

The Fur Trade. By PAUL CHRISLER PHILLIPS. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1961. 2 volumes, xxvi, 686, viii, 696 p. Illustrations, maps. \$16.50.)

Reviewed by Charles M. Gates

IN VIEW of the importance of the fur trade in the penetration and exploitation of new frontiers in the American West, this comprehensive summary should attract much interest. It is the product of many years of research on the part of a well-known student of this aspect of the westward movement. His earlier monograph, *The West in the Diplomacy of the American Revolution* (1913), established his familiarity with the eighteenth-century fur trade. Subsequent investigation has carried him back to the earlier colonial beginnings of the story and to later chapters dealing with the Rocky Mountains and the Far West. The result is a single synthesis which includes in two stout volumes an account of the French and Spanish experience with fur trading as well as the British and the American. The Russian activity in Alaska is mentioned only incidentally.

The particular merits of the narrative derive from its wide-ranging and encyclopedic character. The story extends from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century. Geographically it reaches from Sagadahoc to Astoria, from the Peace River to Santa Fe and Pensacola. It embraces the trade in deerskins in Florida and Louisiana; in beavers, muskrats, and martens north and west of Grand Portage; in buffalo robes on the high plains and sea otters on the Pacific Coast. The author describes a wide variety of entrepreneurial forms: the state monopolies established by the French, the chartered companies organized by the British, the generously capitalized enterprises such as John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company, and at the opposite extreme the individualized efforts of

the free trappers in the Rocky Mountains. For an industry which had essentially a simple and unchanging technology, the fur trade presents a surprising number of facets, and it is a great convenience to have them treated in a single account.

Phillips' approach is for the most part external and episodic. He enumerates many plans, details many organizations, and traces innumerable expeditions. While he includes comments on the economics of the fur trade, he is more concerned with the national interests, rivalries, and political relationships which at various times and places involved the traders in the struggle for empire. There is little description of the fur trade as a way of living. Personal characterization is largely missing, and the human and epic side of the pursuit of peltries receives comparatively little attention.

The Fur Trade is clearly and carefully written. It suffers from the fact that it is based more upon old sources than upon those more recently brought to light, and it neglects too much of the important research of the past twenty years. Minnesota readers will be disappointed that the author should pay so little attention to the many scholarly contributions of Grace Lee Nute, or the revisionist interpretation of early Canadian-American diplomacy suggested by A. L. Burt. Oregonians will feel a similar regret that the researches of Frederick Merk should be only partially noticed. Because of this failure to incorporate the results of current scholarship, the serious student will find that the book is not the up-to-date reference work he would wish it to be. It is, however, a solid general summary which will be very useful.

The book was published posthumously, three concluding chapters being contributed by John W. Smurr, a friend and former student of the author. A bibliography compiled from Phillips' notes has the same limitations as the narrative. The index is adequate, but the maps are too sketchy to be helpful.

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TRAGEDY OF TWO WORLDS

The Last Portage. By WALTER O'MEARA.
(Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1962. 289 p.
Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by Robert C. Wheeler

IN THIS BOOK novelist Walter O'Meara has used the original and true account of a white man's life among the Indians as a splendid vehicle for a journey through the two worlds of the frontier—white and red. Nine-year-old John Tanner was captured by the Shawnee near his home in Kentucky in 1789 when the land west of the Alleghenies was aflame with border warfare. From that time on he lost all contact with the whites, except for an occasional encounter with a fur trader or British army officer. Taken from Kentucky to the Michigan country and later to northern Minnesota and the Red River, Tanner forgot the English language and learned to speak the Ojibway tongue. He suffered as the Indians did from the cold and from repeated periods of starvation and disease. He traveled the same road of physical and moral decay that red men of the Northwest followed after their contact with the trader's rum. Once dependent on trade goods—kettles, guns, powder, shot, blankets, and liquor—the Indian began to fall apart. The search for beaver kept him on the move and almost always in debt. It was a vicious net from which there was no escape.

John Tanner, with a mind half red and half white, was caught in a tragedy not uncommon to the frontier. He was a stranger to the worlds of both red and white man. Disliked by many of the Indians with whom he lived and under suspicion by the whites, Tanner seemed to derive a certain strength from his suffering. He was a man in "no man's land," with a will to survive against all odds. This he did, until his return to "civilization" when, according to Mr. O'Meara, "it was John Tanner's misfortune to feel, think, and act like an Indian—but to be judged as a white man. The result was disaster."

His tale is well known to history; several fur traders mention him in their journals. Major

Joseph Delafield, an American agent working on the first survey of the Canadian boundary line in 1823, notes an encounter with John Tanner near Lac la Croix. References to him from various sources compare remarkably well with his own account of his experiences left with an interviewer in Sault Ste. Marie. Known as *Tanner's Narrative* (1830), this document is significant for its portrayal of Chipewewa Indian life in a molten period of history.

The author has done a very creditable job of utilizing the Tanner account as a framework into which he has woven a great mass of miscellaneous but interesting information on the fur trade and the life of the Indians—their foods, methods of cooking, social practices, sex behavior, wearing apparel, hunting techniques, and warfare. He proves his ability as a historian by meticulously comparing the *Narrative* with other documents, including the journals of Alexander Henry the Younger and Henry R. Schoolcraft. In fact, librarians will have difficulty placing *The Last Portage* on their fiction shelves, although the author has, of course, taken a certain amount of liberty with names, places, and experiences. There is enough fact and enough fiction, but much of the fiction is based on fact, and Mr. O'Meara has done a remarkably fine and accurate job of painting the frontier scene.

The Last Portage is no dull book in any sense of the word. It is well organized and written in a clear, simple, and concise style. There is an index and an excellent bibliography. I recommend this to historians as well as others; there is more fact than fiction here.

GOVERNMENT AND INDIANS

American Indian Policy in the Formative Years.
By FRANCIS PAUL PRUCHA. (Cambridge,
Harvard University Press, 1962. viii, 303 p.
\$6.75.)

Reviewed by Robert F. Berkhofer, Jr.

AGAIN Father Prucha has delved deeply into the manuscript records of the National Archives to produce a book which follows naturally from his earlier interest in the American army on

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the frontier. In this new volume he traces the evolution of American Indian policy as expressed in the laws and regulations passed by Congress from 1790 to the stormy years of Jackson's administration. He maintains that in spite of the actual hurly-burly of Indian-white relations and the anomalous position of Indian tribes in the new nation, there was a "solid continuity in American Indian policy as it developed step by step. . . . under the press of circumstances and the pressures of diverse groups" during these years. In 1834 this policy was finally formulated in the Trade and Intercourse Act and the reorganization of the Indian department, which laid the basis for the nation's Indian policy up to the present time.

