

*The Great Experiment: An Introduction to the History of the American People.* By FRANK THISTLETHWAITE. (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1955. xiv, 335 p. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by David Donald

DURING the past ten years or so Englishmen have developed an intense interest in the history of the United States, but that interest is accompanied by an almost invincible ignorance about our American way of living. When an American teaches in a British university, he learns that nothing can be taken for granted. Two years ago my very brightest students at the University of Wales blandly located Hudson Bay off the coast of Massachusetts. When the British college student thinks of America, stereotypes drawn from the Western movies, weird ideas of geography, and jumbled recollections of the United States Constitution jostle confusedly in his mind.

It is hard to prescribe a remedy for such confusion. You cannot tell the average English student to read an ordinary college textbook of American history, for nearly all such works presuppose much basic information on the part of readers and all anticipate a far more detailed interest than any non-American can muster. Why should any Briton, however Atlantic-minded, care when Minnesota was admitted to the Union or bother with the accomplishments of Chester A. Arthur's administration?

What has been needed is a book by a well-informed, sensible Englishman, directed toward English readers. *The Great Experiment*, by Frank Thistlethwaite, is just such a book. Born and educated in England, now lecturing at St. John's College, Cambridge University, Mr. Thistlethwaite knows firsthand the difficulties of studying and teaching American history abroad. As Commonwealth Fund Fellow at the University of Minnesota, lecturer at the Uni-

versity of Rochester, and research student at the Institute for Advanced Study, he has gained an unusual familiarity with American life, both from books and from personal experience. As a result of these unusual qualifications, *The Great Experiment* is the most successful attempt yet "to provide the British student with a point of departure" for the study of American history.

Mr. Thistlethwaite is convinced "that one set of influences has dominated American development: . . . those which relate to migration," and his book synthesizes the Frederick Jackson Turner views of the frontier with the Hansen-Handlin writings on immigration. With a clearer focus than most textbooks, and without any compulsive need to include all the facts, his book should be a provocative one for both American and British readers. Economic abundance he believes produced physical mobility of the American population, and both in turn produced a fluid, unstratified society. Economic, physical, and social factors all operated together to make of the American a new type of man and of American history "the great experiment," whose results are yet somewhat in doubt. Mr. Thistlethwaite's general idea is doubtless familiar to most American students, but his book is notable for the skillful integration of economic, social, political, and intellectual developments around his central theme. Provocative, too, is his constant use of British analogies to American developments, and his stress upon the importance of the migration of European capital as well as population to the New World.

Inevitably when a writer treats of grand themes he will slip into minor errors, and there are just enough factual mistakes in Mr. Thistlethwaite's book for him to keep his franchise as an Englishman. While most textbook writers try to escape criticism by eschewing generalizations, Mr. Thistlethwaite is lavish with sweeping judgments. Often his ideas are stimulating, but often, too, you wonder at an unqualified announcement that American political campaigns are "inevitably pitched at a dema-

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MR. DONALD is a member of the history faculty in Columbia University. He is widely known for his books on the Civil War period.

gogic level," that "the New England Renaissance drew nourishment from continental [that is, Western] America," or that Southern plantation economy "became increasingly unprofitable" after 1850. Mr. Thistlethwaite depends rather too heavily upon the works of J. F. Jameson, Charles A. Beard, and Frederick Jackson Turner, and he seems unaware that recent historiography has basically altered their key interpretations. And, reflecting the accepted British view that anything happening after 1900 is "current events" rather than history, Mr. Thistlethwaite practically concludes his study with World War I; there is but one mention of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

There are, then, defects in *The Great Experiment*, but on the whole it is a well-informed, judicious, and at the same time sympathetic presentation of American history. If it is widely used in English universities, this book should do much to foster genuine trans-Atlantic understanding.

#### OUR OWN TIMES

*American Epoch: A History of the United States since the 1890's.* By ARTHUR S. LINK. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1955. xxii, 724, xxxvii p. Illustrations, maps. \$7.95.)

Reviewed by Clarke A. Chambers

PROFESSOR Arthur Link, best known for his scholarly analyses of the Wilson era, has here essayed a survey of twentieth-century American history in all its bewildering complexity. Four major themes, each intimately related to the others, furnish the framework of interpretation that gives unity and direction to his narrative. The author traces the evolution of the progressive "faith in the ability of men working together to overcome economic adversity and rectify social injustice by legislative action" from its beginnings in Populism through the movements led by Theodore Roosevelt and Wilson until in Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal and in Truman's Fair Deal it found its fulfillment in a broad, humane program of "social welfare democracy." In this program the reformers gave their "major attention to the problems of economic justice and

security, to the development of advanced concepts of civil liberty, and to fruitful experiments in compensatory spending and planning." A second major theme is the rapid rise of the United States to "a position of decisive power in the affairs of mankind," despite the errors and shortcomings of American diplomacy associated with Taft's ineptness, Wilson's failure to inform the people of the real issues of world war, the rejection of the League of Nations, and the isolationism of the inter-war period.

The author is also concerned with the dramatic expansion of the American economy, the related progress of science and technology, the breakdown of a "monolithic" economic order, and the evolution of a "mixed" economy in which the federal government came to accept a major responsibility for "making it work." Finally, Professor Link sees in the story of the past sixty years a gradual process of maturing in all areas of life — social and cultural as well as economic, political and diplomatic — until, in the Truman era, "the American people and their leaders met the challenge of their time more courageously and with greater wisdom than their grandfathers had done during Reconstruction and their fathers had done during the decade following the Armistice."

Professor Link offers objective and balanced evaluations of the great controversial figures of twentieth-century politics, but does not evade the responsibility of judgment when he feels the evidence warrants a clear assessment of blame or praise. *American Epoch*, which is designed as a standard textbook for courses in recent history, is at its best in drawing significance from the story of political and foreign affairs; the sections on economic trends are less clearly written, a shortcoming that some of the graphs unhappily do little to remedy; the occasional bits on American arts and letters, one fears, will neither satisfy the expert nor enlighten the general reader. It is to be regretted, further, that the spirited text is not supplemented by more lively illustrations.

Arthur Link writes with the same confidence and maturity that he admires in the American people at mid-century. His research is prodigious, his sense of perspective sound. *American Epoch* is one of the very best attempts to date to tell the exciting story of the United States in our own times.

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MR. CHAMBERS is assistant professor of history in the University of Minnesota.

## UNWELCOME NEWCOMERS

*Strangers in the Land: Patterns of American Nativism, 1860-1925.* By JOHN HIGHAM. (New Brunswick, New Jersey, Rutgers, University Press, 1955. xiv, 431 p. Illustrations. \$6.00.)

Reviewed by Carlton C. Qualey

THE TITLE of this excellent work is somewhat misleading, for it implies a study of immigrants themselves. The subtitle is more accurate, and the author, a professor of history in Rutgers University, states clearly in his preface that the book is "a history of the hostilities of American nationalists toward European immigrants." The volume is a chapter in American intellectual and social history, an able analysis of the ideas and acts that made up the reactions of older stock Americans to the flood of immigrants to the United States in the period from the 1880s to the 1920s. The impact of nativism upon the immigrant groups and on their relations with one another and with older stock Americans is not here treated. One can understand the author's reluctance to tackle the multilingual materials of the immigrant groups, though one regrets the resulting limitation of the subject. The book is based on papers of leading nativists, files of the Immigration Restriction League, writings of political leaders, records of the justice department, American newspaper files, and much secondary material.

After two chapters of generalized survey of earlier manifestations of American nativism, Professor Higham settles down to a more detailed examination of the origins and manifestations of revived antforeign agitation in the 1880s, culminating in the organization of the American Protective Association and kindred groups. The author, in explaining this renewed nativism, accepts the terms "old" and "new" immigrants to describe a "significant transition" in immigration history. The terms, with their implications of superior and inferior races, were part of the vocabulary of the restrictionist controversy, but it has been repeatedly demonstrated that the patterns and problems of "old" and "new" groups were more alike than dis-

similar, and that no useful purpose is served by the perpetuation of such terminology.

The volume proceeds with accounts of the influence of depression and nationalism in the 1890s, the first attempt to put through Congress a literacy test restriction bill in 1896-97, the return for a time at the turn of the century to more friendly attitudes toward immigration, the rise of racism and its prophets, such as Madison Grant, the impact of yellow peril doctrines, the rising fear of radicalism, the growth of anti-Catholicism, and the failure of nativists to secure enactment of genuinely restrictive legislation before World War I. There follows an analysis of wartime hysteria, the passage of the literacy test act in 1917, the postwar red scare, and the movement to close the doors more effectively by means of percentage restriction laws. The book comes to a climax in the story of the combination of racism, ultra-nationalism, organized labor, and nativist pressure groups that brought about the national origins law and the end of unrestricted immigration to the United States.

Professor Higham has written an important and useful book which answers a longfelt need in the literature of the history of American immigration. There are generous chapter notes, a well-selected bibliography, and a good index. In the middle of the volume are sixteen pages of pictures and cartoons that add much to one's enjoyment of the book.

