

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

War Diary. By GEORGE E. LEACH, Colonel 151st Field Artillery, Rainbow Division. (Minneapolis, 1923. 205 p. Illustrations.)

Of the vast literature relating to the World War which has been published during the past few years, memoirs, reminiscences, and diaries have formed no inconsiderable part. The volume of this material which is still issuing from the press shows no sign of diminishing. It is extremely fortunate that the generation which fought the World War has shown a sufficient degree of historical-mindedness to preserve such records in permanent form before they are lost or destroyed through carelessness or neglect. The narratives and diaries which were the first to appear were devoted almost entirely to the personal, intimate experiences of the writers, who were in many instances enlisted men or officers of the lower grades. Since they knew little of the broader aspects of military operations, these writers focused their attention upon the details of the soldier's daily life. Following the cessation of hostilities, on the other hand, the world was flooded with the reminiscences of persons of high military or official rank who sought an opportunity to justify themselves and their actions before the bar of history. These accounts deal almost exclusively with the broader military, political, and diplomatic aspects of the war. One is impressed by the fact that there have been relatively few personal narratives emanating from military officers of the middle ranks, that is from battalion, regimental, and brigade commanders. There has been little to throw light upon the part played by these men, their duties and their responsibilities, their cares and their triumphs. The *Diary* which is the subject of the present review is of unusual value and interest because it does this very thing. It is a record of the experiences of a regimental commander, one of that group of American officers upon whose devotion to duty and efficiency so much of the success of our arms depended.

Colonel George E. Leach commanded the 151st United States Field Artillery, of the Rainbow Division, throughout the entire period of its service in the World War. As an officer of the national guard he had previously commanded the First Minnesota Field Artillery, which was reorganized as the 151st after the outbreak of hostilities. The distinguished service of the Forty-second, or Rainbow, Division is widely known, and it was a high tribute to the officers and men of the First Minnesota that they should have been designated to constitute a part of the organization. The Rainbow Division, including the 151st Field Artillery, was concentrated at Camp Mills, New York, during September and early October, 1917. During the latter part of October the division was transported to France, where a period of intensive training was entered upon in preparation for service at the front. The end of February, 1918, found the 151st in a quiet sector of the front in Lorraine, where the entire division had been placed for a period of front-line training which was to extend into the month of June. In July, the Forty-second was moved to the Champagne front to help withstand the great German offensive which was anticipated in that quarter. The attack came and was hurled back in one of the critical battles of the war, after which the division was hurried westward to assist in the allied counter-offensive which was driving the enemy out of the Marne salient. After the Germans had been driven back to the River Vesle, the guns of the 151st were hauled from the line and moved eastward again. September 12, 1918, found the regiment in position on the St. Mihiel front, where it carried out with almost mechanical precision its part in the brilliant operation of the First American Army which ended in the reduction of the salient. A few days later, men and guns were being hurried westward to join the last and greatest American offensive of the war, the Meuse-Argonne. The days which followed, from October 7, when the regiment entered the line, until November 11, were a period of almost incessant battle and it was here in the Argonne that the 151st did its most brilliant work. After the armistice the Rainbow Division was assigned to the Army of Occupation and moved forward to the Rhine.

The diary of Colonel Leach contains an entry for almost every day of the period beginning with September 4, 1917, and

ending with May 10, 1919, and it constitutes a vivid narrative of the operations enumerated above. The entries are sometimes brief, it is true, but a regimental commander during those stirring days had little time for writing. The reviewer has had an opportunity to examine the diary in the form in which it was originally kept. It is contained in a series of small, leather-bound memorandum books, one for each month, and of such size that they could be carried conveniently in the pocket of blouse or shirt and thus always be available. The entries were written in dugout or billet, or wherever else the colonel happened to be at the moment. On some occasions the record of the day's events was actually written under fire. It should be stated that the diary as published contains some corrections, and certain additional material in the form of quotations from orders, reports, and other official documents has been added by the author. It would also appear that in some instances supplementary material drawn from memory has been included in the published version.

As an historical document the diary is of the greatest value and interest. It contains information which will serve as a useful check upon the data relating to the regiment contained in official orders and reports. But it is more than this. It is an intensely interesting human document and it pictures war as a struggle of man's spirit and body against difficulty and danger and all the sordid things which accompany war. The value of the record is enhanced by the fact that it was originally intended for no other eye than that of the author. Thus we read of the colonel's anxiety for the welfare and safety of his men and we share his sorrow as he records the loss of friends and comrades among the officers and men of his command. Again, we share his pride as he mentions a word of praise or commendation from a superior after a particularly fine or successful bit of work by his regiment. The discerning reader will note traces of strain and fatigue in the tone of some of the entries written during the height of battle, and if he had access to the little volumes containing the original diary he would note similar traces of strain and weariness in the very handwriting itself. Enemy shells and poison gas were not the only things which tried the spirits of the men, as is revealed in the frequent references to cold and mud, flies and vermin, and the smells of the battlefield. And running

ever through the account of the terrible battle of the Argonne is the note of weariness. But after all, even in war it is the little things which often matter, and on May 31, 1918, the colonel paused to write in his diary: "Had a tooth filled today and enjoyed it as much as usual."

The easiest way in which to give the reader an idea concerning the contents of the volume is to quote a few typical passages, but one is confronted by the difficulty of selection. The following extracts, however, have been chosen more or less at random. The first two describe the vicissitudes of life aboard a convoy, early in the war:

Saturday, October 20th [1917]. Four hundred miles east of Hatteras at sunrise. Sea is rough and most of the men sick. Whole day spent in drill and inspection below decks. Two men lost over-board last night. So many of the officers are sick that it makes a tough day for the others. The hold and decks at times look simply hopeless, and all you can do is to keep at it. Details for work get sick before they report, and it is a constant fight to get things done. Tonight the sea is not running so high.

Friday, October 26th [1917]. Engines were broken down for an hour this morning and we rolled in the trough of the sea, but are on our way now in good shape. S. O. S. report of a ship sinking 100 miles N. E. struck by a torpedo. The ship made no answer. An oil tanker met us this A. M. with fuel for the destroyers. The ship was broken down for an hour and rolled in the sea, while the rest of the fleet steamed in a circle around her. It is cold and cloudy, and hard to keep warm; the wind being very raw.

Another entry records an early experience of the regiment at the front:

Saturday, March 9th [1918]. We pulled our first Coup de Main at one P. M. today, which lasted five hours of terrific shelling. Went to a front line observation station with General McKinstry and we got caught in a shell fire and lay in the bottom of a shallow trench an hour and five minutes, while German 5.0 shells fell like rain. We were almost buried alive several times. A frightful experience for me. At five-thirty the infantry completed its mission and the firing let up and I was glad to get back alive. Part of the time we observed the engagement from the top of a camouflaged tree on a high hill in the Vosges and had a wonderful view. The Germans shelled our O. P. and we were almost knocked out of the tree. A French soldier, standing next to me on the platform was badly wounded in the leg. My regiment fired 5,422

rounds and had only 20 casualties, which spoke well for the camouflage of our positions which had been especially prepared.

