

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*Paul Bunyan.* By JAMES STEVENS. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1925. ix, 245 p. Illustrations.)

*Paul Bunyan.* By ESTHER SHEPHARD. (Seattle, McNeil Press, 1924. 235 p.)

Some of the intellectual influences of the westward movement have been suggested by Professor Frederick J. Turner in his brilliant essays on the frontier as a factor in American history, but the theme has not yet been thoroughly exploited. Certainly the frontier has done much to stimulate "that buoyancy and exuberance which comes with freedom." It has done more: it has given Americans in peculiar degree the habit of expansive thinking. Enormous areas of land were open to the pioneer and he undertook the task of taming a continent. Naturally, as these forces acted upon his spirit he adopted an increasingly masterful attitude toward men and things. What he did was done in a big and wasteful fashion, whether it was cutting down the trees of the virgin forests, opening up bonanza farms with their thousands upon thousands of acres, gathering up the mineral treasures of the earth, or spending the money that he accumulated. Conservation is a distinctly modern term in its popular implications; it was not in the vocabulary of the pioneer. The hero of the frontier and indeed many of the heroes of American society have been "big" men in the pioneer sense, men embodying the frontiersman's ideals, men moved by a fierce contempt for all that is not fashioned upon a large scale. American business has exalted the master of great wealth, the baron of vast enterprises, the doer of stupendous deeds. American history — particularly the conquest of the continent — largely explains the fact that Americans have developed as no other people the humor of exaggeration. Our best representative in this field is undoubtedly Mark Twain, though in some respects Artemus Ward is a more typical figure. The so-called "tall tale" is a characteristic element of American literature; it is a product of "bigness" in American development and thought; and this in turn is largely a result of the frontier environment.

Modern America has now given birth to a heroic myth. The stories of Paul Bunyan, the gigantic lumberjack, and of Babe, his fabulous blue ox, are extraordinarily interesting because they reflect with precision the spirit of bigness which dominated the movement of the American people across the continent. The stories have their setting in the lumber industry of the West; and no industry illustrates more strikingly the frontiersman's large and free-handed way of doing things.

As one reads the stories of Paul Bunyan one can easily understand the manner of their origin. The bunkhouse after the day's work, with the lumberjacks seated about the fire, has been the scene of many a tale concerning this mythical hero. For sixty or more years — through the long winter nights in the logging camps — the tales have been in circulation and in process of growth. They may have a French-Canadian origin or they may have started in middle-western America. Some of the tales are unquestionably derived from classic Greek and Latin myths and a few appear to be drawn, however indirectly, from Rabelais. At all events, the stories are now American to the core and their humor is the humor of the old frontier. Paul Bunyan was a superlumberjack, great in size, strength, and cleverness. He was more than a giant; many of his tales make him a veritable lumberjack god. He was a majestic figure physically. When only an infant his tossings at night "knocked down four square miles of standin' timber." As a grown man he did feats of prodigious strength. For example, needing a reservoir for water to use in icing his logging roads, he scooped out a hole which gradually filled with water and is known today as Lake Superior. It is interesting to note that even the minor details are drawn to scale. Merely to keep the bowl of Paul's pipe supplied with tobacco required the full time of "a swamper with a scoop shovel."

Paul Bunyan's wonderful blue ox, Babe, measured forty-two ax handles and a tobacco box between the eyes. This mighty beast was dyed a deep blue as a result of exposure during the terrible winter of the blue snow in the early sixties. Every time Babe was shod a new iron mine had to be opened. As the great ox tramped about, his enormous weight caused his feet to

sink deep into the hard earth. Let Minnesota "boosters" build a monument to Babe, for the ten thousand lakes of the North Star State were fashioned by his hoof prints. Sad indeed was the fate of any ordinary man who tumbled into one of the depressions in the ground left by a hoof of the blue ox. If a very long rope could be secured he might be hauled out, but only with difficulty.

Paul's camp was of enormous size, and many of the Bunyan stories bring out the details of it. It is perhaps indicative of the large part that eating played in the lumberjack's life that particular attention is given to the cook shanty. Men were sometimes lost between the flour bin and the potato bin. The cook once put a loaf of bread into the oven and walked around to the other side of the stove to take it out, but before he got there the bread was burned to a crisp. To grease the stove on which the pancakes were baked it was necessary to fasten hams to the feet of the cook's assistants, who then skated about on the stove's wide surface.

These items are only minor incidents compared with the great exploits of Paul Bunyan and his noble loggers. The clearing of the "Pyramid Forty" with its millions of feet of lumber, the logging of North Dakota, and the digging of the Columbia River as a log chute to the sea are typical of the heroic deeds of his lumberjacks, and these exploits are described in detail by Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Shephard in the books of tales which they have collected. Not a few of the incidents related fall within the category of the marvelous, rather than the heroic, happening, and there is a certain smartness about some of the stories which suggests an old lumberjack spinning yarns to a "greenhorn." The affair of the buckskin harness is a good illustration. A load of wood is being pulled by the ox to camp when a rainstorm drenches the harness. It stretches so much that when the ox reaches camp the load is out of sight. The sun comes out, however, and while the ox is standing still and the driver is having lunch the harness dries and the contraction pulls the load into camp.

The Paul Bunyan tales are true folklore, sprung from the soil, uncertain of origin, intimately related to the geography and

the history of the region which forms their setting, developed orally for many decades before they were written down. Furthermore, the deeds of Bunyan and his crew are growing in heroic proportions under our very eyes. Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Shephard have performed a distinct service not only to literature but also to history by writing down the tales of the exploits of the redoubtable Paul Bunyan. The reviewer feels that Mrs. Shephard's volume is of far greater value than Mr. Stevens', for she has presented the stories just as she has heard them from the lips of old lumbermen, whereas Mr. Stevens has dressed up the tales in a language that does not remotely suggest the lumber camp. For example, after Paul and the Big Swede pull out a row of stumps, leaving a chasm now known as the Yosemite, Paul is made to remark, "Now, there is a historical accomplishment for all to read about." At another time, Mr. Stevens causes the great lumberjack to deliver this exquisite dissertation, "Etiquette, dainty speech, sweet scents, poetry and delicate clothes belong properly in the drawing room, the study and the sanctum. They are hothouse growths." Mrs. Shephard's Paul is more convincing; he talks like this: "You get right into that cook-shanty and start the hotcakes. You're just the man I been lookin' for."

THEODORE C. BLEGEN

*Farmers and Workers in American Politics.* (Columbia University, *Studies in History, Economics and Public Law*, vol. 113, no. 2). By STUART A. RICE, A. M. (New York, Columbia University, 1924. 231 p.)

*The Agrarian Movement in North Dakota.* (Johns Hopkins University, *Studies in Historical and Political Science*, series 43, no. 1). By PAUL R. FOSSUM, PH. D. (Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1925. 183 p.)

Such studies as these, coming so closely upon the heels of the movements discussed, cannot hope to be definitive and final. They illustrate once more the willingness of the sociologist, and sometimes even the economist, to rush in where the historian fears to tread. The author of one monograph tries to settle the question whether or not "farmers and industrial workers are

like-minded or mutually antagonistic in their respective political attitudes." His answer, he believes, will shed light upon the "probability or improbability of a durable farmer-labor alliance in American politics." The other, with more attention to the economic and historical background of his subject, tries to discover a badly-needed way out of a present dilemma for the North Dakota farmer. Both studies are undeniably worth while, but only time can demonstrate the soundness of some of the conclusions vouchsafed.

