The thwarted plan takes its place alongside others on the growing list of schemes for which Fort Snelling has been fair game over the past decade. Suggested uses for the area have included an addition to the airport, a federal office building, a high-rise office building for the army, a junior college, and a zoo.

Happily, the environmental and historical values have prevailed, but one would be naive to believe that this will be the last threat to the integrity of the Fort Snelling area. One has only to look downriver in St. Paul to visualize the effect that a projected high-rise apartment project would have. If it is put up, the monstrous building will literally cast a shadow on the old fort during certain hours every day. The Fort Snelling area will not be secure from such environmental incursions until its unique historical values and open spaces are protected by a strong zoning law. The legislature has been highly receptive to Fort Snelling. Zoning legislation should be the next order of business in regard to the fort.

RUSSELL W. FRIDLEY, *Director*

BOOK REVIEWS

The Expeditions of John Charles Frémont. Volume I. Travels from 1838–1844. Edited by Donald Jackson and Mary Lee Spence. (Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1970. xliv, 854 p. $22.50 with map portfolio.)

THIS FIRST VOLUME of documents, published and unpublished, concerning the explorations of John Charles Frémont is, as the editors rightly point out, "in many ways . . not a documentation of the man, but rather of the events in which he participated." Much valuable information is brought together here for the first time — a fragment of a diary, letters from many collections, and the very important vouchers from the National Archives, as well as the published reports of the expeditions and passages from Frémont's *Memoirs of My Life,* published in 1887 and long out of print.

Unfortunately, the presentation of this material is disappointing. I believe that the scholar (and such a book is primarily intended for him) has the right to expect certain features in the publication of edited documents: a clear statement of the scope of the volume, a lucid discussion of the editor's policies in handling the problems common to all such documents (transcription methods, scientific or specialized information, place names, identification of persons, to name a few), and footnotes clarifying the text at specific points and providing sources for information. An editor's introduction is usually included to place the subject of the documents in historical perspective. Above all, the convenience of the reader and, indeed, the integrity of the whole volume demand that these various types of information be clearly differentiated in the presentation of the material.

It is irritating to realize, as one looks in vain for editors' guidelines, that the aim of this volume apparently is to avoid any appearance of conventional scholarship. It is difficult, in fact, to know for whose use it is intended. The style of the introduction and notes is conversational and maddeningly imprecise in places where one very much wants to know something exactly. An editor cannot be omniscient, but he is expected to state his intentions plainly. Such a statement, however, depends upon his mastery of the material, and this reviewer must conclude that such mastery is lacking in this production.

Indeed, there is no clear declaration of the scope of the volume. In a subdivision of the introduction, called "The Documents and the Project," the opinion is expressed that "no sensible editor would undertake a complete edition of Frémont papers." This reviewer is inclined to agree. We read further: "He would seize . . . upon every shred which bears upon the expeditions of 1838–54." Have the editors done this? One might assume so, but the discussion which follows bears no coherent relation to the selection of documents in the volume or to their arrangement. A list of "published documents upon which Frémont's reputation came to rest in his own lifetime" is followed by a detailed account of the publication of his *Memoirs.*

Another section of the introduction is "On the Annotation of Botanical Matters." It is the editors' only effort to explain their handling of the scientific content of the documents. They have been "taxed to make a meaningful contribution" to the "systematic botanist" or to the "untrained reader" regarding the numerous botanical references, but the attempt is made and the organization described. One would like a statement, however, as to why botany alone was selected and not geography, place names, and geology.

Were the Frémont expeditions especially successful in the field of botany?

One hopes for more help from the "commentary" on the accompanying map portfolio than from the book's introduction, and the former does offer much valuable information about the five large maps included in the portfolio. But the same cavalier style continues to baffle the reader. Mr. Jackson, who claims sole responsibility for this commentary, spends the first paragraphs dismissing the "everlasting debate" among scholars about how deeply one should annotate and search before publishing. He decides that "the editor who attempts to exhaust his subject through annotation is not only doomed to failure — he has missed the whole point of his calling. An editor's work is meant to be pillaged." On the bottom of the next page the reader learns that "this commentary is designed to introduce, not to analyze in depth, the printed maps associated with Frémont." This is the first indication we have that the editor has limited his selection to printed maps. He does not elaborate.

For the analysis of the maps, Mr. Jackson refers the researcher to Carl I. Wheat's *Mapping the Transmississippi West,* but he leaves the reader in the dark as to what sort of analysis he himself finds it unnecessary to give. Accuracy of location? Importance to the history of the explorations? Methods of cartography? Nowhere does the editor discuss Frémont as a geographer. Mr. Jackson writes that "the errors on the [1845] map are well known to scholars." Does he, then, list all of the errors or only a few? We do not know.

