

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The Transition of a Typical Frontier with Illustrations from the Life of Henry Hastings Sibley, Fur Trader, First Delegate in Congress from Minnesota Territory, and First Governor of the State of Minnesota (A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of doctor of philosophy in the graduate school of the University of Minnesota). By WILSON PORTER SHORTRIDGE, M.A. (Menasha, Wisconsin, George Banta Publishing Company, 1922. viii, 186 p.)

The most original feature of Mr. Shortridge's volume lies in its somewhat unusual point of view, the nature of which is revealed in the title. The book is neither a biography of Henry Hastings Sibley nor is it, strictly speaking, a history of the early development of Minnesota. Because of this rather unique viewpoint, the reviewer may be pardoned for quoting the following passage from the preface, which sets forth clearly and succinctly the purpose and method of the study. "This account of frontier transition is a study in the history of the West. If the West be thought of as a period rather than a place, then the study of a limited area which passed through the successive stages in the evolution of society on the frontier should be typical of what was repeated over and over again in the conquest and settlement of the continent. And, in the same way, if a study be made of an individual who lived through and participated in, or at least witnessed, the various steps vivid illustrations of the significant features of the westward movement may be found. In the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century that part of the upper Mississippi Valley which became Minnesota passed through the evolution of society from frontier to statehood, and the most prominent man in that region during the period was Henry Hastings Sibley, fur trader, first delegate in Congress from Minnesota Territory, and first governor of the State of Minnesota. This region and this individual have been selected, therefore, as types in this study of frontier transition."

All of this has a familiar ring to those who are acquainted with the orthodox interpretation of western history, for it was just thirty years ago that Professor Frederick J. Turner read his famous paper on "The Significance of the Frontier in American History." Mr. Shortridge must not be presumed to be submitting new proof of the validity of Professor Turner's interpretation of the significance of the frontier, for that thesis has been generally accepted now for almost a generation. What he does attempt to do is to illustrate this thesis by the consideration of a special case. The Minnesota frontier may be regarded as a "laboratory specimen" which is examined with the idea of demonstrating the significant features of frontier development in general. This method is somewhat unusual in the field of historical research. The average historical monograph represents an attempt to ascertain and classify certain facts and, in some cases, even to interpret them. It is rare indeed that the writer of a monograph is fortunate enough to be able to start with a ready-made interpretation as a major premise and to confine himself to the citation of data which will illustrate his thesis. Yet this is what Mr. Shortridge does in the volume under consideration.

The study begins with an account of the early history of the Sibley family, including the genealogy of Henry Hastings Sibley, and traces its movement westward with the wave of migration in the late eighteenth and the early nineteenth century. It is evident from this account that the Sibleys were typical pioneers. The first of the successive frontiers which passed over the upper Mississippi Valley was that of the fur-trader, and Mr. Shortridge describes a phase of this initial stage of frontier development in one of the best chapters of the book. Naturally he lays particular emphasis upon the fur-trading operations of Sibley himself. This is followed by an account of the entry of settlers into the region and a description of their principal occupations. The organization of Minnesota Territory is considered in some detail, after which comes an exposition of the subject of territorial politics between 1848 and 1852. Internal improvements, land policies, and similar matters are considered under the chapter title "The Needs of a New Territory." One of the outstanding chapters of the volume deals with Indian relations, which constituted a particularly acute problem in Minnesota for many years. Another important

and closely related chapter describes the Indian uprising in the valley of the Minnesota River in the summer of 1862 and its suppression by state and federal authorities. The author traces the growth of the territory culminating in its organization and admission to the Union as a state in 1858, in which year Sibley was elected governor. A chapter on the advent of the railroad describes the difficulties of a frontier community in providing itself with the transportation facilities so vital to its growth and development. The final chapter describes Sibley's activities during the closing years of his life. In the "Retrospect" with which he concludes his study, Mr. Shortridge very aptly summarizes the early history of the state and incidentally strikes the keynote of the entire volume. "The rapidity with which the West was settled is most vividly appreciated when viewed in terms of human life. In 1795, when Solomon Sibley came over the mountains to the first American frontier settlement northwest of the Ohio river, the history of the great West, the real American West, was only in the period of beginnings. Before his son died, in 1891, the frontier had disappeared. When Sibley, in 1834, made his way into the region which became Minnesota it was a typical Indian frontier; when he died, Minnesota was a State with a population of almost one and one-half millions."

In any criticism of the author's work it is necessary to bear constantly in mind his purpose, which has already been set forth in his own words. First of all, it may be assumed that if Minnesota is to be regarded as a type, the value of the study will depend in large measure upon the skill with which the writer demonstrates in what respect this particular case is typical of frontier development as a whole. The average reader will not feel inclined to criticise seriously Mr. Shortridge's treatment of the transition of the Minnesota frontier. But the question arises, to what extent does this special case typify or illustrate the general theory of frontier development which he assumes at the outset? It is feared that this connection will not be altogether clear except to those who have made a special study of western history, and western history as expounded by Professor Turner and his successors in this field. In other words, it is felt that the volume lacks a certain background which the average reader cannot safely be assumed to possess and which is essential to the author's purpose. In discuss-

ing specific problems of frontier development in Minnesota, would it not be well to explain briefly the extent to which these problems were typical of the frontier as a whole? For example, in treating of the public land question it would be possible to explain the principal features of the land policy of the United States as applied in other frontier regions during this period. It would then be possible to form an idea as to the extent to which the handling of this question in Minnesota was or was not "typical." The reader constantly finds himself saying, "This case may be typical, but just what is the thing of which it is a type?" The answer is, of course, to be found in a consideration, not necessarily difficult or involved, of the larger and more general aspects of frontier development. It is felt that the author confines himself too exclusively to Minnesota. The fact that he starts with a general thesis does not release him from the necessity of attempting a certain amount of interpretation.

It was not Mr. Shortridge's purpose to write a biography but would it have involved any real departure from his method if he had given us a little more information concerning Sibley the man? Sibley was clearly a remarkable character and yet he does not stand forth as a personality. Again, Mr. Shortridge's purpose, as stated in his own words, was to portray "the gradual evolution of society and industry in the upper Mississippi country." But he has said almost nothing concerning the life and the manners and the thoughts of the people, which certainly constitute one of the most interesting and important aspects of frontier development. In this respect it would seem that the author has missed a real opportunity.

On the other hand, the volume has many very good qualities. The chapters dealing with the fur trade and Indian relations are extremely well done and reveal an adequate grasp of these important aspects of frontier history. Particularly interesting is the discussion of the defects in the Indian policy of the United States government and of the factors entering into the negotiation of Indian treaties. In his discussion of the attitude of the frontiersman toward politics, Mr. Shortridge has given us a particularly good bit of historical generalization. The volume also has one merit which is not always characteristic of works of

this sort: the footnotes, while entirely adequate, are not overwhelming.

It is an indication of pedantry on the part of a reviewer to seize upon and drag forth isolated instances of typographical errors as evidence of his own vigilance. But in case errors of this sort are so frequent as to constitute a serious defect in the book, they may properly be mentioned. In the opinion of the reviewer this volume contains too many mistakes which careful proof reading might have eliminated. For example, in at least four different places, Mackinac is spelled "Machinac." The American Fur Company is referred to as having found itself "in close financial straights for some years" (p. 24). Two of the great fur companies which are frequently mentioned are correctly known as the "Northwest Company" and the "Hudson's Bay Company" instead of the "Northwest Fur Company" and the "Hudson Bay Company," as they are usually designated in this volume. There are a number of other mistakes and typographical errors which need not be mentioned.

The extensive and well-arranged bibliography would in itself be an evidence of the care with which the author had located his material and carried on his research, even if the text were not already sufficient proof of this.

WAYNE E. STEVENS

Maria Sanford. By HELEN WHITNEY, formerly assistant professor of rhetoric at the University of Minnesota. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota, 1922. 322 p. Illustrations.)

