

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The Constitutions of the Northwest States (University of Nebraska, *University Studies*, vol. 23, nos. 1-2). By JOHN D. HICKS. (Lincoln, 1923. 162 p.)

The process of creating new states out of the national domain in the West and the South began with the admission of Kentucky in 1792 and ended in 1912 with the elevation to statehood of New Mexico and Arizona. All told, thirty-two states, or two-thirds of the entire number, were created from the national territories. The other sixteen states include the original thirteen plus Vermont, Maine, and West Virginia.

If a motion picture could be taken of the map of the United States showing the rise of new states year by year from the beginning there would be noticeable a distinct unevenness in the movement. At one time ten to fifteen years would pass by without the admission of a single state. At another time a whole group of states would come trooping in almost simultaneously. The most striking example of wholesale admissions that we have is that of the six states discussed in the monograph under review. North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho, and Wyoming, occupying the northwestern section of the United States, all became states in a period of less than ten months in 1889 and 1890.

The monograph opens with a chapter on the movement for statehood in the several territories considered and closes with a short account of the admission of the six states to the Union. The elements in the statehood movement were fundamentally the same in all — the building of railroads, the influx of population, the desire of the people to govern themselves and to have access to the school lands for school support, the desire of the politicians to be elected to state office and to Congress, the difficult problems of boundaries and of taxation, and the indifference of Congress to territorial demands arising in part from the hesitancy of Republican members to admit Democratic states and the reluctance of Democratic members to admit Republican

states. The record is not complete, however, without the facts which reveal important local variations, and while it was clearly not the main purpose of the author to treat exhaustively the entire background and course of the statehood movement in each territory, he has given us many details which throw light upon subsequent events.

The body of the work consists of an analysis of the debates of the several constitutional conventions and of the constitutions which they framed. The proceedings had to be reconstructed in part from the reports given in newspapers, since the conventions in Washington and Wyoming failed to publish the records of their deliberations. In spite of this added difficulty Dr. Hicks has given us a full and readable account of the more interesting and important debates and decisions of all six conventions. By using a topical method of treatment following the main headings in an ordinary state constitution, he presents the discussions to us in a way which makes it easy to get a vision of the problems and the ideas of these constitution framers of the Northwest.

Bold to discuss but cautious to act, the conventions considered at length some highly important changes in the structure and procedure of state government but adopted very few of them. There were proposals to introduce the referendum on an extensive scale, to create a single-chambered legislature, to ensure minority representation, to establish the merit system of appointment to office, to extend the suffrage to women, and to introduce a tax system which would discourage land speculators. Practically none of these proposals succeeded. The fundamental conservatism of the pioneer was clearly shown in the unanimous refusal of these six states to make any significant departures from the standard pattern in the construction of their governments.

But if they were unwilling to alter the fundamentals, they were nevertheless influenced by the social viewpoint of the times. No one could possibly confuse the constitutions which they drafted with those of a hundred or even fifty years before. Not content to write down the bare framework of a government, they attempted to solve some of the problems of their day and even to anticipate some of the future. They were not afraid of what has been called "legislation in the constitution." They

made careful provision for the protection of the school funds and the promotion of education. They endeavored to control corporations and to prevent the development of trusts and monopolies by lengthy constitutional provisions. To prevent extravagance in local government they put restrictions upon local taxing and borrowing powers. They even looked forward to the necessity of guarding the welfare of labor and of protecting women and children in industry. In fine they attempted to write into the several constitutions some of the advanced views of the farmer and labor movements of the time.

This little summary of Dr. Hicks's excellent monograph will at least suggest its principal contents. With a style both simple and easy, the author has made an interesting volume out of hundreds of pages of dreary constitutional debates. That the work will be useful to students of American institutions cannot be doubted. An index would unquestionably have enhanced the value of the publication, but this deficiency is partly supplied by a detailed table of contents. All things considered the volume represents a commendable effort to fill a gap in the constitutional history of some of our younger states.

WILLIAM ANDERSON

Wisconsin Domesday Book, Town Studies. Volume 1. (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1924. 168 p. Maps, plates.)

Dr. Joseph Schafer, the superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, has written what amounts to a review of the present volume before its appearance in the form of a paper read before the Minnesota Historical Society and published in the MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN for February-May, 1921. This paper, according to the introduction to the volume before the reviewer, sets forth the theoretical background of the work and affords "a means to measure the success attained in giving concrete form to the original project."

The unit in the *Domesday Book* work, we are told, is the map of the township, which usually occupies the area of the surveyor's township. A transcript of the surveyor's original plat having been prepared, upon it are inscribed the names of all farm

landowners of the year 1860. With the aid of the tract books preserved in the United States land offices, the records of all sales of land to private individuals in the state land office, the town tax rolls in the county courthouses, the indexes of land titles and dates of purchase, and the schedules of the United States census for the years 1850, 1860, and 1870, the plat is designed to reveal in outline the pioneer history of a particular township from its beginnings to the year 1870, so far as the creation of farms and their improvement are concerned. The plat, however, is but the beginning of an inquiry "which will cover a wide range of social, economic, religious, educational, and political facts relating to the area thus defined and mapped."

Mr. Schafer justifies this plan from three points of view. First, it will arouse the interest of large masses of people; second, it will enlist the coöperation in historical work of the largest practical fraction of the people; and third, it will establish the basis for an intensive study of history by localities as a method of arriving at an interpretation of the general history of America.

The illuminating and scholarly articles from the pen of Mr. Schafer which have appeared in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* have furnished abundant proof of the value of the "Domesday" survey. History students will await with keen anticipation the appearance of other studies which may be prompted by it. Whether or not the present volume measures up to the ambitious claims of the author and editor is another matter.

The introduction (p. 9-20) is a general treatise, or a broad generalization, based upon the data in the twenty-three town plats and accompanying texts. Roughly, these generalizations but confirm facts and conclusions drawn from other or similar material. We are just as certain as heretofore, but no more, that the Yankees tended to take open land, while poorer Americans and poor immigrants from abroad were unable to settle on the prairies. We read what was already known about the influence of the speculative holding of agricultural lands. Among the reasons given for the failure of foreigners to choose lands wisely, one was not revealed by the survey: The ease with which imposters could deceive men ignorant of the language and conditions

of the country. The changing standards revealed by the state census of 1905 and the United States census of 1920 are discussed for the towns collectively and by groups.