Now and then the diary relates a personal adventure, which in the following instance is not unmixed with a certain grim humor, at least from the viewpoint of the reader:

Sunday, July 28th [1918]. . . . The aviators fly very low and at one time one of them deliberately chased Captain Bradley and I around a tree, so close that we had the opportunity to empty our automatics at him, but the necessity of dodging his machine gun bullets hindered our marksmanship.

The hardship and strain of the fighting in the Argonne, which have already been mentioned, are revealed in such passages as the following:

Monday, October 14th [1918]. Fired all night and just before daylight finished our preparation for the advance. The rolling barrage started but the Infantry met with stubborn resistance from the German Artillery and machine guns. The 32nd Division on the right was counter-attacked and lost some ground. The roads are terrible with mud and shell holes and the service of ammunition is killing our horses. The harassing fire of the Germans with high explosives and gas continues. We are all very miserable for sleep, having had no rest for five days.

And here is a particularly vivid bit of description:

Wednesday, November 6th [1918]. At six A. M. in a cold rain, rode to St. Piermont, Oches and La Berlier, where I spent the rest of the day and night waiting for the batteries to come up. It was a battle picture that I will never forget as I rode over the hill into Oches, where two divisions were converging on the town, plodding through the mud and rain. There are unburied Americans and Germans along the road, covered with mud, and dead horses everywhere, and everyone so tired it was absolutely still, except for the rattle of equipment and the splash of the mud.

Nothing reveals more clearly the nature of the ordeal through which the men of the 151st had passed than their almost pitiful attempt at a celebration when the news of the armistice arrived:

Monday, November 11th [1918]. The Armistice is signed and at eleven A. M. the firing ceased. Nothing impressed me so much as the absolute silence. In the evening the soldiers fired all of the German Rocket dumps and each man built a little fire for himself out of the debris, but with it all there was very little excitement. The band played in the afternoon for the first time in weeks.

The *Diary* is a noteworthy contribution to the story of America's participation in the World War, and it is also an absorbing personal narrative of stirring events, full of human interest and adventure.

WAYNE E. STEVENS

Forty Years in North Dakota (In Relation to Grand Forks County). BY H. V. ARNOLD. (Larimore, North Dakota, the author, 1921. 176 p.)

In Dr. Van Dyke Robinson's admirable study of the development of agriculture in Minnesota, published eight years ago, there is a chapter on the period of specialized wheat farming, from 1860 to 1880. Diagrams and statistics are employed to bring out the fact that Minnesota wheat culture reached "its third and final culminating point" in 1878. In a subsequent chapter the author designates the years 1880 to 1900 as the period in which diversified farming developed. It is interesting to turn from the impersonal analysis in Dr. Robinson's pages to such a book as Mr. H. V. Arnold's *Forty Years in North Dakota*, for the opening chapters of the latter work translate the scholar's statistics into the language of personal experience. The diagram becomes the story of the Arnolds of Houston County, Minnesota, who declined to adjust themselves to the transition from specialized to diversified farming. "The ultimate failure of wheat raising in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa," writes one of the Arnolds, the author of the book under review, "had been foreseen by many from the analogy of the older states and now the people of those sections found themselves confronted with the reality. It was said by some that farmers must pay more attention to stock raising with improved breeds of both hogs and cattle. But there were hundreds of the small farmers who were unable to cope with the changed situation, since to adjust matters to the required new conditions would take several years."

The three Arnolds — two brothers and a cousin — were small farmers who cut the Gordian knot by emigrating. "Two farm wagons had to be provided with bows shaved out of long, slender saplings as frames for the canvas coverings of the wagons. The space inside was made wider than usual by blocking out the

lower ends of the bows where they were bolted to the sides of the wagons. . . . Finally the wagons were rather heavily loaded with household goods, trunks, bedding, and some light farming implements, etc. The one span of horses on the place was sold with some other things and five yoke of oxen purchased at \$80 to \$90 per yoke, the fifth pair having been trained to pull in harnesses. . . . A cow and grown colt were also taken along." On April 12, 1880, the Arnolds left Houston County and made their slow way through Preston, Chatfield, and Cannon Falls, to the Twin Cities. They then started west, going by way of St. Cloud, Fergus Falls, and Moorhead; and after sundry other stops "the first three occupants of Larimore township in Grand Forks County, N. D." reached their destination. The story of this enterprise, typical in its general features of the emigration of thousands of Minnesotans, is told in considerable detail in chapter 1 — on "The Journey to North Dakota" — of the book under review.

The experiences of the Arnolds in North Dakota, where they raised wheat to their hearts' content and became large farmers, need not be told here. Mr. Arnold's chapters on establishing the settlement, subdividing the township, affairs in 1881, the boom year and later, lagging years for town and country, the late eighties and the early nineties, railroad division times, and the recent period, bring the story down to date. The author, writing of his North Dakota township with an affection rooted in his forty years residence there, is not unlike that charming creation of Herbert Quick, Jacob Vandemark.

Forty Years in North Dakota is of interest to the student of Minnesota history in its relations to the history of North Dakota. It is a document of the westward movement. It is an interesting personal record. But alas, it can be read only by those who possess strong eyes, for it was printed by means of a "private outfit of printing material." Evidently there has been a typographical battle and the casualties — torn words and mutilated sentences — limp and stagger across the pages.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

A new venture of the society in the field of publication is a monthly check list of current documents issued by the various state departments, boards, and commissions, and by state-supported societies and institutions. The first number, for July, 1923, appeared as a four-page folder in September. It is believed that the publication of this list will be of great assistance to the society in the difficult task of keeping its files of state documents complete and up-to-date, and also to other libraries, institutions, and individuals, who want to keep informed about Minnesota publications. The list will be distributed to the various state departments and institutions concerned, to members of the legislature, to schools and libraries which subscribe to the society's publications, to Minnesota newspapers, and to such members of the society and exchanges as express a desire to be put on the mailing list.

Two life members, Edward C. Congdon of Duluth and Ambrose Tighe of St. Paul, became patrons of the society during the three months ending September 30, 1923. During the same period the transfer of four life members, Henry S. Blakeley and James H. Skinner of St. Paul, William A. McGonagle of Duluth, and John R. Swann of Madison, to the class of contributing-life members brought the total of this group to twenty-two. The additions to the active membership during the quarter numbered 63, which bring the total to 1,125. A list of the names of the new members, grouped by counties, follows:

ANOKA: Theresa Ericksen of Anoka.

BELTRAMI: Fremont P. Wirth of Bemidji.

BLUE EARTH: Charles T. Taylor of Mankato.

BROWN: Richard Sallet of New Ulm.

CARLTON: Henry G. Stevens of Cloquet.

CROW WING: Dr. Walter Courtney, Louis B. Kinder, and George H. Stone, all of Brainerd.

FILLMORE: George A. Haven of Chatfield.

GOODHUE: George W. Garrard of Frontenac.

HENNEPIN: Dr. Fred L. Adair, James F. Bell, Dan C. Brown, Elbert L. Carpenter, Charles M. Case, John F. McGee, J. Lewis Maynard, Harry N. Owen, Reverend Stanley H. Perry, Charles H. Ramsdell, James B. Sutherland, Dr. David O. Thomas, Mrs. David O. Thomas, Edward M. Van Cleve, and Jesse H. Wakeman of Minneapolis; and Frank A. Bovey and John M. Wulfinf of Wayzata.

