of the missionary's role among Chippewa Indians from Rainy Lake and down the Winnipeg River to Lake Winnipeg, up the Red River for hundreds of miles (the author usually says "down" this stream, when he means "up"), and west to the Mandan and other tribes on the Missouri, the Souris, and the Assiniboine rivers. The author's emphasis is on the missionary phase of Belcourt's life, but he also gives a welcome sketch of the priest's later career in eastern Canada and in other parts of British North America. Since it is stated that Belcourt, who had considerable mechanical genius, probably had a steam-driven "automobile" as early as the 1860s, one wonders whether he was acquainted with Minnesota's Joseph R. Brown. Brown's invention of a "steam wagon" in the 1860s is well known.

MIGHTY WATERS

Floods. By WILLIAM G. HOYT and WALTER B. LANGBEIN. (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1955. ix, 469 p. Illustrations, maps. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by John R. Borchert

THE United States Geological Survey has long kept records of the behavior of streams in this country—records that provide a wealth of knowledge pertinent to some of the most profoundly important questions of public policy. The authors of this volume are mature, widely experienced scientists who have digested and

summarized some of the contents of those records. The book is a splendid effort to apply the accumulated physical knowledge of our rivers to a particular problem of public policy. Furthermore, the authors have written for the layman. The language is generally nontechnical, although some of the ideas are complex.

The book's first eight chapters contain a general discussion of floods. They include material on the nature and causes of floods, describe flood damage and the techniques Americans have devised to live with and combat floods, and outline the elements of our present national flood-control policy. This section of the book is of value to anyone interested in the interplay of American society and natural resources. The authors remind us that the record of floods is as old as the record of mankind. They tell us, too, that we have not seen the worst floods possible, since there are disastrous combinations of weather and soil-moisture conditions that have not yet occurred in this country's experience. The flow of streams is never "stable," and it never can be. Men must take this fluctuation into account in their use of riverine lands.

The authors present evidence to substantiate their conclusion that increasing flood damage over the past century and a half has not been the result of greater floods. Rather, it has been caused by increased capital investment on the bottom lands and greater interference of bridges and buildings with the essential hydraulic function of the river plains. They suggest ten measures which the local and national community must eventually take to combat flood problems. The list includes some proposals one hears far too seldom from official agencies.

The last two chapters of the book are a somewhat tedious but priceless areal and chronological summary of notable flood occurrences in the United States. A Minnesota reader might draw two principal conclusions from this material: first, that Minnesota is not a major flood-problem area; and, second, that the most serious flood risk in the state occurs in the lower Red River Valley and at the cities on the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers where sites were picked with port functions in mind—St. Paul, the down-river communities, and Mankato. The reasons underlying both observations are

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clear to any student of American history and geography.

Minnesotans will be interested to discover that although flood-control projects built or approved for completion in the upper Mississippi basin represent a total cost of over a hundred and seventy-seven million dollars, there is no accurate measure of past and potential flood damage against which society can set this expenditure to measure its rate of return. Other data will give a Minnesotan perspective in any future discussion of floods. He will learn, for example, that great floods have been common on the Red River since its discovery by white men, and that the basic causes of these floods existed long before that. In 1948 floods on the Red River caused damage estimated at nineteen million dollars, including that at Winnipeg, but damage from the Columbia River floods in the same year was estimated at a hundred million dollars. The memorable flood of 1951 caused total damage estimated at ten million dollars in Minnesota, while the Kansas-Missouri floods of the same year caused losses estimated at eight hundred and seventy millions. The difference in magnitude is significant, even if the estimates may be grossly in error.

It is evident that the book accomplishes two main purposes: it describes and explains the mechanics of a flood, and it provides a time-and-space perspective in which we can place individual floods and local problems. The reader will understand what is happening in any flood he subsequently observes or reads about.

CENTENNIAL HISTORIES

History of Nebraska. By JAMES C. OLSON. (Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1955. xii, 372 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Historic Kansas: A Centenary Sketchbook. By MARGARET WHITTEMORE. (Lawrence, University of Kansas Press, 1954. 223 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by Don McNeil

A HUNDRED YEARS after Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act and rekindled the fires of sectional controversy, two authors busied themselves preparing volumes to celebrate their respective territorial centennials. The results are as different as night and day. In

one place, Mr. Olson states that his Nebraska story was "pallid in comparison with the bloody conflicts raging in the twin territory to the south." Not so the two centennial publications. If anything, *Historic Kansas* becomes "pallid in comparison" with the story of Nebraska. Part of the reason rests with the differing interests and methods of the two authors.

Historic Kansas is an elaboration on a series of sketches prepared by the author for newspapers several years ago. The drawings, beautifully done, include sketches of statues, landmarks, relics, buildings, and interesting historical sites which dot the landscape of Kansas. The accompanying texts describe briefly the history that revolved about the site or the artifact. The author's attempt to weave the miscellaneous stories into a composite history, while a meritorious effort, fails to give the reader a clear picture of who made what happen and why.