In dealing with the individual town, one page is given to the plat and survey notes and an average of about four pages to a discussion of the location, surface and drainage, types of soil, timber, beginnings of settlement, classification of farms according to area, general production, manufactures, villages, post offices, schools and churches, population changes, progress of farm-making, conditions affecting the purchase of lands, population statistics, and frequently a sketch of social conditions or a personal narrative written by some one intimately acquainted with the town. The appendix contains seven tables of agricultural statistics.

An expression of opinion as to the value of the vast project of the Wisconsin society based on the examination of the first volume of the *Town Studies* would be premature. But confining ourselves to the single volume, it must be said reluctantly that it is rather disappointing — not in workmanship, research, nor in details. Take, for example, the town of New Glarus. After studying the plat, the topographic map, and the soil map, and reading the accompanying text, doubt arises whether the interest of a considerable portion of people will be aroused. The skeptic will also ask if the time, effort, and money expended in the production of the volume could not have been turned to better purposes for the historian and the “historically-minded” people of Wisconsin. In other words, will this data assist in any large degree in arriving at an interpretation of the general history of America? On the other hand, when one visions the library space consumed by the publications of historical societies composed of eulogies, doubtful “reminiscences,” and rag tag, another feeling crowds in.

At any rate, the professional historian, and let us hope the state legislature, will suspend judgment pending the completion of the ambitious undertaking. Mr. Schafer and his co-laborers will not be disturbed by the skepticism of professional historians — providing they have no influence with the legislature. Theirs is a bold, original, well-conceived experiment.

GEORGE M. STEPHENSON

A History of Minnesota. By WILLIAM WATTS FOLWELL, President of the Minnesota Historical Society and president emeritus of the University of Minnesota. Volume 2. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1924. xviii, 477 p. Illustrations, maps.)¹

The second volume of Dr. Folwell's comprehensive history of Minnesota, a volume long awaited by those who read the first, justifies the expectation that the standard of reliability and of interest set by the earlier volume would be maintained. The period covered by this new volume starts with the election of 1857 and closes with the end of the Civil War. It is, then, a book in which wars and rumors of wars predominate and dominate everything else. Minnesota, new as the state was when the struggle between the sections started, was called upon and responded to the call for her share of troops; but, withal, Minnesota had her own difficulties with the Indians during at least three of the years of the greater contest. Of the twelve goodly chapters contained in this volume all but four deal with the Indian or the Civil War.

Volume 1 of Dr. Folwell's history closed with the story of the formation of the state constitution. Volume 2 opens with the story of how Minnesota immediately proceeded to elect state officials and representatives to Congress, and, as soon as the first state legislature convened, two United States senators, despite the fact that the admission of the state to the Union had not yet occurred. This small matter, however, did not ruffle the tempers of those involved, and the whole affair was made regular by the formal act of admission. One chapter, the second, deals with Minnesota's star performance in wildcat finance, the five million loan. The third chapter has to do with the general situation, mostly political, in Minnesota just before the outbreak of the Civil War. The last chapter in the book, entitled "Gleanings," picks up the threads of the domestic narrative which were not directly connected with either of the military struggles going on during the period.

Of the eight chapters devoted to wars of one sort or another two, the fourth and the eleventh, deal respectively with "Two

¹ This review appeared in the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* for July 24, 1924.

Years of the Civil War" and "Minnesota Troops in the Civil War." There is no attempt to follow the general course of the national struggle; as the chapter headings indicate, the subject matter is properly the specific part which Minnesota played, together with something of the results of the war for the state itself. As painstaking efforts to depict concisely yet vividly just what part Minnesota troops took in the war these two chapters are admirable. Such a treatment does not involve a consideration of the things which lay back of the sectional strife. One may imagine, however, that the author has strong feelings on the subject and that probably few people south of Mason and Dixon's line would be able to view the whole matter eye to eye with him, and that perhaps some north of that line would be unable to agree with him.

Probably most Minnesotans will find their greatest interest in these volumes in the six chapters beginning with "The Sioux Outbreak, 1862," and ending with the "Indian Wars of 1863-65." The story is vividly told. With no attempt to glorify individuals or to overpaint the picture there is a straightforward narrative built out of minute study of voluminous and frequently conflicting accounts. The trials of the settlers and the tribulations of the Indians are all set forth. Dr. Folwell writes with no illusions about the "noble Red Man." On the other hand there comes out plainly enough the sad story of that blundering cupidity which characterized so much of the white man's dealing with the aborigines. For most persons familiar with the field there are few pages of American history which could be spared with more relief than those which tell the tale of the treatment of the Indians. The people of Minnesota and the government officials sent to deal with the Indians were neither better nor worse than those in other states or at other times; indeed, the Minnesota story, in its general outlines, is typical of what had been going on almost from the time white men landed on the Atlantic coast. The understandable but unreasoning resistance of the Indians to encroachment of those capable of using the natural resources more fully; the overreaching and debauching of the Indian by the white man; the exasperation of the settler to whom it was all an *argumentum ad hominem*, and who rarely could view the native as anything but a cumberer of the earth

to be shoved along out of the way as fast as possible; treaties secured by fraud and then callously violated — all these features, which could be found at any time from colonial days on, were reproduced in Minnesota, with, perhaps, some accentuation in certain respects.

While the general narrative of the Indian wars is contained in the six chapters of the text Dr. Folwell has incorporated in an appendix of nearly a hundred pages some of the esoteric lore he has accumulated. Indeed, some of the most readable and fascinating pages of the whole book are in this same appendix. No one who reads the account of the battle of Birch Coulee would think of missing the "Birch Coulee Monument Controversy" (Appendix 7); and after the plain narrative of the defense of New Ulm comes naturally the "First Battle of New Ulm" (Appendix 3), where the author lets all those who witnessed and left an account of the struggle tell their stories. Wisely, perhaps, he does not attempt to settle all the controversial issues which were raised: "Here are the stories they told; take your choice," is what one reads between the lines. The "Sisseton and Wahpeton Claims" (Appendix 12), told barely, with little comment, drives home the conviction received from reading the text that there is little to say when the charge is made that the whole treatment of the Indians is a chapter of shame in American history.