MARTIN: Dr. Ferd N. Hunt of Fairmont.

MOWER: Nathan F. Banfield, Edward N. Hoffman, George A. Hormel, John L. Mitchell, and D. R. Spieker of Austin; and F. W. Kimball of Waltham.

OLMSTED: Arthur C. Gooding and George B. Knowlton of Rochester.

POLK: Conrad G. Selvig of Crookston.

RAMSEY: Daniel M. Brigham, Mrs. Bertram W. Downs, Amy W. Noll, Mrs. Herbert C. Varney, and Daniel E. Willard, all of St. Paul.

RED LAKE: Leland E. Healy of Red Lake Falls.

RICE: Frank A. Turek of Morristown.

ST. LOUIS: Marshall H. Alworth, John B. Arnold, Lewis G. Castle, Mrs. Mary E. Coffin, Henry J. Grannis, Sydney A. Harley, Hans B. Haroldson, James H. Harper, Luther C. Harris, John W. Hunt, Seth Marshall, and William J. Olcott of Duluth; and Robert H. Ely of Eveleth.

STEELE: Dr. Benedik Melby of Blooming Prairie.

WILKIN: Henry Schendel of Campbell.

WINONA: Sister M. Aquinas of Winona.

NONRESIDENT: Carl W. Blegen of Athens, Greece; Henry E. Huntington of San Gabriel, California; and John R. Van Cleve of Salt Lake City, Utah.

The number of subscriptions to the society's publications from schools and public libraries has been increased to 114 by the addition of six institutions during the last quarter. These include the public libraries of Brainerd, Grand Rapids, and Red Wing; the libraries of the University High School, Minneapolis, and of Humboldt High School, St. Paul; and the library of Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis.

The society lost six active members by death during the last quarter: the Honorable Fred C. Stevens of St. Paul, July 1; Horace V. Winchell of Los Angeles, California, July 27; George H. Haven of Chatfield, August 5; William L. Harris of Minneapolis, September 11; Mrs. Charles J. A. Morris of St. Paul, September 12; and the Honorable Calvin L. Brown of Minneapolis, September 24. Benjamin Sulte of Ottawa, Canada, an honorary member, died on August 6. The deaths of a corresponding member, the Reverend William S. Bell of St. Maries, Idaho, on May 23, 1920, and of an active member, Charles N. Nelson of Port Washington, New York, on May 24, 1923, have not been reported in previous numbers of the BULLETIN.

In view of the fact that the society now has two meetings a year, each with several public sessions for the reading of papers, the holding of public sessions in connection with the stated meetings of the executive council in October and April has been discontinued. At the meeting of the council on October 8 some of the recent additions to the manuscript collections were described and exhibited by the curator, Dr. Grace Lee Nute. The council voted at this meeting to authorize the establishment of a state-wide committee of the society on membership, the intention being that, so far as possible, there shall be at least one member of the committee in each county of the state.

Considerable progress has been made upon the preparation of a bibliography of Minnesota newspapers and an inventory of extant files, a project undertaken jointly by the society and the graduate school of the University of Minnesota. An inventory of the society's files has been completed and a mass of information about other papers has been collected from newspaper annuals and similar sources of information. The work will be continued and in the course of time the data collected will be digested and prepared for publication.

Photostatic reproductions are being made of certain early copies of the *Dakota Democrat* and the *Black Hills Pioneer*, rare old newspapers owned by the State Historical Society of South Dakota and the Minnesota Historical Society. As the file of each society contains certain numbers not in the other file, the photostat is being called into use to fill the gaps for both societies.

Six talks have now been broadcast in the monthly series given in the interest of Minnesota history by representatives of the society at the Twin City radio station WLAG. The fourth was delivered on July 16 by the curator of the museum on "A Pioneer Indian Agent at Fort Snelling." On August 27 the superintendent told "The Story of the Grand Portage," and on September 17 the assistant superintendent discussed "Old Manuscripts and Minnesota History."

During July, August, and September, 7,537 books were served to 1,315 readers in the library. Although these figures indicate that considerably less use of the library is made during the summer than in the spring months (see *ante*, p. 141, 221), nevertheless the number of books served during the last quarter represents an increase of 1,151, or 18 per cent, over the service for the corresponding three months of 1922, and an increase of 4,387, or 138 per cent, over the service for the corresponding period in 1921.

With the opening of the new fiscal year on July 1, book-purchasing, which had been somewhat checked for a few months for lack of funds, was renewed and important recent publications in the field of the society's library were acquired. In view of the high cost of books and the constantly increasing output, special attention is being given to avoiding unnecessary duplication of material available in other libraries in the Twin Cities. In some cases cards will be entered in the society's catalogue containing references to such material in other libraries, thus helping to prevent duplication and at the same time making the catalogue to a certain extent an index to the resources of the community in the field of Americana.

This year, for the second time, the society had an exhibit in the state building at the state fair. The chief object of the exhibit was to illustrate the various activities of the society. Thousands of persons examined the museum objects, photographs, charts, and photostats which were on display. On one wall of the booth an excellent exhibit was presented by the Minnesota War Records Commission. The traveling exhibit, which was used at the summer meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society (see *post*, p. 322), was brought back in time to be incorporated with the state fair exhibit.

The curator of manuscripts, in connection with her vacation, spent several weeks searching for Minnesota material in the East, observing the work of similar departments in other institutions and supervising the work of making a calendar of the American Fur Company Papers in the possession of the New York Historical Society (see *ante*, p. 224, and *post*, p. 307). While in Concord, New Hampshire, Dr. Nute inspected a collection of letters sent home from La Pointe by the Congregational missionary to the Indians, the Reverend Sherman Hall. She obtained permission to have these letters — more than a hundred in number — photostated by the Massachusetts Historical Society. When this work has been done the society will receive a valuable addition to its sources on early Minnesota history. At the Congregational House in Boston Dr. Nute examined some twenty volumes of letters of instructions to missionaries among whom were such well-known Minnesota men as Boutwell and Ayer.

A multiplex display fixture with glass-covered wing screens to be used in exhibiting the Charles P. Noyes coin collection has been purchased for the society by Mrs. Noyes.

The superintendent attended the meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society at Virginia on August 6 and 7 and participated in the program on the second day (see *post*, p. 322). He spoke at a Leif Ericson celebration in Minneapolis on September 29 (see *post*, p. 312) and again on the same subject at a similar meeting in Duluth the next day.

Miss Elizabeth Clark, the head cataloguer, attended the annual meeting of the Minnesota Library Association, held in Faribault from September 3 to 5.

Miss Dorothy Ware of St. Paul, who was graduated from the University of Minnesota in June, became accessions assistant in the library on September 10, succeeding Miss Ada Liddell, who returns to her studies at the university. With the resignation of Miss Hazel Ohman as reference assistant, to take effect on October 15, Miss Ware has been appointed to that position. Miss Irene Bulov will be advanced from catalogue clerk to accessions assistant and Miss Elizabeth Sergent takes the position

of catalogue clerk. Miss Ohman has accepted a position with the James J. Hill Reference Library of St. Paul.