The thesis determined the organization of the book. In three chronological chapters, Father Prucha examines briefly the colonial precedents of the new nation's policy and the legislative foundations laid by the Confederation and early federal governments. Then to show the evolution of the various aspects of the policy, he devotes chapters to the efforts at regulating the fur trade and traders, the futile endeavors to control and then to prohibit traffic in liquor among the tribes, the problems of white intruders on Indian lands, and the provisions for punishing crimes committed by white and red man against each other — all to prevent the exploitation of the aborigine and to remove potential threats to the peaceful coexistence of the two races. Also covered are the expansion of the Indian department to enforce the laws and regulations and the initial governmental ventures at civilizing and educating the Indians with a view to their assimilation into general American society.

Father Prucha's scholarly book is either too short or too long in light of his professed aims. It is too long if, as he states, he merely proposed to trace the development of the legislative expression of Indian policy. It is too short if he intends to give us the full complexity of policy formulation in an "attempt to avoid dogmatism." The reader is only tantalized by references to land speculation, frontier avarice, federal-state conflict, and official corruption. Rarely is he permitted to glimpse the Indian side of the story or the important financial aspects of policy. In short, the volume does not really display the full dynamics which led to the development of Indian policy.

The reasons for this may be attributed, the reviewer feels, to one of the book's very merits: the intensive research in official records. Father Prucha seems to view the development of policy with the eyes of the government officials whose documents he read. The Indians are treated too briefly and abstractly; the opponents of federal policy become mere obstacles; Indian officials are "high-minded" men of "integrity." In reality, aboriginal culture rendered some governmental action futile; philanthropic Easterners as well as frontier whites shared prejudices about the Indians that shaped official policy; some Indian agents were corrupt, and Thomas McKenney, who superintended Indian trade and then headed the Indian bureau for a part of the period, was a politician with highly flexible opinions. Yet in spite of these shortcomings, the book replaces the long standard, but inadequate *Sixty Years of Indian Affairs*, by George Harmon, as the basic reference work for its topic and period.

VANISHING TRADITIONS

Ojibwa Myths and Legends. By SISTER BERNARD COLEMAN, ELLEN FROGNER, and ESTELLE EICH. (Minneapolis, Ross and Haines, Inc., 1962. 135 p. \$4.50.)

Reviewed by Sister M. Inez Hilger

TALES of American Indians are part of our American heritage, and compiling a collection of them from any tribe is a worth-while task. This book offers a group of such stories as told by the Ojibway (more frequently known as the Chippewa) of Minnesota in the mid-twentieth century to an anthropologist (Sister Bernard Coleman) and two educators (Ellen Frogner and Estelle Eich). Ruth Maney has supplied the many delightful and meaningful drawings which illustrate the volume.

The generation of Indians that tells stories as they have always been told will not be with us much longer. This is true for all tribes in the United States. The authors "realized how

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fragile the oral tradition of the Minnesota Ojibwa is at the present time," and the Ojibway narrators themselves felt that they were the last link with a uniquely Indian past.

The most distinctly Ojibway stories in the book are the Nanabozho tales. A third of the volume is devoted to these stories — the favorites of children. During my own field work among the Ojibway I have heard mothers say to troublesome children, "Go over there. That old man is telling stories of Nanabozho!" No greater attraction was ever offered an Indian child.

In addition to Nanabozho legends the book contains "long-ago" stories; "why" stories; stories of natural phenomena; and stories that teach of tribal customs, of religious beliefs, and of the history of the Ojibway. There is an appendix describing the Grand Medicine Society (a tribal religious ceremonial) and a bibliography. The latter unfortunately omits many important and interesting publications on the subject of Ojibway myths and legends.

CATHOLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Catholic Origins of Minnesota. Edited by REVEREND VINCENT A. YZERMANS. (St. Paul, Minnesota Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, 1961. 96 p. Illustrations, maps. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by Vincent Tegeder, O.S.B.

THIS VOLUME of historical essays, copiously illustrated with pertinent photographic views, offers a panoramic interpretation of the role of Catholic explorers and missionaries in the discovery and settlement of Minnesota. The treatment might be divided into two periods: the many centuries before the appearance of the United States flag in the Upper Midwest between 1783 and 1803, and the decades thereafter until the ear of Archbishop John Ireland.

The history of the area in the centuries-long first period is presented in contributions by a variety of authors. "Stones That Speak," by Hjalmar R. Holand, deals with the controversial Viking expedition of 1362; the heroic

activity of "Minnesota's Forgotten Martyr," Father Jean Pierre Aulneau, is recounted by the late Reverend Emmett A. Shanahan; Grand Portage. "The Great Carrying Place," a symbol of the state's international character and a rendezvous for explorers, adventurers, fur traders, and missionaries is described by Colman J. Barry, O.S.B.; and the "Mission of Saint Michael" at Frontenac, the location of the first Christian chapel on Minnesota soil, by Mother M. Catherine. A collection of documents, edited by Edward K. Krantkremmer, is also included in this section.

The nineteenth-century experience features studies of Father Francis X. Pierz, the founder of the Crow Wing mission and an effective peacemaker among the Chippewa, by Reverend William P. Furlan; Father Augustin Ravoux, missionary to the Sioux and builder of the historic stone church of St. Peter's in Mendota, by Reverend Eugene M. Roden; and the zealous career of Bishop Joseph Cretin, the first Catholic prelate in Minnesota, by Reverend Wallace K. Hermes.

Russell W. Fridley, director of the Minnesota Historical Society, and Monsignor James P. Shannon, president of the College of St. Thomas, provide perceptive introductory essays. Both indicate how this volume can serve as an opportune tool for the broader unfolding of the history of the North Star State.

The Minnesota Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus sponsored this publication. It is another notable indication of this group's continuing interest in historical activities and its generous support for the work of Clio.

REGIONAL RAMBLE

The Minnesota: Forgotten River. By EVAN JONES. (New York, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1962. 306 p. Illustrations, maps. \$6.00.)

Reviewed by David Lavender

MR. JONES'S account of the Minnesota River flows as pleasantly, though not as sinuously, as the stream about which he writes. Almost inevitably the pattern is chronological; time, indeed, gives more sense of unity than does the "strong brown god" which is the occasion for the book.

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We are launched first on the torrential prehistoric river which carried away floods released by retreating glaciers; we end by taking a personal ramble with the author along the shores of his shrunken stream. In between we pass the ubiquitous French fur traders; we nod toward the United States government's explorers and military men (Pike and Snelling) who were entrusted with bringing geopolitical order to a segment of the huge abstraction known as the Louisiana Purchase; we change our canoes for steamboats, fight the Sioux, and raise small cities.