Just as the first volume of this history gave a close-up of what was going on all along the frontier in the days of the pioneer, so the second volume depicts the next stage of development which, with local variations, could be found in any of the states. After one has a general idea of how the story of national development runs, nothing can make it more vivid than to read an account of some portions of it in detail, and Dr. Folwell's volume supplies such detail. One sometimes regrets that the author had not the time or the space or the inclination to include in his story something more of what, for want of a better expression, may be called the general social development. In the half decade of the Civil War Minnesota was daily receiving increments of population from other parts of the United States and from Europe. Before a complete picture can be formed of the development of any portion of the Union there must be

studies which show the details of settlement, the changing economy of the frontier, the shifts in agriculture, in all phases of industry. A few of these studies have been made, others are being made, and sometime there will come the synthesis of these studies. After all, politics and war do not and did not occupy all the attention of people, and the real history of any group has to tell of humdrum affairs as well.

The people of Minnesota owe to Dr. Folwell and to the Minnesota Historical Society and its officers who have made possible the publication of the book a deep debt for these two volumes of one of the few real state histories so far produced.

LESTER BURRELL SHIPPEE

The Constitution of Minnesota Annotated (Bureau for research in government of the University of Minnesota, *Publications*, no. 3). By HAROLD F. KUMM, M.A., LL.B., Formerly instructor in political science, University of Minnesota. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota, 1924. [vii], 311 p.)

Mr. Kumm explains that "Neither in extent, nor in purpose, nor in method is the following work to be compared to a general treatise on constitutional law. . . . Decisions cannot be turned out to order for the purpose of making a clear and complete annotation." Nevertheless in this careful analysis of the decisions on constitutional questions already made by the state supreme court the author goes as far toward clarifying the meaning of the Minnesota constitution as anyone could go authoritatively at the present time. Indeed, such a compilation is probably of greater value than a "well-balanced" textbook, for it sticks closely to what the courts have actually done, it places the emphasis where they have placed it, and it avoids all idle speculation as to what they might do in certain contingencies.

In order to produce this book it was necessary among other things for the author to read and digest the cases set forth in some hundred and fifty volumes of supreme court reports. His laborious undertaking puts at the disposal of the intelligent citizen such information as ordinarily could be obtained only by consultation of a lawyer. It will be of especial value to teachers and students of government, to whom many problems here stated

have hitherto remained unknown or unsolvable. For those whose chief interest is history, however, it is far less important than Mr. Anderson's *History of the Constitution of Minnesota*, to which in a sense the present work is but an extensive supplement.

The neatness, orderliness, and general correctness of this volume reflect much credit upon the author and even more upon those in charge of the bureau for research in government of the University of Minnesota. This is the more noteworthy because of the messiness which so often characterizes the publications put out by our American universities.

JOHN D. HICKS

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

In September the nature of the work of the society was called to the attention of thousands of Minnesota people who thronged the State Exhibits Building at the state fair and looked at the display in the society's booth. The steering wheel of the United States frigate, "Minnesota," which served as the central exhibit, called up memories not only of the Civil War but also of an interesting phase of American maritime history. The chief object of the society's state fair exhibit, however, was to present a view of its activities, through charts, publications, pictures, and library, museum, and manuscript exhibits. In the same booth was an effective exhibit of the Minnesota War Records Commission.

After writing about the state historical convention at Detroit, the editor of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, in the September number of that magazine, delivers himself of the following sententious comment: "It was in a Minnesota village that Sinclair Lewis laid the scene of his erstwhile best seller, *Main Street*. It would be difficult to conceive of any measure better calculated to remove the curse of midwestern village life as therein depicted than the activities of this character fostered by the Minnesota Historical Society."

The August-November, 1922, number of the BULLETIN,—number 7-8 of volume 4,—which came from the press in October, is a bulky number containing 170 pages. Its leading article is entitled "When Minnesota Was a Pawn of International Politics," by Clarence W. Alvord. Much of the number is devoted to the historically and humanly interesting diary of Martin McLeod, edited by Dr. Grace Lee Nute; and the number also contains a report on the state historical convention at Duluth, held in 1922. Copies of this number of the BULLETIN have been sent to all members who joined the society before November, 1922, and copies will be sent upon request to other members of the society.

The additions to the active membership during the quarter ending September 30, 1924, numbered 85, which bring the total to 1,340. A list of the names of the new members, grouped by counties, follows:

BECKER: Mrs. E. G. Holmes of Detroit.

BLUE EARTH: David Richards, Dr. John F. Russ, Isaac N. Tompkins, and Charles E. Wise of Mankato.

BROWN: H. L. Beecher, George Gieseke, Paul Lehman, Philip Liesch, Carl Manderfield, and A. O. Olson of New Ulm; and Robert C. Dahlberg and Alexander Seifert of Springfield.

CHIPPEWA: Ludwig I. Roe and Dr. Leon A. Smith of Montevideo.

CLAY: Solomon G. Comstock of Moorhead.

DAKOTA: George R. Day of Farmington.

HENNEPIN: Hazel Burton of Excelsior; and Howard S. Abbott, Arthur C. Andrews, Frederick G. Atkinson, George M. Bleecker, William H. Bremner, Charles H. Briggs, Rodney W. Chadbourne, Mrs. George C. Christian, John Crosby, G. Nelson Dayton, Elizabeth H. Foss, Charles Gluek, Frank L. Gowen, Christian P. Grimsrud, Dr. Arthur S. Hamilton, Dr. Earle R. Hare, George Harrison, Horace M. Hill, Dr. William A. Jones, Frederick E. Kenaston, Morris B. Lambie, Dr. Rae T. La Vake, William C. Leary, Dr. Matthew J. Lynch, Mrs. Nathaniel McCarthy, John H. MacMillan, Putnam D. McMillan, Mrs. Charles J. Martin, Carroll K. Michener, William B. Morris, Guy H. Nelson, Dr. Olof A. Olson, Harry L. Robinson, Charles G. Roosen, Benjamin B. Sheffield, Dr. Norman M. Smith, Fred B. Snyder, Mrs. Hiram C. Truesdale, Leon C. Warner, Robert W. Webb, and Dr. Charles Weithoff of Minneapolis.

