

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

A History of Minnesota. By WILLIAM WATTS FOLWELL, president of the Minnesota Historical Society and president emeritus of the University of Minnesota. Volume 3. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1926. xiii, 605 p. Illustrations, maps.)

In the third volume of his notable work Dr. Folwell brings Minnesota's story down to close to the present day, dealing, in point of time, with the period between 1865 and 1926. The three volumes together furnish what will be, for a long time certainly, the standard political history of the North Star State. Emphasis has to be placed on the adjective "political" for in somewhat less degree than in the earlier volumes does the author deal with factors lying outside the realm of governmental affairs. He has, apparently, consciously confined himself to this one and important thread in the development of the people of a typical commonwealth of the Mississippi Valley.

The scope and the method of treatment can be indicated by taking up the chapters as they follow one another. "After the War, 1865-69" contains a sketch of the material situation of the state when the people were turning back to the problems of peace-time development and settling down to repair the ravages of war — ravages, except for the loss of man power in the sectional strife, which were the result of Indian troubles on the one hand and the retarding and distorting of normal progress by the greater struggle which touched Minnesota only indirectly. The years from 1870 to 1876 are considered in two chapters, one dealing largely with some of the motivating factors in the economic life as indicated by the title, "Railroad Regulation and the Grangers," and the other the political narrative. "The Grasshopper Invasion, 1873-77" breaks the political tale to outline in considerable detail the scourge which well-nigh took the heart out of the population over a large area, and, coupled with the hard times following the panic of 1873, seemed for the moment to threaten the very existence of a new state scarcely started on its career.

Beginning with chapter 5 and, with one exception, continuing through chapter 14 there is a straight political narrative divided according to the incidence of governors: "The Pillsbury Régime, 1876-81," "Hubbard and His Times, 1882-87," "McGill and His Times, 1887-89," and so on. The break in the political story comes with chapter 11 where "Minnesota in the Wars with Spain and the Philippines" is the subject; there is here a brief résumé of the part taken in these struggles by Minnesota's volunteers, together with some account of the manner in which this brief and one-sided, yet momentous affair affected the internal life of the state. The concluding chapter, dealing with the years after the death of Governor Johnson, in 1909, summarizes outstanding political events, important legislation, and the relation of Minnesota to such national events as the World War.

Throughout these pages the author makes his characters live again. Many an old-timer in the state — and some not so old — will find himself reconstructing with this narrative scenes dim in his memory but now vividly called back. Pillsbury, Donnelly, Knute Nelson, Davis, John Lind, Johnson, and scores of others of varying significance in Minnesota's life are depicted with clear-cut strokes. Political battles, party squabbles, intrigues of greater or smaller moment — all are set forth with scrupulous reliance on supporting documents as the abundance of citation amply testifies. Those of the younger generation who wish to learn something of the political background of their present-day state may find here information which represents years of devoted toil.

A good third of the volume consists of an appendix in nineteen parts, each the study of some episode, the interesting or colorful character of which seemed to the author to warrant fuller treatment than logically could be given it in his scheme for the main narrative. Here one finds minutely set forth such exciting political contests as "The Donnelly-Washburne Controversy of 1868" and "The Donnelly-Washburn Contest, 1878-81," "Redemption of the Railroad Bonds of 1858," or "The Nelson-Washburn Senatorial Contest of 1895." Economic and social, as well as political studies are contained in the "Preservation of the Falls of St. Anthony," "The Census of Minneapolis and St. Paul, 1890," and "The Nonpartisan League and the Farmer-Labor Party." Famous cases involving political as well as legal issues are dis-

cussed in "The Seeger Impeachment," "The Impeachment of Judge Sherman Page," "The Impeachment of Judge Cox, 1881," and "The Case of Farley v. Hill," the latter affording a little insight into one side of the economic development of the state. "*Cæsar's Column*," the best-known of Ignatius Donnelly's ventures into the realm of prophetic fiction, will stimulate the desire to read the book — a desire which should not be suppressed. Indeed it is probable that the reader will turn to this appendix for rereading more often than to the principal text.

The appendix not alone supplies some of the material which has been left out of the main narrative, but leads one to think that in the last volume of the series Dr. Folwell will consider in more detail some of the economic and social forces which lay behind and sometimes manifested themselves through the political machinery. In footnotes here and there through the three volumes the author has suggested that such was his purpose. Agricultural development, the rise of diversified industries in the cities, the mining, lumbering, and all the many lines of activities which people pursue, the railroads and the men who made them — all these and many more are needed to round out the story, for only room for the barest sketch is found in the political narrative.

Like its predecessors, volume 3 is supplied with excellent and suggestive maps prepared by Dr. Upham. There are several interesting illustrations, and, always a joy, an adequate index.

LESTER B. SHIPPEE

Cyrus Northrop: A Memoir. By OSCAR W. FIRKINS. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1925. 634 p. Illustrations.)

One who was not present in Minnesota early enough to fall under the spell of Cyrus Northrop will find his biography too compendious to be interesting. This type of intimate biography is best suited for well-known public characters: we enjoy being led into the domestic circle of Queen Victoria or George Washington, and the present reviewer has often yearned for an American Lytton Strachey to write a life of Theodore Roosevelt. But the general reader is not likely to enjoy a mass of detail about the family, personal habits, foibles, and tastes of a man who was

neither George Washington nor Queen Victoria, though he apparently shared some of the traits of both.

In justice to Professor Firkins, it should be said that he attempted to forestall this criticism in his preface:

This book will be read mainly by friends and lovers of the man whose life it recounts; it has been written and planned in their behalf; and their tastes or needs have governed its dimensions. The author has felt that it was better to expand for the affectionate many than to condense for the dispassionate few. It is hoped that the dispassionate few will be charitable.

It should be further said that the author's style does much to make parts of the dreary waste pleasant even for the casual wayfarer. One feels that the style would perhaps be still more sparkling if Mr. Firkins were not hampered by a reverence for his subject which, though it does not prevent his exhibiting a few of his subject's foibles, does on the whole make him walk with rather solemn circumspection.

The book has historic value, as any conscientiously written biography must have. Interesting material for Connecticut social history is found in the early chapters; and of course the later ones are full of matter pertaining to Minnesota. Roughly, half the book is devoted to Dr. Northrop's life in Connecticut, and half to his Minnesota experience. Considerably more space is given to the president's personal relations with students, faculty, children, neighbors, and citizens of Minnesota, than to his administration of the university affairs. In fact, there is less university history in the book than the reviewer expected to find. A chapter is given to the crisis occasioned by a move in the legislature to separate the college of agriculture from the university; another chapter to the period when the university was under the administration of the board of control; but aside from these one gets glimpses of the university chiefly as a background for President Northrop's personality. The biographer makes frequent and judicious quotation from his sources — the letters and papers of President Northrop, his reminiscences, published speeches, editorials, and the like.

Photographs of the president and of his father and mother are used to illustrate the book. The type is clear and attractive, the

paper of good quality. The book, however, contains no index — a serious omission — and the preliminary pages are curiously arranged — the title-page first, then the table of contents, then the frontispiece, with the preface on the opposite page, so that one gazes at Dr. Northrop with one eye and reads Mr. Firkins with the other. There are more typographical errors than should occur in a book published by a university press.

E. H. B.

The Romance of the Boundaries. By JOHN T. FARIS. (New York and London, Harper and Brothers, 1926. xvi, 331 p. Illustrations, maps.)