It is perhaps inappropriate for one whose concern has been with the Far West and who has never seen the northern prairies to estimate a book about a Minnesota river. I have no ear for any save major local variations. Trained to a massive continental divide, I was, for example, intrigued to read of another divide that separates the Gulf of Mexico from the Arctic Ocean and is so low that a Viking ship possibly crossed it in the 1300s and steamboats tried to duplicate the feat six centuries later. In the main, however, I was not struck so much by the individual colorations which the river imposed on the people (if it did) as by the similarity of their pioneering experiences with those of all the settlers as far away as the Piedmont Plateau or the Rocky Mountains.

There is the same displacement of the Indians and their final resistance, more savage in Minnesota than elsewhere because more people were handy to massacre. Outlaws on the other hand were more restrained; the big blood-and-thunder comes from those chance outsiders, the James boys. Immigrant groups arrived; grasshoppers ravaged; towns struggled for political preferment; civic boosters extolled the healthfulness of their neighborhoods. Imaginative journalists fabricated elaborate hoaxes in their newspapers, just as Mark Twain did during his neophyte days in Virginia City, Nevada. The same jokes and tall stories are told: a raccoon gives up without a struggle to crack shot Davy Crockett or Captain Scott or whomever. There was even a gold rush of sorts.

This hop and skip summary, I hasten to add, is reflective, not critical. Mr. Jones writes ap-

pealingly, out of what is obviously a thorough knowledge of his subject. If the river does not emerge so strongly as the prefatory excerpt from T. S. Eliot would have us anticipate ("sullen, untamed and intractable . . . reminder of what men choose to forget"), the lack does not prevent the book from being a pleasant and informative reading experience.

STUMP LAND STORY

Farms in the Cutover: Agricultural Settlement in Northern Wisconsin. By ARLAN HELGESON. (Madison, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin for The Department of History, University of Wisconsin, 1962. viii, 184 p. Map. \$4.25.)

Reviewed by Lucile M. Kane

BY THE LAST decade of the nineteenth century, lumbermen cutting their way through the white pine forests in northern Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota had left behind them vast tracts of stump land. Conditioned by the American tradition that farms followed forests and encouraged by the dwindling public domain in the West, several groups turned their attention to bringing settlers into the cutover areas. Among them were lumber companies interested in divesting themselves of land that had become a tax burden, state and county governments concerned with increasing population, and promoters who saw business opportunities in buying and selling stump land.

Arlan Helgeson's *Farms in the Cutover* is a fine analysis of the Wisconsin experience. He begins his story with early attempts to sell St. Croix Valley stump land in the late 1850s and continues it into the 1920s, when even optimists were forced to admit that the territory which had supported great forests would never become a prime farming area. Included in his narrative are accounts of the advertising campaigns launched to bring settlers into Wisconsin's twenty-four northern counties from Europe, the Western Plains, the nation's cities, and older agricultural areas. He describes the state's efforts to stimulate immigration and

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MISS KANE has written several articles on the problems of land use, with particular reference to cutover areas.

guide settlement, follows the business fortunes of companies selling the cutover, and examines their experiments with alternate policies of paternalism and laissez-faire. Finally, he traces the evolution of new viewpoints by both state and private business as it became tragically clear that the best use for much of the land was not agriculture, but reforestation.

A high light in the book is the author's sketch of James L. "Stumpland" Gates, a log broker who turned to the cutover land business in the 1890s and who at the height of his new career owned half a million acres. Imbued with faith in the country and in himself as a beneficent agent through whom the blighted areas would come under the plow, he saw in the cutover a new agricultural frontier. He was more successful in acquiring land than in selling it at a profit, however, and his empire's decline in the early twentieth century marked the end of a colorful period in Wisconsin land promotion.

Although this book deals wholly with Wisconsin, much of the story parallels Minnesota's experience in settling its northern counties in the wake of the lumber industry. Attitudes towards the land were the same, as were the tragic errors committed in attempting to convert the area into farms without adequate studies of climate and soil potential. The two states share a common legacy of problems that even today, seventy years after the cutover was created, plague men engaged in trying to evolve plans for wise land utilization.

STATE AND NATION

The American Partnership: Intergovernmental Co-operation in the Nineteenth-Century United States. By DANIEL J. ELAZAR. (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1962. 358 p. \$6.50.)

Reviewed by William Anderson

BORN in Minneapolis in 1934, the author of this work enrolled as an undergraduate at Wayne State University and went on to graduate studies in history and political science at the University of Chicago. As a member there of a "Workshop on American Federalism" under Professor Morton Grodzins, he wrote a doctoral dissertation which he then revised to

make the important and well-written book here reviewed.

The general thesis of the author is that the co-operative relationship or "partnership" between the national government and the states in the financing and performance of public services, which has come into such prominence in recent decades and has been the subject of several national inquiries, is far from being a twentieth-century invention — that, on the contrary, it has been a constant feature of the American governmental system since the early days of the republic.

During the nineteenth century a number of writers on constitutional law, taking a Jeffersonian strict-constructionist view of the national government's powers, developed a theory that the states and the nation were separate and independent sovereign entities operating in different spheres; and the implication was that they were required to remain so separated. This theory was taken up by a number of teachers and publicists, and might conceivably have become a bar to national-state co-operation. In fact, however, it had little effect in the long run on legislative and executive actions. State governors and legislators, members of Congress, cabinet members, and presidents, found various ways of bringing about national assistance to the states, and of promoting co-operative relations between the two levels of government which the Supreme Court did nothing to prevent.

Little things such as national payments to states like Virginia to reimburse them for expenses incurred in the War of 1812, and a small grant of western land to New Hampshire in 1819 to help that state establish a pioneering school for the deaf and dumb, led to bigger things. The national domain of public lands throughout the Middle and Far West was almost better than money in the bank for assisting the states in various projects. The grants of land to new states for railroad building, public schools, and universities are well known, and so are the grants to all states for colleges

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of agriculture, home economics, and mechanic arts. Mr. Elazar calls attention, also, to less publicized nineteenth-century measures of co-operation in the fields of banking and finance, public health, canals, and other services and internal improvements.

In addition to national materials, the author dug into state sources in New Hampshire, Virginia, Colorado, and Minnesota, drawing heavily on the latter for illustrative purposes. Thus, in addition to its general value on the national scene, this book is an important item in any bibliography of works on intergovernmental relations in Minnesota.

BADGER STATE IN BRIEF

A Short History of Wisconsin. By LARRY GARA. (Madison, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1962. viii, 287 p. Illustrations. \$4.00.)

Reviewed by Walker D. Wyman

THE AMERICAN people suffer from "Tim-bucktoo-ism." Distant places and events have enchantment while those close to home seem unromantic, even dreary sometimes. We always know more about the United Nations than about the local courthouse or the state capitol. State history lies in the purgatory between local and national or international history. Despite the fact that state historical societies are venerable institutions with enormous collections, there are few good histories of the states that are available to a reading citizen or his children in the schools.