## CIVIL WAR NEWSMEN

*The North Reports the Civil War.* By J. CUTLER ANDREWS. (Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1955. x, 813 p. Illustrations, maps. \$6.00.)

Reviewed by Kenneth Carley

PIONEERS of modern combat reporting were hundreds of Northern newsmen who bargaged eager readers with eyewitness accounts of Civil War battles, marches, and camp life. These correspondents often shared front-line dangers and discomforts with soldiers to keep people informed, and they helped transform newspapers from organs of editorial opinion into dispensers of news.

Of the numerous recent books to focus on Civil War news hawks, by far the most com-

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MR. QAULEY is professor of American history in Carleton College, Northfield.

prehensive and valuable is this detailed study by J. Cutler Andrews, professor of history at Pennsylvania College for Women in Pittsburgh. Dr. Andrews spent several years digging into reporters' letters, diaries, and printed news stories, and then "compressed" this and other material into 653 pages of text, plus almost a hundred pages of documenting notes.

Although one wishes the author had integrated his facts more than he has, his bulky book is not as formidable as it sounds. Its content is almost always interesting and the author's style is readable, if not as sparkling as, say, Louis M. Starr's in his briefer study of Civil War "Bohemians."

Mr. Andrews traces chronologically the work of numerous correspondents (he identifies more than three hundred) in all theaters of action from Fort Sumter to Appomattox. He shows that Eastern campaigns were given the best news coverage, but he takes pains to follow newsmen in the West, too. No matter what the area, news hawks battled erratic censors, temperamental generals, enemy gunners, cold, hunger, and one another to cover triumphs as well as disasters for the folks at home.

If gathering the news took resourcefulness and endurance, so did getting stories to telegraph stations. Often correspondents had to bear dispatches all the way to the newspaper office for lack of telegraph facilities or dependable messengers. Many a "beat" was scored this way.

In his summary of the over-all performance of Northern newsmen, Mr. Andrews admits there was some dishonesty in reporting (like puffing up certain generals in return for favors) and also considerable inaccuracy — much of it the result of necessary haste, confusion during and after battles, and "varying reliability" of news sources. He criticizes most seriously, however, the persistence of Northern newspapers in printing information that was of help to the South.

Although he makes apparent many shortcomings, Mr. Andrews shows that many correspondents did a remarkably able job of reporting under the most difficult circumstances.

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MR. CARLEY, who is a feature writer for the Picture Magazine of the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, has a wide familiarity with the literature of the Civil War period.

The best reporters, he feels, were Whitelaw J. Reid of the *Cincinnati Gazette*, Charles C. Coffin of the *Boston Journal*, George W. Smalley of the *New York Tribune*, and Sylvanus Cadwallader of the *Chicago Times* and later of the *New York Herald*.

#### CANADIAN FUR TRADE

*The Pedlars from Quebec and Other Papers on the Nor'Westers.* By W. STEWART WALLACE. (Toronto, The Ryerson Press. 1954. xii, 101 p. Frontispiece. \$3.50.)

Reviewed by W. L. Morton

AMONG THE MANY services of W. S. Wallace to scholarship perhaps the discovery and ordering of surviving documents of the North West Company is to be placed highest. This work was crowned in 1934 by the publication by the Champlain Society of his *Documents Relating to the North West Company*. Now, in *The Pedlars from Quebec*, Dr. Wallace combines certain published papers on Nor'Westers and the Northwest fur trade with some hitherto unpublished, which he asks the reader to accept as "a series of postscripts" to the *Documents*. So modest a description should not be allowed to depreciate the interest and value of these essays. They are at once research papers of considerable virtuosity and pungent historical reading. The reader sees as never before the continuity and scope of the Northwest trade and particularly the early return of French traders after 1763.

The guilt of Peter Pond in the murder of Wadden is made as evident as it is ever likely to be. Personalities emerge, such as that of Simon McTavish, in this instance in a new and gracious light. Names are sorted out; from one Simon Fraser in the fur trade, we advance to the identification of five. Knots are loosened, if not untied — why Alexander Mackenzie broke with Simon McTavish in 1799, and why Forsyth, Richardson and Company stood aside from the conflict of the North West and Hudson's Bay companies. Many allusions recall the importance of the "southwest trade" below the Canadian border, and remind the reader that the North American fur trade was not, as it

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MR. MORTON is a member of the history faculty in the University of Manitoba at Winnipeg.

sometimes seems, a Canadian monopoly. There is a delicate and sympathetic essay on "The Wives of the Fur Trade," and, happily, the fine paper on Fort William is reprinted from *The Beaver*. Finally, Dr. Wallace enters that forgotten land of the fur trade — the height of land located between the Great Lakes and the Bay.

The author and publisher are to be thanked for making conveniently available this rich store of learning, so much of it Dr. Wallace's alone.

### DISAPPEARING BISON

*The Buffalo Hunters: The Story of the Hide Men.* By MARI SANDOZ. (New York, Hastings House, 1954. xii, 372 p. Illustrations. \$4.50.)

Reviewed by Jay Edgerton

IN THE sixteenth century buffalo were found as far south as central Mexico. In the seventeenth century they were noted near the head of navigation on the Potomac. They ranged as far north as northern Saskatchewan and west to the coastal plains. Then, in a few rapid-fire years after the Civil War, they were gone. The guns of the buffalo hunters had made them an all but extinct species.

Miss Sandoz' book is a rich, colorful, and popular account of what happened, with major emphasis on the great herds of the central high plains and the Southwest. Only summary treatment is given to the northern plains, and the great Red River hunts are all but ignored.

This is a book abounding in stories and characters. Buffalo Bill, Little Phil Sheridan, Custer, and Wild Bill Hickok take up many pages. So do the famous Indian chiefs, Sitting Bull, Spotted Tail, and Yellow Wolf. There are reworkings of the famous "battle" annals of the West, such as the Beecher Island and Washita fights, the attack on Adobe Walls, and Wounded Knee Creek.

The buffalo, however, remains the central character of the book. Miss Sandoz remarks that many animals "were larger than the Ameri-

can buffalo and many lived longer in the region; many were more lovely and some more intelligent. . . . But whether larger or more intelligent, none grew as numerous as the buffalo; perhaps no animal of any size except the much punier creature, man, ever grew as numerous on the whole earth as the American bison upon the Great Plains, and no animal ever adjusted to his environment more completely."

Miss Sandoz, who established her reputation as a good storyteller with *Old Jules*, runs true to form in *The Buffalo Hunters*. This is vastly entertaining reading. It is not a definitive book on the buffalo, however, and readers who want such a volume must still turn to Frank Gilbert Roe's *The North American Buffalo* (Toronto, 1951).

The book has a bibliography "for the general reader" but lacks an index.

### PICTURING SETTLEMENT

*The Settlers' West.* By MARTIN F. SCHMITT and DEE BROWN. (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1955. xxviii, 258 p. Illustrations. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by Eugene D. Becker

THE AUTHORS of this new picture book on the West have scored again. The present volume is the third produced by this team in recent years in an effort to tell the story of Western settlement in pictures and text, and the new book lives up to the pattern set by its predecessors — *Fighting Indians of the West* and *Trail Driving Days*.

Most of the three hundred illustrations included are photographs, a fact that largely accounts for the book's realistic air. A few descriptive broadsides, line drawings, and letters also are reproduced. Some of the pictures selected to depict the pioneers' life and experiences in the West are among the best this reviewer has seen. In most cases, only one or two photographs are used on each page, and they are large enough to be enjoyed. The book was produced by offset, and while it suffers from the flatness inherent in this technique, it is a good job, at times approaching letterpress in quality.

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MR. EDGERTON is a member of the editorial page staff of the Minneapolis Star. He has contributed to his paper numerous feature articles on Minnesota and Northwest history.

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MR. BECKER is curator of the Minnesota Historical Society's picture department.

Each of the book's eight chapters is introduced by a brief text, for which the authors have drawn liberally from settlers' letters and diaries. The quotations used are well chosen, and they are combined with contemporary sayings and bits of humor to give the feeling of the times. There are chapters dealing with westward migration, with the "Big Rolling Land," with the founding of towns, and with the development on the frontier of "The Finer Things of Life"—religion, education, and the arts. Other chapters show how the pioneers amused themselves with "Wild West Shows and Rodeos," and depict the rise of "Law, Order and Politics." Also included is a chapter on "The Myth and Its Makers," in which the authors examine the writers, entertainers, honest dupes, and sundry characters who were responsible for the spread of a false view of the West.

Any reader interested in Western settlement or in the value of pictures as historical records will find this book satisfying and rewarding. The authors have achieved a realistic portrayal of pioneer life that would have been impossible without the use of pictures.

#### RETREAT TO THE EAST

*The Nez Percés: Tribesmen of the Columbia Plateau.* By FRANCIS HAINES. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1955. xvii, 329 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by F. Sanford Cutler

THE DRAMATIC STORY of the retreat of the Nez Percés from their Washington homeland eastward across the Rocky Mountains and then north almost to Canada has been told many times. Mr. Haines, however, is the first person to tell the complete story of this important tribe from its earliest contact with white culture to the present. With deft strokes, he has sketched the characters and abilities of the main figures in his story—the missionaries, the traders, and the Indian leaders, stressing particularly the period from 1845 to 1870. Although he is writing on a topic that tempts one to become emotional, or even cynical, Mr. Haines remains calm and judicious.

