

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

History of the American Frontier, 1763-1893. By FREDERIC L. PAXSON, professor of history in the University of Wisconsin. (Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1924. xvii, 598 p. Maps.)

The publisher's announcement of a *History of the American Frontier* undoubtedly sent a thrill of anticipation through a considerable portion of the historical profession. For many years now instructors giving courses in "The History of the West," "The West in American History," "The Pioneer in American History," or similar subjects, have prefaced their lectures with the statement that "there is no single volume covering the contents of this course." It is true that since the publication of Professor Turner's brilliant papers in a single volume under the title *The Frontier in American History*, a few years ago, students have had convenient access to the fruits of research which will remain a monument to the man who boldly challenged the conventional and pioneered a new interpretation of American history. The membership rolls of historical societies and associations contain the names of a host of men and women who for years have followed the trails blazed by the first explorer; but until the year 1924 no one had produced a synthesis "in which an attempt is made to show the proportions of the whole story."

Professor Paxson needs no introduction. Through numerous articles of excellent quality setting forth certain phases of western history and through four volumes covering rather extensive periods of American history he had qualified for a position among those worthy to carry on the Turner tradition. The preface to the present volume ventures the modest prediction that the author's successors will improve upon his effort; the reviewer dares to improve upon the prophecy. Future historians will gratefully remember Mr. Paxson for essaying a task which others had either shirked or felt themselves incompetent to perform.

In the present volume the pioneer is followed to every frontier between 1763 and 1893. The fifty-nine chapters are so crowded with facts that the reader marvels at the industry of the author. With great pains and accuracy he marshals the facts which he has been in the process of collecting for twenty years. His literary genius does not shine in quotations from secondary and source material; he has made his material a part of himself. Generously conceding the merits of his achievement, it must be partially neutralized by saying that the pages lack the luster of pungent sentences judiciously selected from illustrative material which cannot escape the student of western history. It is a matter-of-fact West that is laid before our eyes. There are no Indian war whoops to frighten the army of facts out of step. We are not permitted to converse with the man in the older sections to learn from him why he took leave of friends and relatives in favor of Indian fighting and a prolonged struggle with an environment that was as inexorable as it was generous. Where is the frontier preacher who baptized young and old, visited the sick, buried the dead, married the living, preached the Gospel, organized churches, challenged his rival to public debate, and thrashed the leader of the rowdies? The hosts of European immigrants who read the letters and writings of men like Duden, Scholte, and Ole Rynning; the "fanatics" like those who came to establish the New Jerusalem of Eric Janson on the Illinois prairies; the agents of land and railway companies sent to England, Scotland, Germany, Scandinavia, Holland, and Switzerland to people the frontier of the thirties, forties, and fifties with hard-headed, close-fisted, courageous, God-fearing settlers—these are not in the picture. The jostling of the races and the clash of creeds and "cultures"—in short, the social history of the frontier—are dim in Mr. Paxson's pages. The problem of education, the efforts of home missionary societies to set up beacons of enlightenment, the leaven of the frontier in the whole American lump do not receive their due allotment of space.

These are formidable omissions, but they are not set down in the spirit of carping criticism. The pioneer is not expected to do everything that needs to be done. In a domain of knowledge so vast, the author cannot crowd everything into a single volume.

It is easy enough to criticise on the ground of omissions or emphasis, and each individual is entitled to make his own decisions as to what to stress. And there are a goodly number of excellent chapters and numerous examples of fine writing.

By 1800 the external aspect of the landscape was changing, with the extension of cleared fields, and the gradual rebuilding of cabins over the older areas. But inside the cabins the family life still embraced the whole range of domestic manufactures. The frontier graveyards show how hard the early life was on the women of the family. The patriarch laid to rest in his family tract, beside two, three, or four wives who had preceded him, is much more common than the hardy woman who outlived her husbands. The housewife came to her new home young and raw, and found for neighbors other girls as inexperienced. She bore the children; and buried a staggering number of them, for medicine and sanitation, inadequate everywhere, were out of reach for the cabin on the border. She fed her men and raised her children, cooked their food and laid it by for the winter. She was at once butcher, packer, and baker. The family clothes showed her craftsmanship, with skins playing a large part, and homespun or knitting revealing a luxury established. When one adds to the grinding and unavoidable labor, the anguish that came from sickness and danger, the frontier woman who survived becomes an heroic character, and the children who felt her touch become the proper material from which to choose the heroes of a nation (p. 114).

Professor Paxson has a keen insight into the intricacies of frontier finance and the inside workings of canal and railroad corporations. His own research and that of a group of graduate students under his guidance have given the pages devoted to the railroads the touch of the master hand. The chapters on the public lands are interpretative as well as factual. The author understands the political theories of the frontier and the conditions that gave them birth. He finds his way through the "cow country" like an experienced traveler. Eleven maps are useful supplements to the text.

Fourteen years ago Mr. Paxson wrote in the preface to his *Last American Frontier* that he hoped "before many years to exploit in a larger and more elaborate form the mass of detailed information upon which this sketch is based." A careful read-

ing of the *History of the American Frontier* warrants the assertion that his hopes have been realized in reasonably gratifying measure.

GEORGE M. STEPHENSON

Social Politics in the United States. By FRED E. HAYNES, assistant professor of sociology, State University of Iowa. (Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1924. xii, 414 p.)