By contrast, the *History of Nebraska* is a solid piece of historical craftsmanship, demonstrating the pleasing results which come when a professional historian turns his talents to state and local history. Admitting at the start that he was handicapped by the fact that much basic research remained to be done on the history of his state and that the centennial volume is meant only as a survey, the author nonetheless has brought together the strands of local Nebraska history and has woven it into the larger fabric of Great Plains and American history. There are enough details to give the reader a glimpse into the local scenes, but not enough to provide mental obstacles for him.

Here is the story of the Indians from the time they roamed over the land until they were dispossessed. Here is the unfolding tale of the white man's attempt to conquer the land, his life on the sod-house frontier, and finally his transition to commercialized farming. Here is the story of the impact of national legislation on the local communities and, conversely, of the influence on the national scene of local citizens like William Jennings Bryan or Willa Cather. Always the Nebraska story is fitted into the broader story of the region and the nation.

As in most such histories, the treatment of the twentieth century is the weakest. But that probably is due to the nature of the beast

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rather than to any research shortcoming. Basic research for this period in *any* state has barely begun.

WOODLAND GUIDE

Trees and Shrubs of the Upper Midwest. By CARL OTTO ROSENDAHL. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1955. 411 p. Illustrations. \$6.00.)

Reviewed by Elizabeth Bachmann

DR. ROSENDAHL, professor emeritus of botany at the University of Minnesota, has provided a new guide for the identification of the trees and shrubs, native as well as introduced species, which are found in such abundance in Minnesota and in the surrounding area, including Manitoba, Wisconsin, parts of upper Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, and the eastern half of the Dakotas.

Originally evergreen or coniferous forests covered the northeastern third of Minnesota, extending south to a line about halfway between Duluth and the Twin Cities and west nearly as far as the Red River Valley. These forests were continuous with those of southeastern Manitoba and Ontario on the north and with those of Wisconsin on the east. The southeastern section of Minnesota was covered with a deciduous forest, known to early settlers as the Big Woods.

The great pineries of the state are gone; and where the land has not passed into cultivation, a mixed growth of jack pine, black spruce, aspen, and oak has replaced much of the original forest. Characteristic shrubs of the evergreen forest, such as thimbleberry, mountain maple, elders, sweet fern, high-bush cranberry, as well as leatherleaf, Labrador tea, trailing arbutus, wintergreen, and blueberries abound. Throughout the Big Woods area the dominant trees are sugar maple, basswood, elm, and oak, and such shrubs as sumac, dogwood, and thorn apple. On the bottom lands of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers the chief trees are cottonwoods and willows.

Dr. Rosendahl's book describes all the known trees and shrubs in this area. It contains 260

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accurately drawn illustrations and describes 345 species of plants. Increased prominence is given to the common names of plants. Technical terms are explained for the benefit of the amateur botanist, and careful instructions are given in the use of the keys. Although the text is simple and clear, the professional botanist will find that it is scientifically accurate.

The book is a revision and expansion of *Trees and Shrubs of Minnesota* by Professors Rosendahl and Frederic K. Butters, published in 1928 and long out of print. The earlier volume was a reference work known to botanists the state over, but since it was published, many changes have been made in the technical or scientific names of plants. The new volume brings this botanical nomenclature up to date.

ADMINISTERING STATE TAXES

The Minnesota Department of Taxation: An Administrative History. By LLOYD M. SHORT, CLARA PENNIMAN, and FLOYD O. FLOM. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1955. viii, 176 p. Charts. Paper, \$3.00.)

Reviewed by Roy G. and Gladys C. Blakey

PROFESSOR SHORT explains in the preface that this monograph is the second in a series of administrative histories of Minnesota state departments and agencies prepared by staff members of the Public Administration Center of the University of Minnesota. The principal purposes of these monographs are to inform the citizens of the state of the origin, development, and operation of their governmental agencies, and to improve the training of students especially interested in political science.

This study sketches briefly the tax difficulties which led the legislature to create the temporary "investigatory tax commission" of 1901, the voters' approval of a "wide-open" constitutional amendment of 1905, which removed the

MR. BLAKEY was professor of economics in the University of Minnesota until 1948, when he retired. He has since been connected with universities in California, Hawaii, and Turkey. Mrs. Blakey is the author of a *History of Taxation in Minnesota* (1934), and she has collaborated with her husband on numerous other studies.

"uniformity clause," and the establishment and work of the "permanent" three-member Minnesota tax commission, which operated from 1907 until 1939. The greater part of the monograph, however, is devoted to the administration of taxes by the Minnesota department of taxation, created by the Reorganization Act of 1939, which abolished the commission. Mr. G. Howard Spaeth has been the commissioner or director of the Minnesota tax department during the entire period of its existence, from 1939 until the legislature replaced it with the department of revenue in 1955.

After outlining the organization and political framework of Minnesota tax administration and central staff functions, such as budgeting and research, this monograph discusses the development and evolution of the administration of each of the most important taxes. These include, of course, general and special property taxes, income, death and gift, petroleum, and cigarette taxes. The reader is impressed with the increase in the volume and complexity of the task of administration. Certain increases are due to growth; others, to the addition of new taxes and to transfers from other state departments.