This book is the story of a woman of rare personality, a Puritan in origins and temperament, who was brought to the University of Minnesota by President Folwell in 1880 and for twenty-nine years influenced successive classes of students as a professor of rhetoric and an inspirer of Spartan virtues. During this long period and after her retirement from the university she was known in her own state and throughout the country as a lecturer who was no less lucid in expression than clear in thinking. She discoursed on a wide range of subjects, from art and literature to morals and public questions, and her audiences were invariably interested

both in what she said and in what she was. For this Connecticut Yankee in the Middle West, this torch-bearer, this vigorous teacher of men and women, was possessed of an indefinable charm, a compound of qualities that made her — Maria Sanford. Perhaps no Minnesota woman has been praised so much as she, and if the author of her biography at times risks fulsomeness, the book is saved by the inclusion of a delightful poem written by Oscar Firkins, a veritable ode to "Maria" which closes thus:

Praise her not with smug obeisance,
Sleek and millinered complaisance!
Save your peppermint and raisins
For the dupe of sugared lies!
Praise her, travel-soiled and dusty,
Praise her, vehement and gusty,
Praise her, kinked and knurled and crusty,
Leonine and hale and lusty,
Praise her, oaken-ribbed and trusty,
Shout "Maria" to the skies.

The first chapter consists of "The Unfinished Autobiography," a brief and vivid account of her Connecticut home and her girlhood written by Miss Sanford at the age of eighty-three. "I come of good, strong New England stock," is the opening sentence. From the historical point of view, it is to be regretted that Miss Sanford did not continue and complete the story of her own life. So individual was she that it is inadequate to speak of her as a type. Yet many another Yankee has come out to the Middle West to contribute to the educational development of the section and we have too few personal records of the sort projected but left unfinished by Miss Sanford. Fortunately, many of her papers have been preserved and these have now been presented to the Minnesota Historical Society to be treasured alongside the papers of politicians, fur-traders, soldiers, missionaries, and business men who have played conspicuous parts in the drama of Minnesota history.

Nine chapters have been contributed by Miss Whitney, the general scope of which may be indicated by their titles: "A Connecticut Yankee," "The Teacher," "The Minnesota Pioneer," "Christian's Burden," "The Neighbor," "The End of the Teacher's Road," "General Helping," "Harvest," and "The Farewell." The value of these chapters is considerably enhanced

by liberal quotations from Miss Sanford's speeches and letters, and these partially compensate for the absence of a finished autobiography. It is possible that a collection of letters, speeches, and papers by Miss Sanford would be worth publishing as a supplement to the biography and as a further contribution to the cultural history of Minnesota and to our knowledge of the unique and forceful woman who has been affectionately called "the best known and best loved woman in Minnesota."

Miss Whitney's book is frankly written as a tribute to Maria Sanford. It is not in any sense a critical biography. Primarily it is a sympathetic character study in which the central point of interest is never the external story, but rather the qualities developed, tested, and revealed in the character of the heroine, Maria Sanford. The keynote is sounded in the preface: "She was constantly communicating, through her own vigorous personality, a zealous enthusiasm for education, for character-building, and for civic righteousness to all young people with whom she came in contact."

THEODORE C. BLEGEN

Year-Book of the Swedish Historical Society of America. Volume 7. (St. Paul, 1922. 128 p.)

The article of chief importance in this *Year-book* is "Some Footnotes to the History of Swedish Immigration from about 1855 to about 1865," by George M. Stephenson. This is a mosaic of information mainly culled from and showing the value of the files of *Hemlandet*, the first Swedish newspaper in the United States, which was published at Galesburg, Illinois. Intrinsically there is considerable interest in Mr. Stephenson's enumeration of the causes of emigration; in his discussion of the efforts by the Swedish press, pulpit, and government to stem the tide of emigration; in the evidences adduced of misrepresentation of America by various agencies interested in an increased immigration; in the discussion of the issues of Know-Nothingism and slavery in relation to the Swedish element; and in the frequent references to conditions in Minnesota in the fifties. But the chief importance of the paper lies in its proof of the value of *Hemlandet* and similar materials as sources for the history of Swedish immigration.

In general, it may be pointed out that the scientific study of immigration from the historical point of view is a comparatively new thing. The pressing social and economic problems occasioned by the influx of millions of foreigners have blinded students to the widely ramifying influence of immigration on American history. As a result the subject has been left largely to the tender mercies of sociologists and economists. Many books of great value have, indeed, been written on specific racial elements in the population. But only recently have historians become aware of the possibilities of the general field. No adequate history of American immigration has yet been written. But general attention has been called to this very important factor in the history of the United States, for example, in the first chapter of Mr. Arthur H. Schlesinger's recently-published *New Viewpoints in American History* (New York, 1922). As the entire subject is further explored by historians, sources of information that have been neglected by sociologists will be utilized. These will surely include newspaper material, the potential value of which is demonstrated in Mr. Stephenson's essay in the volume under review.

Mr. Stephenson also is responsible for the inclusion of a score of "Typical 'America Letters,'" written chiefly by Oliver and Mary Stephenson, from Henry County, Illinois, to relatives in Sweden during the period from 1859 to 1869. Embodying definite information on most of the features of pioneer life in the new world, these letters are typical of thousands of personal reports which were mailed home from immigrants and which translated generalities into concrete terms and specific things, messengers of truth about actual American conditions. These particular letters are distinctly human documents also, and in their quaint lines one feels the charm and responds to the force of the sturdy and attractive personalities of the writers.

Judge Andrew Holt contributes to the *Year-book* a valuable sympathetic account of the "Characteristics of the Early Swedish Settlers in Minnesota." An eloquent tribute to "Dr. Enander," one of the most distinguished Swedish-Americans, comes from the pen of his daughter, Hilma Enander.

T. C. B.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, assistant superintendent of the society, assumes the editorship of the MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN, beginning with this issue.

The attendance at the seventy-fourth annual meeting of the society, held on January 15, is conclusive evidence of increased interest in Minnesota history on the part of the people of the state. The morning conference on local history work was attended by about fifty persons representing eleven different counties, and nearly a hundred members and friends of the society were present at the luncheon to celebrate the enrollment of one thousand active members. At the afternoon session the audience numbered about a hundred and fifty, and nearly three hundred people heard the annual address by Dr. Folwell in the evening. A full account of the meeting will appear in the next number of the BULLETIN.

The active membership of the society crossed the one thousand mark just at the close of the year. At the luncheon to celebrate this achievement, which was held in connection with the annual meeting, "two thousand members by the seventy-fifth anniversary" was proposed as the slogan of a new membership campaign and announcement was made that the first payment of dues by annual and sustaining members enrolled thereafter would cover the balance of the present and all of the next fiscal year. The additions to the active membership during the last three months of 1922 numbered sixty-seven. In the following list the names of these new members are grouped by counties:

BLUE EARTH: Daniel G. Willard of Mankato.

GOODHUE: A. G. Siverson of Wanamingo.

HENNEPIN: Mrs. William H. Bussey, Floyd A. Chandler, George F. Darling, Mrs. Albert W. Hastings, Alethea L. Larawa, Frederick F. Lindsay, Frederick K. Lindsay, Elizabeth V. Sadley, Fred H. Sanders, William H. Shephard, Grace B. Sherwood, Reverend Roy L. Smith, and Herbert N. Watson, all of Minneapolis.

RAMSEY: Mrs. Walter L. Chapin, Abby A. Fuller, Arvid G. Gordh, Albert S. Gowen, Edward L. Kenrick, Gertrude Krausnick, Oscar L. Olson, August Palmquist, Clifton T. Parks, Marie N. V. Pearson, and Maude H. Whitney, all of St. Paul.

REDWOOD: Herbert A. Baldwin and Andrew D. Stewart of Redwood Falls.