This is at once an interesting and a disappointing book. It is true to its title in presenting aspects of boundaries which savor of romance, the results of delving into the curious and human rather than the officially determinative and logical. One must judge the book, therefore, more as a popular compilation than as a work of scholarship. From this standpoint the general reader will read with interest the many details of controversies which he may not have known existed. He will enjoy the photographs, facsimiles, and sketch maps that explain and enrich the text. And it should be said that the publishers have given the book a handsome format. But is it too much to expect that a popular book should embody the results of accurate scholarship, avoiding the errors and misinterpretations of unscientific publication? Why, for example, should any well-informed author give undeserved credit (p. 105) to Jefferson for engineering the purchase of Louisiana? And why perpetuate the exploded Whitman myth (p. 119-123) about saving Oregon? Or, along another line, why fail to note and use the story of the very romantic rashness of Roosevelt in getting a verdict favorable to the United States on the Alaskan boundary? Likewise, why not exploit the treasonable correspondence with the British of Vermont leaders when they resented not being admitted to the Union?

Minnesota readers will turn with some special interest to chapter 6, "How Diplomacy Won Minnesota's Northern Boundary." Herein Mr. Faris makes clear the "marvelous chance there was for misunderstanding, scheming diplomacy, and long-drawn-out

negotiations." He writes vividly of the scenery along the line finally determined between Lake Superior and Lake of the Woods, and he pictures adequately the actual surveying of the forty-ninth parallel. But he does not seem aware that further treaty agreements were made necessary in 1925 to settle troublesome uncertainties of boundary locations.

As to lesser points of criticism, Monroe was not president in 1838 (p. 117); and does even a patient reader have to endure the egregious style of opening a sentence with "Came the day"? Of greater importance is the need of a more informing index, giving more than just lists of names.

C. A. DUNIWAY

The Story of the Western Railroads. By ROBERT E. RIEGEL, PH.D. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1926. xv, 345 p.)

This book furnishes further evidence that the part which transportation has played in the history of the United States, — and of the world, for that matter, — is one of major importance. Students of western history sometimes wonder if the story of changes in means of transportation and communication would not, indeed, furnish a better thread upon which to string the events of American history than the badly worn political strand. Certainly the railroad has been the chief transformer of recent times. Its rapid conquest of the continent put an end to the frontier and to free lands, its ramifications hither and yon furnished the basis for the development of business on a national rather than a local scale, its example furnished the impetus for the invention of other space-destroying devices that have carried the revolution to still further extremes. Recent history without railway history is no history at all.

Mr. Riegel has attempted to put together that part of our national railway history which has to do with the western half of the continent. He has had numerous articles and monographs and many books at his disposal which deal with various parts of the subject. Considerable patching together from difficult sources he has had to do, but in the main his work is one of organizing, systematizing, and condensing a mass of already known materials.

This he has done in a scholarly manner, but with an obvious effort to make his manuscript readable and entertaining. Possibly he might have spared himself the pains. There are too many railroads, too many road-builders, too many good, reliable, "hard-boiled" facts in the story to make it the kind of tale the public will read. Mr. Riegel is no Hamlin Garland to spin it into a yarn. In spite of its colloquial language, the Ph.D. thesis from which it evolved sticks through on every page.

In his effort at popularization the author has chosen to omit all footnotes, but the elaborate chapter-by-chapter bibliography at the end makes fair amends for this loss. We wish that he had included some of the maps he thinks we do not need, for railway time-tables and detailed atlases are not always at hand.

There is a fair index, and the book is creditably printed.

J. D. H.

The Colonization Work of the Northern Pacific Railroad. By JAMES B. HEDGES. (Reprinted from the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, vol. 13, no. 3, December, 1926. p. 311-342.)

In this valuable study Professor Hedges declares that in general the railroads, which adopted "definite colonization programs in order to make their existence on a profitable basis possible," became "the most important single factor in the development of the Trans-Mississippi country." He takes the work of the Northern Pacific Railway for illustration and tells in detail the story of its colonization activities. His materials are very largely pamphlets and manuscripts in the archives of the land department of the Northern Pacific at St. Paul, and both his text and his annotations make it plain that these sources are of high importance for the history of land settlement in Minnesota and the West.

The work of the Northern Pacific and of other railway companies was similar in many respects to that of the western territories and states begun in the early fifties. That the railway activity and the official state propaganda had many interesting interrelations is suggested by Professor Hedges, although he does not go into much detail on the point. Among the specific activities of the Northern Pacific, beginning about 1871, that he describes

may be noted: (1) the organization of a land department and a closely affiliated bureau of immigration; (2) the establishment of a general European agency in London, with branches in Liverpool, in Germany, in Holland, and in the Scandinavian countries; (3) the publication and distribution of advertising pamphlets; (4) the sending of special immigration agents to foreign countries to promote the organization of groups or colonies of emigrants; (5) coöperation with steamship companies; (6) coöperation with Civil War veteran organizations; (7) the minimizing of the cost of transportation "both to the prospective buyer and the actual purchaser"; (8) the building of "large and comfortable reception houses" at Duluth, Brainerd, and Glyndon; (9) the giving of flexible terms to purchasers of land; and (10) extensive advertising in newspapers.

Professor Hedges shows that these methods were successful, and many of the results that he mentions have to do with Minnesota. He tells of the work of Dr. J. P. Tustin, a "Scandinavian" minister, who traveled in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark in 1872. He writes that in Sweden Dr. Tustin "persuaded two able ministers of the Church of Sweden and one of the Swedish Baptist Church to become leaders of colonies to Minnesota." He tells of the work of Hans Mattson. He writes of numerous companies of Swedish, Norwegian, German, Dutch, Finnish, and English emigrants who left Europe destined for Minnesota. He refers to a party of one hundred Mennonites who left New York for St. Paul in 1873. He states that the English and Scotch Yeovil colony, which took up lands in the vicinity of Hawley, was established in Minnesota by the Northern Pacific; and that, similarly, the Furness colony, which was established at Wadena, resulted from railway activity. The road also promoted a number of important New England settlements in the state. The "largest colony enterprise" undertaken was the Red River colony, centering at Glyndon in Clay County.

All this work was done before the panic of 1873. Soon after that disastrous panic the road promoted the establishment of bonanza farms in Dakota, and by the early eighties the colonization work, which had been temporarily halted, was in full swing again. In 1883 there were 831 local agents in the British Isles and 124 general agents in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland,

Switzerland and Germany. These and many other developments evidence the very considerable importance of the work done by the Northern Pacific.

It may be observed, in closing this notice, that the reports of emigration agents, whether employed by railroads or states, need to be used with considerable caution. The relative importance of the agents' influence among the various factors affecting the emigration of individuals and groups may sometimes be exaggerated in the reports of agents to officials at the home offices. That there were many factors involved must be clearly understood by all students of immigration and land settlement.

T. C. B.

Ole Rynning's True Account of America (Travel and Description Series, vol. 1). Translated and edited by THEODORE C. BLEGEN. (Minneapolis, The Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1926. vi, 100 p.)

In the winter of 1837-38 a young Norwegian immigrant, Ole Rynning by name, was lying ill in a frontier cabin some seventy miles south of Chicago. While in this state of enforced idleness he developed and carried out a plan to provide those of his countrymen who might wish to emigrate with such information as he thought they would need. Rynning died in Illinois the following autumn, but the manuscript that he had prepared had already been taken to Norway, where it was published the same year. The title of the booklet (it comprises only thirty-nine pages) is *True Account of America for the Information and Help of Peasant and Commoner* (Christiania, 1838); but among its readers it was generally known as "The America Book."

Rynning's booklet gives a favorable though by no means uncritical account of conditions in the Middle West and there can be no doubt that the reading of this account helped a host of families to decide the momentous question whether or not to seek new homes in the New World. The work was further important in that it indicated the area where Norwegians would find conditions most favorable for settlement. Apparently the author believed that such migration would be directed chiefly to Illinois; but he also makes favorable mention of the Territory of Wisconsin and the

state of Missouri, at the same time calling attention to the fact that slavery was a cherished institution in that state.