The reviewers noted a number of omissions. For example, no mention is made of the contributions of the first chairman of the tax commission, F. L. McVey, in securing University of Minnesota scientists to aid in valuation of iron ores and mines and public utilities; nor is consideration given to the extralegal "gentleman's agreement" taxation of national banks over many years. But a small monograph cannot cover everything in such a large field, and the principal author indicates in the preface some of the difficulties of group research, where nine or ten graduate student researchers have to work on a single subject with many interruptions over a period of four years. But all things considered, this monograph seems well calculated to achieve the main purposes set forth in the preface and thus to make for better government.

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IRON RANGE IN FICTION

The Man from Mesabi. By SARAH LOCKWOOD.
(Garden City, Doubleday & Company, Inc.,
1955. 287 p. \$3.75.)

Reviewed by William Randel

ANY ISSUE of *Minnesota History* offers numerous suggestions for historical fiction. How a geologist speculated in land, how a promoter operated, how a railroad titan engaged in vast contests, and how other financiers developed the Mesabi — these are some of the hints tossed off in reviews and notes in the Spring, 1955, issue. Someday a writer will weld such factual materials into a novel with the power and sweep of *Giants in the Earth* or *The Big Sky*.

But apparently this is easier said than done. *The Man from Mesabi* has all the elements cited above, but the details of geological surveying, speculation in ore lands, real estate in a raw new town, the struggle for railroad rights of way, and the engineering and financial development of an open-pit mine are much too sparse to satisfy devotees of Minnesota history. Minnesotans may resent the implication, moreover, that the typical empire builder was motivated solely by a love of money, and that once he got it he moved away.

In essence this novel contains a portrait of Steve Bradway, a strong-willed, sharp-minded ex-lumberjack who parlays a dubious land claim into a vast personal empire. Women love him, but he is in love with money. As his fortune grows and his domestic circumstances in Boston and New York become more irksome, Minnesota fades to a mere shadow. When he is shot to death on a New York street — an incident intentionally parallel to the book's opening scene — it is more like the solution of an algebra problem than a tragedy; no one, whether character or reader, can feel genuine grief.

The difficulty involved in writing a "big" Minnesota novel is well illustrated by *The Man from Mesabi*: the author is tempted to create a man, a man from Mesabi, while the Mesabi itself, which should perhaps be the hero of the tale, recedes until it is barely remembered. There is, however, plenty of movement and adventure in the story.

BOOKS reviewed in this section will be available in the society's library in the future.

. . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

IN A CHAPTER on "Abundance and the Frontier Hypothesis," certain aspects of Frederick J. Turner's frontier thesis are re-examined by David M. Potter in his recently published *People of Plenty: Economic Abundance and the American Character* (Chicago, 1954. 219 p.). After analyzing Turner's concept of the frontier and its modifications by various later historians, Mr. Potter concludes that "abundance in any form, including the frontier form, rather than the frontier in any unique sense . . . wrought some of the major results in American experience."

A REMARKABLE manuscript chart in the James Ford Bell Collection at the University of Minnesota is the subject of comment by Lester David in a brief article "Who Really Discovered America?" appearing in *This Week Magazine* for May 22. Mr. Lester speculates that exploration history "may have to be rewritten" as a result of the discovery of this seafarer's chart dated 1424 and showing a body of land called "Antilia" lying "close to the position of the large West Indies islands." The author explains how the chart, drawn by an unknown map maker, was acquired for the Bell Collection, and he outlines the steps that have been taken to establish its authenticity.

A NEWLY DISCOVERED letter describing "The Death of Zebulon M. Pike" is the basis of a brief article by Robert M. Warner in the April number of the *Colorado Magazine*. Written by Samuel Dungan to his wife soon after Pike's death in 1813, the letter gives details as Dungan obtained them from Pike's widow. The May issue of the *Palimpsest* is devoted to a review of Pike's career, particularly as it relates to Iowa. The author, William J. Petersen, provides biographical information on the explorer, presents extracts from his journal of 1805 with editorial comments on his "Mississippi Expedition," and publishes contemporary letters written by Pike about his journey to the upper river. Corrected mileage estimates and modern place names have been added to the documentary materials.

"THE EXPLORERS and first settlers of North America, almost without exception, believed there was a direct connection between the prairie fires and the absence of trees on the deep-soiled, fertile grasslands" contends Omer

C. Stewart in an article on "Why Were the Prairies Treeless?" in the March issue of *Southwestern Lore*. After re-examining historical and ecological evidence on purposeful burning by the American Indians, the author states his belief that "Given the topographic and climatic conditions of the Mississippi Valley, the general practice of the Indians in regularly setting fires produced grasslands and maintained them where brush and trees would otherwise have grown."

