

Nor is Mr. Fenton correct in asserting that issue orientation entered Minnesota politics only in 1944. This in fact runs directly counter to his description of the Farmer-Labor party of the 1930s as "frankly socialist." To be sure, the Farmer-Labor party used patronage widely and was criticized heavily for it. But its campaigns were programmatic and its adherents believed in their cause with a religious fervor.

In dealing with the 1940s, Mr. Fenton has overestimated the influence of Hubert H. Humphrey in arranging the Democratic-Farmer-Labor merger. As a Democrat, Humphrey was identified with a sort of "non-party" that existed in Minnesota primarily for purposes of patronage. Fusion came about because the Farmer-Laborites, led by Elmer Benson, were amenable to it. From the rosy glow of the wartime Soviet-American alliance, both left- and right-wingers looked forward to a new and better postwar world.

There are many other comments and corrections that might be made, space permitting. The reader must allow throughout for a general overstatement of the case. Yet on balance, Professor Fenton's conclusion that Minnesota politics are highly issue-oriented is essentially correct.

For those who desire a reasonably up-to-date analysis and a comparison with other midwestern states, time given to reading this book will be well spent.

UNIONS IN POLITICS

Labor Politics in a Democratic Republic: Moderation, Division, and Disruption in the Presidential Election of 1928. By VAUGHN DAVIS BORNET. (Washington, Spartan Books, Inc., 1964. xiii, 376 p. \$6.95.)

Reviewed by George B. Engberg

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN of 1928 lives in the memory of many Americans as the Hoover-Smith struggle highlighted by the intrusion of the religious and Prohibition issues. In discussing the labor aspects of the election Professor Bornet reaffirms the general belief that the American Federation of Labor was officially neutral and that smaller bodies and

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union leaders often took sides, more or less openly. The railroad brotherhoods leaned toward Hoover, partly because of their long antiliquor position. The teamsters under the leadership of Daniel Tobin were enthusiastically pro-Smith, as they hoped repeal would provide more brewery wagons and trucks to drive. The New York State Federation of Labor could not contain its enthusiasm for a governor who had been sympathetic to its aims.

Many labor leaders were especially interested in curbing the prevalent use of injunctions in labor cases. Although they were not happy with the party platforms on this issue and hoped for the passage of the anti-injunction bill introduced by Senator Henrik Shipstead of Minnesota, the unions had to settle for a general airing of the issue that contributed in some measure to the passage in 1932 of the Norris-LaGuardia Act. Although the author carefully follows a neutral course between the principal candidates in 1928, he is obviously unimpressed with the claims of the Communist and Socialist parties and their candidates. In general he appears to favor the relatively low-pressure level of labor participation which took place in the 1928 campaign in contrast to the more active and more effective union involvement of the past thirty years.

The publication of this doctoral dissertation fifteen years after its original writing and without bringing it up to date by the addition of more recent research has produced a book of doubtful merit. It is further marred by a lack of careful editorial supervision and proofreading, which may be in part a reflection of the standards of a little-known publisher. There is also the larger question of whether or not a political effort as minor as that of organized labor in 1928 deserves book-length treatment.

FARM STRIKES

Cornbelt Rebellion: The Farmers' Holiday Association. By JOHN L. SHOVER. (Urbana and London, University of Illinois Press, 1965. vi, 239 p. Illustrations. \$5.95.)

Reviewed by Theodore Saloutos

AMONG those who believe that the farm holiday movement was a highly significant chapter in American agrarian protests is John L. Shover, the author of *Cornbelt Rebellion*, which covers

this episode from 1932 until its expiration in 1937. Although scholars may question the significance he attaches to these particular strikes, few will question the earnestness with which he has tackled his subject. He has utilized hitherto unavailable manuscript materials, has interviewed men who were active in the movement, and has had the benefit of dissertations written on the topic. The net result is the most extensive treatment of the holiday movement that has appeared in print.

Apart from seriously wondering whether the subject deserves book-length treatment, this reviewer has the feeling that the study suffers from a lack of incisive analysis. The author's explanations of why the movement failed leave much to be desired. A better grasp of rural economics and psychology, plus an understanding of why the farmers preferred the Farm Bureau or nonfarm strike approach in seeking to resolve their difficulties, would have helped explain the lack of appeal in the Farmers' Holiday Association — as would a more extensive treatment of why and how the New Deal took the wind out of the movement's sails. We find no serious attempt to analyze the milk market and the problems faced by the producers.