Mr. Rice progresses through mazes of tables and formulas to the conclusion that there are many "points of resemblance" between farmers and workingmen, but an even larger number of "points of dissimilarity." When the "points of resemblance" are uppermost, the two groups will be able to coöperate and will merge for the moment into one group. When the "points of dissimilarity" have the upper hand, they will disagree and remain two groups. Thus the farmers and the workers have been and will be in opposition on matters of a moral nature, such as "prohibition, sex, gambling, the regulation of personal conduct." They find it possible to agree, however, against their common oppressors, the middlemen, even to the extent of burying, while the battle rages, their antagonistic interests as producers and consumers. Should issues of the former type dominate American politics during the near future, the farmers and workers will not agree. "Should questions involving political reform, public utilities, or the rights and privileges of labor or agriculture become dominant . . . a successful alliance . . . might develop."

Mr. Fossum approaches his subject in a manner far more intelligible to the historian. He presents in considerable detail the activities of the Farmers' Alliance and the Populist party in North Dakota, and he assumes, doubtless correctly, that the fundamental purpose of this early agrarian movement was to secure by intervention of the state government a return of competitive methods "to a business that had passed that stage a score of years ago." The movement is credited with many incidental victories and many badly needed reforms, but the ultimate goal was unattained and remains unattainable. The stories of the coöperative elevator movement and of the Nonpartisan

League then follow, each told with reasonable accuracy and fairness, although it is plain that the author is no partisan of the League. Here, too, the agrarians gained many incidental victories, only to fail in their attempts to realize their fondest hopes. They gained an increasing knowledge, however, of the methods and the possibilities of coöperative marketing, and in this system they began to center their faith. Here, according to Mr. Fossum, lies the way of salvation. In due time the farmer will be content to relegate the government "to its true function of arbiter and protector of private rights"; he will no longer regard it "as an agency with which to curb other forms of industry and thus bring back the 'good old days.'" Instead, he "will, by the application of industrial methods, so long despised and ignored, seek to work out . . . [his] destiny along industrial lines."

But for these last statements some historian of the future must supply the footnotes.

JOHN D. HICKS

*Fifty Years on the Firing Line.* By JAMES W. WITHAM. (Chicago, the author, 1924. 214 p.)

The "Firing Line" referred to is that of the farmers of the Northwest against the forces of "special privilege." The author, although not a general nor yet even a colonel in the struggle, managed to participate in every important conflict from the days of Oliver H. Kelley to the days of Magnus Johnson. In publishing this autobiography, informally written and loosely knit as it is, he has done a real service to the cause of history. Closer to the masses than the usual writer of autobiographies, he reflects better their point of view; more familiar with the sufferings of the pioneer farmers, he tells a more convincing tale.

One need not admit that the farmers' remedies were always well advised to be convinced that their grievances were well founded. And sometimes their remedies worked. Moreover, they did not have a monopoly upon the economic sophistry of their times. The single gold standard men of the nineties, for example, were about as far from a reasonable and final solution of the currency problem as the free-silverites or the greenbackers. It took twenty-five years more to evolve the present federal

reserve system, and doubtless the last word on banking and currency is yet to be said.

J. D. H.

*Erindringer av Peer Strömme, efter hans död utgit av en komite.*

(Minneapolis, Augsburg Publishing House, 1923. 429 p.  
Portrait.)

This volume contains the reminiscences of Peer Strömme, widely known Norwegian-American teacher, minister, journalist, novelist, poet, politician, lecturer, and traveler, who died in 1921 at his home in Madison, Wisconsin. His varied activities centered mainly in that state and in Minnesota. He was born in Wisconsin in 1856, the son of Norwegian immigrants. He was graduated from Luther College in 1876 and thereafter spent three years in St. Louis as a theological student in Concordia Seminary. In 1879 he went to the Red River Valley, where in the region north of Fargo, he served as a pastor of several Lutheran congregations on both sides of the Red River. From 1881 to 1886 he was superintendent of schools in Norman County, Minnesota, in addition to carrying his usual work as a clergyman. In the volume under review a chapter of seventy pages is devoted to his experiences as "Minister and School Superintendent in the Red River Valley" and a remarkably vivid picture is given of conditions in that region during the early eighties.

In his later career Strömme was at different times an instructor at St. Olaf College; a minister in Buffalo County, Wisconsin; editor of Norwegian newspapers in Chicago, Superior and Madison, Wisconsin, Minneapolis, and Grand Forks; editor of the *Minneapolis Times* and the *Minneapolis Star*; Democratic politician active in numerous campaigns in Wisconsin and Minnesota; globe-trotter; and indefatigable author and translator, whose best book, *Hvorledes Halvor blev prest* [How Halvor Became a Minister], is a realistic novel with a Norwegian-American background. Strömme's activities in all these capacities are described in his autobiography, which is a well-written and an extremely interesting document illuminating Norwegian-American life in the upper Mississippi Valley.

T. C. B.

*Collections of the State Historical Society [of North Dakota].*

Volume 7. Edited by ORIN G. LIBBY. (Grand Forks, 1925.  
353 p. Illustrations.)

This volume constitutes a valuable contribution not only to North Dakota history but also to knowledge of Minnesota's development and to the story of the Scandinavians in the United States.

The first article in the book, "Pioneer Experiences of Horatio H. Larned," by Ethel A. Collins, is an account of a man who went west with the Fisk expedition of 1864 and thereafter played an important part in the Dakota Indian trade. Larned's father, William Larned, was a Minnesota pioneer who settled at St. Anthony in 1850, served for two terms as a member of the territorial Senate, and took part in the promotion of the town of Anoka. Two Minnesota exploits of the son are mentioned by Miss Collins. She writes that in "the summer of 1858 he helped a merchant, Staples, drive 25 head of beef steers from Anoka to Vermilion Lake, north and west of where Duluth now stands." One wonders whether this expedition really occurred as early as 1858. The Lake Vermilion gold rush, to which a reference is made in a footnote (p. 4), took place seven years later. In 1862 Larned enlisted for Indian service and served under Sibley and Pope, and for a time he was stationed at Fort Abercrombie as a cavalry soldier. After the expiration of his term of service he joined the Fisk expedition of 1864. Miss Collins states that the object of Larned and his father, who joined him in this enterprise, was to "take out a stock of hardware to be sold to Idaho miners." The elder Larned invested fifteen thousand dollars; the younger, one thousand. "They had eight teams, and the teamsters, in pay for their services, were given their board and keep. There was one strong one-horse wagon, covered with canvas and fully equipped, which was used by Larned's father and mother" (p. 5). The story of the expedition is told in considerable detail by Miss Collins, and the balance of her article is devoted to later Dakota experiences of Larned. Her article is followed by a series of interesting sketches by Larned himself, who is now about eighty years of age. Some of these sketches are of distinct Minnesota interest.