AN ESTIMATE of the effects of Frontenac's policies on the fur trade and New France is offered by W. J. Eccles in "Frontenac and the Iroquois, 1672-1682" in the *Canadian Historical Review* for March. During the decade under discussion, Mr. Eccles feels that Frontenac persisted in a policy of "peace with the Iroquois at any price" long after "its disastrous consequences were becoming all too obvious." In the author's opinion, Frontenac's handling of the Iroquois, coupled with the advance of the French "commercial empire to the heart of the continent," made war with the Five Nations "inevitable." By the time Frontenac was recalled in 1682 "the whole Great Lakes area was smouldering with war and preparations for war," writes Mr. Eccles, and the colony of New France "was in a very dangerous position."

THE HISTORICAL rather than the widely exploited fictional character is revealed in Thomas R. Henry's *Wilderness Messiah: The Story of Hiawatha and the Iroquois* (New York, William Sloane Associates, 1955. 285 p.). Here is set forth the history of the Five Nations and the evolution of a confederation that "was one of the few pure republics the world has known." The social customs of the Iroquois, their government, their religion, their relations with Europeans, and their folklore receive attention. The book is a useful addition to any collection built about American Indian literature, for it places in his historical setting an important leader of pre-white America.

THE INDIAN FACTORY SYSTEM "was one of the earliest, if not the earliest, effort of the United States government to conduct a business in competition with private industry," according to Ora Brooks Peake's *History of the United States Indian Factory System, 1795-1822* (Denver, 1954. 340 p.). The author

states that in October, 1821, the goods from an earlier factory at Chicago "were moved to a new factory at Saint Peter in the south central part of the territory of Minnesota." In this she is obviously in error, having confused the town of St. Peter in a territory that was not organized until twenty-eight years later with the St. Peters Indian agency near Fort Snelling. It is in fact dubious that an Indian factory ever was operated at St. Peters, since agency buildings did not yet exist in 1821 and the agent, Lawrence Taliaferro, was absent from his post during that winter. It might also be mentioned that the author's method of citing correspondence in "Indian Department Letter Books" of the period without giving the names of the correspondents or the dates of letters is confusing to those wishing to follow up her material. Although the Minnesota information here presented must be used with caution, the author provides the only detailed account in print of the operation of the Indian factory system, and she deals at length with the reasons for its failure.

COMPARATIVELY little attention is given to Minnesota and the Northwest in Walter Hart Blumenthal's recent volume entitled *American Indians Dispossessed: Fraud in Land Cessions Forced upon the Tribes* (Philadelphia, George S. McManus Company, 1955). A few pages are devoted to a superficial and sparsely documented report of the treaty of Traverse des Sioux and its tragic results for the red men. The student who seeks a full account of the subject still must turn to the first volume of Dr. Folwell's *History of Minnesota*, published more than thirty years ago. Some recent claims of Minnesota Chippewa are briefly mentioned by Mr. Blumenthal. The bibliography gives emphasis to the sketchiness of the author's research. No index has been provided.

IN THE Spring issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Ralph Adams Brown discusses "The Importance of Local History in the School Program," surveying its use in the classroom from the 1880s to the present. He finds that "the teaching of local history has swung from rising popularity to general neglect, and then back to increasing attention and practice," and he expresses the belief that "the present trend seems destined to result in more lasting and significant changes." Mr. Brown notes the recent "recognition that local historical study is most effective when incorporated as part of a national—or even a world—history course," where the use of "materials from a familiar

setting will help to make the past seem fresh and alive and near to the student."

ONE OF THE pioneering contributions of Edward Eggleston's early novels was "their trail-blazing use of Western dialect," according to William Randel, who discusses "Edward Eggleston on Dialect" in the May number of *American Speech*. In addition to mentioning Eggleston's novels, the author analyzes two heretofore unpublished fragments, found among the Eggleston Papers in the Collection of Regional History at Cornell University, to substantiate his claim that Eggleston was "a pioneer student of dialect." The fragments concern the speech of Hoosiers and that of Southern Negroes.

A MIMEOGRAPHED general index to *Acta et Dicta*, recently issued by the St. Paul Seminary, is a valuable tool for students of Northwest religious history (St. Paul, 1955. 129 p.). Compiled by James E. Quill and edited by Patrick H. Ahern, the index makes readily accessible the wealth of material available in the seven volumes of *Acta et Dicta* issued by the Catholic Historical Society of St. Paul between 1907 and 1915.

SOME ANNIVERSARIES

ARTICLES in a number of recent publications call attention to the hundredth anniversary celebration this summer of the opening of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal. Information on the season-long commemoration, which got under way on June 18, as well as a brief review of the canal's history may be found in an illustrated article entitled "100 Candles for the Soo" in the July number of the United States Steel Company's *News*. A substantial portion of the Summer issue of *Inland Seas* is devoted to the celebration and the canal's history. Among the articles appearing there are "A Salute to the Soo Canal" by M. M. Quaife, "The Soo Locks—One Hundred Years Ago" by R. A. Brotherton, "The Soo Locks—Second Century" by Gordon Macaulay, and a reminiscent account of the development of the Lake Superior region by Peter White.