A SEARCH FOR MANUSCRIPTS OF MINNESOTA INTEREST
IN MONTREAL

From June 21 to July 5, Dr. Wayne E. Stevens of Dartmouth College, who has devoted several years of study to the history of the fur trade in the upper Mississippi Valley and the Canadian Northwest, made a search on behalf of the society for manuscripts of Minnesota interest in Montreal. Most of the papers that came to light date from the British period when the fur trade centered at Montreal, with ramifications throughout the upper Mississippi Valley and the Great Lakes region. In some cases the documents which were found, although they have no specific connection with Minnesota, throw light on the fur trade generally and, therefore, possess great value to students of the trade in any part of the region.

Dr. Stevens examined five depositories: the Redpath Library in McGill University, the Bibliothèque St. Sulpice, the McCord National Museum, the Chateau de Ramesay, and the Archives of the District of Montreal; and selected for photostatic reproduction such items as seemed of special importance.

The most valuable material in the Redpath Library, so far as the fur trade is concerned, is the Masson Collection, a part of a large group of manuscripts originally assembled by Louis R. Masson, who edited the important *Les bourgeois de la compagnie du nord-ouest*, a two-volume compilation of fur-trade documents published at Quebec in 1889. The material from the Masson Collection photostated for the society includes: (1) the journal of Edward Umfréville, which describes an expedition made in 1784 — after the treaty terminating the Revolution — for the purpose of discovering an alternative route to that by way of Grand Portage; (2) a list of men and the various departments of the Northwest Company for 1805; (3) a description of the falls of "Steep Rocks" near Fort William, June 22, 1808, probably by Donald McKenzie; (4) Dr. John McLaughlin's description of the country from Fort William to the Lake of the Woods, written about 1805; (5) the journal of Archibald N. McLeod,

covering the period from July 16 to July 28, 1784, an illuminating record of the activities of a Northwest Company fur-trader; and (6) the journal of John McDonell for 1793, an unsigned document the authorship of which was established by Dr. Stevens. A part of McDonell's journal was published by Masson in 1889, but he did not include the sixty-page manuscript which has now been identified as the earlier portion of the journal. A few papers from other collections of manuscripts in the Redpath Library also were photostated.

The McCord National Museum yielded no manuscripts of interest for Minnesota history, but it was found to contain many portraits of men famous in the history of the Northwest Company. Naturally some of these portraits are of considerable interest for the student of the Minnesota fur trade. Nothing of value for Minnesota history was found in the Chateau de Ramesay.

At the Bibliothèque St. Sulpice Dr. Stevens examined the Baby Collection, so named because the manuscripts comprising it were assembled by a Judge Baby of Montreal. A considerable number of papers from this collection were photostated for the society. The item of most importance is the unpublished minutes of the Northwest Company, probably the most valuable source of information on the operations of the company which Dr. Stevens found at Montreal. It was located among the Samuel Gerrard Papers, a group of manuscripts in the larger Baby Collection. Among miscellaneous documents from this collection which were copied for the society are a number of papers relating to Jonathan Carver and some interesting business records which well illustrate the methods employed in the fur trade about 1794.

The most informing papers examined in the Archives of the District of Montreal were the notarial records. It was an *engagement* found among these papers that proved that John McDonell was the author of the unsigned diary found in the Masson Collection. In the diary Dr. Stevens noted the following entry: "1793. May 10th Signed my Engagement with the North-West Company for five years to winter in the Indian Country as a clerk the terms are £100 at the expiration and found in necessaries." Among the notarial bonds for 1793, which the

Montreal archivist produced, Dr. Stevens found a paper dated May 10 and signed by John McDonell, pledging him to enter the Indian country for five years, his remuneration to be one hundred pounds and necessaries. The evidence is proof of the authorship of the diary. The case is a good illustration of the possible value of such records as the *engagements*.

The result of this search at Montreal is a large addition of fur-trade records to the manuscript collection of the society. In the form of photostats these records are now available for students and doubtless will prove an invaluable contribution to knowledge of the British period of Minnesota history.

ACCESSIONS

The society's growing collection of Knute Nelson Papers has been augmented by four new gifts during the quarter. Governor Preus has presented a large folder of correspondence, mainly between Senator Nelson and Mr. Frederick G. Ingersoll of St. Paul, relating to the placing of the statue of Henry M. Rice in Statuary Hall in Washington. A file of correspondence between Senator Nelson and a committee of Minnesota traveling men, which has been presented by Mr. Wright T. Orcutt of Minneapolis, throws light upon the influence of the traveling men of the state in persuading Nelson to be a candidate to succeed himself in 1918. A few additional Nelson letters also have been received from Mrs. James T. Morris and Mr. Paul J. Thompson of Minneapolis.

The society continues to receive calendar cards for fur-trade letters of Minnesota interest among the American Fur Company Papers owned by the New York Historical Society (see *ante*, p. 224). Among the names represented are Henry H. Sibley, Charles H. Oakes, Alexis Bailly, Samuel Abbot, William T. Boutwell, Anthony Dudgeon, Moses D. Burnet, John Jacob Astor, Henry R. Schoolcraft, John Furey, and N. D. Grover. The manuscripts listed are chiefly from the late thirties and early forties.

Twenty-seven papers have been added to the Daniel A. Robertson Papers through the kindness of Mr. Victor Robertson of

St. Paul. They are valuable because they throw light on the relation between territorial land speculation and immigration in Minnesota. Robertson, as a land speculator, was particularly interested in the development of Chengwatana, Minnesota. See *ante*, p. 198, n.

A copy of a reminiscent letter written in 1870 by Wayne Clark to Mrs. Catharine M. Smith of Winona, recalling events of May, 1852, when Winona was Wabasha Prairie, has been donated by Mrs. Smith's son, Mr. Orrin F. Smith of Winona.

A letter written by Byron M. Smith in St. Paul on June 29, 1855, to his relatives in New York has been presented by Miss May Baldwin of Spokane, Washington. An interesting feature of the letter is its version of the legend about White Bear Lake, explaining the origin of the name.

A collection of letters and documents of William B. and Thomas P. Gere, dealing with political conditions in Minnesota from 1857 to 1864 and with Civil War experiences, has been presented by a niece, Mrs. Minnie Hosier of Chatfield. It is interesting to note that the society's attention was first called to these papers by a class of high school students who were exploring the history of their own locality. See *ante*, p. 158.

A manuscript record book containing copies of the official orders of Company M, First Regiment, Minnesota Mounted Rangers, for 1862 and 1863, is the gift of Mr. George H. Daimond of St. Paul.

The souvenir menu of a complimentary dinner at the Merchants Hotel, St. Paul, in May, 1858, to Captain D. S. Harris of Galena, Illinois, who brought the first steamboat of that season, is the gift of Mrs. Medora O. F. Morrill of Chatfield. She has also sent an account of how Captain Harris raced to bring the first cablegram to St. Paul.

A letter from Governor John S. Pillsbury of March 15, 1876, dealing with the relief of Jackson County sufferers from the grasshopper plague is the gift of Mr. P. D. McKellar of St. Paul.

The society has received a typewritten copy of an autobiography of Mr. Walter Stone Pardee of Chicago, which possesses

much Minnesota interest. Mr. Pardee was graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1877 and was for many years a Minneapolis city official. His reminiscences are arranged as short sketches, each with a suggestive title, examples of which are "Of Early St. Anthony's Falls," "An Early Minnesota Private School," and "Concerning the University of Minnesota."