The second section of the volume is a series of "Biographical Sketches of North Dakota Pioneers." The first biography is that of Frank Viets, who brought his family from Ohio to Dakota in 1870 via the Great Lakes, Duluth, St. Paul, St. Cloud, and Georgetown. The trip from St. Cloud west was made in a prairie schooner and at Alexandria Mr. Viets stopped long enough to advise with one Knute Nelson as to the land farther west. The Viets biography contains much information about the Red River Valley of interest both for the Minnesota and the Dakota sides of the river. Augustus Barlow, the subject of the second sketch, made a trip from St. Louis to St. Paul probably in 1847 on a steamer towing a barge of cattle for Fort Snelling. In 1849 he again went to St. Paul, and soon thereafter he became a raftsman on the Mississippi. During the Civil War he was in Canada, but in May, 1865, he returned to Minnesota. In the late seventies Barlow went to Dakota and became a Red River boatman and pilot. A. H. DeLong, the subject of another of the sketches, settled at Greenleaf, Minnesota, in 1859. "During the winter of 1862-3," he says, "I killed sixty deer and a number of bears." A vivid account of the Sioux Outbreak of 1862, written by DeLong, is included with the account. DeLong served as a scout under Sibley. These biographies are typical; the normal thing apparently in the story of the North Dakota pioneer is a Minnesota background, and it is very interesting to take one specific case after another and trace out the Minnesota connection.

Most of the rest of the volume is devoted to a series of articles and sketches about the Norwegians in the Red River Valley. Much miscellaneous material is brought together by Axel Tollefson in his "Historical Notes on the Norwegians in the Red River Valley." He first deals with "Early Immigration of the Norwegians to the Red River Valley," and discusses in much detail the work of Paul Hjelm-Hansen, the Norwegian journalist who in 1869 as an agent of the Minnesota state board of immigration visited the Red River Valley and did much to advertise it among Norwegians and Norwegian-Americans. The data for this informing account of Hjelm-Hansen was supplied by Mr. Luth Jaeger. After this section, Mr. Tollefson devotes his attention to the "Settlement of Norwegians in Grand Forks County," and to various institutions in Grand Forks that illus-

trate Norwegian activities. A long study of "The Norwegian Lutheran Church in the Red River Valley," by Anton Hillesland, follows Mr. Tollefson's essay. An excellent narrative is given of the establishment and growth of the Lutheran church among the Norwegians of North Dakota and some attention is paid to the general background of this church. After a discussion of some of the later developments of the church, the author presents a series of biographical sketches of early Norwegian Lutheran ministers and other pioneers in North Dakota, including Peer Strömme, S. O. Braaten, T. K. Gaustad, N. T. Ylvisaker, J. J. Ringstad, Bersvend Anderson, S. S. Wold, S. L. Tallakson, and Bjug Harstad. These sketches are filled with unusually interesting material illuminating the conditions of frontier life in North Dakota. Bojer, the Norwegian novelist, has recently written a novel about Norwegian-American life in Dakota; the sketches in the volume under review convey to one the vivid reality which lies back of the pioneer epic. The value of the sketches is considerably enhanced by the fact that long quotations giving personal reminiscences are usually included. In almost every case there are Minnesota connections.

At the end of the volume are two interesting items. One is an admirable study in local history—an article by Emma Severson on "The History of Crary," based in part upon interviews of the author with old settlers of the town and in part upon material in contemporary newspapers and other sources. The other is a good account of "The Medora-Black Hills Stage Line," by Lewis F. Crawford.

T. C. B.

*Who's Who Among Minnesota Women: A History of Woman's Work in Minnesota from Pioneer Days to Date, Told in Biographies, Memorials and Records of Organizations.* Compiled by MARY DILLON FOSTER. (N. p., 1924. 380 p. Illustrations.)

This book is an extremely useful compendium of information about women and women's organizations in Minnesota. Scattered throughout the volume are biographical sketches of more than five hundred women, brief accounts of approximately one

hundred and fifty women's organizations, state and local, and a series of seven brief essays. Two of the latter are contributed by Dr. Warren Upham, on "The Women and Children of Fort St. Anthony, Later Named Fort Snelling" (published elsewhere some ten years ago), and "Honorable Women of Minnesota History"; other essays are three unsigned, brief, and encyclopedic accounts of the women journalists, missionaries, and musicians of Minnesota, and two single-page surveys of "Suffrage in Minnesota," by Maud C. Stockwell, and of "Women of the University of Minnesota," by Ina Ten Eyck Firkins. Mention should also be made of a list of about two hundred women "Playwrights and Authors of Minnesota." The general arrangement of the material is alphabetical and there is an index at the end of the book. A brief introduction is furnished by Alice Ames Winter.

The biographical sketches, most of which are illustrated with portraits, run about two to the page. As a rule they are sober and compact summaries, crammed with information. Many women of importance in the earlier history of Minnesota are included. In the selection of subjects for sketches among living women, commercial considerations appear to have been among the determining factors. Certainly a great many women whose biographies ought to be included in such a work are not thus represented. The volume is not a comprehensive one, and its representative character is at least open to serious question. Its compiler has wisely recognized the deficiency by printing at the end of the book a long list of names of "Women Who have Been Given Recognition." She explains that in some instances sketches of these women have been omitted because of their "personal prejudice against exploitation in any public way of their endeavors and achievements." Unfortunately she does not anywhere make clear the exact basis upon which persons and organizations have been selected for sketches. It should be noted in this connection that not a few clubs, including some important ones, are omitted.

Notwithstanding its incompleteness, the book is a valuable work containing in compact form a vast amount of useful data. It can hardly be considered a "history of woman's work in Minnesota," but it makes a notable contribution to the materials for

such a history. The reviewer is inclined to lament the fact that the book does not contain an interpretative chapter surveying in particular the remarkable progress of organization among the women of the state. If the woman's movement in Minnesota is typical of that in the nation at large, such an essay would have a significance and an interest that would reach far beyond the boundaries of the state.

A comprehensive study of women as a factor in the development of Minnesota will probably some day be made. Dr. Arthur M. Schlesinger, in his admirable essay on the rôle of women in American history, published in his *New Viewpoints in American History*, has indicated the point of view that should be adopted in such a study. The great importance of the part played by women in history is universally admitted, but it is almost never brought out adequately in the published histories. Certainly a real contribution to American history could be made if some competent historian undertook a thoroughgoing study of the influence of women in the history of a single state, say Minnesota. But perhaps this is an unattainable dream, for there is an almost insurmountable difficulty. It is this: who, ah who, can measure the influence of women in the development of this commonwealth?

T. C. B.

*Historical Contributions, Concerning the Settlement and Development of West Central Minnesota, Stevens County and the City of Morris.* By CALVIN L. BROWN. (Morris, reprinted from the *Morris Tribune*, 1922-23. 62 p. Illustrations.)

The late Chief Justice Calvin L. Brown was an indefatigable student of local history, interested particularly in the backgrounds of Stevens County. With the history of that county he had been closely identified, in fact, for he located in Morris as a young attorney in 1878. His studies in the local history field are therefore based in part upon personal recollections, but he also made careful use of newspapers and other sources.

The volume under review is made up of a number of articles, all of which have previously appeared in the *Morris Tribune*.