TO MARK the fiftieth anniversary of its publication, the *Indiana Magazine of History* carries in its March number a historical sketch of the quarterly's accomplishments prepared by William B. Lynch, a former editor. The work of George S. Cottman, founder and first editor of the magazine, is reviewed in some detail. A survey of "Thirty Years of the New History," covering the development of the *North Caro-*

lina Historical Review from 1924 to 1954, is contributed by Paul Murray to the April number of that publication.

HIGH LIGHTS in the story of the Caterpillar Tractor Company of Peoria, Illinois, have been assembled in a handsome anniversary volume entitled *Fifty Years on Tracks* recently issued by the firm (1955, 104 p.). By means of text and magnificent illustrations, the book "sketches the colorful industry of which Caterpillar is a prominent part" and attempts to present "a cross-section view of the Company today—its people, plants, business friends, products, markets."

THE STORE of historical information contained in the 1954 centennial number of the *Hudson Star-Observer* has been assembled by Willis Miller, the newspaper's editor, in a pamphlet entitled *This Was Hudson* (78 p.). It contains twenty-four articles on such subjects as historic houses, churches, street names, business establishments, the newspaper itself, and prominent Hudson citizens. An index greatly enhances the booklet's value.

A BOOKLET issued by Brown and Bigelow of St. Paul commemorates *Highlights in the Career of Charles Allen Ward* on the occasion of his thirtieth anniversary with the company. In calling attention to outstanding events in Mr. Ward's personal and business life, the booklet necessarily sheds light also on the development of the firm. It mentions Mr. Ward's introduction of various types of remembrance advertising, his emphasis on improved production methods and new processes, his interest in plastics and other new materials, and the firm's insurance program for employees.

THE PRESENT YEAR marks two anniversaries in the career of Minnesota's distinguished authority on Indian music, Miss Frances Densmore of Red Wing. A half century has passed since, in June, 1905, she visited Grand Portage for the first time and made written records of some of the Chippewa music she heard there. Ten years earlier, in December, 1895, Miss Densmore lectured on Indian music before the Schubert Club of St. Paul and the Thursday Musical of Minneapolis.

A NUMBER of articles in the May issue of the Hennepin County Medical Society's *Bulletin* are devoted to various facets of the growth of that organization, which this year marks its hundredth anniversary. Included is a survey

of the society's early years, a roster of its past presidents, an account of the work of some pioneer Hennepin County physicians, and a statistical review of changes in the health of Hennepin County residents over the century.

THE CENTENNIAL of "Minneapolis' most far-reaching real estate transaction" is noted by Jay Edgerton in an article entitled "City Site Bought 100 Years Ago," which appears in the *Minneapolis Star* for May 14. The writer sketches the background of ownership of the land now occupied by South Minneapolis and the loop from Zebulon Pike's treaty with Little Crow in 1805 to the purchase by John H. Stevens and others of "19,774 acres . . . from the Fort Snelling military reservation" on May 15, 1855.

BEYOND STATE BOUNDARIES

A VALUABLE reference work recently published by the New-York Historical Society is *The Arts and Crafts in New York, 1777-1799: Advertisements and News Items from New York City Newspapers*, compiled by Rita Susswein Gottesman (1954, 484 p.). The work is a sequel to an earlier volume covering the years from 1726 to 1776. Reprinted in the present bulky volume are actual news items and advertisements culled from files of some thirty-five newspapers that appeared in New York City during the Revolutionary War and the decades that followed. From sculptors to cabinetmakers, from silversmiths to iron workers, from weavers to coach makers, an amazing array of artistic and practical activity comes to light in these pages. It is the method followed, rather than the actual subject matter, that is, however, of greatest interest for Midwest readers. The arrangement under various headings, the list of illustrative woodcuts and engravings found in newspapers, and the extremely detailed index suggest possible projects to any researcher who has used newspaper files.

A PIONEERING STUDY of *South Dakota Manufacturing to 1900* by Herbert S. Schell has been published by the Business Research Bureau of the University of South Dakota as number 40 of its *Bulletins* (Vermillion, 1955, 87 p.). The author has drawn heavily on newspaper sources to compile a highly useful account of the state's early flour and gristmills, its creamery and cheese factories, its food products and beverage plants, its flax, linen, and woolen mills, its production of building materials, and its sawmills, foundries, cigar fac-

tories, and other minor manufacturing plants. The booklet contains a brief but helpful index.

A second substantial contribution by Mr. Schell on *Dakota Territory during the Eighteen Sixties* has been published by the Governmental Research Bureau of the University of South Dakota (1954. 97 p.). Treating the 1860s as "a distinct period in the history of Dakota," the author states that it was "a decade of slow development and relative stability, with occasional moments of uncertainty over the permanency of the new settlements." He devotes a chapter each to the preterritorial history of the area, to the opening of the region to settlement and the establishment of government, to Indian relations, politics, economic conditions, and to overland routes to the western gold fields. A bibliography, a chronology, and an index add to the booklet's usefulness.