The files of archives from the governor's office in the custody of the society are now reasonably complete for the period from 1849 to 1908. Eighteen additional volumes, consisting mainly of letter-press books, have been received, including fourteen volumes of executive correspondence for the years 1889 to 1904 and two volumes of the correspondence of the board of pardons for 1900 to 1905.

To the large collection of Maria Sanford Papers acquired in January (see *ante*, p. 145) Mrs. James T. Morris of Minneapolis has added another letter. It is to be hoped that other persons owning letters from this famous Minnesota woman will follow Mrs. Morris' example.

The books and papers of the St. Croix Valley Old Settlers' Association have come to the society, through the courtesy of Mrs. Nellie P. Bloomer of White Bear Lake, from Mrs. Arline Brown of St. Paul. The records are valuable for the large amount of biographical information which they contain regarding pioneer settlers.

The manuscript of an address on "The Long Expedition Through the Red River Valley to Fort Garry in 1823," by Mr. Conrad G. Selvig of Crookston, has been received from the author. A manuscript entitled "Early Recollections of the Duluth and Iron Range Rail Road" has been presented by its author, Mr. William A. McGonagle of Duluth. See *post*, p. 317, 322.

Two interesting additions to the portrait collection have recently been made. A framed enlargement of a photograph of the late Michael J. Dowling is the gift of Mrs. Dowling of Olivia; and the Honorable Samuel R. Van Sant has presented a large framed pastel portrait of himself which was given to him in 1895

when he was speaker of the House of Representatives in the state legislature.

A fine suit of Persian armor, a circular steel shield, two Arab flintlock guns inlaid and mounted with ivory and silver, a Persian scimitar and scabbard, a Bedouin shield and steel-tipped lances, and a Spanish flintlock blunderbuss are included in an unusual collection of objects presented by Mrs. Charles N. Nelson of Port Washington, New York. They were gathered during years of travel by her husband, the late Charles N. Nelson, a pioneer lumberman in Minnesota and a member of the society for many years.

Mr. David W. Morison of St. Paul has presented a number of pieces of Lowestoft china; a cup, a saucer, a soup plate, and a bowl of Spode ware; a pair of brass lamps; and several other articles of interest. He and his brother, Mr. Stanford N. Morison of New York City, have deposited a large punch bowl of Chinese ware, a pair of bronze candelabra, two bronze lamps, and a framed steel engraving of Benjamin Franklin.

Two pipes which belonged to Sitting Bull and a collection of Indian photographs, including autographed pictures of Sitting Bull and Rain-in-the-Face, have been presented by Mr. E. J. Whiting of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Several recent additions have been made to the society's collection of objects illustrating military history. These include the escutcheon and military badges of General Lucius F. Hubbard, presented by Mr. L. V. Hubbard of Minneapolis; and a military flintlock musket, dated 1762 and used in the Revolution, deposited by Mr. Thomas F. Kelly of St. Paul.

An oxcart chair bearing the date 1743, which was used by women as a means of keeping their dresses clean when going to church, is the gift of Miss Harriet M. Robinson of Minneapolis.

A specimen of the handiwork of women in the Civil War period, a framed wreath of seeds and nuts which was made by Eliza Huntington, has been deposited by Mr. Ebenezer E. Huntington of St. Paul.

NEWS AND COMMENT

Not infrequently people assume that history is concerned only with events of long ago and that if the events involve bloodshed and tragedy their historic quality is intensified. Such an assumption is not unnatural, for dramatic happenings excite popular interest and there is a spark of antiquarianism in most human beings. Actually the development of agriculture within a given region is probably far more significant than all its Indian wars, and the historical importance of recent events is not less than that of the earlier. Episodes are of far less consequence than steps in a process of development. In brief, much of the development which has produced present-day conditions has been essentially peaceful and undramatic, a fact not less true of the state and the locality than of the entire nation. Interesting illustrations of this point of view are afforded by such recent books as Dr. Joseph Schafer's study of the history of Wisconsin agriculture (see *ante*, p. 132), and Mr. Lyman Carrier's *The Beginnings of Agriculture in America* (New York, 1923. 323 p.). The first chapter in the latter work consists of a suggestive essay on the "Value of Agricultural History."

A detailed study of the Winnebago tribe of Indians by Paul Radin makes up the bulk of the *Thirty-seventh Annual Report* of the Bureau of American Ethnology (Washington, 1923. 560 p.).

Indian and White in the Northwest, a History of Catholicity in Montana, 1831 to 1891, by L. B. Palladino (Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1922. 512 p.), is a revision of a work originally published in 1893. More than half of the book is devoted to the history of Catholic missions among the Indians of Montana.

A description of a journey from Norway to America in 1838, written by Ole Nattestad and published as a small book in 1839 at Drammen, Norway, is reprinted in the July and August issues of *Familiens Magasin*, with an introduction setting forth its historical importance. The reprint is from a photostatic copy

of the only original known to be in existence, that in the possession of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. An English translation of the book is published in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for December, 1917.

"Leif Ericson day" was celebrated in Minnesota and in other parts of the United States on September 29 in accordance with plans which were worked out by the American-Scandinavian Foundation. Governor Preus issued a proclamation calling upon citizens of the state to honor the memory of Leif Ericson; and a celebration sponsored by a group of Scandinavian societies was held in the Minneapolis Auditorium on Saturday evening, September 29. After a brief introductory talk by the presiding officer, Dr. Carl M. Roan, a speech on "The Viking Age" was delivered by Dr. Henry A. Bellows, in which the background of Leif Ericson's achievements was described. "The Finding of America" was then discussed by Dr. Solon J. Buck, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, with particular emphasis upon the accounts in the sagas which furnish the chief source of information on the subject. A third speaker, Judge Trygve O. Gilbert of Willmar, spoke on "The Norse Contribution to America," dealing especially with the part played by Norwegian immigrants and their descendants in the history of the Middle West. An interesting article by Dr. Bellows on Leif Ericson and the significance of his finding of America appears in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for September 23. The September number of the *American-Scandinavian Review* contains a number of articles on Leif Ericson and the Northmen. Dr. Laurence M. Larson writes on "The Vinland Voyages," and there are articles on "Leif Ericson Conquering America," by Harry Sundby-Hansen; on "The First Scandinavian Settlers in Greenland; Medieval Paris Fashions in the Far North," by Paul Nörlund; and on "The Sailing Craft of the Vikings."

An article on "Valdris Samband og dets Ledende Mænd," by Juul Dieserud, is published in volume 16, numbers 4 and 5, of *Nordmandsforbundet*. Mr. Dieserud describes the origin and history of Valdris Samband, a *bygdelag* composed of people tracing their ancestry to the Norwegian district of Valdres.

Major Stephen H. Long's report on the expedition to the mouth of the Yellowstone River in 1820, the original of which is in the archives of the war department, is published as part of an article by Captain Fred A. Bill in the *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa, for August 4, 11, and 18, under the title "First Steam Vessel on Western Rivers." Captain Bill's chief interest is in the steamboat "Western Engineer," which, after accompanying the Long party up the Missouri to "the Council Bluffs," returned to St. Louis with orders to proceed "up the Mississippi to the De Moyer rapids, and thence down the river to Cape Girardeau."