"Studies begun in the nineties and published in two volumes . . . convinced the writer that social and economic factors had played a more important part in our politics than was realized. These factors explained the origin of minor parties and gradually were bringing about a socialization of our politics." With this statement in the preface the author explains why he has undertaken the study, hence it is to be presumed that the work is intended as an interpretation of American political development in the light of basic economic and social conditions. That it accomplishes this purpose may be open to question. What seems actually to be done is the sketching of the rise and development of a number of more or less radical movements in the United States. The titles of some of the chapters indicate the nature of the subjects: "Economic Conditions and American Democracy," "Marxian Socialism," "The Labor Movement," "Third Parties," "The Progressive Movement," "The Industrial Workers of the World," "The Nonpartisan League," and "The New Farmers' Movement." The last chapter gives a survey of "Recent Social Progress," factors of which are stated as workmen's compensation, mothers' pension, health insurance, child labor legislation, and the like.

If one desires a rather compact statement of the facts about these different movements this book affords a useful summary. If, however, there is sought their interpretation, their interrelations with other social phenomena, one must go elsewhere. Both the title and the preface raise expectations which are not realized in the book itself.

LESTER B. SHIPPEE

A History of the Canadian Pacific Railway. By HAROLD A. INNIS, PH. D., lecturer in the Department of Political Economy in the University of Toronto. (London, P. S. King and Son, Ltd.; Toronto, McClelland and Steward, Ltd., 1923. viii, 365 p.)

The building of the Canadian Pacific Railway marked a new epoch in the history of Canada. Built through a new unsettled country, over plains and rugged mountains, it was the forerunner of an advancing civilization. It has been the primal factor in the solidifying of Canadian political unity and the development of a Canadian nationality. The story of the construction of the railroad and of its varied effects on national expansion and solidarity has been told in this scholarly and accurate work.

The author is conscious of the larger significance that the railway has exercised in Dominion growth when he says that the history of the road is primarily the "history of the spread of western civilization over the northern half of the North American continent." He adds that the "Canadian Pacific Railway, as a vital part of the technological equipment of western civilization, has increased to a very marked extent the productive capacity of that civilization."

The writer has undoubtedly given considerable time to the search for documentary material, and has used his documents with critical judgment. Very little space is devoted to the personalities and achievements of the company's members, however. The author has in fact avoided the personal approach and has attempted to study his subject "from an evolutionary and scientific point of view."

The reviewer questions the necessity of giving so much space in a comparatively short study to the early exploration and settlement of the Canadian Pacific coast and the Hudson Bay drainage basin. In the introductory chapter there is a voluminous display of references, many of which appear to serve no essential purpose in Dr. Innis' thesis. Two-thirds of this chapter, at the least, consists of references and long quotations made largely from secondary or very well-known primary sources. The material treated, too, is of such a familiar character that it seems unnecessary to cite authorities so elaborately. Of course the extensive citation of sources in the succeeding chapters,

especially in those that deal properly with the history of the railway, serves a real purpose, and here the writer uses good judgment in discriminating between the sources used.

Often the author's language lacks force and clearness. There is a constant repetition of words and phrases. The sentences, too, are frequently long and involved. It is necessary sometimes to read a passage over two or three times before the author's meaning is grasped. There are a few slight mistakes in the text, typographical and otherwise, and a few misspelled words are scattered throughout the work.

To the student who is interested in Canadian-American relations and Minnesota history, Dr. Innis' book possesses special interest. In discussing the rise of a Canadian interest in the Northwest, the annexation of that territory by Canada, and the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, he brings out clearly the Canadian fear of American aggression. The Alaska-Russian project of the Western Union Telegraph Company in 1865, the annexation bill of 1866, the purchase of Alaska, and the Northern Pacific Railway project are cited as causes of Canadian anxiety. The author states that increase in settlement in the Red River colony, its desire for a better market, and the growth of American trade caused definite dissatisfaction in the Canadian Northwest, but that the British government took a more active interest in that region when confronted with signs of American imperialism and the rapid western development of the United States. "Evidences of American Imperialism, as shown particularly in the offer of Anglo-American capitalists to purchase the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company, proved a decided stimulus to further activity," the author declares.

Finally, he says that the great increase of United States trade with the Red River settlement impressed the Canadians with the potentialities of the region. The gold discoveries in British Columbia and the immigration thereby occasioned were additional stimuli to British and Canadian solicitude as to the Canadian West, and this solicitude hastened the agreement with British Columbia which led eventually to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Any adverse criticism that has been made in this review must not be permitted to detract from the real merit of Dr. Innis'

book. It is a nonprejudiced, straightforward, and thorough account of the history of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

JOHN PERRY PRITCHETT

America of the Fifties: Letters of Fredrika Bremer (Scandinavian Classics, vol. 23). Selected and edited by ADOLPH B. BENSON. (New York, The American-Scandinavian Foundation, 1924. xx, 344 p. Illustrations.)

Among the most charming pictures of America as seen through European eyes is that revealed in the letters sent back to Sweden by Fredrika Bremer during her two-year sojourn in the United States from 1849 to 1851. As an author of established reputation, she had access to the best American homes, and she took full advantage of her position not only to acquaint herself with the East, an experience which satisfied so many early visitors to America, but also to see and to study the South and the West. Thus this volume of selections from her letters is of direct interest to the people of all sections of the United States which could be reached with any degree of comfort in 1850.