The farm strikes of the 1930s were not as novel as the author seems to think. A work stoppage in the tobacco country during 1908, which was accompanied with violence, arson, and mayhem was at least conducive to short-range results — more so than the Iowa version of the 1930s. Also efforts were made to keep tobacco from going to market at a later time that were accompanied with frequent threats, and occasionally actual force.

Despite its limitations *Cornbelt Rebellion* clearly stands out as the most complete account available. If nothing else, the farm holiday movement dramatized the plight of the farmers, even though it never acquired much of a following and its accomplishments are questionable. Mr. Shover presents some good vignettes of those left-of-center agrarian "leaders" who failed to win the support of the farmers during one of the most trying periods in history. A handsome jacket and excellent illustrations enhance the physical format of the book.

Mr. Saloutos, who is well known for his work in the fields of agricultural and immigration history, is professor of history in the University of California at Los Angeles.

CARTOON HISTORY

The Story of Fort Snelling. By KERN O. PEDERSON. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1966. 51 p. \$1.50.)

Reviewed by Kenneth Carley

THE MINNESOTA Historical Society's new "Minnesota Historic Sites Pamphlet Series," funded by the state's Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission, gets off to an auspicious start with this well-drawn, well-researched cartoon booklet on Fort Snelling.

As Director Russell W. Fridley of the society points out in his introduction, the fort is a fitting initial subject for the series. According to Mr. Fridley: "The fort, which was for thirty years the northwesternmost in the nation, dominated and shaped Minnesota's early development."

Author-artist Kern O. Pederson tells Fort Snelling's story chronologically by means of careful drawings and rather extensive copy blocks, marred only by occasional clumsy hyphenization. These panels appear on the right-hand pages. Facing them on left-hand pages are quotations from writings of persons dealt with in the text. For all this Mr. Pederson had the benefit of research help by society staff members and of new detailed information turned up in the course of preparations for the fort's restoration.

The booklet opens with Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike's selection and purchase of the site in 1805 and goes on to tell how Colonel Josiah Snelling built the fort in the early 1820s. The author gives appropriate space to Indian Agent Lawrence Taliaferro, to the not-too-exciting life at the wilderness stronghold, to Minnesota's first library, theater, Protestant church, and other "firsts" at the fort, to explorers and visitors, and to soldiers who served there and later became famous. Mr. Pederson ends with the fort's restoration now going on.

Although Fort Snelling's story lacks the drama to be found in the history of western posts attacked by enemy forces, Mr. Pederson has found enough details and variety of subjects to make his booklet unfailingly interesting.

Mr. Carley is on the staff of the Minneapolis Tribune and is the author of several books dealing with the military history of Minnesota.

RED RIVER HISTORY

Manitoba: The Birth of a Province. By W. L. MORTON. (Altona, Manitoba Record Society Publications, 1965. xxx, 265 p. Illustrations. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by Alvin C. Gluek, Jr.

THIS BOOK is the first in a series of document collections intended to illustrate the history of the Province of Manitoba. Issued in a limited edition, the volume is obtainable with a membership in the Manitoba Record Society. It consists of an introduction, nine carefully selected documents — all pertaining to “the birth of the Province” — and two appendixes, whose usefulness belies the normal nature of such organs. Of all the documents, the following are most significant: the uncensored account of Donald A. Smith’s successful olive branch mission on behalf of the Canadian government to the Red River Settlement during the winter of 1869–70; a selection from letters by James W. Taylor, secret agent of the United States State Department, while he was in Ottawa, serving hopefully as a listening post for the secretary of state; a diary kept by Sir Stafford Northcote, governor of the Hudson’s Bay Company, on his journey to North America in the spring to oversee the affairs of his company and make plans for its future in Canada; and the journal of the Reverend N.-J. Ritchot, the principal delegate from Red River to Ottawa and the man chiefly responsible for securing almost everything his compatriots wished when they confederated with Canada.

By its definition, the volume necessarily excludes much material of interest to Minnesotans. For when the birth of the province became sure, the “wire-pullers” and jingoists from that state became less and less significant. Even Taylor, that prophet of manifest destiny, seemed to have lost his old bearings; his Ottawa letters were more concerned with the chances for tariff revision than territorial reversion. Of interest, however, to Minnesota historians will be Smith’s complete report; it reveals not only the machinations of that subtle diplomat but also the shadowy role of the Red River priests,

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whose part in the rebellion has always been more hinted at than known.