ST. LOUIS: Er F. Alford, Dr. William R. Bagley, Archibald T. Banning, Julius H. Barnes, Archibald M. Chisholm, Albert B. Clarfield, Charles P. Craig, Arthur H. Crassweller, George H. Crosby, Frank A. Day, Francis H. DeGroat, William B. Getchell, Michael F. Hanson, Harvey Hoshour, Francis E. House, Robert Jaques, John Jenswold, Reverend Jeremiah Kimball, Luke A. Marvin, Oscar Mitchell, Andrew Nelson, Frederic W. Paine, Herbert W. Parkinson, William B. Patton, Hervey H. Phelps, John U. Sebenius, William C. Sherwood, Albert B. Siewert, Mrs. Gladys A. Swanson, James W. Walker, Levi M. Willcuts, John G. Williams, Dwight E. Woodbridge, and Raymond Ziesmer of Duluth; Dr. Frederick Barrett of Gilbert; and Thad S. Bean and John A. Redfern of Hibbing.

SIBLEY: Fred W. Rochlitz of Gibbon.

NON-RESIDENT: Frank M. Parcher of Hollywood, California.

The society has lost three active members by death during the three months ending December 31, 1922: Charles S. Fellows of Minneapolis, November 28; William B. Dean of St. Paul, December 5; and Oliver Crosby of St. Paul, December 8.

The number of public libraries and schools subscribing to the society's publications has been increased to ninety-seven by the addition of fourteen institutions during the last quarter of 1922. These include the public libraries of Coleraine, Stillwater, and St. Paul; and public schools in Frazee, Gilbert, Glencoe, Mankato, Milroy, St. Paul (Central High School), and Strandquist. The St. Paul Public Library entered five subscriptions, one for the main library and one for each of the branches.

An exhibit designed to illustrate the work of the Minnesota Historical Society has been prepared under the direction of the curator of the museum and has been sent first to Redwood Falls, where it is being shown under the auspices of the local women's

club. It is to be sent to Duluth in time to be displayed in connection with a meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society on March 5. The exhibit comprises six large cards on which are mounted Indian relics; photostatic copies of manuscripts, rare Minnesota newspapers, old maps, and title pages of valuable books; pictures of the exterior and interior of the society's building; and leaflets, maps, and charts relating to membership. Accompanying the mounted displays are copies of some of the society's publications. Thus every major branch of the society's activities is represented in the exhibit: the library, the museum, the newspaper collection, and the manuscript and editorial divisions.

The executive committee on January 25 accepted an invitation extended by the Redwood Falls Commercial Club to the Minnesota Historical Society to hold its second annual summer meeting in Redwood Falls. It is probable that this convention will be held on June 22 and 23 and will be preceded on June 21 by an automobile tour from Fort Snelling to Redwood Falls under the joint auspices of the society and the Sioux Historic Trail Association. To hold the second historical convention at Redwood Falls, in the Minnesota Valley, in the summer of 1923, is particularly appropriate as it will coincide with the centenary of the expedition led by Major Stephen H. Long which explored the Minnesota and Red River valleys in the summer of 1823. The unpublished journal kept by the leader of this important expedition is in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. On one of the cards in the exhibit which has just been sent to Redwood Falls are mounted photostatic reproductions of three pages of this journal, containing entries made in the vicinity of the site of the future city of Redwood Falls.

A special Grand Portage exhibit, prepared for the annual meeting, will remain on display in the Indian room of the museum until about March 1. Included in this exhibit are an ancient water drum hollowed out of wood and used on ceremonial occasions, the peace pipe of the Grand Portage band of the Chippewa, old wooden tobacco and "pass-around" dishes, a shell charm used by a medicine man, pictures and relics from old Fort Charlotte at the western end of the Grand Portage trail, and a group of interesting

paintings by Mr. E. Dewey Albinson of Minneapolis. Two charts of the remains of old Fort Charlotte and a map of the proposed Grand Portage State Park add to the value of the exhibit. The charts were prepared by Mr. Albinson and Mr. Alvin C. Eastman, who conducted surface explorations at the site of the fort last summer. The exhibit also contains some articles of modern Indian workmanship, including birch-bark baskets, matting woven from the inner bark of the cedar, and a woven basket of the same material. Practically all the objects in the Grand Portage exhibit were loaned to the society, many of them by the Indians themselves, through the courtesy of Miss Effie Falconer, the Indian agent at Grand Portage.

One case in the Indian room contains numerous fur-trade objects which will be of special interest to readers of the present number of the *BULLETIN*. These objects include a tomahawk, a silver brooch, silver bracelets, steel arrowheads, iron spearheads, iron axes, a flintlock gun, trade knives, trade beads, a moccasin awl, five steels, iron hoes, and many other articles of importance in connection with the Indian trade.

In accord with the precedent established two years ago the society will celebrate Washington's birthday with an "historical style show" in the museum. The performance this year will be entitled "The Great American Family" and will take the form of a dialogue in explanation of a series of living pictures, which will be presented by members of the staff. The purpose, as in previous years, will be to illustrate the historical value of the large costume collection in the possession of the society.

Twenty-four meetings have been held in the society's auditorium during the last three months of 1922. These include two history hours, with talks by the curator of the museum, several meetings of classes from Mechanics Arts High School of St. Paul, and meetings of a library institute, the Minnesota Garden Flower Society, the St. Paul Housewives' League, and a section of the Minnesota Education Association. Five classes in American literature, to the number of two hundred students, came to the museum on October 10 and 11 for illustrated talks by the curator on "Life in the Colonial Period." "A Visit to Mrs. Spruce and

Mrs. Tamarack on the Grand Portage Indian Reservation " was described in the talk at the history hour on November 4.

The superintendent of the society attended the annual meeting of the American Historical Association and allied organizations from December 27 to 30 at New Haven, Connecticut. He participated in the conferences of archivists and of delegates from historical societies and presided at a joint meeting of the American and Mississippi Valley historical associations. Two other members of the council of the society were present at the New Haven meeting, Dean Guy Stanton Ford and Dr. Clarence W. Alvord, of the University of Minnesota.

On October 4 the superintendent spoke on Minnesota history and the work of the society before the Hennepin County Medical Society. Similar talks were given by him before the history club of the University of Minnesota, November 18; the men's club of the Prospect Park Methodist Church in Minneapolis, December 3; and the historical club of Carleton College at Northfield, December 14. Since joining the staff in September the assistant superintendent has given three talks in which the work of the society has been discussed: at Hamline University, October 4; before the Norwegian-Danish Press Association in Minneapolis, October 13; and at a librarians' meeting held at the University of Minnesota under the auspices of the library division of the state department of education, November 18.

The curator of the museum, Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, Jr., read a paper on " Major Lawrence Taliaferro and Indian Affairs at the St. Peter's Agency for the Upper Mississippi, 1820 to 1840 " before the Wisconsin Archeological Society at Milwaukee on December 18. While in Milwaukee he made a study of the collections and activities of the Milwaukee Public Museum, after which he went to Chicago, where he visited the Field Museum and the museum of the Chicago Historical Society. On his return trip he stopped at Madison, where he examined the Hamilton Archeological Collection in the museum of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

The librarian of the society, Miss Gertrude Krausnick, attended the mid-winter meeting of the American Library Association at

Chicago from December 28 to 30. The annual meeting of the Minnesota Library Association, held in Duluth from October 2 to 4, was attended by Miss Elizabeth K. Clark, the head cataloguer.

ACCESSIONS

Much of the material included in the twenty-eight accessions to the manuscript collection received during the quarter relates to the fur trade and traders of Minnesota. These recent acquisitions supplement and add to the value of the society's collections of papers dealing with this important phase of regional history. An interesting light on the problem of the historical records of Minnesota is afforded by the fact that these accessions have been secured from such widely separated places as Montreal, New York, Washington, D. C., and Madison, Wisconsin. The document from Montreal is a photostatic copy of George H. Monk's account of a trip to Minnesota in 1807, printed in this issue.

From the State Historical Society of Wisconsin have been received photostatic copies of the papers of the fur-trader, Alexis Bailly, covering the years 1820 to 1846 and consisting of about 140 pieces. Most of these papers relate to the fur trade in Minnesota and consist of communications from such men as Joseph Rolette, Lawrence Taliaferro, Joseph Laframboise, Hercules Dousman, Joseph R. Brown, Philander Prescott, and Alexander Faribault. For the period from 1823 to 1834 the papers possess unusual value, as they are practically the only contemporary records of the Minnesota fur trade which the society possesses for those years. Many of Bailly's own letters are preserved in the collection. Photostatic copies of letter books of the American Fur Company for the period from 1816 to 1823 have been borrowed for reproduction from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, thus making available records of the early activities of the company in the Northwest. The original documents from which the first copies were made are preserved at Mackinac.