Wisconsin suffers from this malady in a major way. There is great need for a volume to serve the junior high student who wants to know about the history, geography, and government of his state; there is need for such a volume for high schools that would relate state history to that of the nation; there is need for a volume to serve the college student. The three that have existed are either too ancient, too encyclopedic, or too lightweight to do the job, even if they were in print.

To bridge this gap, the University of Wisconsin extension division commissioned Pro-

fessor Gara to write a short state history, apparently to serve students at various levels in their correspondence courses. This book summarizes Wisconsin's history within a seven-chapter framework on the fur trade, the territorial era, statehood, the Civil War, "Wisconsin in the New Nation, 1876-1900," the "Progressive Era in Wisconsin, 1900-1924," and "Wisconsin in a Complex World, 1925-1960." The focus is Wisconsin's political and economic history, and little attempt is made to relate Wisconsin to the nation. The approach is narrative and descriptive and the story moves along well. Numerous excerpts from source materials and pictures are inserted to enliven the deadpan narrative. Each chapter is followed by a selected bibliography. This volume will serve well for students who wish an introduction to the history of Wisconsin, but it will not answer the needs of college students who wish to study the development of the state for a semester.

TRAINING TEACHERS

The Education of Historians in the United States. By DEXTER PERKINS and JOHN L. SNELL. (New York, McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1962. 244 p. \$4.95.)

Reviewed by Rodney C. Loehr

FINANCED by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation and guided by a committee of distinguished scholars, this study will interest primarily historians and educational administrators of colleges and universities. It seeks an answer to the question of what historians "conceive their service to society to be."

As a result of its searches, the committee found that the overwhelming bulk of historians were teachers. The problem then became one of determining whether or not they adequately meet their teaching responsibilities in terms of numbers and quality of training. At present the supply appears equal to the demand, but the committee concluded that by 1964 there will be a shortage, which will increase unless resort is had to the television screen as a substitute for the individual or unless more attention is

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paid to recruitment and to an acceleration in the graduate program leading to the Ph.D.

Recruitment, according to the authors, is apt to be embarrassing and unsuccessful unless adequate financial support can be secured for graduate students. Here one should note that scholarships for the social sciences lag far behind those for the physical sciences, possibly because the labors of social scientists lack the glamour of rocket shots to distant planets or of discovering cures for supposedly incurable diseases. But though on the whole the social sciences have been poor relations in the receipt of scholarships, it should be pointed out that foundations in this region have been sympathetic to their needs and they have fared somewhat better here than elsewhere.

The number of institutions offering the doctor's degree in history does not need to be increased, according to this study. There are problems, however, in institutions where classes range in size from five hundred undergraduates to five graduate students. Undergraduates majoring in history should have a broader base in associated subjects and fields, and more attention should be paid to literary skills and language preparation. At the same time students entering graduate work should receive a more critical examination and those of low caliber should be discouraged at once.

The biggest obstacle in the road to the doctor's degree remains the need for financial aid while the thesis is being completed, and unless this problem can be met it is difficult to see how the "Ph.D. 'stretch-out'" can be reduced. Increased financial aid thus seems to be the principal key to an improvement in the supply and quality of historians in this country. The committee believes that the present program for training graduate students as historians is better than that found in France, Western Germany, or the Soviet Union but finds in this no reason for complacency. Their study points out ways in which the lead can be maintained or increased.

FAMOUS FIREARMS

GUNS have been known to miss their mark, but *Guns of the Old West*, by Charles Edward Chapel (New York, 1961. 306 p.) will undoubtedly find its market. It is almost a sales cliché that if you want to sell books, write

about Lincoln, the Civil War, or about firearms. Mr. Chapel now hits a sure-fire subject when he combines guns with the "Old West." How can the publisher miss with TV's "Wyatt Earp" and "Bonanza" helping him to zero in on sales?

Mr. Chapel has accomplished two things in this book: he has focused attention on guns used in a particular and very popular part of our country, and he has given each firearm a new interest and meaning to readers by revealing its historical associations. A prospective buyer should not get the notion that the volume deals with only a few guns. The author follows the early Kentucky rifle west and examines the numerous firearms between this famous flintlock and the arms of the early 1900s.

Of particular interest to Minnesota readers is a quotation from Theodore Roosevelt: "I have two double-barreled shotguns: a No. 10 choke-bore for ducks and geese made by Thomas of Chicago; and a No. 16 hammerless built for me by Kennedy of St. Paul, for grouse and plover."

Recently the Minnesota Historical Society acquired from the Kennedy family gun-making tools as well as several examples of their work.

R.C.W.

WISCONSIN EXCAVATION

WINNEBAGO Indian prehistory is explored in a recent two-volume archaeological study published by the University of Wisconsin Press. *The Archeology of Carcajou Point*, by Robert L. Hall (1962. 200 p., 148 p. \$8.00), deals with the excavation of a site on Lake Koshkonong, Jefferson County, in south-central Wisconsin. Archaeological materials were found which date back to 1000 A.D. and represent the cultural remains of an ancestral Winnebago group. Closely related to the Winnebago were the Iowa, Oto, and Missouri tribes, and their prehistoric remains are collectively known by the designation "Oneota." After describing the site the author explores the origins of the Oneota culture and its wider relationships to other sites in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota. The first volume of the work contains the text, while the second is devoted to illustrations, maps, and tables.

A.R.W.

RETREATING PIONEERS

ANOTHER CHAPTER has been added to the story of the Ingalls family, begun some years ago in the now famous series of "Little House" books for children. It is set forth in a small volume published by Harper & Row and entitled *On the Way Home: The Diary of a Trip from South Dakota to Mansfield, Missouri, in 1894*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder with a setting by Rose Wilder Lane (1962. 101 p. \$2.95). Unlike Mrs. Wilder's previous books, it is not reminiscent fiction, but a document written in 1894, and now, five years after the writer's death, edited for publication by her daughter, Mrs. Lane.

The earlier books followed the pioneer family of young Laura Ingalls from Wisconsin to Kansas, to Redwood County, Minnesota, then west into Dakota Territory. The present account opens as Laura (now married), her husband Almanzo Wilder, and their seven-year-old daughter turn their backs on the dust, depression, and disappointment of South Dakota in the early 1890s. Traveling by covered wagon, they head for the land of "the big red apple" in the hills of southwestern Missouri. The diary records their six-week pilgrimage across South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri, in the course of which they frequently encounter other back-trailing pioneers — defeated settlers migrating in a futile search for the vanished promise of the frontier. Because it is a contemporary account, narrated by an adult and not clouded by nostalgic memory, this book clearly reveals what Mrs. Wilder's others have only hinted: that the world of the Ingalls family was essentially the same "middle border" of drudgery and broken dreams so bitterly portrayed by Hamlin Garland.