ISANTI: Oscar A. Olson of Braham.

LAC QUI PARLE: Dr. Herman M. Johnson of Dawson.

MCLEOD: Dr. Prosper E. Sheppard of Hutchinson.

MARTIN: Albert R. Allen of Fairmont.

MOWER: Samuel D. Catherwood of Austin.

OLMSTED: Reverend J. C. K. Preus of Byron; and Dr. David Beekman, Dr. Melvin S. Henderson, and Edward C. Kendall of Rochester.

PINE: L. C. Pederson of Askov.

RAMSEY: Dawes How, Roger Mackintosh, and Frederick C. Miller of St. Paul.

RICE: Louis Peavey of Faribault.

SCOTT: Jane Flaherty of Shakopee.

STEVENS: James B. Ormond of Morris.

TODD: Elisha B. Wood of Long Prairie.

WASHINGTON: Dr. Gustavus A. Newman of Stillwater.

WINONA: J. Russell Smith and H. L. Whitman of Winona.

NONRESIDENT: Edmund Longyear of Altadena, California; Jessie M. Watson of Washington, D. C.; Henry H. S. Rowell of Lewiston, Idaho; Bryan Gilkinson of Lawrence, Kansas; Mrs. Amelia Mohlman of New York City; Edwin E. White of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The society lost four active members by death during the last quarter: Mrs. Charles M. Loring of Minneapolis, July 29; John B. Gilfillan of Minneapolis, August 19; George J. Grant of St. Paul, September 17; and Luke A. Marvin of Duluth, September 17. The deaths of Edward M. Van Cleve of Minneapolis, an active member, on April 19, and of the Honorable Amédée E. Forget of Banff, Alberta, a corresponding member, on June 8, have not previously been reported in the BULLETIN.

The number of subscriptions to the society's publications from schools and public libraries is 144, the public library at International Falls and the library of the West Central School and Station of the University of Minnesota at Morris having been added during the quarter ending September 30.

The publication of Mr. Arthur D. White's article in the August BULLETIN on "Minnesota History in the High School Curriculum" has elicited considerable favorable comment. An editorial in the *St. Paul Dispatch* discusses the problem of state history in the schools and concludes that "Mr. White's question deserves the serious consideration of the educators of the state." The subject was brought to the attention of University of Minnesota students through the reprinting of the BULLETIN article in the *Minnesota Daily* for September 30 and October 1 and 2. In connection with the society's efforts to promote the teaching of Minnesota history in the schools, several hundred complimentary

copies of the *BULLETIN* containing Mr. White's paper were mailed to superintendents of schools together with a letter calling attention to it and to the opportunity open to schools to secure the society's publications on a subscription basis. The curriculum for elementary schools, as planned by the state department of education, calls for the teaching of Minnesota history in the fourth grade, and many teachers in consequence have written for advice as to materials. The newly published outline of American history for high school use, issued by the state department of education, advises the introduction of state and local history into this general course, and thus gives a new impulse toward the study of Minnesota history in the schools.

The society has been cleaning house during the summer. A thorough cleaning was given the entire library of books and newspapers; and the walls and ceilings in the museum rooms and the main reading rooms were cleaned and redecorated by the department of public property.

During the months of July, August, and September, 9,214 books were served to 1,527 readers in the main library—an increase of more than two hundred persons and nearly two thousand books over the service for the corresponding period in 1923. An interesting feature of the service is the extent to which the library is used by visitors from other states. Representatives from Kentucky, New York, Nebraska, Illinois, Missouri, Montana, and Wisconsin worked in the library in the single month of July, and many of them were engaged in serious investigations.

Perhaps the most striking recent increase in the use of the society's materials is that in the manuscript division. Here the number of workers from April 1 to October 1, was 258, or more than twice as many as in the corresponding period of any previous year. Among them were candidates for advanced degrees in the University of Wisconsin, Columbia University, and the University of Paris, besides, of course, the University of Minnesota. One investigator was an agent of the attorney-general of Wisconsin who found important evidence bearing on the disputed boundary between Wisconsin and Michigan;

another was a representative of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., desirous of locating material on the late Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island.

The purchase of four new walnut cases and of ten glass covered wing screens and the remodeling of four old cases have made material additions to the available space in the museum. The Victorian room has been expanded into two rooms, a living room and a bedroom, and plans for the installation of a replica of a pioneer log cabin are approaching fruition. It is expected that the work connected with the latter project will be done sometime during the winter.

"Lumber Industry Records Wanted" is the title of an item in the *Minnesota Historical News*, released to the press in October. The people of the state are asked to coöperate with the society in preserving old account books, letters, diaries, and other papers which throw light on the history of the lumber industry in Minnesota.

Dr. Wayne E. Stevens of Dartmouth College visited Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa for the society during the summer to resume his search in the historical depositories of those cities for manuscript and other materials of interest for Minnesota history (see *ante*, p. 305-307). As a result of his work the society has obtained photostats and calendar cards for a considerable number of sources on the British period of the history of Minnesota.

The article on "The Boundaries of Brown County" which appeared in the August BULLETIN is reprinted by the *Brown County Journal* of New Ulm in its issue for September 26.

The Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution at its annual meeting recently voted to furnish the library regularly with the lineage books published by the national society, of which several volumes are issued each year, and to pay the cost of binding them. This sort of coöperation is very much appreciated.

The superintendent gave a talk on Minnesota history and the work of the society before the Junior Pioneer Association in St. Paul on July 9; and the curator of the museum on July 12

spoke on the history of Fort Snelling to a group of University of Minnesota summer school students whom he conducted on a trip to Fort Snelling and the Sibley House at Mendota.

The radio talks given at the Twin City station WLAG by representatives of the society were temporarily discontinued after the July talk. The fifteenth in the series, was given on July 22 by Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, Jr., curator of the museum, who took as his subject "The Story of Fort Snelling." A new series of monthly radio talks on Minnesota history subjects will be given by members of the society's staff, beginning on the third Monday in October, from the WCCO station.

The radio address on "The Red River Valley in Minnesota History," given by the assistant superintendent on June 16, is published in the *Western Magazine* for September. A picture of Major Stephen H. Long and two views of Red River cart trains accompany the article.