Photostatic copies of the population schedules for St. Croix County, Wisconsin, in the census of 1840, have been received from the census bureau in the federal department of commerce. These give statistics of population, pursuits, and resources for La

Pointe, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, the region described as "west of a line drawn from the mouth of Porcupine creek to Upper Lake St. Croix and south of a line drawn thence to the mouth of Crow Wing river," the territory from "Crow Wing river to Red stone Prairie near Little Crows village," and Gray Cloud Island settlement. The names of heads of families are recorded in the population schedules, and among them appear those of most of the well-known traders and *voyageurs* of the period, the preponderance of French surnames being striking. Valuable data as to ages, number of persons in the family, occupation, and the like, also are given. As the earliest statistical record on file of live stock owned, crops raised, fish caught on the lakes, and similiar matters, the schedules for St. Croix County afford important new material for an early chapter in the history of the economic development of Minnesota.

An autobiographical sketch of Jean Pierre Pascal Baillif, dealing with his career from the date of his departure from France on April 19, 1835, until his arrival in Minnesota in 1839, has been donated by Miss Matilda Baillif of Bloomington, a granddaughter of the author. A translation by the donor and Mr. Ernest A. Baillif accompanies the French original. After varied experiences and considerable traveling, the author, in 1839, proceeded north from Galena, where he had worked in the lead mines, to Fort Snelling. The narrative includes a description of Prairie du Chien, the Indians and their customs, the Mississippi River, and Fort Snelling, where Baillif remained in the capacity of cook. In the spring of 1840 he settled on Lake St. Croix.

By arrangement with Mr. E. L. Peet of Minneapolis, the diaries of his father and mother, James and Harriet Peet, are to be loaned to the society for copying. James Peet was a Methodist minister who came to St. Paul in 1855 as a city missionary. The mission was not well supported and he left the following year to take charge of a mission at Superior, Wisconsin, where he served for a period of five years. Three volumes already have been received: Harriet Peet's diary of 1855, recounting the trip to St. Paul; and James Peet's volumes for 1856 and 1857, telling of disaffection in the St. Paul mission and of his removal to Superior. When these diaries have been copied additional ones will be received.

The documents constitute an important new source of information on pioneer church conditions in Minnesota and on the history of the northeastern part of the state.

The acquisition of a calendar of the records of the Sioux Claims Commission in the national archives at Washington adds to the material already available on the Sioux Outbreak a body of valuable statistical data. The commission was authorized by Congress in 1863 to receive claims for damages from persons who had sustained injuries during the uprising and to apportion the sum of two hundred thousand dollars among claimants who could produce satisfactory evidence of injury or loss. The calendar gives abstracts of the records of some five hundred claims, which comprise about eight thousand manuscript pages of addenda and appendixes to the printed report of the commission. These abstracts throw light not only on the events of the outbreak but also on agricultural conditions in the afflicted regions. A calendar of the commission's correspondence, copies of a few outstanding documents, and a summary of the action taken by the commission have also been acquired.

Two Lincoln letters have been deposited for photostatic reproduction by Professor Samuel B. Harding of the University of Minnesota, to whose father they were written in 1854 and 1855. The letters reveal the astuteness which characterized Lincoln as a politician.

The Civil War papers of Brigadier General Robert N. McLaren have been presented by his son-in-law, Mr. George E. Ingersoll. These papers are a valuable supplement to General McLaren's account of the Sully expedition against the Sioux in 1864, a copy of which is owned by the society.

From Miss Abby A. Fuller of St. Paul has been received a collection of papers which throws a flood of light on social conditions in St. Paul during the fifties. One document, an expense book kept by Elizabeth Fuller during the year 1857 for the Fuller household, contains lists of articles of food, clothing, and furniture with their respective costs. The interest and value of such items may be indicated by the following samples: "1 gal. Sperm oil, \$1.75"; "100 lbs. dear [*sic*] meat"; "10 lbs. Bear meat"; "12

buffalo tongues for \$9.00"; and "\$239.75 for 43¾ cords of wood." The papers include seventy letters written by members of the Fuller family in St. Paul to relatives in Connecticut. These letters are to be withheld from the public until January 1, 1928, but very full extracts have been made by Miss Fuller, which are accessible. They contain vivid pen pictures of dances, parties, sleigh rides, "strawberryings," matchmakings, houses, and people in St. Paul in the fifties.

A paper by Mr. Thomas E. Hughes of Minneapolis on "Baptists in the Political Development of Minnesota" has been deposited by the author, who presented it on September 16, 1920, at Fort Snelling, when the hundredth anniversary of its establishment was celebrated.

Some of the papers of Judge Isaac N. Cardozo have been presented by his daughter, Miss Ellen Cardozo of St. Paul. They throw light on the career of a well-known lawyer who was for many years a United States commissioner in Minnesota.

Some interesting manuscripts dealing with conditions in other states have been received recently. Five letters written in 1844 as part of the correspondence between John P. Hale and J. B. Wiggin of New Hampshire have been presented by Mr. Herbert C. Varney of St. Paul. The letters relate mainly to the Democratic Party in New Hampshire and its attitude with reference to the right of petition. Hale had a distinguished political career as a congressman, senator, candidate for the presidency, and minister to Spain. Three letters written by David Olmsted of Clayton County, Iowa Territory, to relatives in Vermont in 1843, 1844, and 1848, have been presented by Hardy L. Wilson of Monona, Iowa. The nature of the region, the prices of products, revivals and temperance meetings, and the removal of the Winnebago Indians are among the topics mentioned in the letters. An account book kept by Solon K. Buck in Stow, Massachusetts, and Berlin, Wisconsin, during the periods from 1849 to 1855 and 1856 to 1875, has been presented by his grandson, the superintendent of the society.

Several additions have recently been made to the society's collection of museum objects illustrating pioneer life in Minnesota. A large spinning wheel for wool, a skein reel, and a swift have

been presented by Mrs. Annie E. Wood of Waseca. An ox yoke is the gift of Mr. Max Distel of Le Sueur. A large, old-fashioned coffee mill of the type used in many a pioneer home has been presented by Mrs. John H. Blegen of Minneapolis.

The picture collection has recently been increased in value by the gift of a handsome framed oil enlargement of Lafayette Emmett, who served as attorney-general of Minnesota Territory from 1853 to 1858 and as the first chief justice of the supreme court of the state. The donor is Dr. Leslie C. Lane of Minneapolis, a son-in-law of the justice. A large framed pastel portrait of the late Charles H. Berry of Winona, the first attorney-general of the state, and a smaller framed crayon portrait of his wife, are the gifts of Mrs. Frank Jerrard of St. Paul. Miss Mary H. Folwell of Minneapolis has presented a small steel engraving of Dr. Joseph A. Bowman, a pioneer dentist of St. Anthony. An unusually interesting addition to the picture collection is the framed pastel of the hanging of the thirty-eight Sioux Indians at Mankato on December 26, 1862, which was presented to the society by Mrs. William Hocking of St. Peter through the courtesy of Mr. Arthur T. Adams of Minneapolis. Captain Theodore G. Carter, the father of the donor, acted as officer of the day when the execution took place, and had the picture made in 1904 in accordance with his recollection of the scene.

The Indian collection of the museum has been enriched by the gift of Miss Abby A. Fuller of St. Paul of a pair of heavily beaded moccasins of the hard sole type, a knife sheath, a game bag, and a number of other interesting articles. Ten fine baskets made by the California Indians have been deposited by Mrs. M. M. Mitchell of Minneapolis.