The history of the Nez Percés is full of paradoxes. When first visited by Lewis and

Clark, these Indians were living in long community lodges, and were dependent for food upon fish and camas bulbs. Within a few years they had abandoned the permanent lodge for the tipi and were sending hunting and war parties across the Rockies onto the Plains. Except for use on these periodic expeditions, the horse did not become an essential part of their culture, and yet they became expert horse breeders. They were particularly noted for their success in breeding Appaloosa, or spotted, horses. In 1831 a delegation of Nez Percés made the long trip to St. Louis to plead for missionaries, but forty years later one of their greatest statesmen, Chief Joseph, declared that they did not want churches, because "They will teach us to quarrel about God as the Catholics and Protestants do."

This paradoxical story becomes almost unbelievable in its final stages. Except for occasional skirmishes with the Blackfeet and the Sioux, the Nez Percés had had little experience in warfare; nevertheless they managed to defeat two separate units of the United States Army. Young Joseph has usually received credit for the ingenious strategy employed in fighting the soldiers, but the author demonstrates that there were other Nez Percés leaders who perhaps better deserved the title of "Red Napoleon," which was given to him. Although technically on the war path, the Nez Percés refused to consider all white men their enemies and fought only against the army, leaving the settlers along their route unmolested. This limited war concept can hardly be compared with the attitude of Little Crow and his followers in 1862; nevertheless there are certain similarities in the experiences of the Santee Sioux and the Nez Percés. Both tribes adopted part of the Plains buffalo culture, but neither became a typical Plains tribe. After years of mistreatment, both were forced into desperate last stands.

Although Mr. Haines does not attempt to draw broad conclusions applicable to other groups, the student of any Indian tribe will do well to consult this masterful historical study. The illustrations include two portraits by Catlin and a number of photographs, several of which were taken by William Henry Jackson.

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MR. CUTLER is curator of the Minnesota Historical Society's museum.

## HISTORY IN ARCHITECTURE

*The Living Past of America: A Pictorial Treasury of Our Historic Houses and Villages that Have Been Preserved and Restored.* By CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, JR. (New York, Crown Publishers, Inc., 1955. xiv, 234 p. Illustrations. \$5.95.)

Reviewed by Mathilde Rice Elliott

THERE ARE many ways to develop a taste for the study of history. Travel is one of the most pleasant and luxurious. Proxy armchair travel has its quiet, easy merits also, and this latest of Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr.'s books gives us an informal bird's-eye view of our country's architectural past from north to south, from Atlantic to Pacific, with all its variety of Indian, Spanish, French, Dutch, and English traditions.

A great deal of history can be learned from the combination of short texts and many illustrations. We are reminded that just before the middle of the last century Russia had a toe hold on our west coast. We see our Spanish past in some detail, spreading from Florida in the sixteenth century, through Louisiana, and across the Southwest to California in the eighteenth. It is inevitable that a large share of this volume should be given to the Atlantic states, since the past of these regions is so richly preserved in hundreds of distinguished buildings dating from the early seventeenth century through the middle 1800s.

While these dwellings, churches, and public buildings, as English as the men who designed, lived, and worked in them, serve to remind us of our continuity with older and suaver civilizations, still it is salutary to be reminded as well of the struggles of our westward-forging ancestors — Fort Osage, Missouri, with its string of essential blockhouses; the Gordon Stockade in South Dakota; Fort Laramie on the Oregon Trail; our own Fort Snelling and the stockade at Grand Portage.

This is a well-made book; the illustrations — there are nearly 450 — are for the most part excellent, though many of necessity are small. It is a pity that so simple a "picture history"

should have been poorly proofread, and one might question the intrusion of so great a number of personal matters in a book dedicated to so vast a purpose as our historic past. For instance, in the description of Theodore Roosevelt's house at Oyster Bay, nothing is gained by knowing that the author (regrettably) was gassed in the First World War, nor that, as a child, he "probably ate ice-cream" at Fraunces Tavern, New York's oldest restaurant.

But these are narrow matters, and we should be grateful not only to Mr. Vanderbilt for adding this book to the panorama of America, but to the countless individuals, societies, and foundations who through their gifts of money, time, and devotion have helped to preserve a daring and splendid past.

## FARMERS IN POLITICS

*Political Prairie Fire: The Nonpartisan League, 1915-1922.* By ROBERT L. MORLAN. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1955. 408 p. Illustrations. \$5.75.)

Reviewed by Donald F. Warner

THIS BOOK, continuing evidence of the lure which agrarian protest movements practices on scholars, is the first adequate history of the Nonpartisan League to appear.

The volume opens with the standard gambit — a recitation of agrarian grievances in 1915. Though farm prices were high, the exactions of middlemen sliced deeply into net returns. The farmer simmered in helpless anger until Arthur C. Townley, latter-day agrarian messiah, launched the Nonpartisan League in North Dakota. The League did not ape the political error of earlier protest movements which had suffered from the farmers' tenacious loyalty to old parties. Townley planned to unravel this problem by novel tactics, submitting League candidates in the Republican primary election, capturing that party, and entering his chosen instruments under its ancient label in the general election. Another daring innovation was the assessment of stiff biennial dues of sixteen dollars, a shrewd

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MRS. ELLIOTT is a former member of the staff of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. She has made a special study of historic buildings in the Twin Cities area.

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MR. WARNER is chairman of the department of history in Macalester College, St. Paul. He is the author of articles on third-party movements published in this and other magazines.

gamble that members would work harder for the League if they had such a stake in it.

Thus the need, the plan, and the man met, and the League organized the farmers of North Dakota for political action. By 1919, it had gained control of the state government. Previous agrarian movements once in power had exhibited political ineptitude and lack of discipline; the League, carefully guided by Townley, moved with relentless precision in enacting legislation to establish such state-owned enterprises as a bank for rural credits, a terminal elevator, flour mills, and a home-builders' association.

Firmly established in North Dakota, the organization ramified in a bewildering series of ventures. It sponsored a chain of newspapers, launched myriad economic enterprises, and expanded into neighboring states. Its organizers appeared in Minnesota in 1916 and made considerable headway. Political action followed, but the League failed to duplicate the victories won in predominantly agricultural North Dakota. This repulse influenced local leaders to discard the League and its attempts to appropriate the Republican party, and to evolve into the Farmer-Labor party.

The League met organized and often vicious opposition. In 1917-18, it was accused of obstructing the war effort; thereafter, it was denounced as "communistic" because of its program of state enterprise and the Socialist background of its leaders. Such criticisms and the fact that it had largely fulfilled its program by 1920 led to its decline in North Dakota, where it remains as a Republican faction. Though its day of power was brief, Dr. Morlan demonstrates that its accomplishments were significant and lasting, as its political effects certainly were in Minnesota.

Despite its over-all excellence, this book is open to some criticisms, perhaps due to the material rather than the author. Organization suffers from Dr. Morlan's attempts to trace out the great variety of activities spawned by the League while adhering basically to a chronological order; several of the chapters are bewildering conglomerates of topics with the reader yanked from one to another.

Conservative readers may feel that the author sometimes too readily accepted the League's judgments of its opponents and of its own program, though he generally preserves his

balance and scolds the League for its shortcomings. Finally, the story seems occasionally to be insulated from contemporary national trends. For example, the decline of the League was partly caused by the national political reaction of 1920 as well as by conditions in North Dakota and defects in the organization itself.

Despite these criticisms, this is a good book. The research is exhaustive and the coverage thorough. The author has set a good stage for the enactment of a dramatic story by colorful characters and has distilled the morals and conclusions of the narrative in a splendid summary chapter. It is a book which every student of the history of this region should have and must read.

### MACHINERY ON THE FARM

*Machines of Plenty: Pioneering in American Agriculture.* By STEWART H. HOLBROOK. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1955. 246 p. Illustrations. \$4.00.)

Reviewed by Reynold M. Wik

STEWART H. HOLBROOK'S versatility as a free-lance writer during the last twenty years is well known. With a breezy, free-wheeling style, he has dramatized incidents in the lives of lumberjacks, Yankee migrants, business moguls, Little Annie Oakley, and Davy Crockett. His ideas are seldom profound and, fortunately, seldom dull.

*Machines of Plenty* is cast in the same pattern as his earlier books. The primary purpose is to glorify the Case farm implement company of Racine, Wisconsin, and to present its founder, Jerome Increase Case, as a noble folk hero. Rather than duplicate the usual run of subsidized centennial business histories with their saccharine platitudes, the author wisely gives his story wider scope. He tosses in descriptive bits concerning living conditions on early Midwestern farms, the crudeness of the pioneer's machinery, the operation of bonanza farms in the Red River Valley and the Far West, and

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MR. WIK, who is the author of a study of Steam Power on the American Farm (1953), is a member of the history faculty in Mills College at Oakland, California. At present he is in Berlin as a Fulbright lecturer.



activities around the threshing rigs of the grain-growing states. There is some notice of people's reactions to such innovations as fencing, lighting rods, and steam traction engines.