A VOLUME entitled *The Iowa Indians: A Brief History* has recently been published by its author, Thomas P. Christensen (Iowa City, 1955. 96 p.). The book touches briefly on the Iowa tribes, their social organization, early contacts with the white man, the Black Hawk War, and Indian cessions and agents in the Iowa area. A large portion is devoted to a long series of "Incidents" drawn from "newspaper files and county histories." The author, however, fails to provide specific citations to the sources used. The tone of the book can perhaps best be indicated by the author's statement that: "After all, Uncle Sam was a kind Uncle to his Red children." F.S.C.

MOSES M. STRONG of Mineral Point is the subject of a biographical study by Kenneth W. Duckett recently published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin under the title *Frontiersman of Fortune* (Madison, 1955. 253 p.). The author views Strong as "a symbol of the frontier spirit," a well-educated man who settled in Wisconsin in the 1830s and engaged in land speculation, mining, lumbering, railroading, and Democratic politics. Mr. Duckett feels that Strong's wide-ranging activities make his life "significant in that it mirrors the growth of Wisconsin from a frontier wilderness into the populous industrial state it had become by the turn of the century."

NUMEROUS ITEMS relating to the careers of Minnesota churchmen can be gleaned from the sketches of *Three Archbishops of Milwaukee* which comprise a recent work by the Reverend Benjamin J. Blied (Milwaukee, 1955. 160 p.). The three churchmen — Michael Heiss, Frederick Katzer, and Sebastian Messmer —

who are the subjects of the volume had frequent contacts with such Minnesotans as Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch of St. Cloud, Bishop Thomas L. Grace of St. Paul, and Archbishop John Ireland. The creation of the archdiocese of St. Paul and Archbishop Ireland's interest in Catholic education are other topics of Minnesota interest touched upon in the work.

THE METHODS, costs, and results of the production of a movie entitled "The Presence of Our Past" by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin are summarized by Keith A. Hinsman in the March number of *History News*. According to the writer, the purpose of the film was to describe "the coordinated work of the state and local" historical societies in Wisconsin, to inform the viewer what he "as an individual could do to preserve, advance and appreciate Wisconsin's heritage," and to show him "how the threads of state development were intertwined with the history of the whole nation."

GENEALOGISTS will be interested in some "Additional Notes on the French-Canadian Background of a Minnesota Pioneer: Alexis Bailly," which Edward C. Bailly contributes to the issue of *Le bulletin des recherches historiques* of Quebec for the last quarter of 1954. The present notes supplement an article published in the same quarterly in the summer of 1949 and described in the issue of this magazine for March, 1950 (p. 59). To his earlier narrative Mr. Bailly adds material on the Giffard, Juchereau, and Boucher families, showing that his Minnesota ancestor was descended from some of the "leading families of New France."

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

SOME QUESTIONS about the "Characteristics of Legislators" are answered by William B. Tucker in the Spring number of *Social Science*. After tabulating and comparing data on occupation, age, place of birth, education, and previous legislative and governmental experience for the years 1893, 1909, 1925, 1935, and 1951, the author draws conclusions on the changing characteristics of what he regards as typical Minnesota legislators. He shows that over the years "there has been a steady rise in the proportion of native-born Minnesotans in the legislature"; that the average age of Minnesota legislators has increased; that the occupations of farmer and lawyer "are over-represented in comparison with their proportions in the general population"; that the "rise

in educational level of the legislators has been steady"; and that about one-fourth of the members have had "non-legislative governmental experience." Mr. Tucker's conclusions are based on statistical tables appearing with the article.

A REPORT by Lawrence W. King on a state "Geological Marker Project" appears in the *Minnesota Geologist* for the spring and summer. According to the author's brief review of the marker program, which was begun in 1949, a total of twenty-eight tablets will have been erected by the end of 1955 with funds provided by the Hill Family Foundation and the Geological Society of Minnesota. A list of the markers is provided together with a map showing their locations throughout the state. The texts of the markers erected at the St. Louis River, at Duluth harbor, and at Hibbing are included.

A USEFUL LIST of Minnesota's recreational areas and information on their locations and facilities appear as "The State Parks Story" by Brendan J. Connelly in the May-June number of the *Conservation Volunteer*. The author points out that Minnesota now has sixty-four state recreational areas, thirty of which are major parks.

A PIONEER St. Paul pediatrician, Dr. Walter R. Ramsey, draws on his own recollections as well as written records for his recent *History of the Children's Hospital of St. Paul* (21 p.). In his foreword the author points out that "when our temporary Childrens Hospital was opened in 1924, there was not another Childrens Hospital west of Chicago and Milwaukee to the Pacific Coast." Much of the narrative is devoted to an outline of the hospital's development from "its inception in 1923 to the present time, 1954." Dr. Ramsey recalls that his own interest, stimulated by visits to children's hospitals abroad, prompted him to purchase in 1922 the site on which the St. Paul hospital was erected in 1927. He tells also how he aroused interest in the project and raised the money that made it a reality. Meantime, Dr. Ramsey relates, a temporary hospital was opened in an old house, which served from 1924 until the present building was completed. Described also are the work of the staff, the board of trustees, and the Childrens Hospital Association.