The first, entitled "When Counties of State Were Named," also appears, under a somewhat altered title, in the *MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN* for February-May, 1922. The titles of the other articles or chapters are "The Railroads in and thru Stevens County," "Stevens County in the Making and the Men Who Made It," "Some Politics, 1874-1878," "Politics in 1879-1886," "These Were the Pioneers," "The Unincorporated Village of Morris," "Early Doctors and Lawyers," "Morris Incorporated 1878," and "The First and Subsequent Village Elections, 1878-1880 and Other Items." On the whole these papers constitute a valuable and an interesting contribution to Minnesota local history and in some cases the studies have more than a local interest. The account of "Politics in 1879 to 1886" contains an interesting report of the Stevens County aspects of the dramatic Nelson-Kindred campaign of 1882. Brown was himself a successful independent candidate for county attorney in the election. His opponent, he writes, "had control of the republican party machinery supporting Nelson" and Brown was therefore excluded from its councils. Nevertheless he "was not a Kindred supporter and did not join his forces."

Although much of the material in the articles has to do with law and politics, no little attention is given to the social aspects of the development of Stevens County and of Morris. The author reveals a genial affection for the small town of which he writes and displays evident pride when he chronicles his membership in the "Oyster Can Club" and in the "First Brass Band." Yet he is no sentimentalist, and many shrewd comments reveal his interest in the actual and possible improvement of the town.

T. C. B.

## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

A significant new development in connection with the promotion of historical consciousness in the state is the launching of a local history essay contest open to high school students, sponsored by the society in coöperation with the State Federation of Women's Clubs. Plans for the contest have been worked out through conferences with the chairman of the division of applied education of the federation, Mrs. Will Curtis of St. James. Subjects suggested for essays are "The Story of My Grandparents in Minnesota," "The Beginnings of My Community," and "An Old Settler's Story of Pioneer Life in Minnesota." The writers are urged to make use of old letters, diaries, newspapers, and other documents, and to interview old settlers. It is expected that most of the papers prepared will eventually be turned over to the society. The management of the contest in the counties and club districts will be in the hands of the federation. The prize-winning essays from the districts will be judged by a committee appointed by the superintendent of the society and two officials of the federation. In all two hundred dollars in prizes will be awarded. Of this amount the sum of twenty-five dollars will be used for the first state prize and this amount is provided by the society. The entire contest will undoubtedly stimulate interest in the study of Minnesota history in the high schools of the state, and it may lead to the discovery and permanent preservation of many old documents of historical value.

Sixteen additions to the society's active membership were made during the three months ending September 30. The names of the new members, grouped by counties, follow:

**HENNEPIN:** Mrs. John C. Hutchinson, Mrs. Maud H. Lovelace, Russell A. Plimpton, Sophia E. Russell, and Faith Thompson of Minneapolis, and Martin W. Odland of Robbinsdale.

**MARTIN:** Frank A. Day of Fairmont.

**RAMSEY:** Dr. James C. Ferguson, Elizabeth McGregor, and Oscar E. Johnson of St. Paul.

**SWIFT:** O. H. Strand and Frank A. Thornton of Benson.

**WINONA:** Mary Grant of Winona.

NONRESIDENT: Robert M. Gaylord of Rockford, Illinois; H. O. Johnson of Hebron, North Dakota; and William H. Best of Boston, Massachusetts.

The society lost six active members by death during the quarter ending September 30, 1925: Samuel J. Brown of Brown's Valley, August 29; Samuel Lord of St. Paul, September 1; Charles E. Lovett of Duluth, September 10; Olin D. Wheeler of St. Paul, September 10; Bishop H. Schriber of St. Paul, September 11; and John W. Willis of St. Paul, September 12.

The number of schools and public libraries subscribing to the society's publications has been increased to 171 by the addition of five institutions during the last quarter. These include the public library of Bemidji; public schools in Lewiston, Red Wing, and Chisholm; and St. Benedict College of St. Joseph.

An editorial entitled "The Human Background of Minnesota," published in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for August 10, after commenting favorably upon the service rendered by the society both in its publication and its collecting activities, offers the following opinion: "It is the business of an historical society to find and publish the truth in so far as it can be ascertained. This does not mean that all discovered truth should be published, but it does mean that that which is preserved should do no conscious violence to facts or to the spirit underlying the facts." The editorial calls attention particularly to the importance of original, contemporary documents for the study of history.

Under the title, "Picturesque Characters in Early Minnesota History," a radio talk on early fur-traders of Minnesota by Dr. Grace Lee Nute, the society's curator of manuscripts, is published in the September number of the *Gopher-M*, the monthly magazine of the Minneapolis Athletic Club.

The society's monthly *Check List* of state publications completed a biennium with the issue listing the publications for June and work was begun on a cumulation for the biennium. The *Check List* is to be published quarterly instead of monthly hereafter, except during sessions of the legislature, when large numbers of important documents appear.

At the close of the last fiscal year, on June 30, the Minnesota War Records Commission passed out of existence and the society fell heir not only to its extensive and extremely valuable collection of materials but also to its unfinished task of compiling and publishing a history of Minnesota in the World War. Since the society received a special appropriation from the last legislature for this work, a separate war records division has been organized to carry it on, and Mr. Franklin F. Holbrook, the executive officer of the commission throughout its career, has been appointed head of the division, with Miss Livia Appel, formerly on the staff of the commission, as an assistant. The last legislature specified that the war history work should be completed in two volumes without a roster (see *ante*, p. 214), and the division is bending its energies to that end. It is contemplated that the two volumes will consist of narrative histories, one devoted in the main to the services of Minnesotans in the field and the other to home activities.

By the will of Mr. Olin D. Wheeler, whose death occurred on September 10, the society is eventually to receive as a bequest the sum of one thousand dollars. The balance of his estate is to go ultimately to Hamline University to be used by that institution to further the study of the history of Minnesota and the Northwest, a subject in which Mr. Wheeler was intensely interested.

On September 16 the assistant superintendent addressed the Conopus Club of St. Paul on the subject "Interpreting Minnesota."

The United States department of agriculture has undertaken the task of compiling lists of prices for agricultural products in America from colonial times to the present, and during the summer two agents of the department examined the society's manuscript collection searching for Minnesota price quotations. Among several diaries in which material of this kind was found were those of Baron Freudenreich, who came to St. Paul in 1856 and became a successful farmer near the city. His diaries relate particularly to the years from 1862 to 1870 and give the current

prices for wheat and other grains, vegetables, milk, eggs, butter, meat, and the like. Recently the society has received two collections of papers that contain much valuable material on the economic history of agriculture (see *post*, p. 397, 398) and it is hoped that more will be received in the future.

The number of visitors to the museum during the summer — approximately twelve thousand persons in the three months ending September 30 — was the largest in the history of the society.

As usual a display illustrating the main activities of the society was presented at the state fair in September. As a special feature, an historical information bureau was maintained in connection with the exhibit and large numbers of questions were answered, especially with reference to the origin and historical significance of Minnesota geographic names.

The society's traveling exhibit was displayed at Glenwood during the last week of September in connection with a Pope County fair and pageant.

Miss Constance Humphrey, a graduate of Macalester College and formerly an assistant in the catalogue department of the St. Paul Public Library, joined the staff of the society on October 1 as a cataloguer. Mrs. Ruth L. Davis, office stenographer, resigned on October 1, and Miss Edith Johnson, library stenographer, has been granted an indefinite leave of absence on account of illness. Their places have been filled by the appointments of Miss Gladys M. Heimes and Miss Helen Segren.