The editor also writes in the commentary that he has relied upon the unpublished work of a geographer, Fred I. Green of Reno, Nevada, of which he says there is an "inadequate summary" in volume I. This reviewer, however, was unable to discover it. Also, there is no mention of Mr. Green in the index. Perhaps the summary is there, but one should not be required to search for it through all of the volume.

While the footnotes quite adequately point out the specific points in the text needing documentation, they too often contain statements of policy as well — as, for example, on page 171: "A word is required about our approach to the identification of topographical features, campsites, and other matters of geographical interest." Another case occurs in the note to Frémont's manuscript report of his Des Moines survey. This note begins chattily, "Now that John and Jessie are married," and continues with a discussion of the policy of the editors toward manuscripts which are signed with Frémont's name by his wife, Jessie, of which this is, apparently, the first instance. This discussion is, furthermore, confusing because it states that ALS-JBF means "a letter purportedly written and signed by JCF but actually produced in its entirety by Jessie Benton Frémont." The list of symbols preceding the documents, however, states that ALS-JBF means "Frémont's name signed by Jessie." Are we to assume that Jessie wrote the report of the Des Moines survey?

In the "Editorial Procedures" section of the introduction, the sources used in the footnotes are described thus: "No source is cited for the kind of biographical information to be found in standard directories, genealogies, and similar aids." While I share the editors' dislike of the picayune in history, I think this statement irresponsible.

One frequently wonders why the source of the editor's information on some people is given while that for others often less easily identified is withheld. For example, the note on Charles W. Irish on page 69 is documented while the note on Louis Zindel on page 68 is undocumented. It is peculiar, too, that an anecdotal note on the difficulty encountered in identifying the signature of Ferdinand Gerdes, a correspondent of Frémont, should occupy half a page. The user of a volume of documents wants and needs labor-saving information and consistency in the editor's use of it.

Those sections of the introduction in which the evaluation of Frémont's place in history is purportedly to be found are, in the opinion of this reviewer, a total disaster if they are to be used as a lasting reference for the meaning and significance of Frémont's expeditions. There is a very adequate and well-researched account of Frémont's "Parentage and Early Years," but this does not relate well to a book entitled *The Expeditions of John Charles Frémont.* A statement is made that the volumes will deal with the "first forty years of his life, and how they affected the future of the nation." A tall order this, but we learn little except that Frémont followed established trails of wagon trains, that he was promoted by his father-in-law, Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, and that he was overshadowed by his amanuensis and wife, Jessie. Why then write about him at all? A historian dealing with "the importance of the period, and the social and political climate" (to quote the editors) should surely have a comment, or a note, on the importance of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, or upon the policies of the government toward civilian scientists, or an account of previous expeditions under government sponsorship.

It has not been an agreeable experience to write this review, especially since I have exchanged with one of the editors information helpful to us both. But a collection of material is one thing and its presentation is another. "Naturally," writes Mr. Jackson (why "naturally"?), "the first duty of an editor is to search out, and present in as nearly their original form as possible, the documents concerning his subject." One wishes that he had been content with this first duty. The confusion which results from this careless writing and arrangement would then have been avoided. This volume would have greatly benefited from the services of an objective editor who had clearly in mind the purpose of a collection of documents. In the opinion of this reviewer, this volume was in no way ready for publication.

Reviewed by MARTHA C. BRAY, *editor of* The Journals of Joseph N. Nicollet *and currently at work on a biography of that explorer-cartographer.*

The Roots of the Modern American Empire: A Study of the Growth and Shaping of Social Consciousness in a Marketplace Society. By William Appleman Williams.
(New York, Random House, 1969. xxiv, 547 p. $15.00.)

DESPITE THE TITLE, this book deals largely with the Middle West and its needs, ideas, and attitudes. Minnesota political leaders figure prominently in the story of America's growing international involvement throughout the nineteenth century. William Appleman Williams contends that that involvement was conceived and nourished in what we thought was the very bosom of isolationism — the farming areas of the nation's heartland. He attempts to show that the desire to expand into foreign markets was first felt in agricultural areas, that farmers and their spokesmen persuaded the rest of the nation that America needed foreign expansion, and that the political history of the nineteenth century was shaped by their efforts. Free silver, for example, is seen as a way of penetrating the markets hitherto controlled by Great Britain.

By the 1890s, according to Professor Williams, the extended efforts of agricultural businessmen bore fruit as the depression of that decade drove frightened Americans to war with Spain for the "free American marketplace" and thrust America "through the Open Door to Empire." In the author's eyes, this is all relevant today: "Yesterday's not dead or gone," he observes. "We're just meeting it head-on for the first time in a hundred years."