In writing this popularized version of the Case company, Mr. Holbrook uses the techniques of the Hollywood scenarist. The human interest angles get full play, minor incidents are blown up, and key individuals become dashing figures symbolic of the best in Horatio Alger. Here is the "glamour and cheesecake" formula applied to such drab items as plows, cattle sprayers, side-delivery rakes, peanut pickers, stump pullers, combines, threshing machines, and manure spreaders.

The result is a nostalgic, episodic account, full of rambling digressions which often leave the reader in mid-air. But the book is interesting and readable. It will appeal to those who recoil from serious reading and prefer lighter fare. Indeed there are many who like to be reminded that farmers feed the world and that the manufacturers of better machinery helped emancipate the "Man with the Hoe."

These positive aspects, however, are tarnished by shortcomings. Mr. Holbrook's reverence for a good yarn often leads to gross exaggeration and at times to serious distortion of the evidence. Perhaps a more precise title for the volume would have been "Tall Tales a' Plenty." A rather typical misrepresentation concerns the description of the work done on a large ranch near Willows, California. The author in all seriousness states that Dr. Hugh Glenn threshed a record-breaking 6,183 bushels of wheat in one day in July, 1879, using a Case threshing machine with a forty-eight-inch cylinder, which "Glenn said was just the ticket." A story of such proportions would warm the heart of any advertising manager. But it is generally known that this particular machine was built by a local blacksmith, George Hoag, who used parts taken from Geiser, Pitts, and Nichols and Shepard separators. Gaar Scott and Enright engines furnished the power. The Case company was not even in the picture. This is good fiction but bad history. Some of the personal letters of J. I. Case are reworded to add zest to the story. Too many victories are claimed for Case which rightfully belong to worthy competitors.

Since there is no documentation, the author leaves the impression that much of his data, analogies, and anecdotes spring from his own

original research. In a large measure, the book consists of a more polished sample of materials already in print. The publisher's blurbs promise more than the writer managed to deliver. A sound history of the Case company, as well as of the entire farm implement business, still remains to be written.

#### TOMORROW'S FARMERS

*That Inspiring Past: The Future Farmers of America in Minnesota, 1930-1955.* By AGNES HARRIGAN MUELLER. (St. Paul, Webb Publishing Company, 1955. xiii, 195 p. Illustrations. Cloth, \$2.00; paper, \$1.25.)

#### Reviewed by Merrill E. Jarchow

ONE OF THE truly spectacular achievements of the past quarter century has been the magnificent increase in the productivity of American agriculture. With only slightly over thirteen per cent of the population of the United States living on the land, farmers today are producing fifty-four per cent more than they did in 1930 when twenty-five per cent of the population lived there. Playing a significant role in this achievement have been the thousands of young men who since 1928, when the organization was founded, have passed through the various degrees of the Future Farmers of America, or the FFA as it is commonly known. The Minnesota association of the FFA was officially organized at the University Farm in May, 1930, at a convention attended by delegates and their advisers from twenty-two high schools. Since that time, over fifty thousand Minnesota farm youths have served their state and nation by participating in the manifold activities of the FFA, gaining for themselves, at the same time, skills, knowledge, financial returns, and a sense of pride in farming.

Although it was the forty-second state to join the national FFA, Minnesota by 1951-52 was seventeenth among the states, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico in total membership, and late in 1954 came much rejoicing when the goal of ten thousand FFA members in the Land of Ten Thousand Lakes was reached. The organization in Minnesota has had its ups and downs, but

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MR. JARCHOW is dean of men in Carleton College, Northfield, and the author of a history of agriculture in Minnesota.

since World War II progress has been solid and continuous.

From the start, the blue-jacketed lads of Minnesota have been fortunate in the quality and continuity of their leadership. Quite remarkably, three of the men who helped found the state association are still at the helm: Dr. A. M. Field, who more than any other person brought the FFA to Minnesota; Mr. G. R. Cochran, the state FFA adviser; and Mr. W. J. Kortessmaki, the present executive secretary. These men and hundreds of others, especially the agriculture instructors in the high schools, have led the way in elevating Minnesota agriculture to the most bountiful condition it has ever known. Their aim has been to help their students establish themselves in the farming business and to serve as leaders in their communities. It would appear that their efforts have met with unusual success. For example, a study made by Dr. Field in 1949 showed that seventy-two per cent of the Minnesota boys who had earned the American Farmer degree up to that time were farming as owners, renters, or in partnership with their fathers.

Mrs. Mueller has made a fine contribution to the agricultural history of Minnesota. In twenty brief, but fact-packed, chapters she has presented a lively account of a very important agrarian movement. The volume itself does credit to the Webb Publishing Company; the format is attractive, the print is easy on the eyes, errors seem to be nonexistent, and many illustrations add interest.

A veritable mine of facts is contained in the appendixes compiled by Mr. Kortessmaki. To be found there are such items as: the names of American Farmers from Minnesota together with their advisers; a list of honorary American Farmers; the slates of official delegates to the national conventions; the names of state officers, of state contest winners in such fields as farm mechanics, farm and home electrification, soil and water management, farm safety, and public speaking; a list of state agriculture instructors; brief FFA chapter histories, and the like. The only thing lacking is an index.

It is to be hoped that the book will be widely distributed and read not only in Minnesota but outside the state's borders as well.

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MR. DUNN recently joined the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society as librarian.

## HOOSIER IMPRINTS

*A Bibliography of Indiana Imprints, 1804-1853* (Indiana Historical Collections, vol. 35). By CECIL K. BYRD and HOWARD H. PECKHAM. (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Bureau, 1955. xxi, 479 p. \$10.00.)

Reviewed by James Taylor Dunn

IT IS ALMOST twenty years since Douglas C. McMurtrie's check list of Indiana imprints became available and even longer since R. E. Banta published Mary Alden Walker's attractive and useful study of *The Beginnings of Printing in the State of Indiana* (1934). Comparing this new volume with the older ones shows how much hitherto unlisted material has turned up during the intervening years. This fact in itself makes the publication of the volume worth while. The greater number of state imprint bibliographies appearing in the 1930s were sponsored by the WPA and were released mainly in mimeographed form. Evidence of a revival of interest in this type of compilation is to be found in books such as this and in a series sponsored by the Bibliographical Society of America.

*Indiana Imprints* is arranged chronologically, and alphabetically within each year. Among government documents the compilers have included session laws, revised statutes, separate printings of single laws, Supreme Court reports, official documents of the constitutional conventions, and House and Senate journals. There is need, they state, for a revised bibliography of Indiana state documents as a separate work. Magazines and newspapers have been excluded from the present bibliography.

The volume under review reveals approximately two thousand Indiana imprints before 1854 and locates copies in 253 different libraries and private collections throughout the United States, including the libraries of the Minnesota Historical Society and the University of Minnesota. A five-page addenda lists unlocated titles known at some time to have existed. There are also two very complete indexes, the first giving authors, subjects, and titles, and the second listing printers, publishers, and printing offices.

*Indiana Imprints* will undoubtedly serve as a model for future state bibliographies. Especially welcome to all who work with books is the authors' warning to "book dealers and col-

lectors . . . that the number of copies [of a work] located is not to be construed as evidence that only that number of copies exists."

#### NAVIGATORS' GUIDES

*Keepers of the Lights.* By HANS CHRISTIAN ADAMSON. (New York, Greenberg: Publisher, 1955. xviii, 430 p. Illustrations. \$5.50.)

Reviewed by June Drenning Holmquist

IN HIS AVOWED PURPOSE to "capture and recreate . . . the old days of the old-time keepers on the old-time lights," the author of this volume succeeds admirably. Researchers, however, will look in vain for comprehensive, documented historical data on any one light. As his title implies, Mr. Adamson's emphasis is on the keepers of the lights, on the human story of their faithfulness to duty, their patience, and their heroism. Drawing upon the laconic, colorful, often humorous reports submitted by the men and women of the Lighthouse Service, the author paints a many-bued portrait of the light tender before the days of automatic electronic devices.

Although Mr. Adamson's primary concern is with the personal aspects of his story, many interesting details in the development of various types of visual aids to navigation — buoys, lightships, etc. — may be gleaned from his account. Such devices as rotating lenses and steam-operated foghorns came into use after the Civil War to aid the light tender in his battle with the elements. Whale oil gave way to kerosene and then to electricity, simplifying the keepers' duties and providing them with ever more powerful beams.

The bulk of the material presented is concentrated in the period before 1939, when the Coast Guard took over the work of the Lighthouse Service. Arranged by geographical areas, the text touches on American-operated lights from Alaska to Florida and from Hawaii to Boston. A brief section deals with navigational aids on the Mississippi River and the Great

Lakes. Such familiar Lake Superior landmarks as the lighthouses at Split Rock on Minnesota's North Shore, on Isle Royale, at lonely Stannard Rock, and among the Apostle Islands are mentioned, but little historical information about them is provided.