After landing in New York with its "great high-street . . . where people and carriages pour along in one incessant stream and in true republican intermixture," Miss Bremer spent an entire year viewing with European leisure the East and the Southeast and meeting the most brilliant of America's literary celebrities — Bryant, Lowell, Emerson, Whittier, Longfellow, and "Washington Irving, who, together with Fennimore Cooper, was the first to make us in Sweden somewhat at home in America." Early in September, 1850, she began that journey westward by way of Niagara, Chicago, Madison, Galena, and the Mississippi, which brought her to Minnesota.

Of this most remote part of the New World which she undertook to visit Miss Bremer left a fascinating picture — fascinating at least to those who now inhabit this one-time frontier. Only a fraction of her original account, however, has been retained in the present volume. What is undoubtedly her most interesting comment on the region is given due prominence, as is natural in a volume published by the American-Scandinavian Foundation, for in October, 1850, she exclaims: "What a glorious new Scan-

dinavia might not Minnesota become! Here the Swede would find again his clear, romantic lakes, the plains of Scåne rich in corn, and the valleys of Norrland; here the Norwegian would find his rapid rivers, his lofty mountains . . . and both nations, their hunting-fields and their fisheries. . . . The climate, the situation, the character of the scenery agrees with our people better than that of any other American States." It was just such statements, repeated by scores of travelers and settlers from Europe's northern peninsula, that led to Minnesota the vast Scandinavian population which distinguishes the state today.

A comparison of the fifty pages devoted to Minnesota in Miss Bremer's original volume, published in 1853, and the ten pages in the present volume, reveals the fact that a great deal of historically valuable material has been lost in condensing two volumes of 650 pages each to a single volume of moderate size. For example, the omission of Miss Bremer's description of the Mississippi River steamboat on which she enjoyed the company of Mr. and Mrs. Sibley between Galena and St. Paul is a real loss. The consecutive smoothness of the original letters is also missed in these rather choppy and often disconnected extracts. On the other hand the American-Scandinavian Foundation has published a book which is decidedly more inviting to most readers than Miss Bremer's *Homes of the New World*. The very title challenges the attention of all who are interested in early American social conditions, whereas the saccharine sentimentality of the title of the original English translation, which reflects a like quality in the letters, is enough to discourage the average reader. The editor has done much to rid the letters of this flavor, so characteristic of the writing of the period.

In a brief introduction Mr. Benson gives the setting for the letters—a sketch of the author and her accomplishments, a hasty enumeration of the characteristics of the America which she visited, and some contemporary American comments about her. It enables the reader to approach more intelligently this interesting account of America which is now made available in such an attractive format. Two portraits of Miss Bremer and several of her pencil sketches of American friends illustrate the volume.

BERTHA L. HEILBRON

Year-book of the Swedish Historical Society of America. Volume 9. (St. Paul, 1924. 143 p.)

This *Year-book* maintains the high standard of excellence set in the recent annuals of the Swedish Historical Society of America. The opening article is a valuable study of "Early Efforts at Scandinavian Church Union in America," by A. A. Stomberg, which throws light upon the theological controversies among the Scandinavians up to 1870. The second article is a brief account by G. N. Swan of the first Swedish settlers in Iowa.

The most of the volume is devoted to a series of "Letters from Pioneer Days," compiled and edited by Dr. Conrad Peterson of Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. These are drawn from four groups of manuscripts, the Esbjörn, Hasselquist, and Norelius papers, owned by Augustana College and the Augustana Book Concern of Rock Island, Illinois, and the Mattson Papers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. Most of the material selected for publication consists of letters or extracts from letters written in the fifties and sixties. The first document, however, is entitled "A Journey from Sweden to America in 1849" and consists of extracts from the diary of L. P. Esbjörn, based upon a copy of that diary made by Eric Norelius in 1886. The diary gives a vivid picture of an emigrant's journey, but unfortunately the record was broken off before Esbjörn reached America. The fragmentary character of the material is accentuated by the fact that the entries are not printed in full. What is given is so interesting and illuminating that the reader cannot escape a feeling of regret that the entire diary is not printed.

In presenting the letters Dr. Peterson writes that his aim "has been merely to illustrate and to catch something of the spirit" of the fifties and the sixties with reference to the Swedish-Americans. "Hardly a topic is touched upon in which the same collection does not contain a good deal more of enlightening material." Not counting the diary Dr. Peterson presents fifty-six letters and documents. In each case the original Swedish is followed by a literal English translation. The letters reveal in interesting fashion the material and spiritual experiences of Swedish immigrants in the upper Mississippi Valley in the fifties and sixties as these experiences were reported to pioneer ministers

like T. N. Hasselquist, Erland Carlsson, and Eric Norelius. There is also some material throwing light upon the situation in Sweden. A letter from a minister in that country, written on March 1, 1854, gives a graphic account of the effects of "America letters" upon the members of his congregation. This minister even spoke from the pulpit in an effort to check the "America fever," but his words had little effect in the face of the glowing reports sent from America by immigrants. Wrote one, "All alike; the farmer, the minister and the judge all have the same title. One does not need to go and bow and nod, hat in hand." Visions of social democracy went hand in hand with hopes of economic freedom. One immigrant summed up the whole situation by declaring of himself, "No count in Sweden lives better." Many of the letters were written by pioneers at Chisago Lake and describe conditions in that Minnesota settlement. Perhaps the most interesting letters in the collection from the point of view of Minnesota history are those from Hans Mattson to Hasselquist, written in the early fifties, and from Mattson to his wife, written during the Civil War. Particularly noteworthy is a letter written at Fort Snelling on October 3, 1861, in which Mattson explains to his wife the reasons why he enlisted.