R.R.G.

REPRINT SERIES

STILL another series of reprints of "significant and rare source works of the American past" has made its appearance as "Americana Classics," published by Quadrangle Books, Inc., of Chicago under the general editorship of O. Lawrence Burnette, Jr. Two recent titles in the new series are Henry M. Brackenridge's *Views of Louisiana Together with a Journal of a Voyage up the Mississippi River, in 1811* (1962. 302 p. \$7.00), which has been poorly

printed without the addition of either index or introduction; and, as the title page styles him, J. C. Beltrami's *A Pilgrimage in America* (1962. 545 p. \$10.00), which is somewhat more clearly reproduced. Beltrami's work originally appeared in two volumes, of which only the second, or American portion of his travels, has been reprinted. A fold-out map and three plates from the original volume 2 have been included. Some background on Beltrami and his exaggerated claims to discovery of the source of the Mississippi are to be found on the jacket. Since jackets rarely remain with books, the publisher would have performed a much-needed service by printing these comments within the covers of the book itself. He might also have made it clear that the work was incomplete, Beltrami's European travels having been omitted, and he could have stated unequivocally which edition of the work was used for the reprint. The price of these books does not seem warranted either by the quality of the printing or by the failure of the publisher to provide even brief introductions.

J.D.H.

BRITISH AMERICANA

ONE FRUIT of the new British interest in American studies, which has been growing since World War II, is *A Guide to Manuscripts Relating to America in Great Britain and Ireland*, edited by B. R. Crick, Miriam Alman, and H. L. Beales (London, 1961). The volume lists papers in both private and public hands, but where printed catalogues already exist only brief descriptions of the collections are given. The geographical treatment of sources means that all papers of American interest in each collection are listed together. To supplement this, however, there is a 110-page index of authors, owners, and subjects. Here only five entries appear under "Minnesota," but the diligent searcher will find items of Minnesota interest under such subjects as "Duluth & Iron Range Railway," "Hill, James Jerome," "Hudson's Bay Company," and "Red River Settlement." Although it is no fault of the compilers, it is disappointing that the *Guide* reveals no emigrant letters from Minnesota, nor — especially in view of his popularity in England — any letters from Bishop Henry B. Whipple.

Michael Brook

. . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

TWO RECENT books deal from different points of view with the period in the late 1820s when American and British fur trade interests encountered each other in the wilderness of the northwestern Rockies. As volume 23 of its *Publications*, the Hudson's Bay Record Society has published *Peter Skene Ogden's Snake Country Journal, 1826-27*, edited by K. G. Davies and A. M. Johnson, with an introduction by Dorothy O. Johansen (London, 1961. lxxii, 255 p.). Here is continued the story of Ogden's expeditions begun in volume 13 of the series, which presented the explorer's journals for 1824-26. According to Miss Johansen, Ogden's mission in the Snake River country during this period was to open up new hunting grounds, to locate routes of travel, and to forestall occupation of the region by American trappers who were pushing rapidly westward. In the months covered by the present book, Ogden's travels took him throughout much of eastern Oregon and into northern California but no farther east than the Snake River. American fur trade activity at about the same time is recounted by Don Berry in *A Majority of Scoundrels: An Informal History of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company* (New York, 1961. 432 p.). Mr. Berry's story opens with the expedition sponsored in 1822 by William H. Ashley and Andrew Henry which he claims brought large-scale American fur interests into the northern Rockies for the first time. For the next twelve years he follows the fortunes of the loosely organized and fiercely competitive American fur trade and the exploits of such renowned "mountain men" as James Bridger, William L. Sublette, Jedediah Smith, and Nathaniel Wyeth.

THE Yale University Press merits applause for making available in a handsome paperback Harold A. Innis' classic study of *The Fur Trade in Canada* (1962. 446 p. \$1.95). The revised edition issued by the University of Toronto Press in 1956 was used for the reprint, and a new foreword has been provided by Robin W. Winks. In it Mr. Winks offers biographical information on Innis and a thoughtful analysis of his life and work. He writes: "Innis was Canada's foremost historian, and it was *The Fur Trade in Canada* which, more than any of his other books, set him on the path to international fame." This book, says Mr. Winks, "is of the greatest significance because of Innis' fundamental reinterpretation

of North American history and because of the effect of that reinterpretation on subsequent scholarship." In calling attention to notable works on the fur trade that have appeared since Innis wrote in 1930, Mr. Winks comments that if the list "were pared to a half dozen of the best, Innis would remain." His "only serious lack," notes Mr. Winks, "was failure to obtain access to the closed archives of the Hudson's Bay Company, at Beaver House in London, so his volume should be supplemented by reading E. E. Rich's official history of the Company." Various prefaces and appendixes have been omitted from the reprint, but the index and the appendix containing "Comments by Author on Text" have happily been retained. J.D.H.

THE fascinating personal narrative of Charles Larpenteur, entitled *Forty Years a Fur Trader on the Upper Missouri*, has been reprinted by Ross and Haines, Inc., of Minneapolis from the 1898 edition with notes and introduction by Elliott Cones (1962. 473 p. \$8.75). The two-volume work, covering Larpenteur's career as a trader among the Sioux and the Blackfeet at Forts Union, Benton, Randall, and others, from 1833 to 1872, has been reprinted complete in one volume. The original illustrations and maps have been grouped at the end of what was volume one. The result is a clearly printed, substantial source book, full of the details of a raconteur's colorful life on the upper Missouri frontier.

THE LIVELY observations of Robert Clouston, recorded in letters from the Red River Settlement to his family in Orkney, form the basis of two articles by Elaine Allan Mitchell in recent issues of *The Beaver*. In the Spring, 1961, number, under the title "A Red River Gossip," Mrs. Mitchell presents the young man's first impressions of the settlement, which he reached in August, 1842, as a clerk for the Hudson's Bay Company. As the title indicates, the article is mainly limited to chatty and humorous gossip about social events and individuals of Clouston's acquaintance, most of whom have been identified in footnotes by the author. A more serious tone characterizes the later correspondence, quoted in the Fall issue, when "Clouston Goes to Pembina." He describes in some detail the border post of the Hudson's Bay Company and goes into a lengthy discussion of the eco-

nomics, social classes, and amusements of the Red River Settlement. Both articles are strikingly illustrated, the first with sketches by George E. Finlay, who was an officer at Fort Garry from 1846 to 1848. Readers of *Minnesota History* will recall Clouston's journal of a trip from Fort Garry to St. Louis, upon which Mrs. Mitchell based an article published in the June, 1958, issue of this magazine.