The paper on "James Dickson: A Filibuster in Minnesota in 1836," which was read by Dr. Grace Lee Nute at the last annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society (see *ante*, p. 116), is published in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for September. As a supplement to the paper several documents relating to the subject are printed with a brief introduction by Dr. Nute. These are drawn from the Canadian Archives, the British foreign office, and the Martin McLeod Papers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. The documents printed form a valuable body of source material on an interesting subject in the history of the Northwest, but Dr. Nute points out that the most interesting document of the expedition is the diary of Martin McLeod, as yet unpublished. Another article in the *Review* of interest to Minnesota readers is on "Trans-Mississippi Railroads During the Fifties," by Robert E. Riegel. In the brief survey of the railroad situation in Minnesota which the author presents, several minor errors are made which might have been avoided if he had consulted the first volume of Dr. Folwell's *History of Minnesota*.

The withdrawal of Dr. Clarence W. Alvord as managing editor of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* is announced in the September issue of that periodical. Dr. Alvord also has resigned as professor of history at the University of Minnesota. He announces that he has accepted an opportunity to devote all his time to the writing of history and that he has "elected to spend the next two years or more in England to finish several volumes already started or projected." Dr. Alvord's broad

scholarship and unflagging enthusiasm are largely responsible for the present standing of the periodical which he has guided "along the path of scientific truth" as the "representative review devoted to American history." In withdrawing from its editorial management he suggests that its scope be extended to the limits of its reputation and that "there be admitted to its pages articles on all phases of our national development, whether eastern or western."

A new contribution to the history of the "agrarian crusade" is made in an article entitled "The Economic Basis of the Populist Movement in Iowa," by Herman C. Nixon, which is published in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for July. In the same magazine is a general sketch of "The Development of Trans-Mississippi Political Geography," by Ruth L. Higgins.

The July number of the *Palimpsest* contains several essays written in celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of the Mississippi River by Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette. Among these articles may be noted the following: "The Discovery," by Bruce E. Mahan; "Father Marquette," by Ruth B. Middaugh; and "Louis Joliet," by John E. Briggs. The "Restorer of Iowa Palimpsests," whose work is discussed by Bertha M. H. Shambaugh in the August number of the same magazine, is none other than Mr. Herbert Quick, the author of two historical novels dealing with Iowa conditions. It is interesting to note that Mr. Quick speaks of himself simply as "sitting in the wagon of history with my feet dangling down and facing the rear."

Several state historical organizations have embarked upon enterprises involving the editing and publication of some of the fundamental sources of their history. Three volumes in a series entitled *The Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri* have been issued by the State Historical Society of Missouri (Columbia, Missouri, 1922. 526, 528, 541 p.). These volumes, which are compiled and edited by Buel Leopard and Floyd C. Shoemaker, cover the period from 1820 to 1864. Only formal documents are printed, that is, regular, veto, and special messages; proclamations; and memoranda of

proclamations and writs of election. In order that the reader may appreciate the background of the messages, a biographical account of each governor precedes the documents of his administration. The Indiana Historical Commission has begun the publication of *Governors' Messages and Letters* for Indiana, and in this series two volumes, edited by Logan Esary, have appeared. The second of these, which is volume 9 of the *Indiana Historical Collections* (Indianapolis, 1922. 772 p.), covers the period from 1812 to 1816. It is interesting to note that not only formal messages and documents but also many letters written by and to the Indiana governors are included in the publication. If this plan is carried forward the result will be a comprehensive collection of the correspondence of the Indiana governors. Another interesting type of state publication is that illustrated by a series of volumes being prepared by the division of archives and history of the University of the State of New York. Dr. James Sullivan, director of this division and state historian, has now edited three volumes of *The Papers of Sir William Johnson*. These cover the years from 1738 to 1762, but, as the manuscripts upon which the work is based come down to 1808, several additional volumes in the series will be issued. The publication of these papers is an important event not only for the study of New York history but also for the history of the entire West, for Sir William Johnson was the British government's superintendent in charge of affairs relating to all the northern Indians from 1756 to 1774.

In the last number of the BULLETIN attention was called to a series of articles on North Dakota history published in the April number of the *Quarterly Journal* of the University of North Dakota. The July number of the same periodical contains a series of articles dealing with the history of the University of North Dakota. Particularly interesting is Professor John M. Gillette's study of the "Social and Economic Background of the University of North Dakota in the Eighties of Last Century." Among other articles in the number are: "The Founding of the University," by Vernon P. Squires; "Student Life During the First Decade of the University of North Dakota," by Mrs. Mattie Glass Massee; "Webster Merrifield and the University

of North Dakota," by Earle J. Babcock; and "Pioneers in Education in North Dakota," by E. J. Taylor. The discontinuance of the *Quarterly Journal* is announced with the July number.

Four sites of historic interest have recently been donated to the state of North Dakota to be converted into state parks. All are scenes of events connected with the Sibley expedition of 1863 and one is the site of Camp Atchison.

The "Golden Jubilee Edition" of the *Bismarck* [North Dakota] *Tribune*, issued on July 11, contains numerous articles of interest to Minnesotans. The *Tribune*, which was the first newspaper in North Dakota, was established on July 11, 1873. In the jubilee issue interesting items are drawn from the old files and an article describing the coming of the Northern Pacific Railroad to Bismarck is contributed by Mr. Olin D. Wheeler.

A step toward better teaching of state history in Oregon has been taken by the superintendent of public instruction in that state through the issuance of a forty-page pamphlet entitled *History of Oregon, a Teachers' Outline for Use in the Eighth Grade*. Miss Lilli Schmidli contributes some well-considered "Suggestions to Teachers" in which she presents reasons for the teaching of state history to boys and girls and shows the hollowness of the view that history deals only with something grand and courageous which somebody did somewhere else.

An address "to the citizens of each county in the state of Texas, urging them to organize in their respective counties a County Historical Society to be affiliated with the Texas Historical Association" is published in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* for July.

A study of "Some Social Traits of Teutons" comprises the fourth installment of the series on "The Yankee and the Teuton in Wisconsin," by Joseph Schafer, in the September number of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. A suggestive article on "The Historical Society and Genealogical Research," by Arthur Adams, appears in the same number.

The house erected more than a hundred years ago by the fur-trader, Michel Brisbois, at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, is the subject of a brief article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for July 1.

The claim is made that this dwelling, which is still in use, is the oldest in the upper Mississippi Valley. A picture of the house accompanies the article.

A centennial tour under the auspices of the Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association was made from Crookston to Winnipeg on August 19 in commemoration of the exploration of the upper Red River Valley by Major Stephen H. Long in August, 1823. On August 20 a luncheon was held at Kildonan Park, Winnipeg, and a program of speeches followed. The principal address was delivered by Mr. Conrad G. Selvig, superintendent of the Northwest School and Experiment Station at Crookston, who told the story of the Long expedition, devoting particular attention to Long's experiences in the Red River Valley. The *Manitoba Free Press* of Winnipeg for August 18 prints an account of the visit of the Long party to Pembina and Fort Garry.