It is evident that the manuscript collections from which Dr. Peterson has drawn his materials are important sources not only for the history of the Swedes in America but also for the history of the upper Mississippi Valley.

T. C. B.

History of the 151st Field Artillery, Rainbow Division (Minnesota War Records Commission, *Publications*, vol. 2 — *Minnesota in the World War*, vol. 1). By LOUIS L. COLLINS; edited by WAYNE E. STEVENS, PH. D. (St. Paul, 1924. xxiv, 427 p. Illustrations, maps.)

The second volume to be published by the Minnesota War Records Commission maintains the high standard of scholarship and workmanship attained in the first, but it differs materially from its predecessor in character and content. Volume 1 of this series had to do with the part played by Minnesota in the Spanish-

American War and the Philippine Insurrection. Written by a trained historian twenty-five years after those conflicts were over, the work naturally enough took the form of a scientific historical monograph. It is high grade secondary material.¹ The volume before us, however, is written much closer upon the events it narrates and in large part by one who was an active participant in them — not merely an historian. Much of the *History of the 151st Field Artillery* is therefore source material — precisely the sort of thing Mr. Holbrook must have longed for and found wanting when he wrote of the war of 1898.

Lieutenant Governor Collins, however, would be the first to insist that the work is neither exclusively his own nor exclusively based upon his own observations. The assistance of members of the War Records Commission staff, and more particularly of the editor of the volume, Mr. Wayne E. Stevens, clearly helped him much in the enrichment of his narrative and the correction of his data. Furthermore, it was not until February, 1918, that, according to Colonel Leach's diary, "Louis Collins arrived from Minneapolis . . . to enlist in the regiment." For the early history of the 151st and the trip to France, therefore, Lieutenant Governor Collins is strictly historian, and not observer. And for the rest of it he draws not only upon his personal recollections, but also freely upon all available sources, especially the remarkable Leach diary kept by the regimental commander and previously published. Even so, the work as a whole is dominated by the fact that the writer was much of the time an eyewitness and an actual participant — above all, one who saw much and could tell what he saw.

As Mr. Stevens points out, the regiment is no more fortunate in its historian than the historian is fortunate in his theme. The 151st was originally a unit of the Minnesota National Guard; as such it saw service on the Mexican border; and later it became a part of the famous Rainbow Division "which, because of its composite organization, perhaps most completely represented the spirit of the embattled nation. The history of the 151st may, in a sense, be regarded as typical of the story of

¹This volume, by Franklin F. Holbrook, secretary of the Minnesota War Records Commission, is reviewed *ante*, 5: 208-210.

the division as a whole, and in its pages the reader may even follow in broad outline the story of the major operations of the entire A. E. F." Some of the chapter titles give a good idea of the varied over-seas experience of the "Gopher Gunners"—"In the Lorraine Line," "The Champagne Defensive," "The German Retreat from the Marne," "On to the Vesle," "The Reduction of the St. Mihiel Salient," "The Meuse-Argonne Offensive," "On the Rhine."

For those who viewed the World War from this side of the Atlantic the reading of these pages awakens memories that were beginning to fade: those anxious days of scanning the news to see what advance, what retreats, had been made; that intimate knowledge, so unnatural to an American, of the geography of northeastern France; that sublime and unreasoned hatred of all things German; those strange words of modern warfare—echelons, salients, sectors, blimps, box barrages, duds. For the men who were actually with the fighting force at the front the memories aroused will be different. Doubtless they will recall the mud and the marching, the "tin" rations and the "cooties," quite as vividly as the travels in France and the deeds of actual combat.

Oh, they show you the horse that you're going to ride,
But they don't show the shovel on the other side.

And yet the narrative is but a plain and faithful chronicle of events. If emotions are aroused it is not because any conscious effort has been made to arouse them, for the temptation to overdraw the picture is everywhere rigorously repressed. Soldiers who are "killed in action" are not recorded as "having made the supreme sacrifice"; men mortally wounded are merely "evacuated to the rear." The author and the editor have evidently conspired to tell in dignified and restrained language and with the greatest possible precision merely what happened and how it happened. They are content to let the record speak for itself. Perhaps the happy combination of participant as writer and historian as editor, which the Minnesota War Records Commission has here hit upon, is in some part responsible for the excellent result obtained.

About half of the volume is devoted to Lieutenant Governor Collins' story. A third more is used to present carefully selected official documents, which, as the editor says, serve "to support and verify the statements contained in the accompanying narrative," to afford for "those who may be interested an opportunity to secure more detailed and technical information," to supply material illustrative of "certain aspects of military life and activity," and to give to the officers and men of the regiment "an opportunity for the first time to read some of the orders under which they fought in France in 1918." The rest of the volume is given over to a roster of the regiment and an ample index.

The business of writing the history of Minnesota's part in the World War has clearly fallen into good hands. Succeeding volumes will be awaited with keen anticipation.

JOHN D. HICKS

Elementary Citizenship for Minnesota Schools. By R. B. MACLEAN, president of the Moorhead Teachers College, and H. E. FLYNN, inspector of teacher training departments in Minnesota high schools. (St. Paul, Webb Publishing Company, 1923. 211 p. Illustrations.)