A GUIDE to *Twin Cities Architecture, 1820-1955*, edited by Harlan E. McClure and issued by the Reinhold Publishing Corporation,

gives emphasis to buildings of contemporary design to be found in the area (New York, 1955. 44 p.). The booklet's title is misleading; of the seventy-eight churches, public buildings, and residences selected for inclusion, only ten were erected before 1900, and most of these are outside the Twin Cities. Among the "historical examples" pictured and described are the Round Tower at Fort Snelling, the Sibley House at Mendota, the Alexander Ramsey and James J. Hill residences in St. Paul, the William G. Le Duc mansion in Hastings, and the octagonal house in Hudson, Wisconsin.

A PAMPHLET entitled *Circle Trail* has been issued by the Pipestone Indian Shrine Association to give visitors a better understanding of the historic quarries preserved as Pipestone National Monument (14 p.). Designed to be used by the tourist as he walks along through the quarry area, the booklet contains data on the museum exhibits, quarrying methods, and such points of interest as the Three Maidens and Leaping Rock.

Related information on "Pipes and Pipestone" may be found in numbers 11 and 12 of the *Indian Leaflets* issued by the St. Paul Science Museum. Drawings illustrate various pipe designs employed by Eastern Plains Indians, and the accompanying text provides material on catlinite and on Indian quarrying methods. A selected bibliography is included.

ON JULY 23 the North Shore Historical Assembly convened at Silver Bay to observe the first anniversary of the community. Members of the historical societies of Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties in Minnesota and Thunder Bay in Ontario, which comprise the assembly, toured the partially completed taconite plant at Silver Bay and viewed a film produced by the Reserve Mining Company to record the historical development of the industry. Included also on the program were talks by Maynard D. Johnson on the life of Thomas Owens, pioneer Two Harbors railroad man, and by W. Russell Brown on early Lake Superior shipping. The Minnesota Historical Society was represented by its director, Russell W. Fridley, and by Arch Grahn and Eugene Becker.

ON JUNE 4 the Faribault County Historical Society sponsored a one-day historical tour to neighboring southern Minnesota counties. Starting point of the trip was Blue Earth. From there the group traveled to New Ulm, where it visited the Brown County Historical Society, Martin Luther College, and other spots of in-

terest, returning via Mankato, where it stopped at the Blue Earth Historical Society's museum. An account of the trip may be found in the *New Ulm Review* of June 9.

THE MICROSCOPE of local history has been focused on a little-known Minnesota area by Elsy D. D. Larson, author of a pamphlet *History of Fox Lake Township* recently published by the Martin County Historical Society (1955. 47 p.). Mrs. Larson draws upon reminiscences to provide information on the early settlement of the township, on its organization in 1872, and on its subsequent development. Also included are the names of homesteaders and the dates of their arrivals in the area, a legend centering about Fox Lake Island, an account of the first murder in Martin County, and brief histories of the villages of Triumph and Monterey.

ACCORDING to an announcement in the *Winona Daily News* for June 30, the Laird and Norton families of that city have made a substantial financial contribution to the Winona County Historical Society. The gift, which was made in connection with the centennial observance of the Laird Norton Company, was given in memory of the company's founders, William Harris Laird, James Laird Norton, and Matthew George Norton. The announcement states that the society hopes to use the funds "to furnish and equip" its museum.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

THE APPOINTMENT of Mr. Russell W. Fridley as director of the society was announced by the executive committee on August 1. In making the appointment, the committee followed the recommendation of a special committee with Dean Theodore C. Blegen as chairman, named by the executive council to select the professional head of the society. A native of Iowa, Mr. Fridley formerly resided in Des Moines and he was graduated from Grinnell College at Grinnell, Iowa. He served with the United States Army in Japan from 1946 to 1948, and later engaged in research on military intelligence for the defense department in Washington, received his master's degree in history from Columbia University, and completed an additional year of graduate work at the same university. Mr. Fridley joined the society's staff as assistant director in October, 1953, and he served as acting director from the early winter of 1954 until his recent appointment as director.

SCHEDULED for hearing before the United States District Court in St. Paul on its September calendar is a trial to quiet title to Lieutenant William Clark's manuscript notes of 1803-05, now in the custody of the Minnesota Historical Society. They were discovered in the attic of a St. Paul house formerly occupied by the late Mrs. Burnside Foster by the society's curator of manuscripts, Miss Lucile Kane, in January, 1953. In addition to the society, the trial involves the United States government and heirs of the Foster and Hammond families. Actively interested also is the Manuscript Society, a national organization with a membership composed of nongovernmental institutions, such as colleges and libraries, and private individuals interested in collecting and owning manuscripts. The group is making an effort to have the government withdraw its claim to the Clark manuscripts, in the fear that the case might set a dangerous precedent. It is the belief of the Manuscript Society that the decision of this case could make the private or non-federal ownership of government documents of historic value illegal in the future. The attitude of the organization is fully explained in the Summer number of *Manuscripts*, its quarterly.