In the last decade, Professor Williams has been influential in reorienting and re-evaluating the history of American foreign policy. In several earlier books he elaborated the proposition that our foreign policy has been shaped by economic needs or imagined needs and guided by values derived from the marketplace. Some of his conclusions can no longer be denied. But in the years since he began his assault on the pieties of American diplomatic history, the climate of opinion that receives his scholarship has changed. Years of watching United States troops slogging around Indochina, of hearing the lies and subterfuges that surround each new moral disaster, have made it difficult to interpret American foreign policy as "idealistic" or disinterested. Many people are now prepared to believe the worst, and historical interpretation that seemed outrageous ten years ago is today the conventional wisdom of millions. That, however, is the danger. This consensus begs the question of whether or not such writing is good history. On several counts, *The Roots of the American Empire* is not.

Let us look first at the sources. The book is heavy with footnotes and quotations, and in a long preface the author describes his arduous researches. Now the purpose of all the apparatus of scholarship, as every schoolboy knows, is to make it possible for other scholars to examine the same materials and judge for themselves whether the conclusions seem valid.

In this book the apparatus of scholarship could not be more cumbersomely used. Tracking down a reference in the backnotes requires the patience of Job and the eyes of an eagle. Once back there, one finds references that sometimes have little to do with the matter that is being discussed in the text. The author observes, for example, that the National Civic Federation "compromised their policy differences during an August 1898 meeting at Saratoga Springs." The source? James Weinstein's *The Corporate Ideal in the Liberal State*. The whole book.

In the bibliography, another scholarly aid, no effort is made to tell where manuscript collections may be found — and in some cases the job of finding out would not be easy. The reader is not told, either, which collections the author has examined at length and which he has merely obtained selected documents from. If Williams had done any amount of work in the Cushman K. Davis Papers, he could not have called him a "Populist." These are not picayune matters, since the author takes great pains to persuade us that he has provided an unimpeachable case for his thesis.

Williams' assurances notwithstanding, his view of late nineteenth century farm protest and reform movements is uneasily at odds with the last twenty years of historical research. Two decades of scholarship are cavalierly dismissed on two grounds: Populist scholars have not done enough work in primary sources, and their work is "deficient in conceptualization."

Essential to Williams' argument is his contention that sentiment in favor of foreign expansion began at the grass roots level. Why then does he ignore studies of voting behavior in the Midwest during the period that concerns him? Samuel Hays' analyses of election results in Iowa, for example, suggest that ethnic and cultural issues such as prohibition, language, and Sunday observance were the most important determinants of voting attitudes. How are we to reconcile this with Williams' belief that all the things we *thought* farmers were voting for were foreign trade in disguise?

Readers of *Minnesota History* may remember an article entitled "James J. Hill and the Trade with the Orient" (Winter, 1968). In that article, Howard Schonberger, a student of Williams', dealt with Hill's extended efforts to increase trade for his railroad by developing markets in China and Japan. Schonberger believes that Hill "dramatically shaped public opinion on the importance of the oriental market. . ." This is the reverse of Williams' argument. Hill also tried to persuade Congress to pass ship subsidy bills, but to no avail.

In 1904, after everyone (according to Williams) had been converted to a belief in foreign trade expansion, the Interstate Commerce Commission passed rate regulations that it admitted might work a hardship on Pacific Coast shippers. Hill agreed and dated the decline of his oriental business from that decision. If there was such universal belief in the need to increase our foreign trade, why was the United States merchant marine in such wretched shape? Why didn't the ship subsidy bill pass? Why was the crippling ICC regulation passed?

It is interesting to think about another book by another distinguished historian, Charles A. Beard. Most people do not take seriously Beard's thesis in *President Roosevelt and*

the Coming of the War that Roosevelt had deliberately schemed to bring about the attack on Pearl Harbor. Maybe — just maybe — if America had lost that war, the will to believe his conclusions would have been stronger. That would not have improved the book as history.

Reviewed by GRETCHEN KREUTER, *who will be teaching history in the fall at Hamline University in St. Paul.*

Mr. Progressive: A Biography of Elmer A. Benson. By James M. Shields.
(Minneapolis, T. S. Denison & Company, Inc., 1971. 346 p. $6.95.)

"IT WOULD be very fine to be *right* all the time," wrote Elmer A. Benson. "But it is even better and more important to be *honest* all the time." James Shields' biography of the controversial former governor of Minnesota illustrates how that attitude prevailed throughout his long public life.