As one has been led to expect, Professor Morton has done a thorough and scholarly job. Though brief, his introduction is well balanced. In this reviewer’s opinion, it is the best short account of the causes underlying the first Riel Rebellion and of the events which led to Red River’s ultimate admission into the dominion. All the documents are well chosen, and upon each of them is bestowed an introductory paragraph or two which serves to set the historical stage and situate the actors. The citations are useful; footnotes are abundant, illuminating the text and identifying people and places; countless cross references exist for the reader’s convenience; and the index is more than adequate. In short, the book is a fitting exemplar for the series proposed by the Manitoba Record Society.

HISTORICAL JUSTICE

The Nez Perce Indians and the Opening of the Northwest. By ALVIN M. JOSEPHY, JR. (New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1965. xx, 705 p. Maps, illustrations. \$12.50.)

Reviewed by Helen McCann White

THIS STORY of the Nez Percés Indians, told in authoritative detail, is supplemented by eleven maps, extensive footnotes, an appendix, an excellent bibliography of primary and secondary sources, and twenty-four illustrations which include F. Jay Haynes’s splendid photograph of Chief Joseph made in Bismarck in 1877 and Gustavus Sohon’s 1855 sketches of many of the Nez Percés leaders. The index is poor and not at all worthy of the book; parts of the story could have been summarized and more generalizations could have been made to guide the reader through what seems, at times, a stunning amount of day-to-day information. Yet one should not ask for a shorter book. In a thoroughly scholarly manner justice is done the Nez Percés’ story, and some kind of justice has been due for a long time. Minnesotans should hope that some historian of Mr. Josephy’s ability and sensitivity will come forward soon to present a similar account of the Sioux and Chippewa.

The Nez Percés' story is one of epic proportions. It comprises seventy-five crucial years in the history of these people from the time when the first white men encountered them and called them "Nez Percés" because of the bits of decorative shell worn in their noses, to the thundering climax of a long delaying action in which the Indians outwitted and outgeneraled their pursuers but, already overwhelmed by the white man's civilization, finally surrendered to his army. The drama was played against a panorama of "soaring mountains and wild headlands," and Mr. Josephy writes with appreciation of that part of the Inland Empire of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington — the ancestral home of the Nez Percés — which is some of the most untamed and beautiful land in the American West. He follows the Indians after their long flight to their present abodes on reservations near Lewiston, Idaho, and the Grand Coulee region of Washington where, alienated from their native culture and transplanted from their homes, they have yet to be integrated into the mainstream of American life.

Two chapters in the drama are worthy of special mention. Particularly interesting for Minnesotans is the one on the Idaho gold fields. The discovery of gold on Nez Percés' lands in the Salmon River district of present-day Idaho touched off the Montana gold fever of the 1860s in which Minnesotans played a significant role. In a footnote to this chapter the author recounts several versions of the naming

of Idaho but does not include James L. Fisk's assertion that it was he who proposed the name in 1863.

A few white leaders like General Nelson A. Miles and Charles Erskine Scott Wood emerge with some dignity in this book, but men like Governor Isaac I. Stevens — admirable in other respects — are depicted as miserably unjust to the Indians.

Missionaries as well as fur traders, gold seekers, Indian office officials, and army men bear the shame of corrupting the Nez Percés. Mr. Josephy's well-documented chapter on them makes clear that, dedicated though they may have been, the missionaries were in many respects narrow, self-serving, jealous, intolerant, and insensitive in their relations to each other and with the Indians. Most of them saw little good in the red man's culture and attempted to destroy it in favor of "civilization" and Christianity.

In all the tragic bewilderment of the seventy-five years here covered, Indian heroes emerge. None stands higher than Chief Joseph, a brave man who fought for his people and his ancient culture in quiet dignity and in the finest traditions of his own civilization and the religion and civilization of the white man.

Mrs. White, whose book on expeditions to the gold fields will be published later this year, is on the staff of the National Historical Publications Commission.

. . . on the *HISTORICAL HORIZON*

INTEREST in Norse voyages to North America continues to be reflected in various recent books, among them Helge Ingstad's stirring narrative of his search for the sites of early Norse settlements in America. His Norwegian edition, *Vesterveg til Vinland* (Western way to Vinland), is a handsomely printed volume with remarkable color illustrations (Oslo, 1965. 284 p.). It tells of the finding and excavation (with Mrs. Ingstad) of the village site discovered at L'Anse au Meadows, at the northwestern tip of Newfoundland. The narrative is popular but includes notes, a bibliography, and an index. An English edition will soon be available. Another book of interest is Farley Mowat's *West-*

viking: The Ancient Norse in Greenland and North America (Boston, 1965. 494 p.). The author, who lives in Newfoundland, is a writer of many books about the north country, and his knowledge of the region is matched by his familiarity with the sagas. He wrote this book before the Vinland map of about 1440 was published by Yale University, but his findings conflict basically neither with that map nor with the discoveries of Dr. Ingstad. Mr. Mowat closes with an account of "The Norse in Hudson Strait and Ungava Bay," which brings to mind recent newspaper notices of a possible Norse settlement now being excavated on the Ungava Peninsula by Laval University's Nordic Studies

Center. The site is reported to be that of a European type village, with house foundations and a stone dam.