Gifts and other accessions to the library are too numerous to permit of individual notice here. Mention should be made, however, of an interesting lot of about five hundred curious old newspapers, pamphlets, and broadsides which had been preserved in an old New Hampshire homestead, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Varney; and of a valuable collection of about nine hundred books, magazines, and pamphlets received from the Le Duc family.

Important additions to the costume collection include an evening gown in the style of 1900 and a black waist with the large sleeves of 1895, both from Paris, presented by Mrs. E. C. Lindley of St. Paul and New York; and a large number of costumes, hats, and dress accessories of the late nineties and early nineteen hundreds, presented by Miss Mabel Gardner and other members of the Le Duc family of Hastings.

Governor Preus has turned over to the society a hand-woven and embroidered towel made by peasants in the Bashkvi Republic and by them presented to Harold F. Blandy who died at Ufa, Russia, while a member of the American relief administration. The towel was sent to the governor by Mr. Blandy's mother, who desired to give it to the state of Minnesota.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The following suggestive formulation of the function of history, which occurs in a *Report* of the Joint Commission on the Presentation of Social Studies in the Schools, should be of interest to students of local and state history:

The distinctive contribution of history to the social studies is to portray human events and activities as they actually occurred; its guiding principles are continuity and development. Therefore these events and activities are not regarded as isolated and unrelated or as of equal importance. Every condition or event is conceived to be related to something that went before and to something that comes after. Conditions and events are deemed important in so far as they serve to throw light upon some course of development. More briefly, then, the special and peculiar function of history is to trace development.

History places, and helps to explain, successive stages in the development of mankind. It constantly extends backward the memory of living men and gives them a sense of perspective to aid them in forming their judgments on contemporary affairs. In the light of history our most valued social possessions are seen to be deeply rooted in the past but the world is viewed as undergoing a continuous process of adjustment and change. Finally, history seeks to give students an intelligent notion of those human activities, decisions, and achievements which lie behind our present-day institutions and problems.

The mounting interest in state history for elementary and secondary schools is evidenced by the rate at which new texts in this field are coming from the press. A *History of Indiana*, by Logan Esary (New York, 1922. 362 p.) is a condensation of the same author's two-volume work on Indiana history. A novel feature of this text is the inclusion of an extract from a contemporary source at the end of each chapter, a device of undoubted value for stimulating interest and conveying a sense of reality to the student. In a number of cases, however, the source extracts selected appear to have no apparent relationship to the subject matter in the chapter. Much attention is paid by the author to social and economic history. There are chapters on pioneer industries, pioneer schools, the pioneers and their social life, public lands, roads, and other

subjects often omitted from state histories. Some of Mr. Esary's general views are of interest. "To know people," he writes, "we must know their habits; to know society we must know institutions, which are the personal habits of society. From the historical point of view, the people without their institutions are ineffective, while institutions without the people are empty as the shard of a beetle. Vitality appears only when people and institutions are seen in interplay." A new *History of Missouri*, by C. H. McClure (Chicago, 1920. 268 p.), appears to be an exceptionally comprehensive book of its kind. The nature of the author's approach is indicated by his last four chapters which deal with the coöperative work of public and private agencies in Missouri, the relation of Missouri to the World War, the work of Missouri writers, and the history of the state's press. A state history which abounds with pictures, charts, maps, tables, statistics, and bibliographical references is a *History and Geography of Ohio*, by William M. Gregory and William B. Guitteau (New York, 1922. 282 p.).

A stimulating essay entitled "Vitality in State History," by J. G. deR. Hamilton, is published in the *Proceedings* of the twentieth and twenty-first annual sessions of the State Literary and Historical Association of North Carolina (Raleigh, 1922. 128 p.).

"Local Historical Societies and Their Field of Work" is the title of a suggestive article by Otis G. Hammond, in the March, 1922, issue of *Antiques*. It has also been reprinted as a pamphlet (10 p.).

Few of the addresses and papers presented at the New Haven meeting of the American Historical Association and allied organizations from December 27 to 30 related to western history. Among the subjects of special interest may be noted the following: "Agricultural History as a Field of Research," by Frederick J. Turner; "Some Salient Characteristics of Frontier Religion," by William W. Sweet; and "The Farmers' Alliance in North Carolina," by John D. Hicks. Professor Turner's address was delivered before the Agricultural History Society, and the other two papers were read at a joint session of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association and the American Historical Association.

American Indian Life is the title of a remarkable book edited by Elsie Clews Parsons and illustrated by C. Grant LaFarge (New York, 1922. 419 p.). Twenty-seven tales by different authors present a kaleidoscopic picture, or, more accurately, afford a composite photograph of native American life. The fictional method employed does not disguise the broad scholarship of the distinguished authors who are contributors to the work. Only three of the stories relate to tribes of the Middle West: "Little-Wolf Joins the Medicine Lodge," by Alanson Skinner; "Thunder-Cloud, a Winnebago Shaman, Relates and Prays," by Paul Radin; and "How Meskwaki Children Should Be Brought Up," by Truman Michelson.

In *The Hero of the Longhouse* (New York, 1920. 329 p.), Mary E. Laing describes in story form the life and achievements of the "historical Hiawatha," whose fame has been eclipsed by that of the poet's creation. The chief work of the real Hiawatha was the forming of "a nation by uniting the five tribes of the Iroquois."

An important article by the leader of the western school of American historians, Professor Frederick J. Turner of Harvard University, appears in the *Yale Review* for October under the title "Sections and Nation."

A valuable contribution to Minnesota history is contained in an article on "The Origin and Early History of the Farmers' Alliance in Minnesota," by John D. Hicks of the North Carolina College for Women, published in the December number of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*. This study was read at the state historical convention under the auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society in Duluth last July. In the same magazine is an interpretative study of "Nativism in the Forties and Fifties, with Special Reference to the Mississippi Valley," by George M. Stephenson of the University of Minnesota.

One chapter in Hanna Astrup Larsen's able study of *Knut Hamsun* (New York, 1922) deals with the latter's experiences as a young man in America, chiefly in the Middle West.

In an interview reported in the *St. Paul Daily News* for December 24, a former passenger agent of the Northern Pacific Railroad,

Mr. Clarence E. Stone, tells how he brought theatrical attractions to the cities of the Northwest, from Duluth to Portland, Oregon, during the years following 1883, when the Pacific railroad was completed.

At the annual meeting of the Swedish Historical Society of America, which was held at the Historical Building in St. Paul on December 2, two papers were read: "The Beginnings of Education among the Swedes in America," by Dr. Conrad Peterson of Gustavus Adolphus College; and "Reminiscences of Early Days in Minnesota," by Dr. Frank Peterson. A special exhibit of books, pamphlets, and newspapers, drawn from the library of the Swedish Historical Society, was presented in the museum.

Hjalmar or the Immigrant's Son is the title of a novel by James A. Peterson of Minneapolis, in which the scenes are laid among the early Norwegian settlements in pioneer Wisconsin (Minneapolis, 1922. 273 p.). The book is of considerable historical value because of the fidelity with which the frontier setting has been sketched.

In an effort to save old manuscripts, the New York Historical Society recently published a series of advertisements in a large number of New York newspapers calling attention to the historical value of old letters, papers, books, and documents. "Fire and the Rag Man," "Your Attic," and "Old Letters and Papers," were among the vivid headings employed.

The Indiana Historical Society has recently received a bequest from the late Delavan Smith of Indianapolis, consisting of the sum of \$150,000 and the private library of Mr. Smith's father, William Henry Smith, the Indiana historian. The collection is valued at \$200,000.

The most interesting article in number 2-3 of volume 6 of the *Michigan History Magazine* (1922) is on "Source Material of the Detroit Public Library as Supplied by the Acquisition of the Burton Historical Collection." This is a brief description of some of the manuscript treasures relating to the early Northwest in the invaluable collection presented by Mr. Clarence M. Burton. A mural tablet in bronze, placed in the Detroit institution, bears an

inscription which says of Mr. Burton: "His genius and interest lay in the collection of the original sources of history of this city and state and of the Northwest Territory. Having devoted a lifetime of effort to this work he presented the results of his interest and industry to his fellow citizens."