It was singularly appropriate that the Norwegian-American Historical Association should publish Rynning's *True Account* as the initial number of its *Travel and Description Series*. In its new form the work gives emphasis to the double purpose of the association: to gather information about the Norwegian people in the New World, and to make accessible the materials that are needed for the preparation of that particular chapter in American history which is to record the achievements of the Norwegian element. To a faithful reproduction of the original text, the editor, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, has added a careful translation and has supplied such notes as are necessary to correct errors and otherwise to make the *Account* more usable as a document in American history. Dr. Blegen has also provided the volume with an historical introduction in which he traces Rynning's brief career and brings out the circumstances under which the work was composed. The new association does not yet have many published titles to its credit; but the reviewer is pleased to observe that this volume with the earlier *Studies and Records* sets a standard both as to content and editorial workmanship that promises well for future volumes.

LAURENCE M. LARSON

Ballads and Songs of the Shanty-boy. Collected and edited by FRANZ RICKABY, assistant professor of English, Pomona College. (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1926. xli, 244 p. Illustrations.)

The heroic Paul Bunyan tales afford ample proof that the lumberjack, or shanty-boy, was a story-teller. Professor Rickaby's compilation of ballads and songs makes it equally clear that he was a singer. For seven years Professor Rickaby has been collecting songs, both words and music, from "men who worked in the woods of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, mainly during the Golden Age of American Lumbering (1870-1900)." The result is the volume under review, which contains the texts, and in most cases the melodies, of more than fifty songs and ballads, with different versions of many of them. These are prefaced by an

enlightening introduction and followed by detailed notes, a useful glossary of lumberjack words, an index of titles, and one of first lines. The volume is a distinguished example of the bookmaker's art, and the covers, which are in realistic imitation of the grain of sawed lumber, are unique.

The compiler asserts that "No group ever celebrated itself in song and ballad more than did the shanty-boys of the Golden Age." In his introduction he sketches the backgrounds of the lumber industry. "The Army of the Axes," he writes, "had advanced even into the awe-inspiring columned vastnesses of Michigan, and across the intervening lake into the illimitable pinneries of Wisconsin. What had previously been a steadily growing call for lumber, by 1870 swept suddenly upward into a reverberating clamorous roar of demand, as the hundreds of thousands, following the Argonauts of '49 and '50, surged out into the New West. It was then that American lumbering literally leaped into its Golden Age. Over Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota hovered for thirty years the far-seen glow of its romantic climax. Immense fortunes fell into the hands of far-sighted men as into the spring-swollen streams rolled billions upon billions of logs, and the land was sown with stumps."

It was in this period that the lumberjack was at his best, and Professor Rickaby writes of him with a grace that seems in strange contrast to the rough life of the lumber camps. There is a note of regret in his phrases describing the passing of the singing period. He writes that "the day of singing passed in the period of the Lake States supremacy. A few years, perhaps ten, before 1900, it was evident that some grim change was taking place, killing the song in the hearts of workers, not only in the forests, but abroad in the world as well. Instead of singing, they read or talked or plotted; or if they did sing, the song was no longer of themselves." The passing of the supremacy of the Irishman, the Scotchman, and the French-Canadian in the camps was one cause for the change; but the chief cause seems to have been machines. As Professor Rickaby puts it, "The insistent cry for quantity, the feverish prayer for efficiency, brought machines, massive, grim, powerful, ultra-human creatures of steel; and they, not singing, taught silence. Then one morning the romance of logging was gone. Gone were the feats of skill and prowess on

the drive, for gone was the drive. The age of steel was upon lumbering — the impersonal age, the non-singing age."

Professor Rickaby has done a great service not only to American literature but also to the history of the West in compiling this scholarly volume. When the history of lumbering is written as it should be written, these songs will be a source of first importance for one phase of the subject. In gathering his materials, he has had the aid of many men who have first-hand knowledge of the lumberjack, including William W. Bartlett of Eau Claire, and M. C. (Mike) Dean of Virginia, Minnesota. Mr. Dean is himself the compiler of a volume entitled *The Flying Cloud and 150 Other Old Time Poems and Ballads*. A large number of the songs bear such notes as "Sung by Mr. Ed Springstad, Bemidji, Minn.," or "Sung by Mr. M. C. Dean, Virginia."

Among the texts printed are those of "Jim Whalen," "The Shanty-boy on the Big Eau Claire," "Ye Noble Big Pine Tree," "The Festive Lumber-jack," "Red Iron Ore," "Ole from Norway," and "The Crow Wing Drive." Something of the Minnesota flavor of some of the songs may be indicated by quoting these verses from "The Crow Wing Drive":

Says White Pine Tom to Arkansaw,
 "There's one more drive that I'd like to strike."
 Says Arkansaw, "What can it be?"
 "It's the Crow Wing River for the old Pine Tree."

Says Arkansaw, "Now if that's the case,
 I can put you in the race,
 Come with me in the mornin' an' we'll begin,
 For I've a job a-pushin' for Long Jim Quinn."

In the mornin' we boarded the M. & I.
 Our friends in Bemidji we bid good-bye.
 Humpy Russell took us down the line
 And landed us in Brainard right on time.

There was White Pine Tom and young Lazzard,
 And Mikey Stewart and his two big pards;
 Billy Domine and the Weston boys,
 And there was others from Bemidji that could make some noise.

The origins of the shanty-boy ballads involve no problems, in Professor Rickaby's opinion. "They were composed by indi-

viduals who set out definitely to compose." It may be noted that he credits the logging camp "hegemony in song" to the Irish. "Although the Scotch and French-Canadian occur occasionally, the Irish were dominant, and the Irish street-song was the pattern upon which a liberal portion of the shanty-songs were made."

T. C. B.

Introduction to the American Official Sources for the Economic and Social History of the World War (Economic and Social History of the World War: American Series). By WALDO G. LELAND and NEWTON D. MERENESS. (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1926. xlvii, 532, 18 p.).

This volume is a worthy contribution to the monumental economic and social history of the World War which is gradually taking shape under the auspices of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and at the hands of coöperating scholars in all the countries that participated in the war and in others that were vitally affected by it. The ultimate object of the sponsors of this great enterprise is a general assessment of the economic cost of the war and the displacement which it caused in the processes of civilization, but a vast amount of preliminary work must be done before that aim can be realized. Great bodies of source material must be canvassed, special studies on limited subjects written, and the essential facts of national history brought together before a general comparative analysis of conditions in the several countries will be possible. In America, as in all the other countries, the first requirement for any comprehensive study of the subject is knowledge of the character, extent, and location of the available sources, and it is this need which the volume under discussion is intended in part to fill.

In this work of about five hundred pages is presented a general survey of the records and official publications of every agency of the federal government that conducted important social or economic activities during the war period. Among such agencies are included Congress; the Supreme Court; all the executive departments, including the war department, whose activities were far from wholly military in character; independent boards and commissions such as the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Fed-

eral Trade Commission, and the American National Red Cross; and emergency establishments such as the Council of National Defense, the United States Food Administration, and the War Industries Board. The organization and war-time functions of each of these agencies are outlined, its significant publications listed, and its records broadly described. A thoroughgoing canvass of the last was impracticable, if only because of their almost unimaginable extent, but the indications given will save the student of national or local World War history many a false move in finding his way about among the federal archives at Washington, in what is still something of a wilderness, archivally speaking.