ACCESSIONS

Some interesting documents relating to Ramsay Crooks, the president of the American Fur Company, including his certificate of naturalization, issued in 1830, have been presented to the society by Mrs. Marie Crooks Just of Frazee, his granddaughter.

Several letters written in the period from 1834 to 1848 by Gideon Pond, the missionary, have been added to the society's collection of Pond Papers as a gift from Mr. Gideon H. Pond of Minneapolis (see *ante*, 3:82-86). Perhaps the most interesting letter of the group is one written on May 19, 1834, about two weeks after Pond's arrival at Fort Snelling. It describes the region, the garrison, and the natives with all the detail one might expect from a Connecticut Yankee venturing into the Indian country for the first time.

The papers of Henry Hastings Sibley constitute one of the most valuable collections of manuscripts in the possession of the society, and for some time efforts have been made to add to this collection any Sibley papers of which trace could be found. It is gratifying, therefore, to be able to announce that the diary kept by General Sibley during the stirring days from

June 10 to September 13, 1863, when he was leading his troops on the plains in search of hostile Sioux bands, and a section of an autobiographical sketch which he began in 1884 have been deposited with the society by his daughter, Mrs. Elbert A. Young of St. Paul. Unfortunately General Sibley did not finish the autobiography, but the part which he wrote is a charming and historically important description of his early experiences on the Great Lakes and in Minnesota. Mrs. Young has also permitted the society to make photostatic copies of a number of interesting letters to Sibley in her possession.

In Miss Nute's article, published in this number of the BULLETIN, attention is directed to the value of the Red River settlement census records. Schedules giving many details — such as birthplace, age, religious affiliation, and possessions — concerning the settlers along the lower Red River in 1838, 1840, 1843, and 1846-47, have recently been copied by photostat for the society from the original documents in the Provincial Library of Manitoba at Winnipeg.

In 1855 the officers of the Tenth United States Infantry, upon reaching Fort Snelling, where they were stationed, wrote and signed a letter of thanks to Captain Harris of the "War Eagle," the steamboat which had brought them up the river. This testimonial, with its autographs of Fort Snelling officers and its flavor of the hospitality of the palmy days of steamboating on the upper Mississippi, has been presented to the society by Mrs. Medora Morrill of Chatfield.

Some material on the attitude of the Minnesota Democrats in the election of 1860 and a number of interesting letterheads are included in a group of fifteen manuscripts presented to the society by Mrs. Minnie Hosier of Chatfield. In a letter from J. W. Bishop, owner of the *Chatfield Democrat*, to William B. Gere, the former makes it clear that he bought his newspaper for political purposes, not as a speculation. "Pay or no pay," he writes, "I am going through 1860 with it." An interesting study, which would not be without historical value, might be made of early letterheads. In this collection of papers, for example, is one showing "A View of St. Peter, Minnesota, on the Minnesota River" in 1860.

An informing paper on logging methods, lumberjacks, and the lumber industry of northern Minnesota generally, has been presented to the society by Mr. Wright T. Orcutt of Minneapolis. His reminiscences, which were presented to the society in manuscript form some months ago (see *ante*, p. 508), have now been published under the title "Interesting Account of Lumber Industry of Northern Minnesota Told by the Son of a St. Cloud Pioneer of '66," in the *Saint Cloud Daily Times* for July 14.

A correspondence file of the State Board of Corrections and Charities for the years 1895 to 1900, containing some two hundred letters, has been received from Dr. William W. Folwell, who once served as a member of the board.

A manuscript article on the history of White Earth, written by Mrs. Julia A. Spears of Detroit, a daughter of Lyman Warren, has been received from the author.

On August 5, 1924, six men of New Ulm, Messrs. J. Anton Ochs, H. H. Walter, E. A. Stoll, August Hummell, Richard Pfefferle, and Alex Seifert, set forth on a two-day journey of historical exploration by automobile through Granite Falls, Montevideo, and Brown's Valley, to Lake Traverse. Interesting historic sites were visited and a number of persons whose memories run back to the days of the Sioux Outbreak and of pioneer settlement were interviewed. At each interview careful stenographic notes of questions and answers were taken. A detailed report of the expedition was later drawn up and transmitted to the society. The value of these recorded conversations is considerable, not only for the historical information which they contain but also for the clues which they give about manuscripts and articles of historical value.

The society's collection of objects illustrating the history of domestic life is steadily increasing. Recent gifts include a pair of fire tongs, an old-fashioned iron frying pan, and a powder pouch, presented by Mr. Robert Schofield of Tacoma, Washington; a trundle bed, from Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Varney of St. Paul; a fine old cherry desk and a tin venison warmer of unusual design, from Dr. Brewer Mattocks of Rhinelander, Wisconsin; a woman's quilted hood, a fur cap, and a pair of fur

moccasins, from Miss Gyda Magelssen of Rushford; and a Wheeler and Wilson sewing machine of an early make, from Mrs. G. C. Lambert of Bethel.

Among several interesting objects illustrating military history which have recently been received are a uniform coat, a military sash, and two sabers used by the late Major Christopher B. Heffelfinger of Minneapolis during the Civil War, presented by his daughter, Miss Mary E. Heffelfinger; a Civil War musket found on one of the battlefields near Chattanooga, given by Mrs. John H. Nightingale of Minneapolis; and several photographs of the First Minnesota Field Artillery while on duty at the Mexican border in 1916 presented, together with a number of World War items, by Mr. Duffy Ethier of St. Paul.

To the picture collection have been added framed photographs of Dr. and Mrs. H. A. L. von Wedelstaedt, presented by their daughter, Mrs. G. C. Lambert of Bethel; and two photographs of Dr. George H. Keith, given by his son, Mr. Walter Keith of Minneapolis.

Mr. Henry B. Wenzell, reporter of the state supreme court, has presented a scrapbook which he compiled during his student days in Europe from 1876 to 1879. It contains a large number of interesting ephemeral pieces such as handbills, broadsides, advertising cards, menus, and customs documents.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The average local historical museum, with its collection of "relics" assembled in haphazard fashion, is nothing but a "pitiful display of confusion," according to an article entitled "Unhistorical Museums or Museums of History,—Which?" by Arthur C. Parker, in the July number of the *Quarterly Journal* of the New York State Historical Association. Mr. Parker states that the establishment of an intelligent policy by the museum curator is a first essential. By applying such a policy many items sent to a museum would have to be declined and the local museum would cease to be a "repository of rubbish." It would become "an institution where the material exhibits of community growth and development may be seen."