"The Yankee and the Teuton in Wisconsin" is the title of the leading article in the December number of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. It is a careful comparison by Joseph Schafer of the two racial groups with reference particularly to their relations to the land—a type of study that might profitably be made in other western states. In an editorial in the same number Dr. Schafer calls attention to certain dangers connected with a too trusting reliance upon "What We Remember." "Our memories," he writes, "when they volunteer testimony concerning events of long ago, should ever be treated as potential perjurers, and handled with all the rigor employed by the cross-questioner in a court of law."

An unusually thorough study of its kind is a *History of Banking in Iowa*, by Howard H. Preston of the University of Washington, published by the State Historical Society of Iowa as a volume of its *Iowa Economic History Series* (Iowa City, 1922. 458 p.). The book contains fifteen chapters dealing with all phases of Iowa banking history from 1838 to 1921.

The *Report* of the State Historical Society of Iowa for the biennium ending June 30, 1922, announces that on July 1, 1922, that organization had 1,220 active members.

A book on *Julian Dubuque, His Life and Adventures* (Dubuque, Iowa, 1922. 91 p.), by Richard Herrmann, is useful for its survey of the career of an important figure in western history.

A detailed study of the "Lewis and Clark Expedition in its Relation to Iowa History and Geography" is printed in the *Annals of Iowa* for October, 1921–January, 1922.

Theodore Roosevelt's ranching experiences in the eighties near Medora, North Dakota, have a perennial interest for students of the former president's career. A careful study of the subject by Albert T. Vollweiler is published in the *Quarterly Journal* of the

University of North Dakota for October, 1918, under the title, "Roosevelt's Ranch Life in North Dakota." In commemoration of the sixty-fourth anniversary of Roosevelt's birth, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 22, 1922, carries an article by Mr. Vollweiler which obviously is based upon the earlier study noted above. A "Real Chateau in North Dakota Badlands," built by a French nobleman, the Marquis de Mores, in the early eighties is described, and his unsuccessful commercial ventures at Medora, a town which he founded, are enumerated in an article by Kate H. Brower in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 17. Modern pictures of Medora and the chateau appear with the article.

Much information relating to the Canadian Northwest, with occasional references to Minnesota, is contained in the *Autobiography of John Macoun* (1922. 305 p.). The volume is published by the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club as a memorial to the distinguished Canadian explorer and naturalist.

The Development of the British Empire is the title of a valuable textbook by Howard Robinson of Carleton College (New York, 1922. 475 p.). In it the author traces in a comprehensive manner the evolution of the British Empire from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to the present. Considerable attention is given to Canada and its relations to the United States, a subject of special interest to readers of this magazine.

In the *Manitoba Free Press* for October 28, W. R. Lowe describes an event in the annals of the Selkirk settlement — "the great mid-winter tramp of Jean Baptiste Lagimodiere" from the present site of Winnipeg to Montreal in 1815. How Lagimodiere delivered to Lord Selkirk the message telling of the threatened destruction of his colony by the Northwest Company and thus enabled Selkirk to dispatch a body of Swiss soldiers for the protection of the settlers is related. Another article presenting the romance of Lagimodiere's wife, "the West's first white woman," appears in the *Free Press* for November 20.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

The article on Minnesota in the new volumes of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* is a concise summary of the development of the state

since 1910. The subject is dealt with under the following eight headings: population, agriculture and minerals, manufactures, transportation, education, government, finance, and history. The article was prepared by Solon J. Buck, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society.

The project for placing a marker by the Mendota chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution "to commemorate the treaty at Mendota negotiated on Pilot Knob whereby the Sioux Indians ceded their lands in the Territory of Minnesota and the State of Iowa to the United States Government" occasions an interesting article by Jay W. Ludden in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 5, which tells the story of the cession of 1851.

A phase of Minnesota's pioneer history that has been seldom touched upon — the territory and the state as the "playground of the nation" and a mecca for southern tourists before the Civil War — is set forth in an interesting article by William Kirchner in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for October 8. Some of the reasons why Southerners chose Minnesota as a refuge from the unhealthy summers of their own climate, chief among which are the facts that Minnesota Territory was strongly Democratic in politics and that this congenial district was easy of access by way of the Mississippi River, are pointed out. The frontier towns that tourists found at the head of navigation also are described. Pictures of the Winslow House and the Nicollet House, two hotels built at St. Anthony in the fifties to accommodate summer visitors, illustrate the article.

An article which deals with the possible development of an historic motor route through the region of the Sioux Massacre appears in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 29. Monuments already erected in the district to mark historic sites are described and it is suggested that many of these should be removed to the roadside, where tourists might view them and where they would be less likely to be neglected. Pictures of some of the markers and an old view of Fort Ridgely also are published. Certain flaws in the article are pointed out and additional material is presented in a second article in the *Pioneer Press* of December 24. This contains an appreciation of the valorous services of Colonel Timothy J. Sheehan during the defense of Fort Ridgely, based upon

information furnished by his widow, Mrs. Jennie Sheehan of St. Paul, and some recollections of the massacre by two survivors, Mrs. Mary Schwandt Schmidt of St. Paul and her brother, Mr. A. W. Schwandt of Vancouver, Canada. With the article appear portraits of the two latter narrators and of Colonel Sheehan.

The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* has reprinted and thus made available for general use four articles descriptive of northern Minnesota and Dakota a half century ago, which were written for the *Boston Daily Advertiser* in the autumn of 1872 by H. L. Bridgman. At that time the author was traveling with three United States commissioners and three representatives of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, who were inspecting the completed portion of the Pacific railroad. The reprints appear in the issues of the *Pioneer Press* for October 15, 22, 29, and November 5. In the first article the author describes Duluth, the eastern terminal of the railroad, with its fine harbor and wonderful possibilities for future development; in the second and third he tells of the journey over the newly-constructed road to the crude frontier towns of Brainerd and Moorhead. The latter was at the time the western terminal of the regular freight and passenger business of the Northern Pacific, but tracks stretched westward from this point nearly 150 miles into Dakota and were being extended towards the Missouri River at the rate of two miles a day by a crew of a hundred men under the protection of a military escort. The journey to Crystal Springs within a few miles of the "end of the track" is the subject of the final article. Each of the articles is appropriately illustrated.

At a meeting of the Minnesota War Records Commission on November 14, attended by four of the nine members, the secretary reported progress made during the current biennium and recommended for submission to the Governor and the legislature a plan for the work of the next biennium. It was decided informally, subject to the approval of the absent members, that in order to hasten the completion of its work the commission should request an annual appropriation of \$17,500, instead of \$10,000, the current annual appropriation. Before the end of the present biennium the commission will have published a history of Minnesota in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection,

but its original and major task, the publication of a comprehensive history of Minnesota in the World War, still remains to be done. Work has commenced on the preparation for the press of a history of the 151st United States Field Artillery, written by Lieutenant Governor Louis L. Collins, but this volume remains to be printed; and other volumes on the World War period are projected in accordance with the plan tacitly approved at the last session of the legislature. At the meeting of the commission it was emphasized that a request for an increase should not be regarded as might a similar request from a permanent state department, the commission being a temporary body with a limited task to perform and desirous only of completing its work at smaller cost, both in time and money, than would be possible under the present appropriation.

Among the articles of special interest to Minnesotans which have been published in the *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa, during the past three months, is an account, by Captain Fred A. Bill, of "William H. Seward's Visit to Minnesota in 1860," based upon extracts, in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society, from the diaries of Charles Francis Adams and his son, Charles Francis Adams, Jr., who accompanied Seward. The narrative, which appears in two installments in the issues for November 25 and December 2, contains extensive quotations from such portions of the diaries as relate to St. Paul, the Falls of St. Anthony, Fort Snelling, and the journeys coming and going on a Mississippi River steamboat. In commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad, a series of articles, also by Captain Bill, is published in the issue of the *Post* for September 23 and October 7 and 14. Herein is described the famous excursion with which the Rock Island celebrated its completion to the Mississippi River in 1854, by bringing to the end of its road and thence by boat to St. Paul a group of prominent Easterners. Captain Bill deals with the same subject in an article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 15. In an interesting pamphlet, entitled *Seventy Years of Service from Grant to Gorman* (1922. 48 p.), issued in commemoration of the same event, Mr. F. V. Nevins sketches the history of the road from the forties to the present.