The *Manitoba Free Press* of Winnipeg has been running a series of articles entitled "Notables Who Have Visited Winnipeg." Accounts are included of the sojourns in the "city, settlement and ancient fur-post" of the following celebrities: Le-gardeur de Saint-Pierre, explorer, June 16; the "famous North-West company bourgeois John McDonald, of Garth," June 23; the Earl of Selkirk, June 30; the Reverend John West, who "managed to lay the foundation of a great church in the wilderness" between 1820 and 1823, July 28; Major Stephen H. Long, August 8; the Sioux chiefs, Burning Earth and Ulaneta, August 11; and Governor Alexander Ramsey of Minnesota, September 1.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

"Minnesota in the United States Senate—A Roll of Illustrious Names" is the title of a résumé of the state's record in the upper house of Congress in the *Minneapolis Journal* for July 15. It includes sketches of the careers of seventeen men whom Minnesota has sent to the Senate during its sixty-five years of statehood and recalls the many hot political struggles incident to their elections. Portraits of Senators Cushman K. Davis,

Knute Nelson, Alexander Ramsey, James Shields, William D. Washburn, and William Windom illustrate the article.

Mr. John Talman is the author of a chronological narrative in verse published recently under the title *Minnesota in Panorama: An Historical Poem With Notes by the Author* (Mapleton, 1923. 34 p.). A few verses on the Spanish and World wars have been added to the original, which was read on October 10, 1910, before an open meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society, of which the author is the newspaper librarian.

A large amount of historical information about the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in Minnesota is contained in a pamphlet entitled *The Story of the Elks*, compiled by Peter F. Owens for the nineteenth annual state convention of the organization at Hibbing on August 16 and 17 (38 p.).

A booklet entitled *Loren Harrison Batchelder: In Memoriam*, edited by Henry L. Osborn (St. Paul, 1923. 28 p.), has been published by Hamline University in honor of a professor who played a prominent part in the history of that college. From 1883 to 1917 Mr. Batchelder held the chair of chemistry and for many years he also served as dean. He died on September 11, 1922. The booklet is made up chiefly of addresses given by Dr. George H. Bridgman, Dr. Henry L. Osborn, the Reverend Frank L. Cone, Mr. James M. Hackney, and President Samuel F. Kerfoot at a memorial service held in the college chapel on October 2, 1922.

An article about Leonidas Merritt and the opening of the Mesabi Range is published in the *American Magazine* for September. The compiler of the article, Mr. Neil M. Clark, fortunately has allowed Mr. Merritt to tell in his own words the interesting story of the finding of iron ore on the Mesabi.

The fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad was celebrated at Two Harbors on July 19. An interesting feature of the occasion was an address by the president of the railroad, Mr. William A. McGonagle of Duluth, recounting his experiences in connection with the early history of the road. The address is published in the *Lake County Chronicle* of Two Harbors for July 26.

Mr. W. H. Brill's comprehensive series of articles dealing with the trunk highways of the state continues from July 1 to September 30 in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Tribune*. The fourteen illustrated articles which have appeared in this series during the period indicated deal with highways number 15 to 44 inclusive. Mr. Brill has assembled a large amount of historical information centering about the place names along the various highways of which he writes.

A special course in Minnesota history is being given in the Frazee State High School under the direction of Mr. Arthur D. White, the superintendent.

The popularity of historical pageantry in Minnesota indicates that an increasing number of communities in the state are becoming aware of the effectiveness of living pictures in vivifying the past for the average person. In June at least four pageants of local history were presented in Minnesota (see *ante*, p. 240). Similar interesting spectacles were produced at Spring Valley on July 19 and 20, at Worthington on July 23 and 24, at Rochester on August 23 and 25, and at Glencoe on August 31 and September 1. In Worthington an extensive collection of historical relics was assembled at the time of the pageant and displayed in the windows of local shops as a kind of community loan exhibit. A list of these articles, with the names of the owners, fills about four columns in the *Worthington Globe* for July 26. Among the items mentioned are manuscripts, books, pictures, articles of wearing apparel, household furnishings, and crude farm implements. The successful assembling of this exhibit constitutes excellent evidence both of the suggestive historical value of local pageants and of the practicability of community historical museums.

Constitution Day, on Monday, September 17, was celebrated throughout the state with appropriate meetings, addresses, and ceremonies. Much attention was naturally devoted to the history of the framing of the Constitution and to its significance in the development of the nation.

A letter from Colonel W. C. Brown, which is printed in the *St. Peter Herald* of September 7, contains some information concerning early conditions at Traverse des Sioux, where Colonel Brown was born in 1854.

The story of the Sioux Outbreak of 1862, told from the point of view of a soldier who helped to suppress it, is published in weekly installments in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Tribune* from June 24 to August 5. The author is Thomas Watts of Minneapolis, who fought against the Indians as a member of Company C, Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He not only describes the battles in which he participated, the horrors of the massacre, and the condition of the devastated frontier, but also gives an interesting picture of army life—of “the crude military equipment and discipline . . . and the lack of any official food provision.”

On August 22 the sixty-first anniversary of the siege of Fort Ridgely was commemorated at the state park on its site by members of the Fort Ridgely State Park and Historical Association. In an address before the gathering, Mr. Jacob F. Jacobson of Madison reviewed the early history of the section of the Minnesota Valley in which the fort was located. An announcement of the celebration in the *Minneapolis Journal* for August 19 is followed by a long feature article embodying reminiscences of some of the survivors of the Sioux Massacre who are still living.

A number of reunions of survivors of Minnesota regiments have been held recently. On August 11 members of the Thirtieth Minnesota Regimental Association assembled at Fort Snelling for a three-day celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the battle of Manila. Twelve men who fought against the Sioux in 1862 as members of the Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry met at the Capitol in St. Paul on September 8, and seven veterans of the Ninth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry exchanged reminiscences at the home of Dr. Kee Wakefield of Minneapolis on September 5.

In the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of August 26 some early state fairs are described in connection with an account of the plans for the 1923 exhibition. The more important attractions are noted and statistics are given for the fair of 1857 at St. Paul, of 1860 at Fort Snelling, of 1865 at Minneapolis, and of 1885 at the “permanent location of the State Fair grounds at Hamline.”

The story of Michael J. Dowling and his career is told by Earl Christmas in the *Dearborn Independent* for August 11.