This book presents "a body of civic material . . . for the use of both teachers and pupils in realizing the purpose of the course in citizenship . . . and for the elementary schools of Minnesota." The chief aim of this course, say the authors, is the development of coöperation in group life, first in the family, then in the community, and then in state and nation. The chapters are arranged with this order in mind; thus the first two chapters, on "Courtesy and Right Conduct" and "Health and Sanitation," pertain more to family life than the last two, on "The Making of an American Citizen" and "The Machinery of Government." The six intermediate chapters deal with recreation, charitable and penal institutions, education, the courts, the police, various other state agencies, taxation, accident and fire prevention, transportation and communication, and the interrelation of natural resources, labor, and capital. These subjects are presented in their lowest terms of course and the more abstruse are made

real to the child by simple examples and analogies. In the chapters on "Minnesota's Public School System" and "The Machinery of Government" some historical background is included. A useful appendix reprints the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; and a "Manual for Teachers" contains suggestions for method and approach.

On the whole the book succeeds admirably in its purpose, and should be of real service to teachers, to the future citizens of the state, and so to the state itself. Frequent and well-chosen illustrations add to the interest of the text.

ELIZABETH H. BUCK

St. Louis County, Minnesota, Chronology, From the Earliest Times to and Including the Year 1900. By WILLIAM E. CULKIN. (Duluth, St. Louis County Historical Society, 1924. 41 p.)

The best indication of the vitality of local historical societies is publication. It is particularly gratifying therefore to note the appearance of this pamphlet, which is the first publication of the recent crop of county historical societies in Minnesota. As readers of this magazine know, the St. Louis County Historical Society was established in 1922 following the state historical convention at Duluth, is affiliated with the state society as an institutional member, and has a small appropriation from the county. This publication, which was compiled by the president of the society, the Honorable William E. Culklin, was made possible by a contribution from the American Exchange Bank of Duluth.

The work is more than a bare chronology; it includes, as the foreword states, "a sort of abstract of title in a historical sense." In other words, much attention is devoted to changes of jurisdiction, especially as indicated by treaties and legislative acts. For the later period the statutes of the territory and state furnish most of the information. The significance for St. Louis County of the events and enactments listed is brought out, and references are cited whenever necessary.

In a work of this sort covering so wide a range it is very difficult to avoid inaccuracies of statement, and a few such have

been noted, as well as a number of slips and typographical errors. The principal items omitted are the capitulation of Montreal in 1760, by which Canada, including nominally the area of St. Louis County, was surrendered to the English; and the Proclamation of 1763, by which that area was included in the territory reserved for the Indians for the time being. The author was unduly modest in failing to put his name on the title page. Readers and especially librarians like to know at first glance who is responsible for a given work.

S. J. B.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

With the completion of the first decade of its existence, this magazine alters its title from MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN to MINNESOTA HISTORY, A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE in order to signalize a change in the character of the publication. In addition to scholarly contributions to knowledge, each number will contain some material designed to have a wider popular appeal or to be useful to teachers of Minnesota history in the schools. Several new features will be added, for example, a section of reprints of illuminating extracts from books of travel and other publications not generally accessible outside the largest libraries, and a series of popular talks under the general heading of "Radio-grams of Minnesota History." This change in policy will necessitate some expansion in the average size of the issues and consequently those of a single year instead of two years will make a volume hereafter. The months of issue will be March, June, September, and December.

The fourth state historical convention is to be held on June 17 and 18 at Winona and La Crosse. The meeting will be under the joint auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Tentative plans have been made for the holding of the sessions of the first day at Winona, upon the invitation of the Winona Association of Commerce. The sessions of the second day of the convention will be held at La Crosse.

The additions to the active membership during the quarter ending December 31, 1924, numbered sixty-eight, which bring the total to 1,350. A list of the names of the new members, grouped by counties, follows:

ANOKA: Emily W. Gates of Anoka.

BECKER: John S. Comstock of Detroit and Mrs. Walter F. Just of Frazee.

BLUE EARTH: Charles R. Butler and William D. Willard of Mankato.

BROWN: William R. Caswell and George L. Schmidt of New Ulm.

CARLTON: Oscar W. Samuelson of Carlton.

CLAY: Miss E. M. Probstfield of Moorhead.

COTTONWOOD: Mrs. R. H. Jefferson of Bingham Lake.

FREEBORN: Edward A. Storvick of Albert Lea.

HENNEPIN: Edward D. Anderson, Mrs. Charles C. Bovey, R. E. Burbridge, Alexander Campbell, Mrs. Bertha Capstick, Lawrence S. Clark, Leo M. Crafts, Norton M. Cross, James E. Dorsey, John J. Flather, Wilbur B. Foshay, Louis Gluek, George Hoke, John B. Johnston, William G. Loye, Henry C. Mackall, Joseph F. Moore, Mrs. Bertha A. Morse, Katherine Moyer, William E. Nelson, Frank H. Peterson, James H. Rees, Horace Ropes, Mrs. Clara M. Schutt, Arthur W. Selover, Frank W. Shaw, George Sverdrup, and George B. Webster, all of Minneapolis.

LAC QUI PARLE: Carl M. Johnson of Dawson.

LINCOLN: Gwendolyn E. Magandy of Tyler.

MILLE LACS: Rufus P. Morton of Princeton.

OLMSTED: Mrs. William F. Braasch of Rochester.

PENNINGTON: Charles E. Hellquist of Thief River Falls.

PINE: Elna H. Pederson of Askov.

RAMSEY: Charles L. Conley, Watson P. Davidson, Ross A. Gortner, J. Marie Gronvold, John M. Leonard, Harold J. Richardson, Mrs. Edward N. Saunders, Dr. Arnold Schwyzer, Florence C. Stork, and Herman W. F. Wollaeger, all of St. Paul.

REDWOOD: Emil C. Steinhauser of Lambertton.