An interview with Captain Fred A. Bill of St. Paul concerning his steamboating experiences on the Red and Red Lake rivers fifty years ago is reported by Jay W. Ludden in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 12. Some interesting descriptions of the valleys of these rivers and the embryonic towns upon their banks in 1872 are included. Early views of Winnipeg, Fort Pembina, and Fort Garry, pictures of two steamboats on the Red River, and portraits of Captain Bill and James J. Hill, illustrate the article.

A valuable series of articles by W. H. Brill dealing with the trunk highway system of Minnesota and embodying "historical information regarding road building and road laws in the state" begins in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for October 22. In the opening article, which is entitled "Minnesota Road History Dates Back to Early Fur Traders," Mr. Brill states that the first road to be built in what is now Minnesota connected Beaver Bay on Lake Superior with Greenwood Lake. Precisely when the road was constructed is not made clear in the article, although the author indicates that it was toward the end of the fur-trading period. It is improbable, however, that traders used the road to any great extent. The chief value of the article lies in its suggestion of historical possibilities in the study of the state's roads. The articles which follow deal with many practical aspects of the road system of the state, and occasionally introduce historical material. In the second article the author develops the idea that "Snow Blocked Roads Gave Birth to State Highway System." In the eleventh article, entitled "Counties Cooperate in Lacing State With System of Good Roads," Mr. Brill deals with a group of counties, describing for each the coördination of the trunk highways and the so-called "state-aid roads" built by the counties with financial aid from the state.

Plans have been adopted by the Norwegian-Danish Press Association to honor the memory of Paul Hjelm-Hansen. A commemorative plaque is to be prepared which will be presented to the Minnesota Historical Society. Hjelm-Hansen came to America from Norway in 1867, and from that date until his death in 1881 he was prominently identified with the Norwegian press in Wisconsin and Minnesota. He is especially noted as the author of a series of influential letters, written in 1869, describing an exten-

sive journey in Otter Tail, Douglas, and other western counties of Minnesota. In 1869 he was appointed by Governor Marshall to act as an agent of the state board of immigration. After leaving Alexandria on July 12, 1869, in a wagon drawn by oxen, he drove as far west as Fort Abercrombie and Georgetown, everywhere making inquiries of settlers and carefully observing conditions. In a series of well-written letters, published in newspapers both in Norway and in this country, he advertised the resources of the Red River Valley, vigorously urging Norwegian immigrants to settle in the region. He later traveled extensively in other parts of the state, continuing his communications to the press. The letters constitute a mine of detailed, first-hand information for students of settlement in Minnesota. They are published in the *Nordisk Folkeblad* for 1869, the files of which are preserved in the newspaper collection of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Members of the Evergreen Club, an organization composed of musicians who have been "active either professionally or semiprofessionally in music in Minneapolis for at least 20 years," recalled pioneer musical events of the city at their annual banquet on November 25. An account of the meeting appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for November 26. The pioneer custom in Minneapolis of driving "in a carriage from house to house to sing New Years' carols" is described in the same newspaper for December 31 in a report of an interview with Mr. George Eustis, the leader of a quartet which followed this practice sixty years ago. An interesting contribution to the musical history of Minnesota is contained in a book entitled *A History of St. Olaf Choir*, by Eugene E. Simpson (Minneapolis, 1921. 192 p.). The scope of the book is somewhat broader than its title indicates, for it tells the entire story of musical organization and activity at St. Olaf College, Northfield, an institution which has been fortunate in having the services of a remarkable director of music, Mr. F. Melius Christianson.

In a letter printed in the *Henderson Independent* for December 15, Mr. George G. Allanson, discussing the beginnings of farming in Minnesota, points out that the mound-building Indians raised several varieties of corn and beans, in addition to potatoes, pumpkins, squash, and sunflowers. They are, therefore, the original

farmers of Minnesota. The first man to raise wheat in Minnesota, Mr. Allanson asserts, was Joseph R. Brown, at Gray Cloud Island in 1831.

Interesting contributions to the agricultural history of the state are being made in articles on dairying by Charles F. Collison which appear from time to time in the *Minneapolis Tribune*. The most recent of these, published on October 8, is an account of the life and work of Professor Theophilus L. Haecker, who has taught dairy methods at the University of Minnesota since 1891.

In a pamphlet entitled *Public School Finance in Minnesota*, by Fletcher Harper Swift and Frances Kelley del Plaine, an able analysis of Minnesota's school conditions is presented, particularly with reference to the expenditure of funds (Minneapolis, 1922. 59 p.).

In a general survey of the "Present Status of State History Teaching in the Elementary Grades," presented in the December *Historical Outlook*, Mr. Harry L. Haun ranks Minnesota among those states in which state history is "not generally" taught. Mr. Haun contributes to the same magazine an article on "Progressive Tendencies of State History Teaching in the Elementary Grades," in which several interesting Minnesota experiments are considered, including a "socialized recitation plan" at the State Teachers College at Winona where "pupils of the 8 B Grade have written and to some extent illustrated their own state history."

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The most important recent development in connection with local historical activity in the state is the organization of the St. Louis County Historical Society. The people of northeastern Minnesota have displayed much active historical interest during the past year. The first annual state historical convention under the auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society was held at Duluth in partial recognition of this fact. That the St. Louis County membership in the state society has been increasing very rapidly is evidenced by the inclusion of almost forty St. Louis County names in the membership announcement printed in the present number of the BULLETIN. The ground was well prepared for the new county

society before its organization on November 25, when a constitution was adopted and officers were elected. Among the latter are William E. Culkin of Duluth, president; William A. McGonagle and Mrs. Julia M. Barnes of Duluth, and A. E. Bickford of Virginia, vice presidents; J. Daniel Mahoney of Duluth, treasurer; Mrs. Addie Mauseau of Duluth, secretary; and a board of governors composed of Edward C. Congdon and William C. Sargent of Duluth, J. C. Poole of Eveleth, Peter Schaeffer of Ely, and W. N. Tappan of Hibbing.

The constitution enumerates the objects of the society with particular emphasis upon the collection and preservation of the sources for the history of the county, as well as the dissemination of historical information and the marking of historic sites. Provision is made for active and honorary members, the former to be of two classes, life and annual, according as they make a single payment of fifteen dollars or choose to pay one dollar a year. The secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society is made an ex officio member of the organization. The officers include a president, three vice presidents, a general secretary, a treasurer, and "as many corresponding secretaries for different locations in the county as may be provided from year to year by the action of the Board of Governors." This board, composed of the president, vice presidents, and five elected members, is authorized to manage the affairs of the society. The president of the society, however, is the executive agent of the board and is compensated for his services. Four meetings are to be held each year, in addition to an annual meeting or convention to be held in alternate years in Duluth and other cities of the county. In case material is collected which is not specifically desired for the county "it may be tendered to the Minnesota Historical Society," and if there is a "cessation of an effective working organization" the collected materials shall become the property of the state society. Affiliation with the state society is provided through institutional membership, and an annual report is to be made from the local to the state society.

The first quarterly meeting of the new society was held on January 2. The *Duluth Herald*, commenting editorially on the project in its issue of December 30, says, "Our local history is of high interest. The story of early explorations, of the Indian

tribes, of ancient Fond du Lac, of the development of the fur trade, of mining, lumbering, farming, railroading, and shipping, all must be remembered and all must be set down and told. An interesting collection of old records and documents should be made, these being the original sources of local history. Perhaps some day a documentary history of St. Louis county may be published which would be an invaluable record of facts for the use of future historians." It is to be hoped that in other counties, where historical activity has not been organized or has remained uncorrelated with the work of the state institution, the example of St. Louis County will be studied and followed.