This biography centers on Benson's political and governmental career. Benson was appointed state securities commissioner, state banking commissioner, and United States senator by Farmer-Labor Governor Floyd B. Olson. A few months after Olson's death in August, 1936, Benson was elected governor and fought for such measures as increased taxes on mining companies, reduced homestead taxes, increased relief payments and aid to farmers, and labor's right to organize and strike. His administration, which included a special session of an unfriendly legislature, was marked by bitter partisanship, and he was resoundingly defeated in 1938 after one of the most vicious campaigns in the state's history. Benson's later career included banking, two unsuccessful campaigns for the United States Senate, and service as chairman of the Progressive party during Henry A. Wallace's bid for the presidency in 1948. The quiet life he now leads in Appleton, Minnesota, was forced upon him by an illness in the early 1950s.

Shields portrays Benson as an uncompromising idealist, stubborn and volatile but of the highest personal and political integrity. This description of a man too often tainted by the redbaiting of the 1930s and 1940s is refreshing. Benson, who was at odds with Hjalmar Petersen in the Farmer-Labor party and with Hubert Humphrey and other now prominent leaders in the DFL, has long been denied a respectable position in the political history of the state.

As regional director of the National Labor Relations Board from 1936 to 1947, Shields was sympathetic to Benson during those tumultuous years. Thus it is difficult for him to be objective about Benson. For example, when newspaper articles and editorials unfavorable to Benson are quoted, they are used to illustrate what Shields considers unfair tactics of the "kept press." A favorable article, on the other hand, is printed and assessed as an "accurate analysis." Despite Shields' obvious biases, he does attempt to bring out and answer the many attacks that have been laid on Benson.

The book will prove frustrating to students of the period because only occasional sources of information are listed — and those few footnotes are incomplete. In addition, casual editing has failed to eliminate senseless errors in spelling and dates. While these technical problems do not greatly detract from Shields' style, they diminish the research value of the work.

Although the biography is not bolstered by many new insights into either Benson or the times, Shields has given us an interesting and readable biography of a man he obviously admires.

Reviewed by LILA M. JOHNSON, *head of the Minnesota Historical Society's audio-visual library.*

The Chippewa and Their Neighbors: A Study in Ethno-history. By Harold Hickerson.
(New York, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1970. x, 133 p. Illustrations. $1.25).

THIS VOLUME by Harold Hickerson is part of the Spindler series which has been made available to anthropology students for the purpose of demonstrating how anthropologists collect and analyze data. Hickerson is concerned with ethnohistory as a method. To illustrate possible uses of the method, the author has selected documents relating to the historical Chippewa Indians for analysis. Chippewa history, he contends, cannot be understood without taking into consideration their relations with their neighbors, both Indian and Euro-American — hence the title of the book.

We are told that the method of ethnohistory, consisting of the use of primary documents in the form of library and archival materials, is designed to enhance our knowledge of particular cultures as they existed at various points in the past and consequently to illuminate historical patterns of change. While most anthropologists and historians would agree as to the soundness of the method, conclusions drawn from primary documents are necessarily limited. The careful use of such sources may reveal only certain aspects of the organization of historical tribes. The documents do not offer the possibility of a complete reconstruction of historical society. Whether or not primary documents reflect historical reality is also questionable. At best, a primary document is only one man's story about the past, a story describing the Indian as the white man wanted him to be or needed him to be to fit his particular purposes.

While the author admits that ethnohistorians can read different conclusions into primary documents depending upon their orientation, he never clarifies his own bias in his highly selective use of anthropological and historical points of view. Both disciplines maintain widely divergent opinions as to the nature and purpose of historical analysis. Hickerson, for example, concludes that the social organiza-

tion of the seventeenth-century Chippewa is "indicative of a stage of socio-cultural integration which has evolutionary significance." Evolutionary significance refers to the highly debatable notion that historical tribal cultures have retained, even in altered form, the ancient organization of all human society. Ethnohistory offers no evidence to support or refute this notion, and it should properly be labeled speculation. Bias of this nature also leads the author to conclude that contemporary Chippewa culture is in "shambles," if only because from an evolutionary point of view present organization represents a degeneration from the almost national unity the Chippewa were supposed to have experienced in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

The major portion of the book sets up three problems the author considers to be specific and limited enough to be dealt with adequately by the ethnohistoric method. The first concerns the nature of Chippewa social organization in the mid-seventeenth century. Hickerson concludes, on the basis of documentation from the *Jesuit Relations* (annual reports filed by the Jesuit missionaries in New France), that what these volumes referred to as separate tribes were actually politically autonomous clans of the historical Chippewa. The second problem considers the possible historical origin of the Chippewa Midewiwin ceremonial. The Midewiwin, the author argues, was not aboriginal in origin. Rather, it developed historically as a religious movement which served to unify various clans of Chippewa who had previously experienced political autonomy. The third problem considers the possible underlying causes for the extended warfare carried on between the Chippewa and Sioux in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. On the basis of reconstructions of historical environments made available by botanists, Hickerson maintains that the Sioux and Chippewa were actually competing over territory which held the major portion of the deer population. Primary documents relating to the Chippewa, however, are very inconsistent about the extent to which that group depended on the deer as a basic subsistence item. The conclusion that wars were fought over deer-inhabited territory, then, may not be warranted.