Unlike Dr. Ingstad, Mr. Mowat takes some note of the Kensington rune stone. He pays no attention to the linguistic aspects of its inscription, but he sweeps aside the theory of a trip via the Nelson and Red rivers, links the stone with the Beardmore weapons and artifacts found in Ontario, and suggests that the Norse may have sailed through Hudson Strait to James Bay, and then made their way toward Lake Nipigon. The rune stone, he suggests, may have been left somewhere in that vicinity and then transported by Indians as a "cult object" to its ultimate finding place in Minnesota. If one assumes that the runologists are all wrong — a most dangerous assumption — the James Bay theory may seem as tenable as the hypothesis of a fourteen-day journey in 1362 from Hudson Bay to Kensington. The Kensington matter is discussed as a minor item by Mr. Mowat, and he presents his speculations if one admits "the possibility that the Kensington Stone might have originated somewhere other than at Kensington." He takes cognizance of the theory that the Beardmore finds, which are definitely Norse in origin, may have been "planted." In any case, he is convinced that the Norse knew about Hudson Strait.

An interesting book not hitherto mentioned in this series of notes is the late Tryggvi J. Oleson's study of *Early Voyages and Northern Approaches 1000–1632*, a volume in the Canadian Centenary Series (London and New York, 1964. 211 p.). One of its central theses is that the Thule culture, which preceded modern Eskimo culture, was produced by a mingling of Norse and aboriginal Arctic people some five hundred years before the time of Columbus. For Minnesota readers, perhaps the most interesting chapter is on mythical voyages to America, in which the author includes the alleged Paul Knutsson expedition which Hjalmar R. Holand believed sailed from Norway in 1355. Oleson ridicules the assumptions that underlie the Holand theory.

The contemporary interest in the Norse voyages probably explains the appearance of a new translation of *The Vinland Sagas: The Norse Discovery of America*, by Magnus Magnusson and Hermann Palsson. This was first published as a Penguin book in 1965 and has this year been brought out by New York University Press (124 p. \$4.50.). There have been many translations of the two Vinland sagas, including a notable version by Einar Haugen in his book *Voyages to Vinland* (1942). The new translation includes an incisive introduction

and a useful glossary of the place and personal names mentioned in the two sagas.

FIVE MORE books dealing with the life and works of Minnesota's F. Scott Fitzgerald have recently been published. Henry Dan Piper, dean of the college of liberal arts and sciences in Southern Illinois University, is the author of *F. Scott Fitzgerald: A Critical Portrait* (New York, 1965. 334 p.). Predictably, the first chapter is devoted to the writer's youth in St. Paul; however, here and throughout the volume Mr. Piper emphasizes the writings rather than the biography of his subject, and he considers the jazz-age novelist as a tragic writer whose major theme was "the morality of money" and whose reputation "may ultimately rest as solidly upon his intellectual achievement as upon his inimitable prose style." The book is fully annotated and has an index. Unlike Mr. Piper, Sergio Perosa sees *The Art of F. Scott Fitzgerald* (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1965. 239 p.) as an achievement of "modern tragicomedy of manners." This book is a translation from a 1961 Italian edition; it contains almost no personal history and is a detailed, annotated, literary appraisal of Fitzgerald's work. Edited with an introduction by John R. Kuehl is *The Apprentice Fiction of F. Scott Fitzgerald, 1909–1917* (New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1965. 184 p.). Four of the fifteen early stories here reprinted are from the St. Paul Academy's literary magazine, *Now and Then*. Mr. Kuehl has also written the introduction for a facsimile reproduction of the *Thoughtbook of Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald* (Princeton, New Jersey, 1965. n.p.), a journal which the future author kept during his fifteenth year. A fifth volume, *The Composition of Tender Is the Night* by Matthew J. Bruccoli (Pittsburgh, 1963. 252 p.), applies scholarly methods to a single work by Minnesota's apostle of the "roaring Twenties."