#### LAKE-SIDE VILLAGE

*Minnetonka Beach: Our History, Our Municipality, Our Home Rule Charter, 1855-1955.* By BERGMANN RICHARDS. (Minnetonka Beach Civic Association, 1955. 87 p. Illustrations, maps.)

Reviewed by Grace Lee Nute

IT IS NOT every member of a village council who has the ability and the interest to look up the little-known history of his community in out-of-the-way sources and to publish a volume of nearly a hundred pages on the subject. Mr. Richards states on the title page that his has been a labor of love; after reading his highly useful and informative little book, one is ready to believe his statement.

Almost half of the booklet is devoted to the history of Minnetonka Beach, including the story of Lake Minnetonka from its earliest known discovery until settlement began in the 1850s. For this section Mr. Richards has done a lot of original research, so that some hitherto unknown facts about the lake and its history are included. In addition, many interesting maps and pictures have been found and printed.

The second half of the booklet is devoted to technical information about the municipality — its taxes, schools, water plant, streets, parks, and officers. Then comes "Our Home Rule Charter," the document under which the tiny community operates.

A few misprints are to be noted, such as the date 1833 for Theodore H. Lewis' survey of mounds in the vicinity of Lake Minnetonka and the year 1951 for the publication of the first newspaper in St. Anthony.

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MRS. HOLMQUIST is assistant editor of this magazine.

MISS NUTE is research associate on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society and professor of history in Hamline University.

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BOOKS and pamphlets reviewed in this section and the one that follows will be available in the society's library as soon as they have been catalogued. They may be consulted in the reading room on the first floor of the Historical Building.

## . . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

BOTH STUDENTS and professional writers will find many useful suggestions in Homer Carey Hockett's recently published volume on *The Critical Method in Historical Research and Writing* (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1955. 330 p. \$5.00.). The work is an expanded and revised version of the same author's manual published in 1931 as an *Introduction to Research in American History*. Sections on the "Development of Historical Method" and on "Principles of Historical Criticism" are followed by detailed instructions for the preparation of masters' and doctoral dissertations in history. The author also presents a "Brief Survey of American Historiography," and he touches upon such trends as the study of local and business history. The classified bibliography should provide a helpful guide for those seeking information on specific subjects, though the sections devoted to the individual states are surprisingly uneven in content.

THE DIVERSE currents of ideas, from the Protestant Reformation through Pragmatism, that have molded *American Political Thought* are thoroughly surveyed by Alan Pendleton Grimes in a recently published volume (New York, Henry Holt and Company, 1955. 500 p.). "To a large extent," writes Mr. Grimes, "American political thought consists of the articulations and modifications by Americans of the political thought of others. . . . Few original contributions to political theory have been made by Americans, despite our distinctive political institutions. We have however interpreted, adopted and modified Western political thought to better suit our circumstances." Minnesotans will be particularly interested in a section devoted to Thorstein Veblen and his impact upon the American social order and political system. R.W.F.

IN THE LATEST of the *Bulletins* issued by the American Association for State and Local History (vol. 2, no. 7), Milton W. Hamilton discusses *The Local History Magazine and Its Publication* (September, 1955). The author, who is now editor of publications for the New York State Division of Archives and History, takes up the value of a magazine devoted to local history, and makes suggestions on how to go about publishing it, on printing and format, on the role of the editor, on how to find contributors, and on methods of financing.

The publication of such a magazine, according to Mr. Hamilton, "is the principal way in which one great objective of the [historical] society is realized — that of making local history better known."

ALEXANDER HAMILTON'S "estimate of the ultimate value of Louisiana to the United States" is the subject of "A Newly Identified Editorial from the *New-York Evening Post*," which is reprinted with an introduction and notes in the April issue of the *William and Mary Quarterly*. Hamilton's views on the Louisiana Purchase, as stated in the editorial of July 5, 1803, reveal "how clouded could be his prophet's crystal ball upon occasion," for he felt that "the possession at this time of any territory west of the river Mississippi" had only "problematical" advantages for the United States. "After all," he wrote, "it is the Island of N. Orleans . . . that gives to this interesting cession, its greatest value."

MANY NAMES of importance for Minnesota as well as Canadian history dot the pages of a *Preliminary Inventory* of the Public Archives of Manitoba, recently issued by the Provincial Library in Winnipeg (1955. 52 p.). Represented there are Jean Baptiste Cadotte, the elder La Vérendrye, Peter Garrioch, Lord Gordon Gordon, Henry Y. Hind, Bishop Provencher, Peter Fidler, James Wickes Taylor, and many others whose activities were significant on both sides of the border. Students of the fur trade, of the Sioux War, of the Riel rebellions, and of numerous other topics will do well to consult this *Inventory*. It provides a guide to a rich store of material that has been little used by those concerned with Minnesota history.

THE TEXT of a little-known "North West Company Agreement of 1795" is reproduced and discussed in an article by Elaine A. Mitchell in the June number of the *Canadian Historical Review*. According to the author, a copy of the agreement recently found in Scotland sheds new light on the fur company's operations and on the conflict between older and younger members of the firm over the size of the latter's interest in the business. The role of Alexander Mackenzie in formulating the agreement, which was accepted at Grand Portage in 1796, is clearly set forth.

THE OPENING on July 16 near Chadron, Nebraska, of a new museum devoted to the history of the American fur trade is noted in the July issue of the Nebraska State Historical Society's *News Letter* and in the September 1 number of *Museum News*. Sponsored by the Museum Association of the American Frontier, the new institution will be known as the Museum of the Fur Trade and will feature appropriate exhibits.

THE OPINION regarding the carving of the Kensington rune stone expressed by a Minneapolis sculptor, John Karl Daniels, is reported by Jay Edgerton in the *Minneapolis Star* of August 1. Mr. Daniels contends that "the inscription was put on quickly with sure deft strokes by a person thoroughly familiar with carving runes." In addition, he observes that while most of the carving was done with a hammer and chisel working from right to left the last part of the inscription was carved from the opposite direction, suggesting the possibility that it was done by two carvers or by a man who was ambidextrous. F.S.C.

BASING her narrative on documents of the fourteenth century, Laura Goodman Salverson presents in *Immortal Rock: The Saga of the Kensington Stone* a fictional version of the events supposedly recorded on the Minnesota stone (Toronto, 1954). The writer attempts to reconstruct the life story of each of the men in Paul Knutson's expedition, as well as to describe their adventures in the heart of the North American continent. "The Vikings in America: A Critical Bibliography" by T. J. Oleson, appearing in the *Canadian Historical Review* for June, lists many books and articles about the stone published for the most part from 1939 to 1954.

THREE NARRATIVES picturing frontier life and conditions in the upper Midwest are included in volume 2 of the *Memoirs of American Jews, 1775-1865*, compiled and edited by Jacob Rader Marcus and recently issued by the Jewish Publication Society of America (Philadelphia, 1955. x, 375 p.). Recollections of "Henry Stern, Milwaukee Merchant," picture conditions in the Wisconsin city in the 1850s and report on the founding of a successful dry-goods firm. The excerpts from an autobiography here presented were published in 1925 in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. "Reminiscences of Chicago in 1850" are drawn from a narrative prepared in 1899 by Leopold Mayer,

a forty-eighter who became one of the leaders of the German group in Chicago and who engaged actively in local politics as a member of the new Republican party. Minnesota is represented by Amelia Ullmann, some of whose recollections of "Frontier Days on the Upper Mississippi" appeared in *Minnesota History* in 1953 and 1954. To illustrate the narrative of this pioneer St. Paul housewife, a view of the river town of 1855 is reproduced. In his introduction to the first volume of the set, Professor Marcus points out that the "autobiographical narratives" he has selected "describe in detail the realities of immigration, of business life, of emerging Jewish communities, of a changing Judaism, of the subtle processes of acculturation and integration," all of which represent the "essence of nineteenth-century American history." Thus "every aspect of Jewish life" pictured in these pages "is part of American life." The preparation of these memoirs by the American Jewish Archives at Cincinnati and their publication were occasioned by the American Jewish Tercentenary of 1954. B.L.H.

A THOUGHTFUL discussion of "The Causes and Consequences of Emigration in Sweden" is contributed by Franklin D. Scott to the Spring number of the *Chronicle*, published by the American Swedish Historical Foundation. Mr. Scott utilizes quotations from American letters to point up the ideological, social, and economic causes of the Swedish exodus. He says that mass emigration to the United States in the nineteenth century "led to worried soul-searching" by "the guardians of Swedish society" and brought about subsequent reforms and changes in the Swedish church and state.

THE AMERICAN Association for State and Local History has conferred on the City Art Museum of St. Louis and the Walker Art Center of Minneapolis an award for the volume which they published jointly in commemoration of the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. The work, *Westward the Way*, edited by Perry T. Rathbone, served as a catalogue for an art exhibit shown in both museums in 1954-55. The Minnesota Historical Society recommended the award.