Because of the forbidding amount of labor involved, the compilers did not undertake to include a survey of the official records and publications of state and local governments, as the title of the volume might lead one to suppose. Instead, they endeavored to give some indication of the vast masses of material of all sorts which have been accumulated in the several states by the various state war history organizations. From the series of brief but informing accounts here given, it would appear that every state, through some regular state department, the state historical society, or a special commission, has accomplished something in the way of collecting and preserving its war records. The information given will be of great value, particularly, from a local point of view, to those still engaged in the work of collection or in the compilation of state or local war histories. It is interesting to note that Minnesota has been and is still one of the states most active in this field. It has not only assembled an extensive state war records collection, but it is now, through the medium of the Minnesota Historical Society, working toward the completion of a three-volume, comprehensive history of Minnesota in the World War, one volume of which, a *History of the 151st Field Artillery*, was published by the Minnesota War Records Commission, the temporary organization formerly in charge of this work.

FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK

The American Indian in English Literature of the Eighteenth Century (*Yale Studies in English*, no. 68). By BENJAMIN BISSELL, instructor in English in the Southern Branch of the University of California. (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1925. ix, 229 p. Illustrations.)

An unusual addition to the writings on the American Indian is this monograph, in the preparation of which the author has gone over the literary writings of the period from the latter part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth to the close of the eighteenth century, and attempted to get at the ideas of Europeans about the American Indian. He quotes liberally from accounts of early travelers, and from novels, plays, and poems to illustrate his points, but he is evidently not entirely satisfied with the results of his labors. "For, after all, these many disconnected passages, casual allusions, and scattered productions, in which the Indian is in some way noticed, can hardly in themselves be said to constitute a literary or philosophic movement, although taken with the other impulses of the time — the 'return to nature,' the interest in everything wild, sentimental, or picturesque — they may easily be seen to fall within that large, loose, ill-defined, ill-understood current of thought and feeling, vaguely and often inaccurately characterized by the term romanticism."

The reader feels throughout that the author is groping for an idea but cannot manage to grasp it, and this is frankly admitted in the passage quoted. Even though no final conclusions could be drawn, the study is probably worth while, since it shows how thoroughly the New World across the Atlantic had permeated the English thought of the eighteenth century.

WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK

Glimpses of Early Canadians: Lahontan. By F. C. B. CROMPTON. (Toronto, Thomas Nelson and Sons, Limited, [1925.] xiii, 101 p. Illustrations, map.)

Minnesota's interest in Baron Lahontan has lessened considerably since the days when Joseph N. Nicollet believed that the Gascon's fabulous "Long River" could be identified with the Cannon River. Yet his story is of a value for Minnesota comparable with that of many another French explorer who never set

foot on Minnesota soil but who none the less influenced her history mightily. One could read Lahontan's *New Voyages* profitably if only for his account of the fur-trade methods in vogue in New France in the fourth quarter of the seventeenth century. Mr. Crompton's biography of this adventurous, clear-visioned, skeptical, and frequently mendacious young army officer, though it is only a brief sketch, manages to infuse a strong sense of reality into its paraphrases of Lahontan's letters to friends in Europe. Perhaps this vividness is its *raison d'être*; certainly the book can lay small claim to offering anything new. It will prove a handy summary of Lahontan's life, though it barely alludes to his "Long River" journey; and it should satisfy even young readers with its color and romance.

G. L. N.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

The sixth state historical convention is to be held at St. Cloud and Willmar on successive days, June 16 and 17. Invitations were received from the St. Cloud Reading Room Society, the Willmar Commercial Club, and from members and friends of the society in the two cities. In accordance with the society's custom, plans are being made for an "historic tour." Instead of being held on the day preceding the opening of the convention, however, it will be held on the morning of the first day of the convention. It is expected that those participating in the tour will reach St. Cloud about noon on June 16.

The number of special historical reports sent out by the society's "Information Bureau" in 1926 in response to inquiries was 113 as compared with 78 in 1925 and 55 in 1924. Duplicates of these reports, which now total 488, are preserved and indexed and the file of them serves as a valuable compact repository of reference information relating primarily to Minnesota history.

The number of books served to readers in the main library of the society, which dropped from about 45,000 in 1924 to about 41,000 in 1925, rose to a new high point of almost 47,000 in 1926. Although this figure is about eight times as large as that for 1919, the first full year in the Historical Building, the reference staff still consists, as it did in that year, of a single assistant with a part-time page.

The net increase in the society's active membership in 1926 was 61 as compared with 14 in 1925. The number of additions to the roll during the year was 161, but there were 41 deaths and 59 were dropped for nonpayment of dues. The active membership at the end of the year was 1,423, and the 11 honorary, 55 corresponding, and 5 institutional members brought the total to 1,494. If the 173 schools and libraries enrolled as subscribers were counted as members, as is the practice of many societies, the total would be 1,667. Twenty-four additions to the active membership were made during the quarter ending December 31, 1926. The names of the new members, grouped by counties, follow:

BROWN: A. C. Ochs of Springfield.

COTTONWOOD: Hazel Halvorson of Storden.

FILLMORE: Rev. Ivar Havneros of Mabel.

FREEBORN: H. W. Jensen of Albert Lea.

GOODHUE: Laura E. West of Red Wing.

HENNEPIN: John Lind, Charles P. Sigerfoos, Hugh R. Stevenson, and Mrs. Alice R. Strobbridge, all of Minneapolis.

OLMSTED: Dr. Lee W. Pollock of Rochester.

RAMSEY: Marion C. Fairfield, Harry Dance, Olin B. Lewis, Oscar Lofroth, Harold L. Rothschild, Nellie A. Thompson, and Albert S. Tousley, all of St. Paul.

REDWOOD: Andrew D. Smith of Redwood Falls.

ROCK: J. Russell Wiggins of Luverne.

WRIGHT: Mrs. Mathilda O. Bower of Cokato.

NONRESIDENT: Edward F. Humphrey of Hartford, Connecticut; William H. Dalton of Chicago, Illinois; Paul L. Van Cleve, Sr., of Big Timber, Montana; and George A. Phipps of Seward, Nebraska.

The society lost ten active members by death during the three months ending December 31: Lucian Swift of Minneapolis, October 14; Milton M. Williams of Minneapolis, October 17; William A. Pell of Claremont, California, October 25; Alfred Merritt of Duluth, November 1; Halvor Steenerson of Crookston, November 26; James H. Skinner of St. Paul, December 10; James C. Nolan of St. Paul, December 18; Dr. Leonard C. Weeks of Detroit Lakes, December 19; Dr. Gustavus A. Newman of Stillwater, December 22; and Dr. Rudolph Schiffman of Pasadena, California, December 23. The death of Edwin Wiley of Peoria, Illinois, a corresponding member, on October 20, 1924, has not previously been reported in these notes.

The school library of Redwood Falls has joined the ranks of subscribers to the current publications of the society.

The society was represented at the meeting of the American Historical Association and allied organizations in Rochester, New York, late in December by Dr. Buck and Dr. Blegen. Following the meeting Dr. Blegen went to New York City, where he visited the United States Customs House to examine immigration records.

Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the society's museum, attended the Mid-west Museums Conference at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on November 15, and read a paper entitled "Installing a Museum on Wheels." Mr. Babcock was elected vice president of the conference, with Dr. S. A. Barrett, director of the Milwaukee Public Museum, as president.

"Minnesota History and the Films" was the subject of a talk given before the Better Theater League of Minneapolis by Dr. Blegen on November 20. He also spoke to the students of Hamline University, on November 24, taking as his subject "The Concept of the 'Good Old Days.'" On November 3 Dr. Nute, curator of manuscripts, spoke to the Newport Women's Club on the fur-trade régime in Minnesota; and Mr. Babcock presented before the Riverview Commercial Club on November 2 "An Illustrated Ramble through Minnesota History."