THE ROLE of *The National Farmers Union* is examined by John A. Crampton in a new book whose subtitle — *Ideology of a Pressure Group* — reveals the direction of the author's analysis (Lincoln, Nebraska, 1965. 251 p.). Described by Mr. Crampton as "not a history . . . but a study in ideas and their ramifications," the volume nevertheless traces the development of the Farmers Union from its inception in 1902 through the early 1960s. It also emphasizes the ideological background of the organization. Mr. Crampton notes that the Union was founded in the tradition of Populism and that "today it is probably the sole effective voice of the old agrarianism." In the line of this tradition, it has consistently "brought conservative rural im-

pulses to the service of liberal causes." The author, a native of Minnesota, has based his work primarily on eighty-seven interviews with leaders and personnel of the Farmers Union in 1956 and 1957 and on convention minutes kept since the group's founding.

THE STATE Historical Society of Wisconsin has published a guide to *Wisconsin's Civil War Archives*, compiled by William G. Paul with the assistance of David J. Delgado and Jack K. Jalings (Madison, 1965. vi, 66 p. \$1.00.). The booklet lists and describes the record holdings of the archives and manuscripts division of that society which relate to Wisconsin's role in the conflict. The introduction gives a brief history of the state's activities — military and domestic — both during and after the Civil War. Records are grouped according to the office of origin, and a sketch of the wartime function of each agency precedes the listing of the records. The description of individual record groups contains inclusive dates of the manuscripts, the quantity and the types of documents, the correspondents, and the subjects discussed.

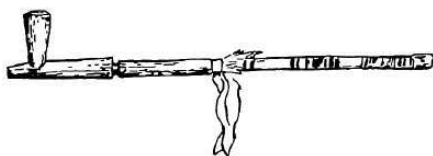
Janet K. White

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

"THE NEED for breeding and improvement of crop plants" resulted in an organization to enhance the crop conditions in Minnesota, says H. L. Thomas in *A History of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, 1903-1963* (Minneapolis, 1963. 88 p.). The principal objectives of this group, which was formed at the state fair in 1903, were "to collect and disseminate crop information, improve by breeding and selection, encourage better cultivation, publish transactions, and to aid in the organization of subordinate and auxiliary organizations throughout the state." The author notes that before 1920 the association had widened its area of activity to include a system of inspection and certification of fields and seeds, and that members of the Minnesota group played a prominent role in setting up an international body in 1919 with the same goals.

A GENEROUSLY illustrated booklet, telling the *History of Pipestone National Monument Minnesota* has been published by the Pipestone Indian Shrine Association in co-operation with the National Park Service (Pipestone, 1965. 60 p.). Its author, Robert A. Murray, who was formerly park historian at the Pipestone National Monument, points out in his brief introduction that the "booklet is intended to present

a detailed, accurate account of the area . . . during the period since the first official, direct Federal contact with it." Thus he touches only briefly on such early visitors as George Catlin, Joseph N. Nicollet, and John C. Frémont, and not at all on the body of lore — both Indian and white — that surrounds the quarry. Instead he deals mainly with the involved and often antagonistic relations among the United States government, the Yankton Sioux (to whom the treaty of 1858 guaranteed quarrying rights), and the white settlers and entrepreneurs of the area, tracing the slow process by which over nearly a century the concept of preserving the quarry as a national heritage took shape. Mr. Murray's account thus supplements in important respects the one given by Theodore L. Nydahl in *Minnesota History* (December, 1950), which has hitherto been the main historical treatment of the Pipestone Quarry.



NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

FOR HIS article on "Pride of the Pioneer's Parlor: Pianos in Early Minnesota," which appeared in the Winter, 1965, issue of *Minnesota History*, Donald C. Holmquist of St. Paul received the society's Solon J. Buck Award for 1965. The award, which carries with it a prize of a hundred dollars, is given each year to the author of the best article appearing in the society's quarterly. The winner for 1965 was selected by a committee consisting of Carlton C. Qualey, head of the history department at Carleton College, Clarence W. Rife, professor emeritus at Hamline University, and Rhoda R. Gilman, editor of the quarterly. Professor Rife presented the award at the society's annual meeting in St. Paul on April 28.

A TWELVE-PAGE *Guide to a Microfilm Edition of the Lawrence Taliaferro Papers* by Helen McCann White has been made possible by a grant from the National Historical Publications Commission to the society (St. Paul, 1966. \$1.00.). The pamphlet describes the complete microfilm edition of the Taliaferro Papers (four rolls), which may be purchased from the society's manuscript department for \$12.50 per roll. The entire set and the booklet cost \$40.00. A future issue of *Minnesota History* will review this important microfilm publication.



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