THE LEADER of the Northern Pacific railroad survey of 1853, Isaac I. Stevens, is characterized as a "Practical Geographer of the Early Northwest" by Donald W. Meinig in an article appearing in the *Geographical Review* for October. The writer credits Stevens with "un-

common stature for his time," noting that his comparison of the Russian steppes and the northern plains was the first official sign of the "breakdown of the desert idea" that had long dominated American thinking about the trans-Mississippi West. Mr. Meinig's conclusions help to explain news reports and editorials in Minnesota newspapers of the 1850s which urged Americans, and especially Minnesotans, to move onto the northern plains as the Russians were moving into Siberia. H.M.W.

PHOTOGRAPHS and brief descriptions of numerous models of cars and trucks popular from 1893 to 1952 appear in *A Chronicle of the Automotive Industry in America* recently issued by the Automobile Manufacturers Association (Detroit, 1955. 68 p.). Famous "firsts" of various lines of cars and trucks still in production have been included, and an effort has been made to depict popular or unusual designs "for every year since 1893."

THE WORK of a neglected government agency that "spans the years from James K. Polk to Harry S. Truman" is examined by George L. Anderson in an article on "The Board of Equitable Adjudication, 1846-1930" in the April issue of *Agricultural History*. As an agency concerned with the administration of public lands, the board was established in 1846 and it "functioned in connection with every major land law." According to the author, its purpose was "to confirm the title to a particular tract of land to a person who had tried to comply with the law, but had failed in some particular through ignorance, error, or obstacle over which he had no control." Mr. Anderson indicates the types of cases handled by the board and points up the importance of its records for students of the public lands.

A CONTINUING DEMAND for a book first published in 1931 and long out of print has led the University of Minnesota Press to re-issue John D. Hicks' study of *The Populist Revolt: A History of the Farmers' Alliance and the People's Party* (1955. \$6.00.). Students of Northwest history and of third-party movements will be especially grateful to the press for once more making this useful work available. The first edition was reviewed in the issue of *Minnesota History* for December, 1931, by John D. Barnhart, who commented that "The book is a valuable contribution to the political and agrarian history of the nation since the Civil War, and it is particularly significant to the people of the Mississippi Valley."

## INDIANS PAST AND PRESENT

AMONG recent articles dealing with archeological work in Minnesota is Lloyd A. Wilford's outline of "A Revised Classification of the Prehistoric Cultures of Minnesota," in the October number of *American Antiquity*. Fourteen years have elapsed since Dr. Wilford published his pioneering study of this subject in the January, 1941, issue of the same magazine. He has since modified some of his conclusions, but in the main his earlier theses have been substantiated. Students will be happy to find that Dr. Wilford has included in his new paper a list of the various prehistoric cultures of the area in their chronological sequence. He delineates the early, middle, and late Woodland periods in Minnesota, and he separates the Hopewell manifestations from other Woodland sites. In addition, recent excavations have enabled him to amplify the section of his classification dealing with Mississippi culture.

A new method of recording the shapes of stone projectile points is described by Louis H. Powell in a leaflet on *Spring Lake Archaeology: Point Profiles*, issued by the St. Paul Science Museum as part 1, number 3 of its *Science Bulletins*. This represents a major step toward the establishment of a system of classification for lithic materials comparable to that used for pottery. The text of the leaflet is illustrated with sketches of a number of the points found in the Spring Lake area.

A more general account of the Spring Lake excavations is contributed by Philip S. Taylor to the September issue of the *Conservation Volunteer*. Writing under the title "The Cave Dwellers," the author suggests that the absence of pottery at the lower levels of the cave excavation may make the site a major find for the Archaic period.

Investigations on the site of Fort Stevenson in North Dakota, made under the supervision of G. Hubert Smith, are described by Paul L. Cooper in *The Archeological and Paleontological Salvage Program in the Missouri Basin, 1950-51*, a report published by the Smithsonian Institution as volume 126, number 2 of its *Miscellaneous Collections* (1955. 99 p.). Eleven sites in the Missouri Basin area, some prehistoric and others evidencing white contact, are discussed in the recently published report.

"The Resources of the National Archives for the Study of the American Indian" are described in the summer issue of *Ethnohistory* by Gaston Litton. He notes the various groups of records which contain material on the Indians,

and suggests the need on the archives staff for a special consultant in Indian and frontier affairs.

F.S.C.

TO ISSUES of the *Murray County Herald* published at Slayton on September 8 and weekly thereafter, Robert B. Forrest contributes articles entitled "When Murray County Was Indian Country." In them, he describes and locates some stone figures that are believed to have had special significance for the Sioux. The author reports that outlines of a buffalo, a man, a bear, a turtle, and a crane were once apparent on Buffalo Ridge, a high point in Chanarambie Township that formerly was used by the Sioux for dances, ceremonials, and burials.

THE BIOGRAPHY of *Crazy Horse, The Strange Man of the Oglalas*, written by Mari Sandoz and first published in 1942, has been reprinted by Hastings House (New York, 1955, \$4.50.). In tracing the career of this Indian chief, the writer pictures him, rather than Sitting Bull, as the "real leader" in the battle of the Little Big Horn that resulted in Custer's defeat.

THE REVIVAL of ancient Chippewa ceremonies and methods of harvesting wild rice on the Lac Court Oreilles Reservation near Hayward, Wisconsin, is described in an article on the "Rich Harvest" in the *Duluth News-Tribune* of September 18. Photographs of some of the ceremonies and steps in the harvesting process accompany the article.

THE PROCEEDINGS of a conference on present-day Indian problems, held at the University of Minnesota in April, have been edited by Helen P. Mudgett and Hillis G. Kay and published by the university in a mimeographed work on *Indian Tribes and Treaties* (1955, 171 p.). Among useful materials here included are the texts of talks on recent federal legislation, on current tribal affairs, and on the Canadian government's Indian program. Of special interest are Dean Julius M. Nolte's paper on "The Historical and Theoretical Base of Indian Treaties" and John Killen's historical survey of "Treaties with the Minnesota Chippewa." Two maps showing the locations of Chippewa reservations in the state in 1863 and Chippewa land cessions from 1837 to 1955 accompany the articles. An appendix brings together the texts of treaties and executive agreements made with the Minnesota Chippewa from 1837 to 1889. An expanded version

of Mr. Killen's material appears with valuable documentation in the June number of the *Minnesota Law Review* under the title "Minnesota Chippewas: Treaties and Trends."

## SOME ANNIVERSARIES

THAT the "Pike Treaty Was Long Disputed" is brought out by Jay Edgerton in the *Minneapolis Star* of October 8, where he calls attention to the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of Lieutenant Pike's purchase in 1805 of the future site of Fort Snelling. He expresses the opinion that Pike's negotiations "laid the foundations of modern Minnesota." Mr. Edgerton mentions the many legal questions later raised about the treaty's validity and notes Major Lawrence Taliaferro's action to secure title to the land in 1838. Pike's purchase is also discussed by George Rice in the October 7 issue of the same newspaper.

STEPS IN the "Early Movement for the St. Mary's Falls Ship Canal" are traced by Clark F. Norton in the leading article published in *Michigan History* for September. This and other items in the issue call attention to the centennial of the Sault canal, which completed a hundred years of continuous use on June 18. Contemporary descriptions of Sault Ste. Marie as seen by "two intelligent Englishmen in 1853 and 1854" are reprinted in the number. The first, from William H. G. Kingston's *Western Wanderings*, has been edited by Lewis Beeson; the second, extracted from Laurence Oliphant's *Minnesota and the Far West*, was prepared for publication by Roy F. Fleming. "The Story of the Sault" is reviewed by another Michigan writer, F. Clever Bald, in the Autumn number of the *Beaver*. This author surveys the record of exploration in the area as well as the story of the planning, building, and later use of the canal.

HIGH LIGHTS in the development of a Twin Cities' wholesaling firm are sketched by James Gray in a booklet entitled *Our First 100 Years: The Story of General Trading Company* (1955, 138 p.). The author treats his material chronologically, tracing the company's origins to the pioneer firms of Nicols and Berkey, Nicols, Dean and Gregg, and the Minneapolis Iron Store. Although there are many gaps in the record, the account provides an outline of the parent companies' growth as wholesalers of hardware and automotive supplies. Some biographical data is included on members of the



Nicols, Dean, and Gregg families who have been associated with the company.

THE CENTENNIAL of the settlement of the town of Wyoming was commemorated by a celebration from August 5 to 7 and by the publication of a *Souvenir Historical Booklet* prepared by Brendan Connelly and other members of the Wyoming Centennial Committee (24 p.). The pamphlet contains brief biographical sketches of the area's early settlers and some information on the development of its schools and churches. Also of interest is a pictorial section, in which are street scenes, photographs of business houses, and interior views of a local country store, a barber shop, and a cigar store.

TO A SPECIAL EDITION of the *Hutchinson Leader*, issued on June 23 to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the town's founding, Esther Jerabek of the Minnesota Historical Society's library staff contributes an article on "Czech Pioneers of McLeod County." Additional information on such phases of the town's history as the development of its schools, churches, park system, and business houses, together with data on national groups represented there and sketches of members of the Hutchinson family may also be found in this issue of the newspaper.