#### ACCESSIONS

A recent manuscript accession of special importance consists of abstracts of the licenses to trade with Indians in the interior issued in the colony of Quebec from 1767 to 1776. These abstracts were compiled at Ottawa from the originals in the Canadian Archives, under the direction of Dr. Wayne E. Stevens; and the expense of the work was shared jointly by a group of middle-western historical agencies, each of which has received a set of the abstracts. The detailed information in the abstracts

includes the names of the traders and the canoemen and lists of the various articles of merchandise with records of their value. One memorandum for 1775 asks for a pass for James McGill, Benjamin Frobisher, and Maurice Blondeau to transport twelve canoes to Grand Portage. The names of 102 canoemen are given in full and the merchandise is listed as 1,000 gallons of rum and brandy, 24 kegs of wine, 90 bags of ball and shot, 150 guns, 150 bales of dry goods, 15 trunks of dry goods, 12 boxes of iron ware, 12 nests of brass kettles, 4 nests of copper kettles, 100 packages of carrot and twist tobacco, 50 kegs of lard and tallow, and 60 kegs of pork. This was one of nine licenses issued for the Grand Portage trade in 1775. Dr. Stevens has also supplied the society with a report on other materials in the Canadian Archives for the British régime in the Northwest and with calendars of some of them.

The society has secured from Mr. L. C. Sutherland of Sioux Falls a copy of a manuscript by Robert Campbell that tells of a journey made under the auspices of the Hudson's Bay Company, beginning in November, 1832, from the Red River settlement to Kentucky "for the purpose of purchasing sheep, which the Company were anxious to introduce into the Settlement." The author was one of the members of the expedition and his account, apparently based upon his own contemporary diary, is a vivid one. Over a well-known trail the travelers went to Fort Snelling and from this point proceeded southward until, early in January, 1833, they reached St. Louis. The sheep were purchased in Kentucky and on May 1 the return journey was begun. With a "noisy drove" of 1,370 sheep, the expedition started northward. Early in June on the Illinois prairies "that dreadful scourge, the Spear Grass," was encountered, and by the time the Minnesota River was reached more than one thousand of the sheep had died. With a mere remnant of the original flock the travelers straggled into Fort Garry on September 16, 1833. According to other records most of the remaining sheep died during the winter. The original manuscript of the narrative by Campbell is in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. John M. McDonald of Winnipeg.

An interesting series of Norwegian travel letters of 1847 and 1848, originally published in *Den Norske Rigstidende* (Christiania, Norway) from December 6, 1847, to July 3, 1848, has been copied for the society from the files of that newspaper in the university library at Oslo. The letters were written by Munch Raeder, a gifted Norwegian scholar and writer who accompanied the Norwegian-Swedish consul general, Adam Lövenskjold, on a visit to the Norwegian-American settlements in the Middle West in 1847. Much of the material relates to the conditions among the newly arrived immigrants, but the letters are intended to present a general view of American conditions as well. They contain an able analysis of the American situation by a competent critic and a keen observer.

Several hundred letters written by John and Nancy Aiton, missionaries to the Sioux, have been deposited with the society by their daughter, Miss Margaret Aiton of Minneapolis, who previously presented a series of papers concerning another missionary, Dr. Thomas S. Williamson (see *ante*, p. 204). The Aitons went to the Red Wing mission station in 1848.

The family Bible used by Gideon H. Pond, the well-known missionary to the Indians, has been added to the society's Pond collection by Mr. Frank W. Pond of Minneapolis. It contains records of births, deaths, and marriages.

The combined diary and scrapbook of H. H. Spencer of Louisville, Scott County, covering the period from 1852 to 1872, has been received from Mrs. J. S. Carlson of Minneapolis. Many of the printed items pasted in the book are accompanied by revealing remarks by Spencer, who appears to have been a pronounced anti-abolitionist and a sympathizer with that ante-bellum group which favored union with gradual emancipation. Unfortunately several sheets of the diary are missing.

The papers of Hollis R. Murdock, who settled in Stillwater in 1856, have been presented by his daughter, Miss Alice Murdock. They consist chiefly of lists of prices as represented in itemized bills, but there is also material on lumbering in the St. Croix

Valley, on the settlement of Stillwater and its vicinity, and on the St. Croix River traffic.

Among several recent gifts received from Miss Abby A. Fuller is a theater program which throws light on the story of methods of raising money in Minnesota for Civil War relief work. The program is that of the "Grand Tableaux and Dramatic Entertainment for the Benefit of the Sanitary Fair," held at the St. Paul Atheneum on January 3, 1865. The affair consisted of two parts of eight sections each and the receipts were more than thirteen thousand dollars. Among the titles of the sections are "Trial of Effie Deans," "Pantomime, from Guy Mannering," "Esther before Ahasuerus," "Jacob in the House of Laban," and the "Divorce of Josephine."

A report of Captain James L. Fisk dated January 13, 1865, and addressed to the war department has been discovered in the archives of that department at Washington and a photostatic copy has been made for the society. It deals with the Fisk expedition of 1864 and is an important addition to the available sources on the early westward movement from Minnesota. Captain Fisk severely criticizes General Sully, who, owing to the Indian difficulties of 1864, forced him to give up his original plans, and he also gives some details concerning dissensions among the western army officers. The war department censored four pages in the original manuscript, and these were consequently not copied for the society. One may hazard the guess that the deleted portion consists of sharp strictures against either army officers or the Indian policy.

The diaries of A. W. Dawley of Northfield have been presented by Miss Edna M. Dawley of that city. They contain a valuable detailed record, beginning in 1864, of the life of a farmer at Highland, Smithfield, and Northfield, down to a few weeks before the death of the author in 1925. Prices of wheat, eggs, butter, meat, and other farm products; dates for plowing, harvesting, and threshing; wages for threshing; and many other items are recorded year by year. Students of Minnesota agriculture and of prices will find these diaries, particularly for the first twenty years, of great value.

A letter reporting the finding of the Kensington rune stone written by J. P. Hedberg on January 1, 1899, has been turned over to the society by Mr. Rodney West, registrar of the University of Minnesota.

In 1924 the Department of Minnesota Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic authorized the preparation of a copy of the minutes of its annual meetings since its organization in 1893. This record has been completed and presented to the society for permanent preservation.

Three volumes of the minutes of the women's synodical missionary societies of the Presbyterian church in Minnesota, covering the period from 1916 to 1922, have been added to the society's growing collection of papers relating to religious activities in the state. The home missions records of the same church, covering the years from 1900 to 1916, were received some years ago.

From Major Alfred R. Rossberg of Crookston the society has received a valuable collection of papers relating to the history of Company I, Third Minnesota Infantry, for a period embracing the company's Mexican border service in 1916, its mobilization for World War service in 1917, and its conversion to and early service as Battery E of the federalized Third Infantry or the 125th United States Field Artillery. During the latter part of this period Major Rossberg served as captain of the company, or battery, and the papers he has preserved consist of official records such as correspondence, reports of inspections, sick reports, duty rosters, property lists, requisitions, enlistment papers, and accounts of the company funds. Major Rossberg has also presented a copy of an extra issued on November 7, 1918, by the *Pauillac Pilot*, a newspaper published by the United States Naval Air Station at Pauillac, France, on the occasion of the well-remembered premature announcement of the end of the World War.