ACCESSIONS

Working in the archives of the office of the secretary of war, the Washington agent for the Conference of Historical Agencies in the Upper Mississippi Valley has made abstracts for more than three thousand documents in the letter books of the war secretaries from 1800 to the close of the Civil War, and has brought to light much material of Minnesota interest. The abstracts touch on such phases of the state's history as military roads, proposed forts, the sales of Fort Snelling and of the Fort Ripley reservation, the navigation of the upper Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, Indian relations, the transcontinental railroad survey of 1853, and mineral lands. One interesting group of letters deals, as the abstracts disclose, with the proposed construction of a military road from the St. Peter's, or Minnesota, River to the Red River. The man appointed to have charge of the survey and construction of this road was Zachary Taylor, later president of the United States. Both William Clark, the Indian agent at St. Louis, and Governor Henry Dodge of Wisconsin were instructed to explain the purpose of the road to the Indians of the region and to secure their consent to its construction, using gifts if necessary. For some reason Taylor refused the appointment.

The life of the fur-trader, Robert Dickson, is the subject of a thesis recently presented for the doctorate at the University of Minnesota by Mr. Louis A. Tohill of the University High School, Minneapolis. Mr. Tohill, who contributed to the December, 1925, number of MINNESOTA HISTORY an article on "Robert Dickson, the Fur Trade, and the Minnesota Boundary," has presented a typewritten copy of his dissertation to the society.

Through the courtesy of Mr. William Bartlett of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the society has been permitted to make photostatic copies of the papers of James Ermatinger and his family, now in the possession of Miss Anne Ermatinger of Jim Falls, Wisconsin. Ermatinger was an important fur-trader of the second quarter of the last century who operated chiefly in western Wisconsin at the head of Lake Superior. Most of the letters were published by Mr. Bartlett in the *Eau Claire Telegram* in July, August, and September, 1925.

Reference has been made in earlier numbers of this magazine to the manuscript notes, diaries, and maps of Joseph N. Nicollet, which came to light not long ago and are now in the collections of the Library of Congress (*ante*, 6:202; 7:37). Recently Colonel W. C. Brown of Washington, D. C., who is making a careful study of the history of Traverse des Sioux, looked through these papers while searching for material relating to the territory now embraced in Nicollet County and had typed or photostatic copies made of several documents. A set of these copies has very kindly been presented to the society by Colonel Brown. It includes some valuable maps, various letters, and other records. One of the papers gives the following description by Nicollet of how he entered the Indian country: "My 8 men, each at the head of his heavily loaded cart; La Framboise is at the head of the file with his wife and Eugene in the Barouche. I, Fremont and Geyer in the wagon of Joseph Rainville and his wife; we bring up the rear of the train to superintend the march. The flag flies in the center of the file; the son of the Chief of the Sissetons, he of the sleepy eyes, is alongside the flag. The heat is prostrating, but it does not prevent the company from dancing, running races, fighting and giving themselves up to battles with their whips on

the beautiful greensward that we pass over. The spectacle of the caravan is sometimes picturesque."

An incomplete autobiographical sketch of the well-known Minnesota pioneer, David Olmsted, has been presented to the society by his daughter, Mrs. James Thurston of Minneapolis, as an addition to the society's collection of Olmsted Papers (see *ante*, 5:64). The sketch was written late in life by Olmsted, who died in 1861. The manuscript contains twenty-one large pages and carries the story from the author's birth in 1822 at Fairfax, Vermont, through his youth and his journey west in 1838, including his residence at Snake Diggings, near Potosi, Wisconsin, in the late thirties, and an exploring trip in 1840 through northern Iowa. Unfortunately the account does not reach the Minnesota portion of the author's career.

A short sketch of the history and development of the Union Match Company of Duluth has been received from the author, Mr. Hansen Evesmith of Fargo and Duluth. As he was one of the prime movers in this rather unique phase of industrial life in Minnesota, his paper is of special value.

A file of the *Oberlin Evangelist* for the years from 1844 to 1852, recently acquired by purchase, is notable for the material it contains relating to missions in Minnesota. This consists of twenty-eight letters from members of the "Oberlin band" of missionaries, who went out to Leech and Red lakes in 1843—letters of much value for their details on conditions in the northern wilderness, on the customs and habits of the Chippewa, and on the life led by the fur-traders and *voyageurs*.

Recent additions to the society's military collection include a sword carried by Colonel Alexander Wilkin during the Civil War, presented by Mrs. Anna M. Coleman of Goshen, New York; a sample of the hard-tack used by soldiers in the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry during the same conflict, given by Mrs. Franklin G. Holbrook of Minneapolis; a framed fragment of the colors carried by the Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, received from Mrs. A. A. Rice of Aledo, Illinois; and a bugle from the battlefield of San Juan Hill and a telescope from a Spanish warship, presented by Mrs. Wheaton.

A collection of Indian objects including a buckskin coat trimmed with beads and fur, a beaded knife sheath, a Chippewa ceremonial bag, tobacco pouches, moccasins of both the plains and the forest types, an inlaid red pipestone pipe, and an Indian doll has been presented by Mrs. Charles A. Wheaton of St. Paul; and several pieces of bead work made by Sioux Indians of the Birch Coulee region have been received from Miss Helen Pearson of Minneapolis.

The society's "domestic life collection" continues to receive valued additions through the kindness of donors. Recent accessions include a handsome black Chantilly lace shawl, a black thread lace veil worn about 1850, a pair of black lace strips worn in place of a cap, a neck scarf of white Brussels lace, a lace-edged handkerchief, and several other pieces of fine lace, from Miss Amelia Ames of North Easton, Massachusetts; two white batiste dresses of the style worn about 1911, from Mrs. George Thane of Chicago; and a doll "Lady Gay" dated 1861 and a set of doll's toilet articles, from Mrs. Wheaton.

An old lamp originally designed to burn whale oil but converted into a grease lamp by a Minnesota owner who could not secure oil has been presented to the society by Mrs. Nettie L. Lamb of Lake City. The lamp, which has a marble base and a brass column, is said to have been purchased in New York in the late forties. It passed through the Sioux Outbreak and was recovered among spoils abandoned by the Sioux.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The annual meeting of the American Historical Association held at Rochester, New York, from December 28 to 30 reflected in its sessions the interests of scholars in a wide variety of fields. The presidential address was delivered by Professor Dana C. Munro of Princeton University on the theme "War and History," and has already been published in the *American Historical Review* for January. At one session devoted to a discussion of "History," Professor Carl Becker raised the question "What is Historical Fact?" and showed that this is far from being the simple problem that some people assume it to be. At a joint session with the Agricultural History Society, suggestions were offered for an "Agricultural Who's Who in the Ante-Bellum Period," Dr. Joseph Schafer of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin speaking for the North and Dr. Herbert A. Kellar of the McCormick Agricultural Library of Chicago for the West. A carefully worked out scheme for "The Exploitation of State History" was offered by Professor A. E. Martin of Pennsylvania State College in connection with a round table on "The College and Research." Among the papers presented at a joint session with the Mississippi Valley Historical Association was one by Professor C. A. Duniway of Carleton College entitled "Illinois to Oregon in 1852," and at a dinner of that association one of many brilliant speakers was the novelist, Mr. Hamlin Garland, whose theme was of course that "Middle Border" which he has celebrated both in fiction and in his autobiographical writings. One session of the national association considered "The Influence of Europe in the Development of American Civilization." At the Conference of Historical Societies Dr. Schafer spoke on "Church Records as Sources for Movements of Population," and Professor Samuel E. Morison, speaking on "Recent Historical Expeditions in the Northwest," gave special attention to the Columbia River Historical Expedition of last summer. A session devoted to "Public Archives" was of much interest to those who have followed the movement in the United States looking toward better care of both national and state archives. Dr. J.