The new syllabus of American history for Minnesota high school teachers issued by the state department of education (1924. 62 p.) will be of interest to students of Minnesota history because it definitely recognizes the importance of correlating state and national history. It calls special attention to the syllabus of Minnesota history which has been issued in mimeographed form by the Minnesota Historical Society and it suggests that there are excellent possibilities for high school students in the writing of papers, or "original monographs," in the field of local history. The study of old houses, letters, pictures, diaries, costumes, furniture, and the like is recommended in this connection; and one of the objectives set up for papers on local history topics is "the correlation of concrete incident or movement in local history to sectional or national history." In the topical analysis of the syllabus, although some attention is given to Minnesota happenings which are connected with the national events under consideration, many opportunities for effective coördination of the two fields are missed.

"How would you like to shake hands with your ancestors?" asks the *Michigan History Magazine* in its July number. It depends upon how far back one goes. Statisticians tell us that

in the second generation back there were four, in the twelfth generation there were 4,096, and in the twenty-seventh, 134,217,728.

Among Mr. Charles F. Collisson's recent articles on agriculture and dairying, published in the *Minneapolis Tribune*, are several dealing with the methods employed in these pursuits by the Indians of the Northwest. The school at Pipestone, where dairying and animal husbandry are taught to Indian "boys and girls of nine different tribes," is the subject of the article for April 20; agricultural development on the Fort Berthold, North Dakota, reservation is described in the articles for June 22 and July 6; and an account of some primitive customs connected with the raising of corn is presented on July 20.

A defense of the traditional view of George Rogers Clark and his contribution to the winning of the West is made in an article on "The National Significance of George Rogers Clark," by Temple Bodley, in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for September. Mr. Bodley's vigorously stated conclusions differ considerably from the views of Dr. Alvord and several other students of western history. A very interesting paper on "Points of Contact Between History and Literature in the Mississippi Valley," by Dorothy Dondore, appears in the same number.

A brief article entitled "North West and Hudson's Bay Companies: The Predominating Influence of the North West Merchants of Montreal in the Plan of Amalgamation with the Hudson Bay Company in 1821," by Aaron Newell, is printed in the *Washington Historical Quarterly* for July.

The "First Annual Apostle Islands Indian Pageant," given at Madeline Island in August, consisted of eighteen episodes and required three afternoons to present. The entire pageant was given seven times. Jean Baptiste Cadotte, Michel Cadotte, Father Claude Allouez, and Daniel Greysolon Du Luth are among the characters who, by the legerdemain of the pageant master, set chronology at defiance and enter into the plot. An interesting sketch of Madeline Island, famed for its Indian, fur-trade, and missionary backgrounds, is presented in an article entitled

"Madeline and the Past," by Helen Patten, published in the *Wisconsin Magazine* for August-September.

General headquarters for the Norwegian-American centennial celebration which is to be held at the Minnesota state fair grounds in St. Paul in June, 1925, have been established at the Nicollet Hotel in Minneapolis, according to an announcement in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for September 11. The celebration will commemorate the first group immigration from Norway to the United States.

A monument in honor of Knute Nelson has been erected in Evanger, Norway, his birthplace, by the people of that community. A speech delivered by the American minister to Norway, Mr. Laurits Swenson, on the occasion of the unveiling of the monument is printed in volume 7, number 6, of *Nordmandsforbundet*.

A considerable amount of useful biographical information relating to immigrants from the Norwegian district of Numedal appears in the *Year Book* of Numedalslaget for 1923.

The Wisconsin manifestations of nativism in the forties and fifties are dealt with in an article on "Know-Nothingism in Wisconsin," by Joseph Schafer, which is published in the September *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. In the same magazine a brief account of "The Venerable La Pointe Region," by W. A. Titus, appears. Two items of interest for the history of the Scandinavian element are included: an article on "The Swedish Settlement on Pine Lake," by Mabel V. Hansen; and an account of the Norwegian settlements in the West in 1847, by Consul General Adam Lövenskjöld, who visited the settlements in the summer of that year and drew up a report to the Norwegian government which was published at Bergen in 1848. The translation is by Dr. Knut Gjerset.

A review of the early history of North Dakota is presented in an article entitled "The Colonial Period of North Dakota History," by Orin G. Libby, which appears in the *Quarterly Journal* of the University of North Dakota for June. Dr. Libby states that the building of a railroad to Moorhead in 1871 and

the beginning of land surveys west of the Red River in 1868 mark the end of the colonial era in the history of North Dakota. There are many references in the article to historical events of Minnesota interest. One slight error may be noted. Mention is made of the expedition "in charge of Major Long, 1819-23, the first official expedition to the Red River valley." The Long expedition to that valley occurred in 1823; six years earlier, in 1817, Long made a journey from St. Louis to the Falls of St. Anthony.

An "archaeological and historical survey" of Washington County, Indiana, the results of which have been published in the *Indiana History Bulletin* for August (extra number), illustrates a type of inquiry which might be made effectively in several Minnesota counties under the direction of local historical societies. The survey includes township reports "on mounds, caves and quarries, archaeological collections and specimens, cemeteries, forts and blockhouses, and village sites." In each township data were assembled on first settlements, early churches, underground railroad stations, historic trees, early schools, mill sites, trade routes, historic buildings, old trails, markers, camp sites, birthplaces of noted people, and so forth. A general survey of *Historical Markers in Indiana*, arranged by counties, has been published by the Indiana Historical Commission in its *Bulletin* for April, 1924.