Much interesting information relating to the service of a World War unit made up in part of Minnesota men is contained in a copy of the "Anniversary Number" of the *604th Engineer*, the gift of William N. Maher of St. Paul, a former member of the

regiment from which this publication took its name. This number, which was issued at Montigny-le-Roi, France, apparently in April, 1919, was one of a series published occasionally by the members of the 604th United States Engineers and its publication marked the close of the regiment's first year of service.

The World War records of the St. Paul Association of Public and Business Affairs, including circulars, speaking schedules of Four Minute Men, Red Cross correspondence, and Liberty Loan data have been presented by the association.

Records of World War activities of the Twin City branch of the Jewish Welfare Board, including service records of Jewish men and women of the Twin Cities, have been received from Mr. Hiram D. Frankel of Chicago.

An important addition to the state archives in the society's custody is a mass of records turned over by the industrial commission. These papers are records of the commission and of various state bodies which preceded it, including the bureau of labor and industries, the department of labor and industries, and the minimum wage commission. In the main these archives relate to the years from 1913 to 1922.

A report of the annual meeting of the Fort Ridgely State Park and Historical Association held at the fort on August 20, 1925, giving stenographic notes of addresses has been received from Mr. Alexander Seifert of Springfield.

An interesting collection of forty-one bank notes issued by various state banks in Maine, Indiana, and Nebraska during the fifties has been received from Mrs. George P. Douglas of Minneapolis. It may be noted that the society's collection of currency notes issued by the state banks of Minnesota prior to the passage of the National Banking Act during the Civil War is an inadequate one. It is hoped that friends who possess such notes will aid the society in its attempt to make this collection more complete.

A small oil painting of a French *voyageur* with his brilliant red cap and glowing pipe, by Mrs. Samuel B. Abbe, has been

presented by Miss Abby Abbe Fuller of St. Paul. Other pictures recently added to the society's collection include an oil painting by Captain James McGrew depicting the attack on Fort Ridgely in 1862 as he saw it, presented by his widow, Mrs. McGrew of Winnipeg, together with framed crayon portraits of Captain McGrew and herself; pastel portraits of Mr. and Mrs. George Mitsch, St. Paul pioneer residents, given by Mr. Frank Maron of St. Paul, their son-in-law; framed steel engravings of Henry H. Sibley, John Mattocks, and Allen Manvel, and a photograph taken in 1901 of some of the survivors of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, from Mrs. Egil Boeckmann of St. Paul; and a small print of Archbishop Ireland, from Miss Mary Theno of St. Paul.

Recent additions to the "domestic life" collection of the society's museum include a curious handmade combination seat and bed and a wooden cradle, from Mr. C. Elgsten of Thief River Falls; a butternut wood secretary used by a pioneer teacher at Hutchinson, from his daughter, Mrs. J. A. Vye of Sandstone; a small walnut wall bracket, from Mrs. George E. Tuttle of Minneapolis; a beautiful black and white bedspread, made about 1812, from Mrs. Merton A. Morse of St. Paul; a hair wreath, from Mrs. Mary McGrew of Winnipeg; two plates with salt glaze finish, a leaf-shaped pickle dish, and a hand-woven linen towel, from Mrs. Clara C. Ingalls of St. Paul; and a doll dressed in the elaborate pantalet style of 1840, from Mr. Stanley Twitchell of St. Paul.

Among recent interesting additions to the military collection in the museum are a Revolutionary sword received from Mr. Fred J. Zecher of St. Paul; a homemade flag said to have been carried by a company of Confederate troops during the Civil War, given by Mrs. E. R. Brown of Duluth; an "Ashmore" rifle and a bullet mould of about 1844, from Mr. William S. Craig of Minneapolis; and an army chest used by Major William M. Kimball during the Sioux War, presented by Mrs. E. J. Kimball of Minneapolis.

A large beaded knife sheath attached to a leather belt has been received from Mrs. Egil Boeckmann of St. Paul; and Mrs. E.

R. Brown of Duluth has presented a pipe of red pipestone, a beaded bullet pouch, and a tobacco pouch, which are said to have belonged originally to the Sioux chief, Sitting Bull.

A fine candlestick, a pair of snuffers, and a mortar and pestle, all of brass, are the gifts of Miss Addie Roth of Detroit, Michigan. They were brought to America from Norway about 1840. Two other Norwegian objects, a finely carved wooden box and a pair of wedding spoons connected by a hand-carved wooden chain, have been received from Miss Annie Carpenter of St. Paul.

## NEWS AND COMMENT

That "the West is changing—changing in racial type, in intellectual interest, in outlook, in religion, and in moral standards" is the thesis of an article entitled "The Changing West," by Laurence M. Larson, in the *Journal* of the Illinois State Historical Society for January, 1925. "The West that was is passing into history; the new West is still in the future." The westward movement, the author asserts, was American, democratic, and Protestant. Particular attention is devoted to the significance of the immigrant element in the West; indeed, the most significant fact in the progress of American settlement "is the appearance of certain great alien groups, especially after the year 1850." After analyzing the population of 1920 Mr. Larson declares that "the future race in America will not be English or even British, but European." He suggests that perhaps "various regions will develop separate and various types." The future race of the West, he believes, will be fundamentally Germanic.

*A Handbook of County Records Deposited with the North Carolina Historical Commission*, prepared by D. L. Corbitt and issued as *Bulletin* number 32 of the commission's *Publications*, indicates that a very considerable quantity of noncurrent local archival material has been secured by the commission since it began to collect such records in 1916. It is to be hoped that Minnesota may soon begin to concentrate its noncurrent county records, for delay involves serious dangers. Of the North Carolina archives Mr. R. B. House writes in a prefatory note to the handbook, "Fire, water, vermin, thieves—in fact all the enemies of archives have preyed on these county records, and there are consequently many and serious gaps in them."

Dr. Henry A. Bellows' article entitled "A Short History of Flour Milling," originally published in the *Northwestern Miller* (see *ante*, 5: 365), has been reprinted, with additions, under the same title (Minneapolis, 1924. 47 p.).

An interesting account of "The Great Council of 1825" at Prairie du Chien—the council at which the Sioux-Chippewa boundary line was agreed upon—is contributed by Bruce E. Mahan to the *Palimpsest* for September.

The Upper Missouri Historical Expedition is featured in the August number of the *Western Magazine*. Under the title "Perpetuating Historic Events" an interesting account of the expedition is presented by Edmond L. DeLestry, the editor, and this is followed by an unsigned article on La Vérendrye, and an informing study of "The Lewis and Clark Expedition" by Willoughby M. Babcock.

An interesting paper on "Early Mineral Explorations in the Mississippi Valley (1540-1840)," by Willard R. Jillson, is published in the *Transactions* of the Illinois State Historical Society for 1924.

The sites of three pioneer strongholds established for the protection of the settlers against the Indians in the neighborhood of Fairmont—Fort Williams, Fort Britt, and Fort Fairmont—are located, and their present appearance is described in the *Martin County Independent* of Fairmont for August 25. According to this account markers will be erected on the sites in the near future by the Martin County chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

*The Emigrants*, by Johan Bojer (New York, 1925. 351 p.), is a realistic novel the central theme of which is the emigration of a group of Norwegian countrymen not long after the Civil War. The author gives first a vivid picture of the conditions in Norway which led to the emigration. The scene then shifts to the Red River Valley, and the story of the pioneer farmer, from the first furrow down to the winning of prosperity, is told with directness and power. The book is an epic of the transformation of the prairie from bleak wilderness to blooming civilization. If the author is not as thoroughly familiar with the American West as he is with the old-country background of his tale, he nevertheless possesses an astonishing knowledge of the conditions of frontier life.