Given specific and limited problems, and Hickerson's interest in certain Chippewa institutions, he demonstrates how the use of primary documents can provide greater insight into the nature of these institutions and the possible causes for institutional change. Selected institutions, however, do not represent the totality or the richness of historical or contemporary Chippewa culture. The author does not demonstrate that he knows enough about any other aspect of that totality to conclude that contemporary Chippewa culture is in "shambles." This conclusion could only be reached by those who hold a very narrow view of the meaning of culture. The author's tendency to speculate beyond the limitations of the ethnohistoric method constitutes the primary weakness of the book.

Reviewed by W. Roger and Priscilla Buffalohead. *Mr. Buffalohead is acting chairman of the department of American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota.*

Superior: Portrait of a Living Lake. Text compiled by Arno Karlen. Photographs by Charles Steinhacker.
(New York, Harper & Row, [1970]. viii, 118 p. $25.00.)

THIS IS a very handsome "coffee table" book for those who know the natural beauty of Lake Superior. Neither the text nor the sixty-seven superbly reproduced color photographs by Charles Steinhacker give much attention to the works of man, preferring instead to dwell on pebble beaches, rocks and lichens, trees and sand dunes, and water — falling water, crashing water, quiet water, frozen water, and, above all, clean, clear water.

The text of the book consists of quotations drawn from the printed observations of travelers who visited Lake Superior between 1650 and 1880. These are woven together with brief connecting paragraphs supplied by Arno Karlen. While the quotations give the impression of greater diversity, they are in fact derived from only eighteen familiar sources — J. Elliot Cabot, John Bigsby, Pierre de Charlevoix, Dr. Chandler R. Gilman, Reverend George M. Grant, Alexander Henry the elder, John Johnston, Charles Lanman, Frederick Marryat, L. F. R. Masson, Thomas McKenney, Camille Ferri Pisani, Pierre Radisson, James S. Ritchie, John R. St. John, Henry R. Schoolcraft, the *Jesuit Relations*, and Constance F. Woolson.

Obviously, the volume was not intended to be used for reference, and the scholar may dismiss it. The sources are listed on the final page of the book, but page numbers for the quotations are not supplied and there is no index. The textual excerpts were selected to provide readable word pictures to accompany the magnificent present-day photographs.

And they are magnificent — depicting the lake in some of its many moods and successfully capturing its grandeur as well as its beauty. Both the North and the South shores are well represented in their rocky and sandy diversity, although many well-known landmarks in the Canadian portion are not shown. The islands, however, have not been neglected, and both Isle Royale and the Apostles are pictured. The latter, in fact, can boast one of the few photos in the book dealing with the works of man — a view of abandoned log fishing shacks and nets on Madeline Island. In this category, too, is the best photograph this reviewer has ever seen of fog-shrouded Split Rock Lighthouse on Minnesota's North Shore.

The few others depicting man's works point up the effects of pollution by the Reserve Mining and Dupont companies and give great pertinence to Senator Gaylord Nelson's eloquent foreword with its plea that the threatened lake be conserved. "The time," he says, "is short." This book is a stunning portrait "of what we have to lose — and what we will lose," in the Wisconsin senator's words, "if we do not take care."

While each reader will wish that some favorite spot had been included, this reviewer has only two real crows to pick with the presentation: (1) there is no list of illustrations, and (2) the end sheets offer a large outline map of the

lake. The text and photos refer to many spots scattered about Lake Superior's more than 2,500-mile coastline. It would have been helpful had the end-sheet map located these places for readers not intimately acquainted with the largest fresh-water lake in the world. The addition of these two helpful amenities would not, in this reviewer's opinion, have been detrimental to the book's appearance, and would have made it a bit less frustrating to dedicated Lake Superior buffs.

Reviewed by JUNE D. HOLMQUIST, *managing editor of the Minnesota Historical Society.*

Railroads and the Granger Laws. By George H. Miller.
(Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 1971. xi, 296 p. $12.50.)

The Myth of a Progressive Reform. Railroad Regulation in Wisconsin, 1903–1910. By Stanley P. Caine.
(Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1970. xvi, 226 p. $7.95.)