GUIDE number 2 to the *Manuscripts Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society*, compiled by Lucile M. Kane and Kathryn A. Johnson, will be ready for distribution on October 1. It brings up to date an earlier compilation, by Grace Lee Nute and Gertrude W. Ackermann, issued in 1935 as a *Guide to the Personal Papers in the Manuscript Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society*. Since the first guide contains descriptions of 455 collections, and the second adds almost 1,200, the latter vividly reflects the enormous growth of the society's manuscript holdings during the past two decades. The new work, bound in paper, is priced at \$3.60; members may purchase it for \$2.70. For those who do not own the earlier guide, special prices of \$4.60 for nonmembers and \$3.45 for members have been placed on the two volumes. A detailed index adds to the usefulness of the newly published work.

AN AUTUMN attraction arranged by the society is a walking tour of the area of old Fort Snelling and early Mendota, scheduled for Saturday, October 8, at 2:00 P.M. Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, the society's newspaper curator, will conduct the tour, which will begin at the fort's Round Tower. Included will be visits to the Sibley and Faribault houses maintained by the Daughters of the American Revolution at Mendota. Mr. Babcock will review

the colorful histories of these and other landmarks in the area.

SOME three hundred members of Phi Beta Kappa who were attending the twenty-fourth council of united chapters in the Twin Cities were entertained by the Minnesota Historical Society on September 1. For their benefit, John Stevens' moving panorama of the Sioux War, which is owned by the society, was unrolled in the Weyerhaeuser Room, with Mr. James Taylor Dunn reading the running narrative that explains the pictures. A stationary panorama of the same conflict, recently acquired by Mr. Dunn in New York State, was placed on view for the visitors in the south gallery of the museum, where it will remain on exhibit for some months. Special displays of pamphlets, books, pictures, manuscripts, and recent publications relating to panoramas, all from the society's collections, were arranged in cases in various parts of the building.

NEW MEMBERS of the society who joined in 1954 and 1955 will be welcomed to the Historical Building on November 20, when they will be entertained at an open house. On that occasion the Sioux War panoramas displayed on September 1 for visiting members of Phi Beta Kappa will again be featured, with Mr. Dunn once more reading the text of the Stevens panorama. Other attractions will include guided tours of the building and refreshments served by members of the society's Women's Organization. All members are invited to attend and to help in serving as hosts for the newcomers.

THE THIRD annual teachers' institute conducted under the auspices of the society will be held in the Historical Building on the afternoon of October 13. The program will be devoted to the prehistory of the upper Northwest and the history of the Indians of Minnesota, and it will be followed by an open house and a tour of the building. The institutes are specially designed for teachers of state history.

THE American Forest History Foundation, which was organized in 1947 as a special project of the society and has since had its headquarters in the Historical Building, was incorporated on June 16 as an independent organization to be known as the Forest History Foundation, Inc. At its first annual meeting, held at Wayzata on June 18, a board of directors composed of leading historians, foresters, businessmen, and others interested in forest history was named to serve as the new organization's gov-

erning body. Officers elected at that time include Dr. Frank H. Kaufert of the University of Minnesota school of forestry, president; Mr. F. K. Weyerhaeuser of St. Paul, vice-president; and Mr. Elwood R. Maunder of St. Paul, secretary and director. The foundation plans to set up new offices in the near future on West Seventh Street in St. Paul.

THE VARIED interests of the society's new librarian, Mr. Dunn, are reflected in contributions from his pen appearing in recent publications. Among them is an article, prepared in collaboration with Louis C. Jones, director of the New York State Historical Association at Cooperstown. Published in the August issue of *American Heritage* under the title "Crazy Bill Had a Down Look," it deals with a pictorial record of "prejudice and mob passion in up-state New York of the 1840's." The pictures, which are reproduced in full color with the article, are owned by the New York association. To the summer number of the *Folklore Quarterly*, Mr. Dunn contributes a bit of York state lore in an article on "The Murdered Pedlar and the Saugerties Bard." Notes on "Pioneer Cabinet Makers of Cooperstown" which Mr. Dunn published in Cooperstown newspapers have been reprinted in a pamphlet (8 p.). He has also compiled a list of *Masters' Theses and Doctoral Dissertations on New York History, 1870-1954* which has been issued in the form of a booklet (20 p.).

PROFESSOR G. T. Mitau's article on "The Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Schism of 1948," which appeared in the spring issue of this magazine, is reprinted, with the exception of the annotations, in the "Appendix" to the *Congressional Record* for June 2. "In order that others may read of this significant 1948 battle in Minnesota," the article was read into the *Record* by Senator Paul H. Douglas of Illinois.

A REPRINT from a recent publication of the society, Philip D. Jordan's *The People's Health*, appears in the January number of *The Centaur*, the official organ of Alpha Kappa Kappa fraternity. Portions of Chapter 13 are published there under the title "Doctor Harry G. Irvine and the Control of Venereal Disease in Minnesota."

MR. BABCOCK is represented in the *Minnesota Archaeologist* for July, 1954, by an article on "The Minnesota Indian and His History." The narrative has been reprinted from the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* for January 9, 1932.



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