Franklin Jameson spoke informally on the outlook for the erection of the national archives building, recently authorized by Congress, and Dr. A. C. Flick, state historian of New York, told of the methods used in that state in preserving local records. One of the most important reports presented to the association was by Professor August C. Krey of the University of Minnesota, chairman of the committee on history teaching in the schools. Dr. Krey proposed that the association should sponsor a coöperative investigation "whose end shall be a systematic program of social education for the fourteen grades of the public schools," and the proposal was accepted. A luncheon session was given over to a discussion of the endowment campaign of the association, and among the speakers was Dr. Solon J. Buck, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, who reported upon his work as executive secretary for the endowment project and also distributed a printed report summarizing the achievements of the various states. The reports showed that solid foundations for the endowment work had been built and that approximately \$120,000 in gifts and pledges had already been realized. Announcement was made of the selection of Dr. Henry J. Carman of Columbia University to take Dr. Buck's place as executive secretary.

Professor Norman S. B. Gras, who recently contributed to this magazine a study of "The Significance of the Twin Cities for Minnesota History" (see *ante*, 6:3-17), is the author of a scholarly essay on "The Economic Activity of Towns," published in C. G. Crump and E. F. Jacob, *The Legacy of the Middle Ages*, 435-464 (Oxford, 1926).

In the *Annual Report* of the American Historical Association for 1921 (Washington, 1926. 255 p.) are printed, among others, abstracts of papers on "The Fur Trade and the Northwest Boundary, 1783-1814," by Cardinal Goodwin; "Critical Problems Involved in the Use of the Official Records of the World War," by Wayne E. Stevens; and "The Scandinavian Element and Agrarian Discontent," by Theodore C. Blegen.

A portrait of George William Featherstonhaugh serves as the frontispiece to Frank W. Stevens' volume *The Beginnings of the New York Central Railroad: A History* (New York, 1926. 408

p.). To Minnesotans Featherstonhaugh is known as the author of a two-volume work published at London in 1847 under the title *A Canoe Voyage up the Minnaw Sotor*, a record of a "geological reconnoissance" made in 1835. But in Mr. Stevens' excellent volume he appears as the man "to whose persistent and indefatigable exertions the first railroad of the many scores now composing the New York Central Lines owed its existence." The road was the Mohawk and Hudson, "incorporated April 17, 1826, and opened for operation August 9, 1831."

Discussing "The Scientific Study of Settlement" in the *Geographical Review* for October, Dr. Isaiah Bowman calls attention to the many "pioneer belts" that still exist in the world and proposes the study of the problems of such belts with a view to evolving a veritable "science of settlement." "The fringe of settlement is a focus of interest for government as well as science," he writes, and certainly the history of the American frontier bears out the assertion.

In an article on "Waterways in Livestock and Meat Trade," by Rudolf A. Clemen, in the *American Economic Review* for December, considerable attention is given to the water routes of the upper Mississippi Valley, and particularly to the effects of railway competition upon the river commerce. The author erroneously asserts that the "first steamboat to ascend the upper Mississippi reached Fort Snelling near St. Paul in 1813." This was six years before the fort later given that name was established, and ten years before the "Virginia" made its famous trip.

The following note, taken from the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for December, will be of interest to Minnesotans: "A new state park will soon be established by the Conservation Commission embracing the site (part of which is still government land) of the last battle with Black Hawk's band, on the Mississippi River between Prairie du Chien and La Crosse. This battle is usually spoken of as the battle of Bad Axe; but it occurred below the mouth of that stream in what was once Bad Axe County, now Vernon. The site was named Victory by the early inhabitants. The battle was, however, a massacre rather than a victory, and reflected little credit upon the victorious whites. While the

Sauk leader himself escaped and was afterwards captured by the Americans' Winnebago allies, Indian men, women, and children of the hostiles were savagely and indiscriminately dispatched. See Dr. R. G. Thwaites's account in *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, xii, 259-261."

A brief article entitled "Picture Island," by Albert B. Reagan, published in the *Southern Workman* (Hampton, Virginia) for October, tells something of the rock pictures on Picture Island in Nett Lake, near Orr, Minnesota; and a second article by the same author, on "Chippewa Indian Picture Writings," published in the November issue of *High School Service* (Washington, D. C.), gives interpretations of two Chippewa songs from pictographs on birch-bark.

Chief Little Green Hill of the Leech Lake reservation contributes an interesting article entitled "Life among the Ojibways: Indian Lore of Today" to the midsummer, 1926, issue of *Northern Trails* (Minneapolis).

The November number of the *Palimpsest* is devoted to reprints from George Catlin's *North American Indians* of sketches that are of particular interest to Iowa, with appropriate illustrations reproduced from the same volume. The sketches appear under the headings "The Grave of Sergeant Floyd," "On the Upper Mississippi," "The Lead Mines of Dubuque," "A Visit to Keokuk's Village," "Adventures in a Bark Canoe," and "The Course of Empire." They are followed by a brief "Comment by the Editor" on this "pictorial historian of the Indians." The writer contends that "no other artist or writer has had such a tremendous influence in molding the popular conception of the American Indian." The frontispiece to the issue is a charming self-portrait of Catlin from a painting made when he was twenty-eight years of age.

Two bronze tablets have recently been placed on sites of special historic interest on Madeline Island, in Lake Superior. One marks the "Treaty Hall Headquarters" of the American Fur Company; the other, placed on the south end of the island, bears this inscription: "Michel Cadotte a French-Canadian trader built a post at this site about 1792. From his wife Madeline, daughter of

the Chippewa Chief White Crane, the island takes its present name. The official French Fort La Pointe was built in 1718, about 500 feet west. Its commandants were St. Pierre, Linctot, La Ronde, Marin, and Beaubassin, the last of whom retired in 1759. Erected by Rachel Brock Woods, 1926."

A case of three making two is illustrated by Charles A. Beard and Mary R. Beard, when in their otherwise excellent textbook, *History of the United States*, page 275 (New York, 1924), they write, "Above Iowa, on the Mississippi, lay the territory of Minnesota — the home of the Dakotas, the Ojibways, and the Sioux." Had the authors added the Chippewa, they would have broken a time-honored mathematical rule, for two and two would have made, not four, but two. For the sake of the uninitiated it may be added that the Dakota were the Sioux and the Ojibway were the Chippewa.

A clear explanation of what "Hudson's Bay 'Point' Blankets" are, by A. E. Dodman, is published in the *Beaver* for December. As "point" blankets were used not only in the trade of the Hudson's Bay Company from early times, but also in the Minnesota trade during the days of the Northwest Company and later, this article will be of value for students of the Minnesota fur trade. In the same magazine is an excellent description of the birch-bark canoe, published under the title "The Disappearing Birch-bark," by Charles H. M. Gordon.

For all students of the Kensington rune stone controversy an article entitled "Norske Oldfund i Minnesota," by Hjalmar R. Holand, published in *Skandinaven Almanak og Kalender* for 1927, will be of special interest. Mr. Holand tells of seven objects found in western Minnesota, three of which, — a bronze sword, a fire steel, and a small ornament with an ax head and an old-fashioned rule for a handle, — he describes in detail. Mr. Holand states that the ornament was found in 1911 near Crookston, the fire steel in northwestern Minnesota in 1871, and the bronze ax in Clay County in 1911. These and four other "finds" date back, Mr. Holand thinks, to the fourteenth century, and he believes that they must have belonged to the supposed Kensington party of 1362.