THE CENTENNIAL of the founding of the village of Spring Valley in Fillmore County was marked by a celebration from July 2 to 4, by a special edition of the *Spring Valley Tribune* on June 30, and by the publication of an illustrated booklet (1955. 48 p.). In the latter may be found information on the establishment of the village by the Spring Valley Association, on the subsequent development of its schools, churches, businesses, and organizations, and on the importance to its growth of agriculture, dairying, and mining. Many photographs of significant places and events in the history of the village are included. The *Tribune* features biographical sketches of many early settlers and historical accounts of the village fire department, the local newspaper, and the opera house.

ONE OF THE oldest congregations in the state recently issued an illustrated pamphlet commemorating its centennial under the title *One Century of Lutheran Activities by Trinity Church of Saint Paul* (1955. 64 p.). In addition to a brief sketch of the church's history since its organization in 1855, the booklet con-

tains information on Elmhurst Cemetery and St. John's Hospital in St. Paul, projects with which the church has long been associated.

## BEYOND STATE BOUNDARIES

A HANDSOME booklet dealing with *The St. Lawrence Seaway: The Realization of a Mighty Dream* has been issued by the Distillers Corporation-Seagrams Limited of Montreal (1955. 40 p.). Originally included in the firm's *Annual Report* for 1954, this elaborately illustrated narrative, reviewing the history of a "symbol of co-operation between two neighbour countries," has been made available for a wider audience. Especially noteworthy are the explanatory comments on pictures and the detailed "Map and Profile" of the seaway provided in the "Supplementary Notes" that accompany the booklet.

The seaway is also the subject of an informative series of articles by Bob Murphy appearing in the *Minneapolis Star* from June 6 to 24. The writer provides firsthand data on the existing water highway between Milwaukee and Montreal by describing his recent trip over the route aboard the Dutch vessel "M.S. Prins Willem IV." By means of photographs and factual text, he depicts existing port and lock facilities, present traffic conditions, types of cargoes carried, and vessels used. In the last two articles of the series, he speculates on the possible implications for Minnesota of an extended and deepened seaway. Additional data on the seaway's effect on the ports of the Great Lakes may be found in a series of articles by Ralph G. Martin beginning in *Newsweek* for August 15 under the title "Our New Inland Empire on the Sea."

The growth of shipping operations in the "Overseas Trade on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Waterway" since the 1930s is analyzed by Villa B. Smith in the October issue of the *Journal of Geography*. The author surveys the number and the types of vessels and shipping companies, and gives details on their diversified cargoes and varied destinations.

A FORMER Calgary newspaperman, William McCartney Davidson, is the author of a recently published biography of the métis leader *Louis Riel, 1844-1885* (Calgary, Alberta, 1955. 214 p.). Although the work is not annotated, many of the sources are indicated in the text, which treats chronologically and sympathetically Riel's life and his stormy career in the Red River country and in the métis uprisings of 1869 and 1885. Research for the work was largely completed by Mr. Davidson in the



1920s, and the reasons for the book's publication now, thirteen years after the author's death, are not given.

Comment on the causes and results of the rebellion of 1869 is to be found in some of the letters published in the *Dufferin-Carnarvon Correspondence, 1874-1878*, edited by C. W. de Kiewiet and F. H. Underhill for publication by the Champlain Society (Toronto, 1955). "It is quite evident that the Hudson[s] Bay Company had long been a moribund Government," wrote Lord Dufferin on October 12, 1874. "As soon as Winnipeg became the centre of an urban population and Manitoba the home of white settlers, its rudimentary structure was no longer equal to the more complicated functions it was required to discharge."

THE great-great-grandson of Jean Baptiste Cadotte, Alec Butterfield, recalls "Early Days on Chequamegon Bay" in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for July 31. Among the pioneers active in the Bayfield-Ashland, Wisconsin, area mentioned in Mr. Butterfield's reminiscences are Henry M. Rice, Asaph Whittlesey, and Isaac Wing. Included is an account of a trip on Lake Superior made by Rice.

THE ONTARIO department of travel and publicity has issued an attractive illustrated booklet entitled *Historic Ontario* that provides useful information on the region's principal historic sites and spots of interest. Designed primarily as an aid to tourists visiting the province, the pamphlet contains brief and informative descriptions of historic areas. Especially useful is a map showing the locations of fur-trading forts and giving the dates of their establishment. A list of Ontario museums is also included.

FOR THOSE "readers who desire a brief yet reasonably comprehensive account of the state's growth," the University of Oklahoma Press has published Edwin C. McReynolds' *Oklahoma: A History of the Sooner State* (Norman, 1954. 464 p.). It makes available between the covers of a single book the story of the last American commonwealth to be opened to settlement.

A NEWLY PUBLISHED *Guide to the Manuscripts of the Kentucky Historical Society* by G. Glenn Clift makes more useful to scholars the collection assembled by the society since the late 1880s (1955. 185 p.). The volume is not, however, a complete index to the society's holdings, since several groups of manuscripts, including its extensive genealogical collection,

are not covered. The guide is arranged by manuscript types, with sections on autographed papers, account books, church records, Confederate pension records, diaries and journals, hotel registers, local records, military records, tax books, and vital statistics. An index is provided.

A NORTH DAKOTA pioneer's cabin will be preserved and exhibited in an outdoor museum at Bygdoy, Norway, according to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of July 8. Under the heading "North Dakota Log Cabin in Norwegian Museum," the paper reports that the cabin was obtained and presented by Nordmannsforbundet, a world-wide organization whose members are of Norwegian descent. Several Minnesota cabins were considered, the announcement says, but "a typical one, in good condition," found near Kindred, North Dakota, was selected.

THE STORY of old Georgetown, a community north of Moorhead on the Red River, is reviewed by Roy P. Johnson in a detailed narrative, the first installment of which appears in the *Fargo Forum* for July 3. Remnants of the frontier town, which served as a shipping center for the Hudson's Bay Company from 1859 to the early 1880s, are still to be seen on a farm about a mile and a half from the present village of Georgetown, according to Mr. Johnson. The opening section, and those published later in the Sunday editions of the *Forum*, include a wealth of information about the history of Fargo and Moorhead, about steamboat and stagecoach transportation in the Red River country, about Hudson's Bay Company shipments through Minnesota, about the Red River trail, and about such prominent Minnesotans as Russell Blakeley, Anson Northup, and R. M. Probstfield.

#### THE MINNESOTA SCENE

MANY ASPECTS of Minnesota life are described and pictured by Grace Flandrau in an article on the state in the August number of *Holiday*. Mrs. Flandrau's fond pen sketches a panoramic view of present-day Minnesota. Its forests, lakes, farms, mines, prairies, towns and cities, weather, and the varied national backgrounds of its people, together with side lights on such native sons as Sinclair Lewis and Charles E. Flandrau, are blended by the author, who is herself a Minnesotan and a member of the Minnesota Historical Society's executive council.

A CHAPTER on Lord Gordon Gordon, "The Man Who Took Jay Gould to the Cleaners," is included among the accounts of successful hoaxes, frauds, and ruses in Alexander Klein's *Grand Deception* (Philadelphia, 1955). The author reviews the bogus lord's successful railroad swindles in Minnesota and New York in the 1870s, his deception of Jay Gould and Horace Greeley, the efforts of Minnesotans to bring him to justice, and the strained relations between the United States and Canada caused by his activities.

The career of another clever scoundrel, Alonzo J. Whiteman, is described by Carl Carmer in a chapter on "The Next Happiest Man in the World," appearing in a volume entitled *Dark Trees to the Wind* (New York, 1949). According to the author, Whiteman's fortunes took him to Minnesota, where he made his first million by investing in Duluth real estate. He was a Minnesota state senator in the 1880s and is said to have been the youngest candidate elected in the state "up to that time." He left Duluth about 1888, and soon after embarked upon a highly successful series of bank swindles that attracted the attention of the Pinkerton Detective Agency. Although he was long wanted for bold and imaginative crimes in both Europe and the United States, Whiteman was not successfully jailed for any appreciable length of time until 1905. J.D.H.

THE SIOUX OUTBREAK is the subject of two articles contributed by Erling Larsen to the June and July issues of *Sparks*. In the first, "Background for Violence," Mr. Larsen explores the causes of the conflict, effectively setting the scene for his second article on the "Uprising in the Valley." After briefly reviewing the course of the outbreak, the author concludes that it occurred "because there was no longer enough land to support the white man who wanted to live by clearing . . . and plowing and also support the Indian who wanted to live by hunting." In the August number of *Sparks*, the same author touches on the development of Pine City and the decline of Chengwatana, now a ghost town on the Snake River, and in the November issue he sketches the story of the Pigeon River in the fur trade.

IN number 36 of the *Bulletins* of the Minnesota Geological Survey, Frank F. Grout and J. F. Wolff, Sr., report much useful information on *The Geology of the Cuyuna District* (1955. 144 p.). As the only geological study of the range to appear in thirty-six years, the volume adds materially to available data on

the Cuyuna formation and its ores and on the progress of recent manganese experimentation there. The authors locate and sketch the development of many of the mines on the last of Minnesota's ranges to be discovered.