AFTER REREADING Solon J. Buck's *Granger Movement* for the "nth" time, this reviewer concluded that it stands up very well after sixty years of critical examination by economists and historians such as George H. Miller and Stanley P. Caine. It does Buck's study no harm to say that Miller has produced a finely-honed account of the issues leading to the demand for government regulation of railroads and that he finds the farmer discontent identified by Buck to have been only one of many factors behind that move. Miller indicates that Chicago businessmen feared that cheap river transportation at St. Louis would attract business away from their city but nevertheless thought that Chicago, with lower freight rates, might hold its own as a grain-marketing center. Miller shows, however, that long-haul rates to Chicago proved harmful to Dubuque, Burlington, and other river cities, and merchants, elevator operators, and grain buyers — hurt by rebates to favored shippers or by the lower long-haul rates — joined with farmers to call for regulation.

Historian Lee Benson, in his *Merchants, Farmers and Railroads: Railroad Regulation and New York Politics,* has shown how merchants allied with Empire State farmers to subject the railroads to legislation eliminating unfair transportation practices, secret rebates, and discrimination. We now have similar background provided for the experiments in state regulation in granger states. One may question whether "the agrarianism of the granger laws all but disappears" in this light, but the correctives Miller provides in this mature and intellectually satisfying study deserve close attention. One gathers from Miller's account of the presentation of the granger cases before the Supreme Court that nearly all the top legal talent appeared for the railroads. If so, one is left to wonder how the majority of the court, with Justices Stephen J. Field and William Strong dissenting, was persuaded to uphold the legislation. The author's skepticism about the degree of radicalism of the laws is apparent.

Stanley P. Caine's study is a similar effort to reconsider the background of the movement for railroad regulation, in this instance in Wisconsin. It also examines the role of Robert Marion LaFollette as a "radical reformer" in pressing for an effective regulatory law. Caine finds that LaFollette was slow in favoring railroad regulation; that his leadership in behalf of an effective law was inept because he failed to marshal the support of farmers, because his sense of timing was wrong, and because his preparation for the battle with conservatives was inadequate; that LaFollette compromised out of political necessity (which would have been of interest later to some of his Washington opponents); and that he misjudged the men he appointed to the state railroad commission. Although the author acknowledges that some railroads changed their rates in anticipation of the exercise of supervisory authority by the commission, he is convinced that the commission failed to bring about the results the "radicals" anticipated. In fact, Caine seems primarily concerned to show that LaFollette made exaggerated claims for the achievements of the Wisconsin law in regulating railroad rates and that the success of the law is a myth that needs to be exploded. Caine makes it clear that the Wisconsin railroad commission exercised little influence in rate-making and that railroad leaders came to regard it as a friendly institution. Caine might be more convincing, however, if his dislike for LaFollette were less pronounced. The Wisconsin Progressive may have been "long winded," a "compact little orator," "ambiguous" on occasion when politics dictated, and a "lame duck" when he accepted election to the United States Senate while continuing as governor to fight for reform. The rejection of his first railroad measure may have been a "stunning defeat" and his third election as governor "an indifferent margin" of victory, but LaFollette also revived in many constituents the hope and faith that government exists not only for railroad executives, lumber barons, manufacturers, and bankers but also for the small farmer, the railroad worker, and the lumberjack.

Reviewed by PAUL W. GATES, *professor emeritus of history at Cornell University and author of many books on public lands.*

news & notes

A NUMBER of significant pieces of legislation involving the society were enacted by the 1971 state legislature. Among them is H.F. 2670 abolishing the Minnesota State Archives Commission and transferring its administration to the Minnesota Historical Society, with Dr. Franklin W. Burch continuing as state archivist. Records management will be administered by the Department of Administration. Chief authors of this legislation were Senators W. G. Kirchner of Richfield and Rollin Glewwe of South St. Paul and Representatives Douglas H. Sillers of Moorhead and Martin O. Sabo of Minneapolis. For the time being the archival holdings will remain at 117 University Avenue, St. Paul, but the long-range goal is to combine them with those of the Minnesota Historical Society's record center at 1500 Mississippi Street, St. Paul.

Another new measure authorizes the society to preserve the historical features of the State Capitol. Other new laws affecting Minnesota and local history programs designate a number of state historic sites and permit the creation of twenty-one state historic districts in such places as Pipestone, Marine on St. Croix, Mantorville, Frontenac, Fort Snelling, and the St. Anthony Falls area.