Souvenir "Norse-American Women" 1825-1925 (St. Paul, 1926. 454 p.), is a volume of miscellaneous contributions consisting of "prose and poetry, newspaper articles, and biographies," contributed by one hundred women and edited by Mrs. Alma A. Guttersen and Mrs. Regina H. Christensen. The volume as a whole deals with the story of Norwegian-American women in the United States in the period since the arrival of "Restaurationen," which brought the first shipload of Norwegian immigrants to this country in 1825. Among the many articles or chapters of special interest are those on the following subjects: "The First Lady of 'Restaurationen,'" by Hannah Astrup Larsen; "The Norse-American Woman in Church Work," by Mrs. H. B. Kildahl; a vivid account of a pioneer Norwegian mother by Anna R. H. Hilleboe; "Pioneering Reminiscences of Childhood" in Minnesota, by Mrs. Guttersen; the story of the veteran Minnesota nurse, Miss Theresa Erickson, who has seen active service in the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the World War, by Mrs. J. Brack; "The Norse-American Woman in Music," by Helga Olsen; and "Prairies," the story of a teacher's experience in 1887-88 on the Minnesota prairies near Willmar, by Mrs. Christensen. In the latter part of this interesting and informing volume are biographical sketches of a considerable number of "Prominent Norse-American Women."

A bronze statue of Colonel Hans C. Heg, leader of the Fifteenth Wisconsin in the Civil War, was unveiled at Madison on October 17 as the gift of Norwegian-Americans to the state of Wisconsin.

The Swedish Historical Society of America held its annual meeting at the Historical Building, St. Paul, on the evening of December 3. Dr. C. G. Wallenius of Chicago outlined the life of Dr. William Henschen, a prominent Swedish Methodist; and Dr. George M. Stephenson of the University of Minnesota spoke on the founding of the Lutheran Augustana Synod.

A Reprint of Addresses by Crown Prince Gustav Adolf of Sweden, Governor Christianson, and President Lotus D. Coffman delivered in Minneapolis on June 29, 1926, has been brought out in pamphlet form by the University of Minnesota (1926. 22 p.).

Absalom Grimes, Confederate Mail Runner (New Haven, 1926. 216 p.) is a thrilling Civil War story told by a participant and now edited by Dr. M. M. Quaife. The volume would possess even greater interest for Minnesota readers if Captain Grimes had written in detail about his experiences from 1852 to 1861, when he was a Mississippi River pilot on steamers between St. Louis and St. Paul.

The subject matter of the first three articles in the December number of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* should bring comfort to the most zealous advocates of the "new history." An enlightening study of the "Genesis of Wisconsin's Free High School System," by Joseph Schafer, is followed by articles on "The History and Development of the Telephone in Wisconsin," by Harry Barsantee, and "Agricultural Coöperation in Wisconsin," by Frank G. Swoboda. An article of special interest for Minnesota readers is that by W. A. Titus on "Lac Court Oreilles: An Indian Abode of the Past and the Present"—the village at which Radisson and Groseilliers are believed to have spent the winter with the Ottawa on their "Superior voyage" after their departure from the shores of Chequamegon Bay.

A suggestive *Schedule for the Study of Local History of Wisconsin Rural Towns*, by Joseph Schafer, has been issued as a six-page leaflet for teachers by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (1926). The first part of the schedule consists of specific questions for investigation, grouped under the heads of "Educational Conditions," "Drift to the City," "The Westward Movement," and "Immigrants." The second part suggests an outline for an essay on the social history of any town in the state, with the following divisions of the subject: the early settlement, the town's leaders during the early period, later leaders and prominent or original characters down to the present time, turning-points in the town's history, emigration and immigration, and present conditions and prospects.

The installment of C. H. Crownhart's "North Wisconsin in History and Romance" published in the January *Wisconsin Magazine* tells the story of Father Hennepin.

An article entitled "Notes on the History of Lecturing in Iowa, 1855-1885," by Hubert H. Hoeltje, in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for January is drawn largely from newspaper files, the records of lecture associations, and other contemporary sources. Among the lecturers who helped to disseminate culture in Iowa during the period were Ralph Waldo Emerson, Horace Greeley, Wendell Phillips, John G. Saxe, John Gough, Carl Schurz, Bayard Taylor, P. T. Barnum, Josh Billings, Frederick Douglass, Oscar Wilde, and Henry Ward Beecher.

A hearty welcome is extended to the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly*, volume I, number I, of which was published in October by the State Historical Society of North Dakota, with Dr. O. G. Libby as editor and Vernice M. Aldrich as assistant editor. The first number is a distinctly creditable one, with an attractive dress and valuable articles, documents, book reviews, and news and comments. Minnesota readers will be especially interested in the extracts from the journal of Robert Campbell telling of a trip from the Red River country in 1832 and 1833 through Minnesota and south to Kentucky for sheep and of the return. It may be noted that this document has already been brought out in the *Annals of Iowa* for April, 1926. Under the heading of "Documents" are published several letters by a Civil War soldier, Levi Carr. The first is dated at Fort Ridgely on June 30, 1862; the second and third are from the same place on October 26 and September 11, 1862, and are printed in the order indicated. In the letter of October 26, Carr wrote of the battle of Birch Coulee, "The first fight that we had with the red skins was about 12 miles above the fork on the Minnesota river. There were 44 of our Company and the captain making a total of 45 and 21 got back alive. That was surely a great slaughter. I have never heard balls whistle so in my life before and to hear the horrid yells of the savages thru the woods would make your blood run cold. But the next time we gave them hell for we were at the fort and we had a little better chance." The magazine includes articles on "The Roundup" by Dr. V. H. Stickney; "The Liberty Memorial Building," — the home of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, at Bismarck, — by Lewis F. Crawford; the Columbia River Historical Expedition, by Vernice M. Aldrich;

and on various special topics in North Dakota history. On the title page the number is designated as a continuation of volume 8 of the society's *Collections*.

Primitive Man in Michigan, by W. B. Hinsdale, is a valuable introduction to Michigan archeology brought out by the University of Michigan as number 1 in its *Michigan Handbook Series* ([Ann Arbor,] 1925. 195 p.).

An important subject awaiting investigation in Minnesota history is the story of the colonization companies that were particularly active in the period after the Civil War. A collection of selected documents relating to such settlement projects in Colorado has been published under the title, *Experiments in Colorado Colonization, 1869-1872*, edited by James F. Willard and Colin B. Goodykoontz (Boulder, Colorado, 1926. 483 p.).

William Henry Harrison: A Political Biography, by Dorothy B. Goebel (Indianapolis, 1926. 456 p.), is a scholarly study based upon extensive manuscript sources and other contemporary materials. It is a contribution of importance both for western and national history. Mrs. Goebel cuts through myths in a realistic manner and at the end of her study records her judgment that Harrison was a politician, not a statesman. The book is published by the historical bureau of the Indiana Library and Historical Department as volume 15 in the *Indiana Historical Collections*.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

A brief sketch of "Greysolon Duluth: King of the Voyageurs," by William Bennett Munro, is printed in the *Proceedings* of the Massachusetts Historical Society for 1925-26 (vol. 59, p. 140-147). Professor Munro omits from his paper all reference to the expedition made by Du Luth to Mille Lacs in 1679. Nor does he mention the journey into the heart of the Minnesota country in 1680 which resulted in the meeting with Hennepin.

"The history of Fort Snelling furnishes the story of a century's contribution to the well-being of the contiguous territory," writes the Reverend Frank C. Rideout, chaplain at the fort, in an illus-

trated article on "Fort Snelling's Century of Service" published in the *National Republic* (Washington, D. C.) for November.