SIXTEEN folk songs of the Red River Settlement and Manitoba have been assembled by Margaret Arnett MacLeod in a little book entitled *Songs of Old Manitoba* (Toronto, 1960. 93 p.). Eleven of the songs, which are printed with music and both French and English airs, are drawn from the period of the fur trade and the métis. They recount exploits of the battle of Seven Oaks, Lord Selkirk, the buffalo hunt, General James Dickson's filibustering expedition of the 1830s, and the Riel rebellion.

"THE RED RIVER on the Eve of Change: 1857-1859," is the subject of an article by W. L. Morton in the Autumn issue of *The Beaver*. Mr. Morton examines the factors which during this two-year period produced intense pressures for change in the settlement's government and way of life — a demand that reached an unsuccessful climax, then subsided, allowing "a ten years' reprieve from progress" to the "unique and picturesque community along the banks of the Red and the Assiniboine." According to Mr. Morton the forces for change included the machinations of both Canadian and American annexationists; the prospective expiration of the Hudson's Bay Company's license to exclusive trade; and the pressure of competition from free traders, especially those operating from Minnesota. He concludes that "The arrival of the S.S. *Anson Northup* in July 1859, and James Wickes Taylor's visit in August," as well as the appearance in the same year of the first Canadian trader and the founding of the first newspaper, "were but after effects of a movement which was rapidly subsiding."

A HANDSOMELY printed, liberally annotated, two-volume edition containing over four hundred *Letters of Francis Parkman* has been edited and provided with an informative introduction by Wilbur R. Jacobs (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1960. 204 p., 286 p.). The correspondence covers the period from 1841, just after the close of Parkman's freshman year at Harvard, to 1893, the year of his death. Among the historian's numerous correspondents were Henry R. Schoolcraft,

Lyman C. Draper, Jared Sparks, George Bancroft, Frederic Remington, Charles Eliot Norton, and Pierre Margry. Many intimate letters in volume 2 deal with Parkman's efforts to get Margry's collections published. Other documents shed light on Parkman's research methods, on his battle against ill health and failing sight, and on his personal affairs. Of special interest are seven heretofore unpublished letters, which supplement his journals, written by Parkman to his parents while traversing the Oregon Trail in 1846, and three letters touching on his visit to Minnesota in 1867. Unfortunately, Parkman gives no details concerning his stop at Fort Snelling, saying merely that he retraced Hennepin's course as far as St. Anthony.

The Boston Brahmin himself is the subject of a readable, but less substantial, study by Howard Doughty entitled *Francis Parkman* (New York, Macmillan, 1962. 414 p. \$6.50). Roughly biographical in content and arrangement, the volume emphasizes Parkman's works. It is indexed, and though it is not annotated, it contains a brief bibliographical note on the sources used by the author.

J.D.H.

"MY PURPOSE in this essay is to survey American historiographical endeavor in the years between 1607 and 1884 in an attempt to discover why American historical studies developed as they did." Thus writes David D. Van Tassel in *Recording America's Past: An Interpretation of the Development of Historical Studies in America* (Chicago, 1960. 222 p.). The author goes on to explain that he was concerned "with trends and causes," rather than the work of individual historians, and that he selected 1884 as the terminal date of his study because it "was the year that trained historians took over the job of recording America's past by organizing the American Historical Association." Mr. Van Tassel proceeds chronologically to survey "Colonial Origins of Local History," "Problems of National History," "Nationalism versus Localism," and "Localism — the Lost Cause." He touches on the work of Edward D. Neill, noting that with "Francis Parkman, Neill was one of the first to make use of the as-yet-unpublished *Jesuit Relations* as a source" for his *History of Minnesota* published in 1858. He also comments that "Minnesotans were extremely slow in recording the history" of their Civil War regiments. A useful appendix lists American historical societies organized between 1790 and 1890, noting correctly the founding of the Minnesota Historical Society in 1849.

THE CENTENNIAL in 1961 of Frederick Jackson Turner's birth has prompted the appearance of a fresh spate of works on the distinguished Wisconsinite. Among them is a new volume entitled *Wisconsin Witness to Frederick Jackson Turner: A Collection of Essays on the Historian and His Thesis*, compiled by O. Lawrence Burnette, Jr., and published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (Madison, 1961. 204 p. \$4.00). The book reprints without change ten essays on various aspects of the man and his thought which were published in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* between 1917 and 1947. Also included is a biographical sketch of Turner by Merle E. Curti, originally published in 1949 in Mexico. The compiler has supplied an introduction to the reprint, explaining that over the years the Wisconsin journal "became a special vehicle for the publication of material on or about the state's most illustrious historian."

In the Winter, 1961, number of *North Dakota History*, Gerard G. Steckler, writing under the title "North Dakota versus Frederick Jackson Turner," undertakes to test Turner's thesis against the history of North Dakota. After briefly reviewing the state's development, Mr. Steckler concludes: "Apart from his failure to spell out in concrete detail railroad influence in such states as North Dakota . . . Frederick Jackson Turner's frontier thesis stands largely vindicated when applied to the moving frontier of the state of North Dakota."

The essays which prompted the continuing discussion—collected by Turner under the title *The Frontier in American History*—have been reissued in a new paperback edition by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc. (New York, 1962. 375 p. \$1.95). To it Ray Allen Billington contributes a foreword assessing the work and its author. He comments that "No one volume has done more to reshape the writing of American history."

A SUBSTANTIAL, full-length biography entitled *Stephen Watts Kearny: Soldier of the West* by Dwight L. Clarke has rescued that notable military man from historical eclipse (1961. 448 p.). The bulk of the book is devoted to Kearny's career in the Southwest and in California, his difficulties with John C. Frémont, and to his domestic life. One chapter on "The Winnebago War and Fort Crawford" deals with Kearny's service at Prairie du Chien, and another points up his important role in creating "The First Dragoons." Kearny's 1823 expedition into the Minnesota country is barely mentioned, and the author provides no assessment of its importance.

THE CAREER of a frontier artist whose adventures began as a member of the Frémont expedition of 1845 is the central theme of a work entitled *Edward Kern and American Expansion* by Robert V. Hine (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1962. 180 p. \$6.00.). Although much of the narrative revolves about Ned Kern, his brothers Richard and Benjamin, who like him were artists, figure prominently in the fascinating tale recorded by Mr. Hine. And it should be noted that the "expansion" here described was not limited by mountains or even by the Western Sea, but extended westward across the Pacific to Japan. Young Kern was concerned not only with picturing the West, but with studying its topography, and, writes Mr. Hines "through the Topographic Corps Kern made his chief contribution as a scientist." The fact that many names connected with Midwest history figure in this romantic record of the Far West enhances its interest for Minnesotans. Among them, in addition to that of Frémont himself, are James W. Abert, Stephen Watts Kearny, John Mix Stanley, Henry R. Schoolcraft, and Seth Eastman. The more than fifty illustrations in the work include reproductions of several water colors that Eastman based upon sketches by Edward Kern.