ST. LOUIS: Frank Crassweller of Duluth, and Henry G. Seeley of Biwabik.

SWIFT: Julius Thorson of Benson.

WINONA: Right Reverend Patrick R. Heffron and A. W. Sawyer of Winona.

NONRESIDENT: W. P. Willets of Glendale, California; Minotte H. Chatfield of New Haven, Connecticut; C. J. Harlan of Cresco, and Olaf M. Norlie of Decorah, Iowa; Edward C. Bailly of New York City; Herman J. Nangle of Devils Lake, North Dakota; and Sylvester C. Davis of Seattle, Washington.

The society lost three active members by death during the last quarter: Dr. Archibald McLaren of St. Paul, October 12; Petter L. Lundberg of Ullstorp, Onnestad, Sweden, October 22; and Mrs. Francis L. Frary of Minneapolis, December 14.

The number of subscriptions to the society's publications has been increased to 157 by the addition of 18 institutions during the last quarter. These include the public library of Marshall, the public schools of Adams, Bemidji, Cokato, Excelsior, Grand Rapids, Hector, Heron Lake, Hitterdal, Keewatin, Lambertton, Paynesville, Renville, Stewartville, Stillwater, and Willmar; the Mankato State Teachers College; and Concordia College library of St. Paul.

The monthly radio talks on Minnesota history topics by representatives of the society have been resumed from the Twin City Radio Station WCCO. On October 20 the assistant superintendent gave a talk entitled "Minnesota: An Historical Interpretation," and on November 17 he spoke on "Minnesota Trail Blazers in the French Period." On December 15 the curator of the museum gave the eighteenth talk in the series on the subject, "With Zebulon Pike in Minnesota, 1805-06."

That the radio talks possess popular appeal is evidenced by the fact that several of them have been used as articles in local magazines. For example, the talk given by the curator of manuscripts on the subject of pioneer missionaries to the Minnesota Indians is published in the *Western Magazine* for October under the title "Early Day Missionaries to Indians"; and an address on "Old Manuscripts and Minnesota History" by the assistant superintendent appears in the December number of the *Gopher-M*, the monthly magazine of the Minneapolis Athletic Club.

A number of speeches on historical topics, apart from the radio talks, have been given by staff members during the quarter. The superintendent addressed the Stillwater Rotary Club on October 16 on the subject "Introducing Minnesota"; and on December 9 he gave an illustrated talk on the "History of St. Paul" to the members of the St. Paul Real Estate Board. The

assistant superintendent addressed the St. Paul Cosmopolitan Club on November 21 on "Cosmopolitan Features of the State's Past." A series of biweekly talks for children has been given by the curator of the museum at the Riverview Branch Library, St. Paul, on the topics "Primitive Man," "Indian Life," the "Coming of the White Man," "Fort Snelling," and "Indian Warfare." On November 10 he spoke to the class in recent American history at Hamline University on the subject of "The Adjustment of the Indians to White Civilization."

A scholarly study of "Major Lawrence Taliaferro, Indian Agent," by Willoughby M. Babcock, Jr., curator of the society's museum, appears in the December *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*. The paper was originally read at the state historical convention at Redwood Falls in 1923 and is summarized *ante*, 5: 278-280.

A brief review of the work of the society from its founding in 1849 to the present, with emphasis upon progress in the last twenty-five years, is contributed by the curator of the museum to the *Western Magazine* for December. In the same magazine under the title "So This is St. Paul!" there is a short statement about changes in that city during the last quarter of a century written by the society's newspaper librarian, Mr. John Talman.

The superintendent and the curator of manuscripts attended the Richmond meeting of the American Historical Association in December (see *post*, p. 78). During the meeting they participated in a conference of state historical agencies in the upper Mississippi Valley, at which important decisions were reached concerning the coöperative calendaring of material in the national archives in Washington and of the American Fur Company Papers in the possession of the New York Historical Society. (See *ante*, 5: 142, 224, 457, 504.) After the meeting Dr. Nute visited a number of libraries and other depositories in the East in search of historical material and discovered a number of groups of manuscripts, hitherto unknown, which are of primary importance for the early history of Minnesota. A report of her discoveries will appear in the next issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY.

The curator of the society's museum attended a museum conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on November 17 and 18, at which organization was effected of the "Wisconsin Museum Conference," a society of museum workers in Wisconsin and the upper Mississippi Valley which will hold two meetings yearly and serve generally to coördinate museum activities in this region. Mr. Babcock was elected a member of the executive committee of the new organization. On the same trip he visited the Chicago Historical Society and spent six days at Madison, Wisconsin, where he worked in the manuscript division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, examining photostats of the Indian Office Letter Books and the Forsyth Papers in the possession of that society. Both of these collections contain important material on the history of Indian affairs in the Northwest.

The assistant superintendent of the society was elected president of the history section of the Minnesota Education Association at its annual meeting in November.