A valuable collection of *War Documents and Addresses*, edited by Marguerite E. Jenison, has been published by the Illinois State Historical Library as volume 6 in its series on *Illinois in the World War* (Springfield, 1923. 522 p.). The selections are grouped under the main divisions of "Public Opinion and War," "Mobilizing the State's Resources for the War," "Mobilizing Illinois Men for Service," "Preserving Law and Order in the State," "Visits of Foreign Missions," "The Illinois Centennial," "Bringing War Activities to a Close," "Post-War Legislation," and "Return of the Illinois Service Men." In presenting this collection of materials to the public the general editor, Dr. Theodore C. Pease, remarks, "Definitive historical writing on all save the purely military phases of the war will

have to be left to a generation that has not known the psychological excitement of the years 1914-1920." In the meantime the gathering up of source materials by contemporaries serves to pave the way for the future historian.

A picture of a British Columbia log house with a log-trough roof appears in the *Beaver* for December.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

A mass of information on the departments, commissions, boards, and bureaus of the Minnesota state government, including some historical data, is embodied in a publication entitled *Administration of the State of Minnesota* (71 p.), prepared under the general direction of Dr. Morris B. Lambie of the University of Minnesota and issued in June by the League of Minnesota Municipalities.

"At Fort Snelling, Minnesota," "Pioneer Transportation in Minnesota," and "The Romance of the Cuyuna Iron Range in Minnesota" are the titles of three Minnesota history stories which are included in a collection of sketches for boys and girls entitled *Where Our History Was Made*, by John T. Faris (New York, 1924. 358 p.). In the second sketch an interesting account is given of the early transportation between Fort Garry and St. Paul.

"How Big is Minnesota?" is the question asked in the heading of an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for September 29, which calls attention to the fact that from the Pigeon River to the northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods the international boundary has not yet been fully and precisely determined.

Miss Ruth B. Teare's "Legends and Stories from the St. Croix River" continue to appear in the issues of the *Washington County Post* of Stillwater up to September 18 (see *ante*, p. 525). In the issues for July 3 and 10 the author describes the "Old Mill Stream" and the mill at Marine, which she erroneously calls the "first mill to manufacture lumber in the State of Minnesota." In these articles a survey of the growth and decline of the lumber industry at Marine is presented. The subject for

the articles in the *Post* from July 17 to September 18 is an "Autobiography of the Old Man of the Dalles" at Taylor's Falls.

In a series of four articles in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for July 13, 20, 27, and August 3, former Congressman Frank M. Eddy reviews the campaigns which preceded his election to Congress from the Seventh Congressional District in 1894 and 1896. From the point of view of a Republican candidate, he describes the sharp political contests with the Populists and the free silver advocates, and he covers in greater detail certain phases of the subject dealt with by Dr. Hicks in his article on the Farmers' Alliance in the present number of the BULLETIN. Mr. Eddy's spirited account of a huge Republican rally at Brown's Valley during the campaign of 1896, published on July 27, is reprinted in the *Inter-Lake Tribune* of Brown's Valley for July 31.

"Pioneer Days in Minnesota (1851-1857)" is the title of one chapter of a volume on *The Congregation of Saint Joseph of Carondelet: A Brief Account of Its Origin and Its Work in the United States (1650-1922)*, by Sister Mary L. Savage (St. Louis, 1923. xviii, 334 p.). The most interesting portion of the chapter is that which tells of four sisters of St. Joseph who, in response to a call from Bishop Cretin, came to St. Paul in the fall of 1851 to open a school. As a dwelling the sisters were given the house which was originally "the episcopal palace" of Bishop Cretin — "a low frame shanty on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi." It was "about eighteen feet square, a story and a half high, containing two small rooms, one on the ground floor and one above." A passage from the diary of Sister Francis Joseph, telling of the situation during the first winter, is of special interest, as the following extract will indicate: "We all enjoyed the novelty of our position. There was a small stove on the first floor, the pipe of which was set upright through the roof. In the opening around it, we could count the stars. Rain storms were frequent. When the rain poured down through the roof, we, like the man in the Gospel, took up our beds and walked, but only to rest in water on the other floor." In a

later chapter Dr. Savage traces the development of the "Congregation in the North,"—chiefly in Minnesota—from 1858 to 1922, a record of constantly widening activities.

A brief essay on "Minnesota Labor and Legislation" appears in the 1922 *Year Book* of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor as chapter 10 in its "History of the Labor Movement in Minnesota." In the *Year Book* for 1924 a chapter on "Minnesota Labor in Politics," dealing with the period since 1918, is added.

The dramatic story of the great Indian uprising in 1862 possesses a permanent hold upon the interest of Minnesota Valley people. At the annual Fort Ridgely celebration, which was held on August 22, speeches were given on "The Nine Day Siege of Fort Ridgely," by Frank Hopkins; "The Siege of New Ulm," by Albert Pfaender; "Prisoners at Camp Release," by C. A. Fossness; and "Wood Lake Battle and Upper Sioux Agency," by John J. Mooney. Mr. J. F. Jacobson spoke on "The Old Lac qui Parle Mission" and Mr. H. M. Hitchcock described the natural features of the Minnesota River Valley. According to press reports the celebration was well attended, and the presence of Miss Rebecca Blue Cloud, a granddaughter of Chief Little Crow, added to the interest of the occasion.

James M. Goodhue, the founder of the first Minnesota newspaper, Aaron Goodrich, a pioneer judge, and Charles Kilgore Smith, the first secretary of Minnesota Territory and one of the founders of the Minnesota Historical Society, were among the twelve original Minnesota Masons, according to the brief histories of the order in Minnesota published in the *St. Paul Daily News* and the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for September 7. The articles call attention to the seventy-fifth anniversary of the introduction of the Masonic Order into Minnesota, which was celebrated on September 8 by St. Paul Lodge No. 3, the oldest lodge in the state.

Notorious crimes committed in the Northwest during the past half century are recalled in a series of articles which begin in the *St. Paul Daily News* for July 20. The stories are based upon

the scrapbooks of the late John J. O'Connor, who for many years was St. Paul's chief of police.

The story of the capture of the Younger brothers after the Northfield robbery of 1876 is told by one of the captors, Dr. A. O. Sorbel, in the *Daily Argus-Leader* of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for September 20.

The proceedings of a *Testimonial Dinner in Honor of Thomas B. Walker* on January 7, 1924, at the Minneapolis Club, have been published as a booklet of forty-seven pages. Much of Mr. Walker's speech on this occasion was devoted to an account of his first visit to Minneapolis, which occurred in 1862.