B.L.H.

IN A REPRINT somewhat crudely produced by offset, the firm of Ross & Haines, Inc., has issued a new edition of Mary Eastman's *Dahcotah: or, Life and Legends of the Sioux around Fort Snelling* (Minneapolis, 1962. \$6.75.). It makes available to contemporary readers some of the tales collected by the wife of a soldier-artist who was stationed at the Minnesota military post during much of the decade of the 1840s. With the work appear reproductions in black and white of the lithographs that Seth Eastman prepared for the original edition of 1849. The book, however, lacks an introduction and annotations that could have given it value for students of Midwest history.

THE University of Nebraska Press continues to add outstanding titles to its Bison Book series of paperback reprints. Among those issued in 1962 are: *Our Landed Heritage: The Public Domain, 1776-1936*, by Roy M. Robbins, reprinted from the Princeton University Press edition which appeared in 1942 (450 p. \$1.95); E. Douglas Branch's classic on *The Hunting of the Buffalo* to which J. Frank Dobie has contributed some new introductory comments on its eccentric author (240 p. \$1.40); *Reminiscences of a Ranchman* by Edgar B. Bronson (370 p. \$1.50); *Blackfoot Lodge*

Tales: The Story of a Prairie People by George B. Grinnell (310 p. \$1.50); and *Plenty-Coups: Chief of the Crows* by Frank B. Linderman (324 p. \$1.50).

NATIONAL POLITICS in the troubled pre-Civil War years during which Minnesota sought and achieved statehood are examined in two recent scholarly volumes. Of most direct interest to Minnesotans are *The Letters of Stephen A. Douglas*, edited by Robert W. Johansen (University of Illinois Press, Urbana, 1961. 558 p. \$10.00.). Among them are several pieces of correspondence resulting from Douglas' trip to Minnesota in August, 1857, "to witness the wonderful changes which have taken place in this beautiful country within the period of ten years, which has elapsed since I last saw it." In a letter addressed to Henry H. Sibley and a committee of prominent Democrats, he declined an invitation to address a public meeting because "the people of Minnesota are now engaged in forming a constitution and organizing a state government." He did, however, accept "with great pleasure" an invitation to visit the Democratic wing of the constitutional convention. In later letters, addressed to various Chicago newspapers, he refuted the charge that his visit had a connection with the sale of the Fort Snelling military reservation. This transaction gives rise to one of the few mentions of Minnesota made by Philip S. Klein in *President James Buchanan: A Biography* (The Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, 1962. 506 p. Illustrations. \$7.50.). Buchanan, according to Mr. Klein, was angry with his secretary of war, John B. Floyd, who "had sold Fort Snelling in Minnesota to a New York syndicate for a fraction of its value," and the president "gave him a lashing for being a dupe." The struggle over Minnesota's admission as a state during Buchanan's administration receives little discussion.

THE WASHINGTON peace conference of February, 1861, is examined by Robert Gray Gunderson in *Old Gentlemen's Convention* (University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1961. 168 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.). As Mr. Gunderson describes it, the conference was called by moderate leaders, mainly from the border states, in an attempt "to capture the emotions and channel the reactions of America's moderate majority," and avert war. Though representatives were sought from all states, "Radicals in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan refused to negotiate with 'traitors.'" Nearly a whole chapter is devoted to the local sentiments, discussions, and political maneuverings which

prevented the three states from participating and thus hastened the breakdown of "the American genius for compromise, for adjustment, and for conciliation." For his work, Mr. Gunderson has drawn upon "contemporary newspapers, the legislative journals of participating states, and ninety-three manuscript collections." In addition to extensive annotation, he has included a critical bibliography of his sources.

THE STATES of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, and Michigan are covered in a useful checklist of *Regimental Publications & Personal Narratives of the Civil War*, compiled by C. E. Dornbusch and published by the New York Public Library as volume one, part four, of the series (New York, 1962. 93 p. \$2.50). The material is arranged by artillery, cavalry, and infantry regiments, and the compiler supplies the date each was organized and mustered out. He then lists publications and personal accounts for each regiment. As might be expected, the two volumes of *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian War* and the publications of the Minnesota Historical Society, including this magazine, bulk large in the Minnesota listings.

THE BEGINNINGS of the Catholic church between the Allegheny and Rocky mountains is the subject of Robert F. Trisco's recently published study of *The Holy See and the Nascent Church in the Middle Western United States, 1826-1850* (Rome, Gregorian University Press, 1962. 408 p. \$5.90). Originally prepared by the author as a doctoral dissertation and later revised for publication, the work is arranged topically under the headings: dioceses, bishops, clergy, material aid, religious orders, discipline. Based largely upon the archives of the Sacred Congregation de Propaganda Fide in Rome, it contains an extensive bibliography and an index. As might be expected from the period covered, the study touches only briefly upon the Minnesota area, merely recording the request in 1849 "to set up a bishopric in St. Paul."

THE CAREER of "Moses K. Armstrong" in Dakota Territory receives attention from Mary Fleetwood in the Winter, 1961, number of *North Dakota History*. The author notes that Armstrong began his frontier activities as a surveyor in southern Minnesota. His work took him in 1859 to the Yankton vicinity, where he was to leave his mark on the Dakotas as a pioneer surveyor of lands and railroads, second treasurer of the territory, legislator, delegate to Congress, and newspaper editor. In 1878 he returned to Minnesota, living for a time at St. James. He

died at Albert Lea in 1906. A useful bibliography of material by and about Armstrong appears in the magazine.

CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES of Minnesota and the upper Great Lakes region receive prominent mention by Clarke A. Chambers in an article on "The Cooperative League of the United States of America, 1916-1961: A Study of Social Theory and Social Action," published in the April issue of *Agricultural History*. Reviewing the beginnings of the organization, Mr. Chambers states that "the Cooperative League grew out of Jewish democratic socialism and fraternalism and out of Finnish radicalism." The latter was supplied by the Finnish communities of northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, where "the local cooperative was frequently the kind of community center that the immigrant Church was elsewhere." In 1920, according to Mr. Chambers, the north central states accounted for approximately sixty per cent of the country's general retail co-operatives, and among these "the Finnish-controlled Central Cooperative Exchange enjoyed a dominant position." Later, in the early 1930s, he lists Midland Cooperative of Minneapolis among the farm purchasing associations which "played a major role in League history."

THE ATTITUDES of farmers toward New Deal legislation designed to aid rural, depressed areas during the 1930s are examined by Gilbert C. Fite in an article entitled "Farmer Opinion and the Agricultural Adjustment Act, 1933," in the March number of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*. Although "Opinions from the grass roots often made a disharmonious chorus," on such questions as surplus, cost of production, acreage curtailment, and production control, Mr. Fite points out that the hundreds of letters written to the secretary of agriculture and the president by farmers "show that they were not an ignorant, inarticulate group." Rather they "were thinking carefully about their problems and were much aware of the implications of the New Deal farm program." The author concludes that the widespread demand for some sort of farm relief placed the Roosevelt administration in a strong position to push agricultural legislation, but that "grass-roots opinion was more revered in theory than in practice by policy-makers."