Articles about pioneers are, as usual, numerous in the newspapers of the past three months. A biographical sketch of Mrs. Mary Noltimier of Newport, in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 26, is combined with a history of the German Methodist Episcopal Church of Woodbury, near St. Paul, of which she is the only surviving charter member. The seventieth anniversary of the founding of the church was celebrated on September 2. Reminiscences of two pioneer residents of Minneapolis, Mr. Rolla Stubbs of Maple Plain and Mrs. F. D. Todd of Minneapolis, appear respectively in the *Minneapolis Tribune* of July 1 and the *Minneapolis Journal* of the same date. An article about Dr. Brewer Mattocks, a St. Paul pioneer now living at Rhinelander, Wisconsin, is published in the *Pioneer Press* for August 26.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The custom of holding annual historical conventions, which was adopted a year ago by the Minnesota Historical Society, apparently seems worthy of emulation by local organizations. The St. Louis County Historical Society held its first annual summer convention at Virginia on August 6 and 7. A varied and an interesting program with three sessions devoted to historical papers was provided. The convention opened with an evening session on August 6 at which four papers were read. The presiding officer was Mr. M. E. Fanning of Virginia. After an address of welcome by the mayor of Virginia, Mr. William Empie, a paper on "The Old Vermilion Trail" was presented by Mr. William E. Culkin of Duluth, the president of the society. This was followed by papers on "The Iron Ranges in the War," by Mr. Alfred E. Johnson of Virginia; the "Discovery of Iron in St. Louis County," by Mr. Dwight E. Woodbridge of Duluth; and "Early Mining at Eveleth," by Mr. John H. Hearing of Duluth. The presiding officer at the second session, on August 7, at 2:00 P. M., was Mrs. Ervin Lerch of Hibbing. She first introduced Mr. A. E. Bickford of Virginia who discussed the "Early History of Virginia," dealing particularly with the press of that city. Mrs. Mary Lyon Burns of Eveleth then talked on

"The Bright Side of Homesteading." Dr. Solon J. Buck, superintendent of the state society, spoke next, taking as his subject "The Outlook for St. Louis County History." The speaker pointed out the possibilities for further development of historical activity in northeastern Minnesota and emphasized particularly the excellent quality of the papers presented at the convention as an indication of the thoughtful interest of the people of this section in their history. Such well-directed enthusiasm, he said, augured well for the fruitful cultivation of this historical field. The last paper of the session was on the "History of the Vermilion Range Press," by Mr. Peter Schaefer of Ely. The last session, at which Mr. N. B. Shank of Biwabik presided, was held at 8:00 P. M. on the same day. A very interesting talk on "Early Railroading on the Iron Ranges," was given by Mr. William A. McGonagle of Duluth. Mrs. Lerch then spoke informally of the early history of Hibbing, and Mr. W. G. Swart of Babbitt read a valuable paper entitled "Notes of Work Done on the Eastern Mesaba Range by Peter Mitchell." The session closed with a paper on "Pioneer Newspapers of the Mesaba Range," by Mr. W. E. Hannaford of Virginia. The traveling exhibit of the Minnesota Historical Society was sent to Virginia for the convention.

The annual reunion of the Vermilion Range Old Settlers' Association was held at Ely on July 26 and 27.

An address by Mrs. O. H. Healy on "Pioneer Preachers" who labored in the vicinity of Mapleton is published in the *Blue Earth County Enterprise* of Mapleton for July 6.

A "Biographical, Booster and Farm Bureau Edition" of the *Ivanhoe Times*, issued on June 1, contains an article on the "History of Lincoln County."

The "History of Martin County," by William H. Budd, which the *Martin County Independent* of Fairmont has been publishing since February 16 (see *ante*, p. 160), is concluded in the issue for July 10. Beginning on September 4 a series of brief biographical sketches of "Governors of Minnesota" appears in the *Independent*.

An illustrated feature article by Helen Driscoll about the home of Ignatius Donnelly at Nininger appears in the *St. Paul Daily News* for July 15. It includes a detailed description of the library, still preserved in its original state, in which Donnelly wrote the books which made his name familiar throughout the English-speaking world.

The issue of the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for June 24 is an anniversary number, marking the passing of half a century since the paper was founded. A biographical sketch and a portrait of A. J. Underwood, who established the *Journal* in 1873; extracts from the first issue; an outline of the growth and development of the paper; and a brief history of Fergus Falls are among the historical data published in this issue.

A series of articles which has been appearing in the *Fergus Falls Tribune* under the title "The Interesting Beginnings of Otter Tail County" consists for the most part of extracts from John W. Mason's history of that county (Indianapolis, 1916). Every now and then, however, an unsigned sketch or some material from a less accessible source is included. For example, on July 19 "Indian Battles at Battle Lake" — incidents in that long conflict between the Sioux and the Chippewa — are described; and on August 9 some reminiscences of Mr. K. O. Sletto, a pioneer of Fergus Falls, are published. Of special interest to readers of the article by Mr. Elmer E. Adams in the May BULLETIN is a brief comment, in the *Tribune* for September 6, on the Nelson-Kindred campaign of 1882, translated from the Norwegian of Peer Strømme.

Typical of tales that could be unearthed about numerous Minnesota towns is a brief history of Wilton, in Waseca County, published in the *Minneapolis Journal* and the *St. Paul Dispatch* of July 30. In 1860 Wilton was a thriving town with a promising future; but the Sioux Outbreak, the passing of the railroad six miles away, and a disastrous fire left it a deserted village within ten years. The recent dissolution of its charter was the occasion for the articles.

At the Sawyer House in Stillwater on July 21 three of the four surviving members attended the annual banquet of the

"Last Man's Club," which was organized in 1885 by thirty-three veterans of Company B, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. A history of the club by George W. Hazzard is published in the *Stillwater Daily Gazette* of July 21.

Former residents of Read's Landing held their fifteenth annual picnic and reunion at Minnehaha Falls on August 4.

The story of the ferry between Fort Snelling and Mendota, as told by Mr. C. J. Clarkson, its present operator, is reported in the *Minneapolis Journal* for July 8.

An "Olde Tyme Party," devoted to "entertainment and practices in vogue fifty years ago," was given on August 6 at Radisson Inn, Christmas Lake, for the merchants of the Northwest who visited St. Paul and Minneapolis during Twin City Market Week. A feature of the entertainment was an exhibit of pictures of buildings and places in the two cities during pioneer days, assembled by the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association and the St. Paul Association. Some of these views are reproduced with announcements of the party in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and the *Minneapolis Tribune* of July 29.

A feature article based upon the names of St. Anthony residents as listed in the manuscript returns for Minnesota of the census of 1850, now in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society, appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for September 9.

The history of the volunteer fire department of Minneapolis, founded in 1856 by Dr. L. P. Foster, is recounted in the *Minneapolis Journal* for July 15. The pension list of these pioneer fire-fighters now contains but "forty-three names, from an original list of thrice that number."

An interesting account of the "newspaper war" of 1876, when from April to October the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and the *Minneapolis Tribune* were consolidated and published in St. Paul under the title *Pioneer-Press and Tribune*, appears in the *Tribune* for July 8.

A brief biography and a portrait of Alonzo C. Rand accompany an article in the *Minneapolis Tribune* of September 9 in which

an account is given of the razing of his former residence, a landmark in Minneapolis since 1877.

Members of the Pilgrim Congregational Church of Minneapolis celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its founding on September 28, 29, and 30. The program for the three days appears, with a brief history of the church, in the *Minneapolis Journal* for September 23.

An excellent historical account of *The Portland Church of Christ, Minneapolis*, by Dr. David Owen Thomas, has been published in pamphlet form in connection with the forty-fifth anniversary of the founding of that church (Minneapolis, 1922. 40 p.).

A biographical sketch of a Minneapolis philanthropist, William H. Eustis, who has recently endowed and donated the land for a hospital for crippled children to be connected with the University of Minnesota, appears with an account of his gift in the *Minneapolis Journal* for July 8.

A sketch of the history of the St. Paul Gas Light Company in the *St. Paul Daily News* for August 26 reveals the interesting facts that in 1857 "seventy-two customers were consuming gas in St. Paul drawn from three miles of mains" and that "they were paying \$6 a thousand feet for it."



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