WINNER of the Minnesota Historical Society's $250.00 Solon J. Buck Award for the best article published in *Minnesota History* in 1970 is Reverend Thomas E. Blantz, C.S.C. His "Father Haas and the Minneapolis Truckers' Strike of 1934" appeared in the Spring issue and is thought to be the first article to center on the role of the New Deal labor mediator in settlement of the crucial strike. It also is the first study to use the extensive Haas Papers in the archives of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. The annual Buck Award was established in 1954 to honor the quarterly's founder and first editor who later served as United States archivist.

Father Blantz is assistant professor of history, archivist, and vice president for student affairs at the University of Notre Dame. Born in Massillon, Ohio, thirty-seven years ago, he received his A.B. in philosophy and M.A. in history at Notre Dame and his Ph.D. in history at Columbia University. The award committee consisted of Carlton C. Qualey, former chairman of the history department at Carleton College and now a research fellow for the Minnesota Historical Society; William E. Lass, professor of history at Mankato State College; and Kenneth Carley, editor of this magazine.

A SECOND AWARD — named in honor of the late Theodore C. Blegen, widely known as "Mr. Minnesota History" — has been instituted by the society, at the suggestion of Mr. Qualey and by vote of the Buck Award committee, to recognize from time to time outstanding articles by staff members. Their efforts are not eligible for the Buck Award.

The first recipient of the Blegen Award, which carries with it a cash prize of $125.00, is Rhoda R. Gilman. Her winning article, "Last Days of the Upper Mississippi Fur Trade," was published in the Winter issue after she presented the paper at the Second North American Fur Trade Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in early October. A former editor of *Minnesota History*, Mrs. Gilman was the society's assistant managing editor before recently becoming assistant supervisor of educational services.

Dean Blegen died on July 18, 1969. He had succeeded Buck as editor of *Minnesota History* and as superintendent of the society. He also had a long and distinguished career of teaching history and of serving as dean of the graduate school at the University of Minnesota. He was a prolific writer of books and magazine articles (he furnished nearly a score of major articles to *Minnesota History* alone), and we feel he would have been pleased to have his name associated with a prize whose main object is to encourage staff members to write more articles for the magazine. Unlike the Buck Award, the Blegen Award will not necessarily be presented annually — only when the Buck Award committee feels that a staff-produced article is worthy of the prize.

ALTHOUGH its recent predecessors have been held in the spring, the 122nd annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society has been set for October 9 at the Hilton Hotel in St. Paul. Given a fall date to commemorate the founding of the society in October, 1849, the meeting will take the form of a day-long program of lectures and seminars.

Noted historian Henry Steele Commager will give the luncheon address on "Freedom and Order," and Louis ("Studs") Terkel, author of *Hard Times*, will be the evening dinner speaker. Sessions will be held on "Ecology Systems Analysis and Minnesota Prehistory," "Immigration and Human Geography," "New Perspectives in Indian History," "Preservation of the Visual Environment," and "What's Wrong with the U.S. Structural Framework?" Session participants will include professors C. Thomas Shay, Carlton C. Qualey, John Rice, W. Roger Buffalohead, and Duncan Baird and architect William Scott.

THE LOUIS W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation of St. Paul has granted the Minnesota Historical Society $28,350 to continue support of the Quetico-Superior underwater research program and to permit a scientific analysis of eighteenth-century Montreal merchant account books dis-

covered by society personnel several years ago at the Chateau de Ramezay in Montreal. The records of eight merchants, written in archaic French, span a period roughly from 1712 to 1800.

In the more than ten years that the society has carried on the Quetico-Superior underwater research project, many fur-trade artifacts have been recovered, but research on these items of trade has lagged behind the field work. Mrs. Albert Gerin-Lajoie of Ottawa will translate the records and do research and some writing. Dr. Kenneth Kidd, professor of anthropology at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, will analyze and interpret her findings.

"We will be applying historical techniques to the study of the effects of the fur trade on the material culture of the illiterate peoples of the Great Lakes region," said Robert C. Wheeler, the society's associate director who will supervise the Montreal Merchants project. "The study relates to the cultural change caused by the introduction of new tools, equipment, materials, and utensils to these Indians," said Mr. Wheeler.

A REPRINT of Merrill E. Jarchow's *The Earth Brought Forth: A History of Minnesota Agriculture to 1885* has been brought out by the Johnson Reprint Corporation (314 p. Illustrations. $12.00). First published by the Minnesota Historical Society in 1949 as a project of the Minnesota Territorial Centennial, the book is a comprehensive narrative of the land and people, crops and machines of the region dominated for decades by "King Wheat." The fascinating record was assembled from farmers' diaries, letters, ledgers, newspapers, and other kinds of records which are meticulously footnoted.