AN ABSORBING and perceptive biography of *Scott Fitzgerald*, by Andrew Turnbull (New York, 1962. 364 p.) makes a solid addition to the growing literature on the Minnesota author. Mr. Turnbull has chosen to emphasize

his subject's somewhat elusive personality rather than his works, and as a result he has probed deeply into Fitzgerald's family background and St. Paul boyhood. A brief "Note on Method and Sources" at the end of the book reveals that in addition to using published works and Fitzgerald's papers (owned by Princeton University), Mr. Turnbull based his account on some 450 personal interviews and extensive correspondence with the author's friends and associates. These include a number of St. Paul people who knew him as a boy and young man. Mr. Turnbull's assessment of St. Paul as a primary influence in Fitzgerald's development is apparently shared by Charles E. Shain, author of a forty-eight-page essay on *F. Scott Fitzgerald*, published in 1961 by the University of Minnesota as number 15 in its series of *Pamphlets on American Writers*. Mr. Shain points out that although Fitzgerald ignored a friend's advice that he "do for Summit Avenue what Lewis has done for Main Street," he nevertheless "made his own kind of use of his Minnesota background." Although he admits that the "complete fusion between [Fitzgerald's] life and his stories" makes it difficult to "trust the tale and not the author," Mr. Shain devotes himself to a critical interpretation of the jazz-age writer's work rather than a biographical essay. R.R.G.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

A THIRTY-FIVE-PAGE BOOKLET on *Power Development in Minnesota* by Gene H. Hollenstein has been issued by the division of waters, Minnesota department of conservation as number 20 of its *Bulletins* (St. Paul, 1962). In a brief introduction, the author reviews the history of water-power development in the state, from the establishment in 1821 of a sawmill at the Falls of St. Anthony to the present day. Easily the most important feature of the publication for the historian, however, is a table listing 564 water-power dams built on Minnesota waters between 1839 and 1935, the dates when those not now in existence were destroyed, the present use and ownership of those surviving, and their locations. A map locating the dams is keyed for use with the table.

L.K.

THE LATEST bulletin of the Minnesota Geological Survey contains up-to-date information on Minnesota's eastern Mesabi Range, a district of interest in recent years for its deposits of taconite. Appearing as *Bulletin 43*, it is entitled *The Geology of the Metamorphosed Biwabik*

Iron-Formation, Eastern Mesabi District, Minnesota, and was written by James N. Gundersen and George M. Schwartz (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1962. 139 p. \$4.25). No detailed study of this area has been made since 1919. Thus the volume presents much new data based upon core samples of the formation. A brief but useful survey of the history of mining development in the district, notably in the Babbitt area, is included. Sections of the work are devoted to technical discussions of the stratigraphy, mineralogy, and metamorphism of the eastern Mesabi, and some comments on the "Practical Aspects" of the study appear as a final chapter. The book is illustrated with numerous charts, pictures, and maps.

J.D.H.

A USEFUL permanent record of a golden jubilee celebration held in 1960 has been published by the *Oklee Herald* under the title *The Oklee Community Story* (1960. 96 p.). This substantial, illustrated booklet, which was compiled by a local historical committee in connection with the jubilee, brings together much otherwise unavailable information on the development of the Red Lake County villages of Oklee and Brooks, and the townships of Chester, Deer Park, Equality, Garnes, Hickory, Hill River, Johnson, Lambert, Mayfield, and Poplar River. Much of the data was gathered in interviews with old residents of this area, which was opened for settlement in the 1880s, 1890s, and the early 1900s. Included are sketches of early settlers in each township, and of schools, churches, and other organizations.

A BOOKLET compiled and illustrated by Edward Lettermann describes *Farming in Early Minnesota* through the exhibits in the Ramsey County Historical Society's Agricultural Museum in St. Paul (1961. 46 p.). Designed to appeal to school children, the pamphlet has sections on "Getting a Farm," "Clearing Land," "Building with Logs," "Early Fences," "Preparing a Seed Bed," and "Harvesting." Each section is followed by a series of questions on the material presented.

A THIRTY-ONE-PAGE booklet has been issued by the Anoka Electric Cooperative to mark its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1962. The history of the organization is briefly told in a collection of letters written by persons who were active in its founding and management. Pictures of past and present officers are included, as well as a map of the extensive area in east central Minnesota serviced by the cooperative.

AN APPROPRIATION by the board of commissioners of Polk County has made possible the publication of the *Centennial History of Polk County*, by Thomas M. McCall (Crookston, 1961. n.p.). The book's twenty-six short chapters contain information on the organization of the county and some of its early settlers; Glacial Lake Agassiz; the Old Crossing Treaty of 1863, with a description of the memorial park on that site; and weather and precipitation trends over the past fifty years. Mr. McCall also discusses the development of the county's welfare program, its highways, and schools, devoting particular attention to the Northwest School and Experiment Station at Crookston. Crop and livestock reports and production tables are included for the years from 1910 through 1958, as are several maps and photographs. The book has no index and suffers from the absence of page numbers.

A SERIES of eight articles on St. Cloud and the Sioux War by Gertrude B. Gove appeared in the *St. Cloud Daily Times* for July 16, 17, 18, and 23-27. The articles are based largely on information from the *St. Cloud Democrat* of 1862, which was edited by Jane Grey Swisshelm. The author presents some history of the city and recounts local events before and during the Sioux Uprising, including the fortification of the Broker Block and the construction of Fort Holes. A detailed map of St. Cloud and some early photographs accompany the story. Miss Gove is also the compiler of *St. Cloud in Minnesota History*, a thirty-six-page pamphlet intended as a study aid for St. Cloud students using the textbooks entitled *Minnesota, Past and Present* (1955), by Antoinette E. Ford, and *Minnesota Star of the North* (1961), by Miss Ford and Neoma Johnson. Subject headings with page references to the two volumes are listed.

MEMBERS and friends of the Minnesota Historical Society noted with deep regret the death on November 25 of Mary W. Berthel, former associate editor on the society's staff. Mrs. Berthel, who retired in 1956, served the society for nearly thirty-six years. In that time she edited and guided through the press some twenty-six volumes, including Dr. William W. Folwell's classic four-volume *History of Minnesota*. In some instances she was both author and editor, notably in the preparation of *Horns of Thunder* and *Minnesota Under Four Flags*. Her long-continued, faithful, and high-level services and contributions to the institution make her one of its genuine builders.



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