An open letter to the people of Norway written on January 6, 1845, by a group of Norwegian immigrants in the Wisconsin Muskego settlement and originally published in the Christiania *Morgenbladet* for April 1, 1845, appears in an English translation in the *American-Scandinavian Review* for October. It has been translated and edited by Mr. Sigurd B. Hustvedt, who gives it the title "An American Manifesto by Norwegian Immigrants." The letter is a vigorous defense of America; it presents a justification of the emigration of the signers; and it was intended as an answer to those Norwegian writers who took the view that no advantage had been gained by the emigrants.

Under the title "A Mission Journey Among the Norwegians in America, 1849-1852," Mr. Gunnar J. Malmin presents, in the *Lutheran Church Herald* of September 22, a well-written account of the travels of Hans T. Steene, a Norwegian lay preacher who visited several of the Norwegian immigrant settlements in the United States in the three years indicated. The account is based mainly upon Steene's book, a copy of which was recently secured for the library of the Minnesota Historical Society.

An interesting work on the history of the Swedes in America is being brought out in Stockholm under the editorship of Karl Hildebrand and Axel Fredenholm, with the coöperation of many scholars in Sweden and in the United States, under the general title *Svenskarna i Amerika; populär historisk skildring i ord och bild av svenskarnas liv och underbara öden i Förenta Staterna och Canada*. It is being published in parts; five have already appeared, and fifteen more are promised; the pagination is continuous, and part 5 reaches page 168. In the first two sections a popular and an exceedingly interesting account is given of the Swedish historical background and of general geographic, economic, and social conditions in Sweden. The next two parts deal with the Vikings and with New Sweden, and in part 5 there are brief accounts of John Hansen, who in 1781 became president of the Continental Congress, Peter Kalm, Adolf Ulrik Wertmüller, and other distinguished eighteenth-century figures. Several of these sketches are from the pen of Professor Aman-

dus Johnson. That a work of this sort is appearing in one of the countries of the Old World is an evidence of the growing world interest in the history of emigration.

A valuable study of the "Origin of Wisconsin's Free School System," by Joseph Schafer, appears in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for September.

An account of settlement in Iowa, published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 23, points out the relations of the Iowa communities with some of the settlements farther north in Minnesota and brings out the interesting fact that Blue Earth County pioneers hauled grain to be ground at a mill which was built at Elkader, Iowa, in 1846. The author erroneously speaks of Henry H. Sibley as the first governor of Minnesota Territory. Sibley was the first governor of the state, but Alexander Ramsey was the first governor of the territory.

The general thesis of an article entitled "Rainfall and the Populist Party in Nebraska," by John D. Barnhart, published in the *American Political Science Review* for August, is summed up in the line, "There would have been an Independent Party in Nebraska in 1890 regardless of rainfall, but the results of the election of 1890 were due, not merely to bad economic, political and social conditions, but to these conditions made worse by the drouth." The author believes that the "close coincidence [*in geographic distribution*] between the lack of rainfall and the Independent vote makes it impossible to dismiss the relationship as a mere coincidence."

A scholarly and well-written article on "The Farmers' Alliance in North Carolina" by John D. Hicks is published in the *North Carolina Historical Review* for April.

A movement is under way to have Isle Royal made a federal park. The preservation of the forests of the island, the maintenance of the island in its pristine beauty, and the interest of its historical backgrounds are factors which should secure very general and hearty support for this project.

## GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

A valuable *Guidebook to Minnesota Trunk Highway No. 1*, by G. M. Schwartz, has been issued by the University of Minnesota as number 20 of the *Bulletins* of the Minnesota Geological Survey (Minneapolis, 1925. 128 p.). The work consists chiefly of descriptions of the geologic features of the highway which runs from the Iowa line south of Albert Lea to the Twin Cities, thence to Duluth, and thence along the north shore of Lake Superior to Pigeon River. There are thirteen detailed route maps and many illustrations. Some attention is paid to historical backgrounds, but in most cases this does not go beyond brief explanations of place names. A series of guidebooks for the state's trunk highways would be extremely useful in view of the increasingly large Minnesota tourist traffic. Such works, to be of the greatest service, must necessarily be adapted to popular use, however. It is possible that Mr. Schwartz's account, scholarly and informing though it is, is not sufficiently simplified to meet the needs of the average tourist.

August 30 was "Minnesota State Sunday" at Valley Forge and was celebrated with a special religious service under the auspices of the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution.

Five Minnesota villages, Blackduck, Elk River, Litchfield, Wells, and Windom, are among the 177 studied in *A Census Analysis of American Villages*, by C. Luther Fry (New York, 1925. 165 p.). The study, which is based on census data for 1920, deals with population trends, nativity, age and sex distribution, marital condition, school attendance, home ownership, and occupation, and discloses among other things that the villages rank higher in home ownership and school attendance than do the cities. It is one of the *American Village Studies* of the Institute of Social and Religious Research.

The memory of Joseph R. Brown was honored on August 23, when Henderson, the town which he founded in 1852, celebrated its seventy-third anniversary. Among the speakers who eulogized Major Brown were Governor Christianson and Mr. Leon-

ard D. Fackler of St. Paul. An exhibit of pioneer objects was a feature of the celebration.

The recent appointment of four St. Paul lawyers to important positions in the national government is the occasion for the publication of a summary of the similar services of Minnesotans in the past in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for June 28. Among those whose careers are outlined are John W. Riddle, Stanford Newel, William G. Le Duc, William Windom, Cushman K. Davis, Soren F. Listoe, and Thomas Daniels.

A pageant depicting the founding and early history of Hamline University was presented at Red Wing on September 25 in connection with the seventy-first annual meeting of the Minnesota conference of the Methodist Episcopal church.

It has been announced that a history of the Presbyterian churches, pastors, schools, and missions of Minnesota is being prepared by the Reverend Maurice D. Edwards of St. Paul.

*A Hero of Minnesota, Joseph Alexander Gilfillan, Archdeacon, Twenty-five Years Missionary to the Ojibway Indians in Northern Minnesota* is the title of a pamphlet issued in January, 1920, by the Church Missions Publishing Company of Hartford, Connecticut, as number 118 in its *Soldier and Servant Series* (19 p.). The material for the account was supplied by Mrs. Gilfillan, according to a prefatory note by A. T. Gesner.

An article reminiscent of the palmy days of steamboating and lumbering on the St. Croix appears in the *St. Paul Daily News* for August 2. It is based upon the recollections of Governor Samuel R. Van Sant, who recently revisited the scene of his early steamboating activities at Stillwater.

Henry H. Sibley as a fur-trader and Mendota as the center of his activities are recalled by Mr. Dana Felix of Prior Lake, whose father was employed by Sibley, in a brief article in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for August 2.

An important group of traders' ledgers and a file of correspondence of Alexis Bailly, owned by Mr. C. C. Hirschy of Wabasha and recently exhibited at the Northwestern National

Bank of Minneapolis, are described in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for July 26 and the *Minneapolis Journal* for July 31. The ledgers record the transactions of Baily and Louis Provençalle with the natives, and reveal the kinds of commodities used in the trade, together with their values in muskrat skins. A facsimile of a page of a ledger and one of a letter written to Baily by Colonel Josiah Snelling in 1826 appear with the account in the *Tribune*.