The memory of Paul Hjelm-Hansen was honored on October 10 through the presentation to the society of a handsome commemorative bronze plaque designed by Paul Fjelde of New York, which bears the inscription: "Paul Hjelm Hansen, Born Bergen Norway, 1810, Died Goodhue County Minnesota 1881, Who Through the Norwegian-American Press Blazed the Way for the Scandinavian Settlers of the Red River Valley. Presented to the Minnesota Historical Society by the Norwegian-Danish Press Association of America." The presentation was made at a special meeting held in the society's auditorium on the afternoon of October 10, at which a paper dealing with the life and the writings of Hjelm-Hansen was read by Mr. Carl G. Hansen of Minneapolis. Mr. N. N. Rønning of Minneapolis, president of the press association, made a brief presentation talk, and the speech of acceptance was given by Dr. William W. Folwell, president of the society. The superintendent, Dr. Solon J. Buck, then spoke briefly on the value of the Scandinavian-American press. Readers of this magazine will recall a brief summary of the career of Hjelm-Hansen printed *ante*, 5: 579, as a report of a paper read at the state historical convention in Detroit. An

interesting and informing sketch of the career of Hjelm-Hansen by Mr. Rönning is published in *Familiens Magazin* for October. The acquisition by the society of some of the papers of Hjelm-Hansen (see *post*, p. 74) was probably a result of the extensive publicity given by the press to the Hjelm-Hansen plaque.

ACCESSIONS

The society has made a valuable addition to its collection of materials relating to Norwegian immigration and the Norwegian element in the United States by securing typewritten copies of seven rare pamphlets published in Norway between 1837 and 1854. For several years the assistant superintendent, Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, has been conducting a search for contemporary material relating to Norwegian immigration, and from various sources he has built up a bibliography of books and pamphlets in this field. A list of unlocated material was turned over to Mr. Gunnar Malmin, who spent the year 1923-24 in the Scandinavian countries working for the Carnegie Institution of Washington in the archives of those countries. Mr. Malmin located and had copied for the Minnesota Historical Society five of the rarest items in Mr. Blegen's list, the titles of which (in translation) are herewith given: Peter Testman (Blikkenslager), *A Brief Account of the Most Important Experiences during a Sojourn in North America and upon Several Journeys Connected Therewith* (Stavanger, 1839); Sjur Jörgenson Haaeim, *Reports on Conditions in North America Especially with Reference to the Fate of the Norwegians Who Have Gone There, Written by a Norwegian Bonde Who Emigrated But Came Back Again* (Christiania, 1842); Jan Adolph Budde, *From a Letter about America* (Stavanger, 1850); *Interesting Reports on North America, Described by a Traveler* (Arendal, 1852), an anonymous work, which although published in Norway came from the pen of a Dane; and Hans Tønnesen Steene, *An Account of a Three Years' Journey in America Made in the Years from 1849 to 1852 among the Norwegian Emigrants in the United States of North America* (Stavanger, 1854). Two other pamphlets, not in the list, were found in Norway by Mr. Malmin and were copied for the society. One is entitled (in translation) *A Word of Warning to the Bønder in Bergen Diocese Who Are Eager to*

Emigrate; A Pastoral Letter from the Bishop of the Diocese (Bergen, 1837), written by the well-known Norwegian, Bishop Neumann; and the other is Laurits Jacob Friberg, *Handbook for Emigrants to the American West, with Directions for the Journey, together with a Description of the Life and Agricultural Methods, More Especially in Wisconsin* (Christiania, 1847), a work by a Dane which had considerable influence not only upon the Danish emigration but also upon the Norwegian. Taken as a whole the seven pamphlets mentioned above constitute perhaps the most important addition made within the last decade to the known sources of information on Norwegian immigration. They throw light upon almost every aspect of the immigration from the thirties to the fifties. Mr. Blegen is planning to bring out English translations of several of the newly-discovered pamphlets. Mr. Malmin also had copied for the society the manuscript of an unpublished book by Mr. Abraham Grimstedt, which is made up primarily of a collection of thirty-one immigrant letters written and sent to Norway in the period from 1850 to 1875 by three members of a Norwegian family. The letters, most of which were written in Wisconsin, constitute a valuable source for the history of Norwegian settlement. The entire collection of new material which has been added to the society's resources in this field may be considered a timely acquisition in view of the fact that a great centennial celebration in honor of the pioneer Norwegian immigrants is to be held in St. Paul in June of the present year. The building up of a great collection of historical materials relating to the Norwegians in America is in a sense the finest monument that can be proposed in honor of these hardy pioneers.

A copy of a manuscript by the famous Red River Valley pioneer, Charles Cavalier, entitled "The Red River Valley in 1851," has been presented to the society by Miss Lulah Cavalier of Pembina, North Dakota, through the courtesy of Mr. R. E. Burbridge of Duluth. The paper includes an account of Cavalier's journey to Pembina, where he was to fill the post of collector of the customs, and descriptions of life in that remote frontier settlement. Of special interest is the following comment: "In the fall of 1851 we elected our first members of the Legislature of Minnesota. Mr. Kittson was elected senator and Rolette to the lower house. That was the first grand move or step to civ-

ilization in this region. It was a sad day for me when they headed for St. Paul to prosecute their arduous labors as representatives of this wild constituency. Joe [Rolette] had a fancy carry-all. His dogs were of the best, flaunting gaudy ribbons, red cloth housing, and pretty little tinkling bells, while Kittson's team was rigged in his own style, neat but not gaudy." Cavalier wrote the paper for a meeting of old settlers at Grand Forks, North Dakota, in 1891. Among several other papers presented by Miss Cavalier is an important letter, dated February 15, 1849, written by Henry H. Sibley concerning the bill for the organization of Minnesota Territory.

In response to a published announcement of the society's plan to build up a collection of lumber industry records, Mr. John F. Gable of Marine recently presented a ledger kept by the firm of Judd, Walker, and Company of Marine Mills for the period from 1855 to 1858 — a valuable contemporary source of information on early lumbering. Doubtless many such record books are still in existence and it is hoped that others will follow Mr. Gable's example.