A MINNEAPOLIS athlete is the central figure of a recent book entitled *This Was Football* (1954. 192 p.). It records the story of W. W. "Pudge" Heffelfinger, as told to John McCallum, and it contributes to the sports history both of the nation and of Minnesota. Numerous references to the Minneapolis background of this Yale football hero occur in the narrative.

A SUBSTANTIAL STUDY of a little-known Minnesota region has been published by Herman O. Hendrikson as *Chronicles of Highwater Township, Cottonwood County* (1954. 112 p.). The author is to be commended for bringing together a wealth of useful information on the township and its inhabitants. Included, for example, are lists of settlers with the dates of their arrival and a breakdown of the areas from which they migrated, a review of the township's organization with the names of its officials over the years and their positions and periods of service, and a compilation of population and vital statistics totals for the years from 1870 to the 1950s. In addition, Mr. Hendrikson provides data on such topics as Indian artifacts that have been found in the area, the use and construction of sod houses, cattle and sheep raising, early agricultural methods, the dangers and calamities of pioneer life, and the development of schools, churches, and frontier businesses in the township. The work is illustrated and indexed. J.D.H.

"WHAT happened when the news of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln reached a small village on the American frontier" is demonstrated by James Eckman and H. L. Smith in an attractive pamphlet entitled *A Day in the Life of a Country Newspaper* (Rochester, 1955. 18 p.). Excerpts from the *Mantorville Press* of April 21, 1865, are reprinted to show the impact of Lincoln's assassination on that Minnesota village.

PLANS to provide a new home for the Hennepin County Historical Society are outlined in the *Minneapolis Star* of November 9. According to the account, the society hopes to raise funds for a new museum on a two-acre plot at University and Central avenues in Minneapolis and to move there the historic Stevens and Godfrey houses. A pictorial feature, "Historical

Society Latch-string Out," appearing in the October 26 issue of the same newspaper, calls attention to the successful open house held by the Hennepin County group on October 30.

THE EIGHTH annual tour to spots of historical interest in the Jackson County area was sponsored by the local historical society on September 8. After leaving Jackson, the tourists traveled to Avoca, Slayton, and Montevideo, where they visited the site of Camp Release, the Lac qui Parle mission, an Indian burial ground, and other historic spots. The final stop on the tour was made at Granite Falls, where participants visited the museum of the Yellow Medicine County Historical Society and the Wood Lake battleground.

THE ISSUE of the *Willmar Daily Tribune* for September 19 carries a report on the accomplishments of the Kandiyohi County Historical Society during the past year. According to the account, more than forty volumes of county newspapers were bound. Many of the files were assembled and presented by Mr. Harold Swenson and Mrs. Rhoda Fink. They include early papers published at New London, and copies of the *Willmar Republican Gazette* and the *Willmar Argus*.

A LARGE NUMBER of enthusiastic people attended a meeting at International Falls on October 18 and voted unanimously to reorganize the Koochiching County Historical Society. On hand to assist in framing a constitution for the group was Arch Grahn, field director of the Minnesota Historical Society. Joseph A. Kalar of International Falls was elected president of the local society.

A NEW locally created cartoon series, the "Morrison County Sketchbook," featuring bits of the area's history and folklore, has been appearing in the *Little Falls Daily Transcript* each Monday since October 17. The first three sketches, in issues for October 17, 24, and 31, deal with the ghost town of Granite City, the village of Swan River, and the county's first courthouse, respectively. The attractive cartoons are drawn by Robert D. Pomeroy, who obtains much of the information used from the Morrison County Historical Society. Originals of the cartoons become a part of the local society's collections.

AMONG the Olmsted County Historical Society's recent acquisitions are the notebooks and diaries of George Healy, Rochester's first sur-

vveyor and an early city engineer. The local group held its fifteenth annual dinner meeting on October 25 at Rochester and heard Lester J. Fiegel discuss the city's banking history.

REMINISCENCES of a blacksmith's life in Fosston are recorded by Esten Moen in a series of sketches entitled *Tales My Father Told Me* (1954. 82 p.). The author's father, John Moen, emigrated from Norway and settled in Polk County in 1898, working there as a blacksmith until his death in 1949. Much useful information on blacksmithing practices and a detailed description of Moen's shop are included in this charming account of a Norwegian-American family.

THE RAMSEY County Historical Society's fall program featured a series of Sunday afternoon openings at the Gibbs House. Held on September 25, October 9 and 23, and November 6, the events called attention to recent additions to the society's museum collection.

A CONDENSATION of a paper on "John Wesley North and Northfield," read by Professor Carlton C. Qualey of Carleton College before the annual meeting of the Rice County Historical Society at Faribault on October 17, appears in the *Northfield Independent* for October 20. In the study, which was based on research in the large collection of North Papers in the Huntington Library, Mr. Qualey calls attention to North's varied career, concentrating especially on his activities in Minnesota from 1855 to 1861, when he was engaged in promoting the young town of Northfield.

THE DIARIES of Charles Ezra Lovett, kept from 1873 to 1925, were recently presented to the St. Louis County Historical Society by Mrs. Roella L. Watts and Mrs. Carl H. Lovett. A successful lawyer and businessman, Lovett went to Duluth in 1886, and the recently acquired volumes, fifty in all, contain information on the business, civic, and social life of the city.

UTILIZING RECORDS in the possession of the Wadena County Historical Society, H. E. Boen has compiled a "History of the County Fair," which appears in the *Menahga Messenger* of August 11. Although the author notes that "sketchy recordings of proceedings fail to disclose many pertinent facts concerning the fair board," he has culled from minutes of meetings and fair programs information about the board's financial struggles and about changes

in the programs over the years from 1897, when the records begin.

THE WORK of the Winona County Historical Society in 1954-55 received national recognition recently in the form of an award from the American Association for State and Local History. The honor was given to the local group for its "spectacular progress in reactivating a dormant" society and for its "outstanding list of accomplishments in a period of fifteen months."

### NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

A REPRINT of *The Voyageur*, Grace Lee Nute's book on the colorful French-Canadians who played a major role in the fur trade of Minnesota and the Northwest, has been issued by the society. It reproduces exactly the text and the illustrations of the original edition, published in 1931 by D. Appleton and Company and long out of print. Copies of the new edition sell for \$4.00. Members of the society, however, who receive a discount of twenty-five per cent, may purchase the book for \$3.00.

A DISCUSSION of "The Case of the Clark Papers" was presented by Robert H. Bahmer, assistant archivist of the United States, before the nineteenth annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Nashville on October 11. He dealt with legal and other technical problems arising out of the discovery of some William Clark Papers in St. Paul by the society's curator of manuscripts in 1953. The case to quiet title to the papers is scheduled for hearing before the United States District Court in St. Paul on December 13.

THE PAPERS of Elmer Ellsworth Adams of Fergus Falls, comprising some two hundred thousand items, are the gift of his son, Mr. Samuel P. Adams of the same city. They document the elder Adams' career as publisher and editor of the *Fergus Falls Journal*, stockholder and officer of the Otter Tail Power Company, president of the First National Bank of Fergus Falls, Minnesota state senator, Republican party leader, and spirited promoter of the general economic welfare of western Minnesota. Correspondence, diaries kept by Adams, scrapbooks, and drafts of speeches are included in the papers, which cover roughly the period from 1890 to 1950. Mr. Adams also has presented the papers of Dr. Reginald M. Reynolds, the first physician in Fergus Falls and probably in Otter Tail County, some photographs of

Fergus Falls, a notable collection of political campaign literature, and several volumes of the *Journal* and its predecessors that fill gaps in the society's file.

TWENTY-THREE items have been added to the papers of Henry H. Sibley by his great-grandniece, Mrs. William S. Killgreen of St. Paul. Among them are letters relating to the organization of the territorial legislature of 1852, Minnesota railroads and railroad bonds, local politics, land grants to railroads, mortgages, and the sale of lands. Included also is a document of April 21, 1852, signed by the chiefs and headmen of the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands in protest against powers of attorney alleged to have been granted by them to Madison Sweetser after the signing of the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota in the summer of 1851.

ONE OF five known copies of Lewis C. Beck's *Gazetteer of the States of Illinois and Missouri* (Albany, 1823) is a recent addition to the society's library. This important work of 352 pages, which has been described as the first guidebook to the West, contains one of the earliest published descriptions of the Illinois settlements and the adjacent country west of the Mississippi.

A COLLECTION of maps of 153 Minnesota communities, published on 1,360 sheets by the Sanborn Map Company of New York from 1925 to 1951, has been received from the Library of Congress. The maps show the locations of public and private buildings, geographical features, streets, and the like.

A TALK on "Local History Is Coming of Age" was given by Mr. Fridley before the Institute for Local History sponsored by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin at Madison on November 5. Both he and Mr. Grahn participated in the Second District Historical Assembly meeting on October 15 at Henderson where they led a discussion centering about the preservation of the state's pictorial records. The society was represented at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Nashville from October 9 to 11 by Miss Kane, who took part in a discussion of the "Defense of Archives against Human Foes." Mr. Cutler spoke on the work of local historical museums before annual meetings of the Faribault and Pine county historical societies on October 1 and 3.



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