The annual meeting of the St. Louis County branch of the Minnesota War Records Commission was held at the local headquarters in Duluth on December 22. The chairman and director of the committee's work, Mr. William E. Culkin, submitted reports on the activities and expenditures of the year then closing. In reporting that the committee now has records of the war services of some thirteen thousand individuals, the chairman emphasized the fact that the committee's file is the only one in existence in which the names of those who entered military or other war service from St. Louis County can be readily obtained. Similar records in the state collection, it may be noted, are arranged for the most part without reference to county divisions. Progress was reported in the preparation of a narrative history upon which Mr. Culkin has been working, but consideration of the question of publication was deferred upon the chairman's recommendation. The committee agreed to an arrangement whereby it would share its headquarters and the services of the clerk in charge with the St. Louis County Historical Society, the latter organization sharing also in the expense.

A paper on "The Friendly Ojibways of the Lake Superior Country," by William E. Culkin, field agent of the Minnesota Historical Society in northeastern Minnesota, was read at the annual meeting of the Old Settlers of the Head of the Lakes, held in Duluth on December 13.

The circumstances which prompted Representative Proctor Knott of Kentucky to deliver a satirical speech on Duluth in the national House of Representatives on January 27, 1871, are re-

counted by Charles E. Lovett in the *Duluth Herald* for October 6. Numerous details are presented to explain how Knott ridiculed the idea of Duluth, an " 'important city' of 300 people trying to secure a \$500,000 appropriation for her harbor," only to produce the unexpected result of spreading the name and fame of the infant city.

A wealth of material on the early history of Renville County is included in the "Fiftieth Anniversary Edition" of the *Olivia Times*, issued on September 28. A general outline of the county's history is supplemented by historical sketches of its various towns, reminiscences of old settlers, an account of early political events, and notes on schools, teachers, and churches. A history of the *Times* with extracts from its earliest issues also is included. A similar edition of the *Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch*, published on September 14, celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the town. Much local interest is usually shown in special newspaper editions in which the historical background of the community is described. Occasionally the Minnesota Historical Society is called upon by editors to supply historical information for such issues. With careful planning and search for original documents in the preparation of anniversary issues, Minnesota editors could make genuine contributions to the history of the state by their publication. Such contributions, preserved in the society's files of newspapers, would be permanently available to students of local history.

Some of the changes which have taken place in Ramsey County since its establishment on October 27, 1849, are noted in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for October 27. Brief statements about five other counties, Benton, Dakota, Itasca, Wabasha, and Washington, which were established on the same date, also are published. Of special interest is a map showing the original and present boundaries of Ramsey County. The state's newest county, Lake of the Woods, is the subject of an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for November 26. A brief outline history of Beltrami County, from which the new county was detached, is included.

The interesting story of early settlement on Gray Cloud Island is retold in an article by M. Retlaw in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 3.

Chief Justice Calvin L. Brown is the author of a paper on "Stevens County in the Making and the Men Who Made It," which is printed in the *Morris Tribune* for November 24. In the same newspaper for December 15 Chief Justice Brown writes on "Some Politics, 1874-1878," discussing mainly the results of local elections in Stevens County for the period indicated.

In some of his more interesting sketches of "St. Paul Before This" recently published in the *St. Paul Daily News*, Benjamin Backnumber deals with the following subjects: "Kaleidoscopic Government" during Minnesota's pre-territorial period, October 29; a "bad mistake" connected with Albert E. Rice's election to the state Senate in 1874, October 8; how McGill was nominated in 1886, October 15; the election of 1847 in St. Paul, October 22; "Donnelly and Austin" in the campaign of 1864, December 24; Robert A. Smith, mayor of St. Paul for fifteen years, November 5; the attempt to remove the capital to St. Peter, November 19; "Early Newspapering," December 17; and Lot Moffet and his "castle," an early St. Paul hotel, December 31.

Considerable material on the industrial development of St. Paul and South St. Paul and the history of the live-stock industry in the Northwest is published in a special section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 17.

Local newspapers seem never to tire of publishing the story of the founding of St. Paul by the redoubtable Pierre Parrant, alias "Pig's Eye." The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* needed no greater provocation than the death of a pioneer, Christopher D. O'Brien, Sr., to publish the oft-told tale in its issue of December 17, where it is combined with other bits of information about early St. Paul.

How St. Paul celebrated its first official Thanksgiving Day on December 26, 1850, is told by Jay W. Ludden in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 26. Notes on general conditions in St. Paul and on the festivities of the day are followed by extensive extracts from the sermon preached by the Reverend Edward D. Neill at the "Thanksgiving union services." His portrait with a view of St. Paul in 1850 and a picture of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, where the services were held, illustrate the article.

The wrecking of the old House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul occasions an article in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for October 4 which reviews the past of the historic church.

Considerable material is published in the *St. Paul Daily News* for December 17 on the history of that newspaper since March 1, 1900, when its first issue appeared.

The history of a much-debated subject — the development of power at the high dam in the Mississippi River between St. Paul and Minneapolis — is summarized in the *Minneapolis Tribune* and the *Minneapolis Journal* of December 24. The story spans the period from 1866 to the present.

The Hennepin County War Records Committee closed its office at the courthouse in Minneapolis in December, having completed, in large measure, the work of compiling and collecting records of the part taken by Hennepin County citizens and organizations in the World War. The committee, however, will continue in existence for an indefinite period, the secretary, Mr. Cecil W. Shirk, devoting his spare time to the completion of a few unfinished tasks. The committee's extensive file of records of local service men and welfare workers has been turned over to the Minneapolis Public Library, and its equally voluminous files of the war-time correspondence, reports, and other records of important local organizations have been added to similar collections in the office of the Minnesota War Records Commission — all of which will be noted in a report to be issued by the committee at an early date. Commenting editorially on the work of this committee, described in its news columns of the day before, the *Minneapolis Journal*, on December 27, observed: "The Hennepin County War Records Committee should be complimented on the thorough and able manner in which it has taken the individual threads of history and woven them into a solid fabric of fact concerning the County's part in the war. . . . It has . . . preserved as minute a family history of Hennepin County as could possibly be made. . . . Compilation of such a record has taken some two years, but it has been worth while. In time it will become one of the most valuable collections of data that the County possesses. It gives the answer to any question that may arise as to the part the County and its citizens played during one of the greatest crises in history."

Histories of Minneapolis and St. Anthony, originally published in the *St. Anthony Express* in November, 1855, are reproduced serially in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Journal* during October. In addition to brief narrative histories, descriptions of institutions and business establishments of the pioneer cities are included. A business directory of Minneapolis, which forms part of the installment for October 22, is of special interest.

The celebration of "Minneapolis Week" from December 3 to 10 was the occasion for the appearance of many special articles in Minneapolis newspapers dealing with the population and industrial growth and numerous other aspects of the development of the city. The *Minneapolis Journal* for November 26 contains a number of brief statistical articles, with large emphasis upon "first things," for example, the first permanent dwelling, the first school, the first store, the first newspaper, and similar points intended to illustrate "how the city got its start." A "Minneapolis Essay," encircled by pictures and portraits of historical interest, is printed in the same newspaper for December 3. The *Minneapolis Tribune* for December 3 contains many interesting and valuable historical illustrations in its rotogravure section and several short historical notes on local history. Among the latter is an informing article entitled "Overcrowded School Rooms Known in '51," which deals with the early school history of Minneapolis. Valuable as are these issues, it is to be regretted that so little effort was made to secure original contributions to the city's history, such as old letters, diaries, and other documents.

In the *Minneapolis Tribune* of October 1 is an article entitled "City Founded 75 Years Ago Today by Ard Godfrey," wherein is recounted the familiar story of the arrival of Godfrey and others at the Falls of St. Anthony on October 1, 1847.

A fragmentary history of the contributions to the cultural life of Minneapolis of Mr. Thomas B. Walker, and, especially, of his famous art collection, appears in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for December 31. The story, from 1892 to the present, of the Central City Market of Minneapolis, which Mr. Walker helped to establish, is published in the *Minneapolis Journal* for December 31.



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