A series of letters written at Leech Lake and Crow Wing by George Bonga, a Minnesotan of Indian and Negro blood, is printed in the *Journal of Negro History* for January. Of the fourteen letters printed all but one date from 1866, and most of them are addressed to Joel B. Bassett, the agent to the Chippewa Indians. It is indicated in connection with each letter that the document is from the "Bassett Papers," but the fact that these papers are in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society is not stated. The letters contain valuable information on the general situation of the Indians in 1866, agency politics, annuity payments, and similar matters. The last letter in the selection, written in 1872 to Henry M. Rice, is autobiographical. Bonga says that he was born seventy years before, "somewhere near where Duluth now is." His father, who was then in the employ of the Northwest Company, sent him to school in Montreal. As to the origin of his father, he believes him to have come originally via Mackinac from Missouri. "My grand father & his family of 5 or 6 children," he writes, "might have been taken Prisoners by the Ind.s & Sold to the Indⁿ traders."

The fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of "Old Main," the oldest building on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College of St. Peter, was celebrated on October 30 and 31 by students and alumni. Among the newspaper articles on the anniversary is one in the *Minneapolis Journal* for October 10 that tells about St. Ansgar Academy at Carver. This school was removed to St. Peter in 1876 and there its name was changed to Gustavus Adolphus.

In commemoration of the sixty-fourth anniversary of the execution of thirty-eight Indians at Mankato on December 26, 1862, after the Sioux Outbreak, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of December 26 publishes brief reminiscent statements of numerous old settlers of the Minnesota Valley who lived through the outbreak.

Brief biographical sketches accompanied by bibliographies of published scientific studies make up the first volume of a work

entitled *Physicians of the Mayo Clinic and Mayo Foundation* (St. Paul and Minneapolis, 1923. 669 p.). The book "is intended to provide in brief form complete and accurate data concerning the professional life of each physician who, prior to January 1, 1923, had been officially connected with the Mayo Clinic or the Mayo Foundation for a period of one year or more." There are 444 sketches, and most of them are accompanied by pictures of the individuals sketched.

A Record of Old Boats: Being an Account of Steam Navigation on Lake Minnetonka between 1860 and the Present Time, by Randolph Edgar (Minneapolis, 1926. 55 p.), is an unusually interesting booklet. In great detail and with scrupulous regard for the exact facts, Mr. Edgar tells of Minnetonka steamers from the days of the "Governor Ramsey," built in 1881 and 1882, down to the period of decline. The booklet, which is illustrated with a number of pictures of "old boats," forms an interesting chapter in the history of inland transportation.

"Some Random Recollections" is the title of a series of two articles by Charles Espenschied, published in the *Northwestern Miller* (Minneapolis) for April 7 and 14, 1926. Mr. Espenschied tells the story of his part in the history of Minnesota flour milling, from his arrival to take charge in 1878 of the "original Goodhue mill at Cannon Falls" through his experience as proprietor of the Gardner mill at Hastings. Among many interesting items in Mr. Espenschied's story is his claim that the credit for the discovery of "patent flour" belongs to Stephen Gardner of Hastings. After giving a circumstantial account of Gardner's discovery, the author remarks, "I was told that among the operative millers who came to the mill and worked for a while was a Mr. LaCroix, who afterward perfected the purifier, and also Mr. Smith, of purifier fame." Mr. Espenschied tells in detail of many important developments in the milling industry with special reference to his own mill in Hastings. In the *Northwestern Miller* for April 21, 1926, Mr. William C. Edgar supplements Mr. Espenschied's reminiscences with an article entitled "Memoirs of the Vermillion." The Gardner mill at Hastings was situated on the Vermillion River. The articles by Mr. Espenschied and

Mr. Edgar are reprinted along with a few other items in a pamphlet entitled *Some Random Recollections* (Minneapolis, 1926. 46 p.).

The beginnings of the Ten Thousand Lakes of Minnesota Association, which was organized ten years ago "to broadcast Minnesota tourist information to the nation," are described in some detail in the *St. Paul Daily News* for December 12.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

A series of illustrated articles on suburban districts in the vicinity of Minneapolis, which "list educational, civic and home advantages, and give a brief review of their history," has been appearing in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Journal*. Among the communities described are Richfield, September 26; Edina, October 3; St. Louis Park, October 10; Hopkins, October 17; Robbinsdale, October 24; Columbia Heights, October 31; Osseo, November 14; Anoka, November 21; Excelsior, December 12; and Wayzata, December 19.

Memories of the little rural school which served Edina in pioneer days were revived on December 10, when the new school of Edina and Morningside was dedicated. A sketch of the old Edina school appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for December 9.

A large wall map of Kandiyohi County published by the Tribune Printing Company of Willmar is of unusual interest, for not only does it serve as a plat, giving the names of land owners, but it also locates historic markers and places of special interest in the county.

The story of the founding of a frontier school in the late sixties by Mrs. A. C. Tucker of Marshall is related by Mrs. Henry Matthews in the *News-Messenger* of Marshall for December 10. Mrs. Tucker opened the school in her home for the benefit of her own and neighborhood children, and later when a district school was built she taught there.

A brief outline of the history of Acoma, a once-prosperous little dairying town in McLeod County, which has recently passed out of existence, appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for November 4.

Special services marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Czech Brethren Presbyterian Church of Silver Lake, which was celebrated on October 3 and 4.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Holy Cross Church of North Prairie was celebrated by members of the parish on October 10. A history of the church is published in the *Little Falls Daily Transcript* for October 11.

Pioneer Minnesota Thanksgiving feasts of venison and cranberries, as recalled by Mr. E. J. Pond of Shakopee, a son of the missionary, Samuel W. Pond, are described in the *Minneapolis Journal* for November 25.

An "Achievement Edition" of more than a hundred pages, published on November 8, marks the sixty-fifth anniversary of the *St. Cloud Daily Times*, which had its beginning as the *Minnesota Union* on June 14, 1861. In addition to a history of the paper, illustrated with facsimiles of some of the early issues, the edition contains a vast store of local history material. There are a number of general articles, such as an account of the history of the region as revealed in manuscript sources, by Grace L. Nute; and a survey of the changes in sovereignty and jurisdiction over the country around St. Cloud, with a sketch of the history of its exploration. Among the subjects of other sketches are Ole Bergeson, who staked the first claim on the site of the city in 1852; the organization of the village in 1856; the naming of the county; and a history of the courthouse with a survey of the minutes of the county board from 1855 to 1887. Entire sections are devoted to the lakes and summer resorts of Stearns County, roads, the development of water power, dairying, and the granite quarries and their development. The schools and churches of the neighborhood are adequately treated in a section which includes histories of the city, rural, and parochial schools, and of the St. Cloud State Teachers College.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Pilgrim Congregational Church of Benson was celebrated with special services on October 16 and 17. Among the talks was one by Mrs. M. C. Mathews of Minneapolis on the early history of the church.

A sketch and a portrait of Mr. James Doville of Dakota, who it is claimed has lived in Winona County since 1848, and is thus the "oldest living settler in the county," are published in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for October 23.

Some recollections of Mr. Ernest E. Cadwell about his forty-two years of service in the Minneapolis fire department are published in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for November 14.

The laying of the corner stone of the new parish house of Gethsemane Episcopal Church of Minneapolis occasioned the publication of a sketch of the history of the church and of the services of its first pastor, Reverend David B. Knickerbacker, in the *Minneapolis Journal* for October 7.

Members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of St. Paul celebrated its seventy-seventh anniversary on November 28 and 29.



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