“How the Minnesota State Grain Weighing and Inspection Departments Have Functioned for Forty Years” is the title of an interesting paper by P. P. Quist, state weighmaster for a quarter century, published in the *Co-operative Manager and Farmer* (Minneapolis) for August.

The story of the battle of the Sioux and the Chippewa at Shakopee on May 27, 1858, as recalled by an eyewitness, Mrs. Paul Henline of Mankato, is printed in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 16.

A monument has been erected by the state at Lake Shetek in memory of the settlers who were massacred at that place in the Sioux Outbreak of 1862. The dedication ceremonies took place on August 3, with Governor Christianson as the principal speaker. Among those attending the ceremonies was Mr. John Eastlick, who, as an infant, was rescued from the Indians by a brother.

As usual the annual anniversary of the opening of the Sioux Outbreak was a signal for the publication of pioneers’ recollections of the massacre. The story of the experiences of Mrs. Robert Thul of Shakopee during the outbreak appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for August 16, and William T. Kerr of Minneapolis gives an account of the war as related by his parents in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for August 23. The sixty-third anniversary of the siege of Fort Ridgely was commemorated on August 20, when the Fort Ridgely State Park and the Sioux Historic Trail associations held meetings at the park.

Veterans joined present members of the Third United States Infantry, stationed at Fort Snelling, in observing a regimental organization day on September 21. The program included the presentation of a history of the regiment by Lieutenant Colonel

F. M. Norton and the reading of historical sketches of the various companies by their officers.

Minnesota's part in the Spanish-American War was recalled on August 13 when members of the Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry held their annual reunion at Red Wing.

That Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin made his first balloon flight and conceived the idea for his giant dirigibles while at Fort Snelling during the Civil War is asserted in an article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 31.

#### LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The Blue Earth County Old Settlers' Association held its annual meeting at Sibley State Park on August 13. An account of the settlement and early history of Mankato, written by George H. Marsh for the first meeting of the association in 1870, was read by Mr. W. H. Pay. The paper is printed in the *Mankato Daily Free Press* for August 14.

The natural beauty and historical background of the Sleepy Eye region of Minnesota inspired a recently issued book of poems entitled *Come See! and Other Legends* by LeRoy G. Davis (Sleepy Eye, 1924. 94 p.). At the end of the volume is a valuable brief historical sketch of the region and there is also a series of notes explaining some of the historical allusions in the poems. Apropos of the poem "Pictured Rocks" the author states that the rocks in question are some twenty-eight or thirty miles southwest of Sleepy Eye, where there is a ridge of bare rock, upon the "smooth upturned face" of which "are cut pictures of animals, turtles and other figures referred to in the poem." A picture of some of these figures is among the many excellent illustrations in the book.

The feature of a home-coming celebration at Windom on August 4 and 5 was a pageant depicting scenes in the history of Cottonwood County.

The history of the region around Lake Minnetonka and Minnehaha Creek — of its exploration, of steamboating on the lake, and of the villages of St. Albans and Minnetonka Mills, which

grew into prosperous communities only to dwindle to insignificance—is reviewed in a feature article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for June 28.

The celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the Church of St. Vincent de Paul at Osseo on August 30 was witnessed by some of the pioneers who attended services in the log cabin which served as the first Catholic church of the community. Accounts of the celebration in this little French-Canadian settlement, which was the home of Pierre Bottineau, the famous guide, appear in the *Minneapolis Journal* for August 26 and 31.

A study entitled *The Minneapolis City Charter 1856-1925*, by Jessie M. Marcley, has been brought out by the bureau for research in government of the University of Minnesota as number 5 in its series of *Publications* (1925. 133 p.). The work contains eleven chapters of which the first seven are primarily historical in character. Particularly valuable is chapter 1, which deals with municipal history in the period from 1855 to 1872 with special reference to the charters of St. Anthony and Minneapolis.

The Blaisdell district of Minneapolis a quarter of a century ago is pictured in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for August 16 by the Reverend Stanley B. Roberts, who has served as pastor of the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church for twenty-six years.

An illustrated pamphlet entitled *First Fifty Years 1875-1925, First Baptist Church, Willmar, Minnesota* (Willmar, 1925. 30 p.) is of special value for the history of the Swedish Baptists in Minnesota.

On September 20 members of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Paul attended special services in commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the founding of their church in 1855 by the Reverend F. W. Wier.

“The J. N. Nicollet Expedition of 1838 Rested Here Three Days” reads a part of the inscription on a bronze tablet, bearing the names of Nicollet and his companions, which was erected near Pipestone by Catlinite chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and was dedicated on September 20. The tablet is

fastened to a huge boulder on which Nicollet and the members of his party carved their initials when they visited the pipestone quarries.

The growth of St. Paul is graphically illustrated on the cover of a section of the *St. Paul Daily News* for August 30 by reproductions of photographs of the city in 1859 and in 1925. The sections contain a number of historical sketches, including an account of the development of the *News* since its first issue appeared on March 1, 1900; the story of the origin and growth of the St. Paul Association of Public and Business Affairs; an outline of changes in the Ramsey County District Court; some reminiscences of St. Paul twenty-five years ago by Lawrence C. Hodgson; and a valuable history of the St. Paul school system, with statistics on the number of pupils, teachers, and buildings.

The story of the county seat of Renville County, which was originally established at Beaver Falls and was removed to Olivia in 1899, is reviewed in an article dealing with the decline of the former town in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for September 13.

At the third annual summer convention of the St. Louis County Historical Society, held in Eveleth on August 28, addresses and papers were given on "Early Homesteading in the Eveleth Country," by Mrs. Mary Lyon Burns; "Pioneer Mining at Eveleth and Vicinity," by John H. Hearing; "Eveleth Chronology," by George A. Perham; "Early Railroading on the Ranges," by William H. McGonagle; "Eveleth's Part in the Great War," by Arthur I. Naslund; "History of Banking at Eveleth," by Roy M. Cornwall; and "History of the Eveleth Press," by Harry Rabwin. The president of the society, Mr. William E. Culkin, presented "Some Notes from the Archives of the Society on Mineral Discoveries in the Lake Superior Country."

An account of the history of the "Three-Spot," the "first locomotive that traveled through the primeval wilderness between Lake Superior and the Vermillion range," appears in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for July 12. The old wood-burning locomotive, which was first used in 1883, ran from Two Harbors to Duluth

on July 20 as part of the ceremony connected with the opening of the Exposition of Progress in the latter city.

The story of exploration and discovery in the region around Duluth and of the growth of the city is briefly outlined in the *Duluth Herald* for August 3.

The Reverend Samuel W. Pond and Thomas A. Holmes, the founder of Shakopee, were characters of local prominence whose activities were recalled in the Scott County pageant at that village on August 1 and 2. Pioneer objects were displayed in the shop windows of the village during the pageant.

In a natural amphitheater on the shore of Lake Pepin an historical pageant was given at Lake City on July 24 and 25. A committee from the Minnesota Historical Society consisting of Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, Miss Grace L. Nute, and Mrs. Theodore C. Blegen, selected a "queen of queens" for the pageant from a group of representatives of towns in the region.



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