A somewhat ironic biographical sketch of James J. Hill appears in one chapter of *Strenuous Americans* by R. F. Dibble (New York, 1923. 370 p.). Seven sketches are included in the volume, but the most typical "strenuous American" is left out. Had he been included it is easy to believe that Theodore Roosevelt would have turned over in his grave, for the seven "strenuous Americans" are a strangely assorted crew: Jesse James, Brigham Young, P. T. Barnum, Mark Hanna, Frances E. Willard, Admiral George Dewey, and James J. Hill.

A *Memorial of Joseph Davis Ensign* (1924. 19 p.), a prominent lawyer of Duluth and a district court judge from 1889 to 1920, has been issued by the bar association of the eleventh judicial district. It includes addresses by John G. Williams, William A. Cant, J. L. Washburn, Henry Oldenburg, and Martin Hughes.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The history of South Bend, "which in the late fifties was a rival of Mankato," and of its "only remaining building," the Welsh Congregational Church, is reviewed in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for September 26. The article contains the announcement that the old church is to be restored by former members of its congregation.

A sketch of the history of three neighboring Minnesota towns—Lindstrom, Chisago City, and Center City—is printed in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 3.

Evidence that Minnesota is still a field for the pioneer farmer is given in the story, published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 24, of the origin and growth within the past five years of the town of Hollandale, a prosperous community of Dutch truck farmers in Freeborn County.

To mark the passing of thirty years since the publication of its first issue, the *Grand Rapids Herald-Review* for September 24 includes a sketch of its history by Edward C. Kiley, its founder. Interesting bits of Itasca County history may be gleaned from the narrative; for example, a list of the paper's early advertisers is fairly representative of the pioneer business enterprises of the region. Other articles of historical interest in this issue are an account of the development of dairying in Itasca County and a story of the building of the county's roads.

Another chapter has been added to the newspaper history of the state in the fiftieth anniversary number of the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel*—an issue which, according to its editor, is “frankly reminiscent.” The greater part of its four sections is devoted to accounts of the business concerns of Fairmont, but fortunately space is given to some valuable articles on the history of the county and the city. The establishment of the *Sentinel* is described by Mr. Frank A. Day, its founder and editor, and the history of three earlier Martin County papers is the subject of a long article. Accounts of “66 Years of Fairmont Postoffice History,” of the development of transportation in Martin County, of the fur trade in pioneer days, and of the grasshopper plague of 1873–76 also are included. But perhaps the most interesting articles in this issue deal with the “British colony” centering at Fairmont which was established in the seventies through the efforts of a promoter named H. G. Shearman. This little-known immigration project brought approximately two hundred English settlers to Martin County. Many were disappointed and returned to England; others still reside in Fairmont. One of the latter, Mr. Lenny Burton, contributes to the *Sentinel* an account of his “arrival in 1874.” Among the interesting illustrations in this issue are a bird's-eye view of Fairmont in 1879, a picture of its first house, and a map of Martin County published in 1874.

A home-coming celebration in honor of the "50th anniversary of the first actual settlement in Pipestone county" was held on July 26 at Pipestone.

The tragedy of once thriving towns that, for one reason or another, were left to die lingering deaths has an appeal not only to poets but to the general public. The story of a Minnesota "deserted village," High Forest in Olmsted County, which was jilted by a railroad, is told in an entertaining illustrated article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 3.

The reunion of the Renville County Pioneers' Association, held at Olivia on June 11, 12, and 13, was the occasion for the publication of an illustrated "Old Settlers Edition" of the *Olivia Times* on June 12. Stories of the Sioux Massacre in Renville County, sketches of old settlers, and accounts of "early day politics" and of "Renville County's oldest newspaper," the *Times*, are included.

Pioneers of Rock County gathered at Hills on July 4 for an old settlers' picnic. A paper on the "Early History of Rock County," read at the meeting by Mr. J. N. Jacobson, is published in the *Hills Crescent* of July 10.

Members of the St. Croix Valley Old Settlers' Association gathered at Stillwater on September 17 for their fiftieth annual meeting.

An account of the "Early History of Madelia," by J. E. Haycraft, is published in the *Madelia Times-Messenger* for June 27.

The gay and romantic days when Lake Minnetonka was thronged with steamboats are recalled in an illustrated article by Randolph Edgar, published in the *Minneapolis Journal* for July 20, which is based upon an interview with Captain George Hopkins, a veteran Minnetonka boatman. Mr. Edgar succeeds in giving a vivid impression of the charm and color of Minnetonka affairs when the lake was "the almost sole summer resort of the northwest."

The tale of St. Albans, a village which was platted in 1856 on Lake Minnetonka and which failed to weather the financial

storm of 1857, is recounted in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of September 19.

Residents of Osseo celebrated at Eagle Lake on July 15 the seventy-second anniversary of the founding of their village.

The founding of Robbinsdale by Andrew B. Robbins in the late eighties and its subsequent growth are described in the *Northern Headlight* of Robbinsdale for September 17. Accounts of the industries, the schools, the churches, and the transportation facilities of the village are included.

"In Memory of Helen J. McCaine, Librarian, Who for Forty Years Devoted her Life to the Development of This Library" reads the inscription on a tablet recently placed in the St. Paul Public Library in honor of its former librarian.

Illustrated feature articles in the *St. Paul Daily News* and the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of September 28 review the history of the First Baptist Church of St. Paul and announce the program for the celebration, on October 5 to 9, of its seventy-fifth anniversary. As a result of the efforts of Harriet E. Bishop the church was established by twelve pioneer Baptists on December 29, 1849. Portraits of Miss Bishop and pictures of the crude log cabin in which she taught the first Minnesota Sunday school appear with both articles.

A weekly series of informing articles entitled "The Story of Dayton's Bluff," by J. H. Colwell, appears in the *Minneapolis Tribune*, beginning with the issue of September 7. The articles deal with the history of Dayton's Bluff from the days of the mound builders to the rediscovery of Carver's Cave.

Stories of strange freaks resulting from "St. Paul's only tornado," which occurred on August 20, 1904, are recalled in an article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 17. Storms which have played havoc in various parts of Minnesota are enumerated by Don T. Stetson in the *St. Paul Daily News* for July 6.



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