AMERICAN LABOR history periodical articles of 1969 comprise a bibliography compiled by the Minnesota Historical Society's acting chief librarian, Michael Brook. The bibliography, appearing in the Winter, 1971, issue of *Labor History*, selects articles from national and international scholarly journals, as well as Ph.D. theses included in *Dissertation Abstracts International* (formerly *Dissertation Abstracts*). Mr. Brook has published annual bibliographies in *Labor History* for the past five years.

ANOTHER DIMENSION is added to the story of the woman-suffrage movement in Louise R. Noun's *Strong-Minded Women: The Emergence of the Woman-Suffrage Movement in Iowa* (Ames, Iowa State University Press, 1969. 322 p. Illustrations. $8.75). Tracing the influence of the personalities and actions taken by such nationally-known suffrage leaders as Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony on the emerging women's organizations in one midwestern state, the author focuses her study on the Reconstruction period. She suggests the direction of the movement in the years 1872–1920 through a study of the eminent feminist, Carrie Chapman Catt. Vain attempts to avoid involvement in dissensions splitting apart the national organization, misguided efforts to appease critics by purging "undesirables," and mistaken beliefs that liberal politicians would soon grant the franchise to the female sex make the story a moving one which in many respects mirrors the state of the feminist movement today. Shattering the stereotype of Amazon-like women browbeating their husbands into acquiescence, the author's numerous biographical studies indicate that many of the small band of dedicated women, who ranged the spectrum in personality and life style, received solid support from the males in their lives. An extensive bibliography of newspapers and periodicals; books, articles and theses; and letters, documents, and scrapbooks will prove extremely valuable to historians doing research in the woman's rights movement.

Marilyn Ziebarth

A NEW PUBLICATION of the society — *Historic Preservation in Minnesota* (St. Paul, 1971. 166 p. $3.00) — surveys state, county, local, and privately owned historic sites for the purpose of "recognizing, preserving and interpreting" Minnesota's past. Written by Donn Coddington, historic sites supervisor, and his staff, the carefully organized handbook discusses past surveys of historic sites, details by sites the immediate objectives of a historic preservation program in Minnesota, and projects a long-range scheme for the decade of the 1970s which includes a report and recommendations by State Archaeologist Elden Johnson.

The major portion of the book is an inventory of Minnesota's "significant historic resources," which are listed by county location as well as by such designations as "architecture," "military," "religion," and "commerce." Included for each of the more than 175 sites considered are location, significance, current status, and future recommendations. Fourteen sites operated by the Minnesota Historical Society as of 1971 are described and pictured.

TWO BOOKS that offer much useful material on the Sioux Uprising of 1862 in Minnesota have been reprinted by Ross & Haines, Inc. Originally published in Mankato in 1927 and long out of print, *Indian Chiefs of Southern Minnesota,* by Thomas Hughes, is available again in a new version (Minneapolis, 1969. 122 p. $8.75) that is "in substantially its original form, virtually uncut save for occasional repetitive passages, and edited only for symmetry and style." This quote is from a new biographical introduction on the author by his grandson, Thomas L. Hughes, who also did the editing. The book contains word sketches as well as drawings of some twenty-five Sioux leaders, many of whom took part in the outbreak of 1862, and eight Winnebago chiefs.

The second reprint is of *Dakota War Whoop,* by Harriet E. Bishop McConkey (Minneapolis, 1970. vi, 429 p. $12.50). In spite of its moralizing and errors, this book by St. Paul's first schoolteacher contains valuable information on the Sioux Uprising. It was first published in 1863 and benefits from firsthand interviews with participants. The reprint has a new introduction by Kenneth Carley.

INADVERTENTLY omitted from "The Unaccountable Fifth: Solution of a Great Northern Enigma," Heather Gilbert's "A Footnote to History" published in the Spring, 1971, issue of *Minnesota History,* was the Royal Archives reference for the crucial document, a letter of October 16, 1908, from Lord Mount Stephen to Sir Arthur Rigge. The exact reference is RA GEO V C273/74.

THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Since 1849, when it was chartered by the first territorial legislature, the Minnesota Historical Society has been preserving a record of the state's history. Its outstanding library and its vast collection of manuscripts, newspapers, pictures, and museum objects reflect this activity. The society also interprets Minnesota's past, telling the story of the state and region through publications, museum displays, tours, institutes, and restoration of historic sites. The work of the society is supported in part by the state and in part by private contributions, grants, and membership dues. It is a chartered public institution governed by an executive council of interested citizens and belonging to all who support it through membership and participation in its programs. You are cordially invited to use its resources and to join in its efforts to make Minnesota a community with a sense of strength from the past and purpose for the future.