Home life and social activities in St. Paul from 1853 to 1864 are interestingly portrayed in a series of letters written to relatives in the East by four sisters, Mrs. William Forbes, Mrs. Louis Blum, Mrs. Alexis Bailly, and Miss Phoebe Frances Cory, and now presented to the society by Dr. James C. Ferguson of St. Paul. Soon after she came to St. Paul, Mrs. Blum wrote to her parents a letter describing in some detail her home and its furnishings, which gives an excellent idea of the manner in which St. Paul homes were furnished in 1853. Even the cellar is not neglected: "Then we have [a] very large cellar, filled with potatoes, cabbage Turnips Beans Molasses Onions Apples 8 Turkeys 3 barrel flour 20 lbs sperm candle 4 of chicken 50 doz Tallow Candle for the kitchen 7 pound Sage 10 pound dried pumpkin 2 bags Buckwheat 10 dz Eggs 30 pound butter." An entertaining bit in a letter from Mrs. Bailly, October 20, 1854, tells that Mr. Forbes has just brought to Amanda, later his wife, "the Lamplighter" beautifully bound. "We had not read it. I'm glad he brought it, for not feeling well enough to work, and not having anything else, I have been reading the

fourth reader all the morning." One letter tells of seeing Hole-in-the-Day, another of visiting the Falls of St. Anthony, another of going "up street" to get ice cream. In a letter of July 25, 1854, Mrs. Bailly writes that "there is a great deal of formality here." In the same letter she enclosed a funeral card "to let you see how the people are invited to funerals here."

An acquisition of some importance to students interested in the methods by which regions in Minnesota advertised themselves to prospective settlers in the East is a letter written from Zumbrota by Isaac C. Stearns to his brother John on October 10, 1858. The letter itself is of historical value, but even more interesting is the last page, which bears a printed advertisement of six paragraphs telling of the origin, present status, and prospects of Zumbrota.

Valuable material for the history of Winona and for the study of Minnesota settlement in the fifties and sixties is contained in a small record book of land speculations carried on by the business firm of G. W. and W. G. Ewing of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Photostats of the pages in this book have been made for the society from the original in the state library at Indianapolis.

To commemorate the "Crossing Treaty" concluded with the Chippewa Indians of the Red River Valley in 1864, a semi-centennial celebration was held at Louisville, Red Lake County, in 1914. A number of papers and articles relating to this celebration have been received by the society from Mrs. C. N. Zealand of Crookston.

The papers of Joel B. Bassett as Chippewa Indian agent for Minnesota, which furnish data of an authentic nature for a study of the turbulent conditions which prevailed among the Chippewa in the late sixties, have been received from Dr. William W. Folwell, who secured them from Mr. William L. Bassett of Los Angeles, California. The papers number about thirty-five and fall within the period from 1859 to 1868. Several letters from George Bonga, a mixed-blood of Indian and Negro extraction who acted as interpreter for Bassett, throw light upon fraudulent practices which unscrupulous whites employed against the Indians. Bonga was a strong and interesting character,

whose testimony on the question of Indian conditions bears much weight. His implicit faith in Bishop Whipple's ability to see justice done to the Indians was not without basis, for among Bassett's papers are several letters in the bishop's handwriting dealing with the matter of stopping abuses and giving the Indian a fair chance to make progress. In November, 1866, the bishop addressed a letter to Bassett saying that he had received a letter from the secretary of the treasury announcing that because of the bishop's earnest request he had appointed Bassett as Indian agent. Whipple's letter to Bassett continues: "It is the first time in my life since I became a bishop that I have ever asked a political appointment. . . . I have done so [*trusted you*] to an extent that if you should disappoint me it would ruin me & make me powerless hereafter to ask any thing for the Indians. . . . I now write to say that you have a herculean task but by Gods help you will have nerve to do it." Some of Bassett's own statements regarding the Indians under his control and the efforts of vicious whites to feather their own nests from government supplies and funds for the several tribes of Chippewa, are among the most valuable papers in the group. Another topic which receives considerable attention is the murder of Hole-in-the-Day.

A wallet containing six miscellaneous cards and papers, which was found among the personal effects of Paul Hjelm-Hansen, the Norwegian-American journalist, has been presented by Miss J. Marie Gronvold of St. Paul. One letter illustrates in interesting fashion the methods adopted by the transcontinental railroads to induce settlers to take homes along their lines. In 1880, this letter shows, the Northern Pacific Railway Company was planning the publication of small pamphlets in Swedish and Norwegian, "embracing terse but practical description of the Country, as to its geographical features, adaptability for cultivation, climate etc., including Minn., Dak., Montana & Washington Try., and in fact all that can be embraced within the space given, that will be of benefit to persons in Scandinavian Countries that are seeking new homes in our Northwest." Hjelm-Hansen was asked to write the pamphlets.

A monologue by Mr. Roe Chase of Anoka, entitled "Hair Buying Hamilton," which relates to the activity of British agents

in spurring on the Indians against the whites of the frontier during the American Revolution, has been received from the author.

About twenty-five volumes, mainly daybooks for the period from 1858 to 1865, left by Franklin Steele, have been given to the society as a supplement to the Steele Papers by Miss Katharine McCollom of Minneapolis, whose father received them from Mr. Steele.

Additions to the society's collection of military objects include two suits worn by Miss Caroline E. Peterson of Manila, Philippine Islands, when in naval service as a yeoman during the World War, presented by Miss Peterson; a sailor's uniform, a hammock and bag, and an Austrian carbine and trench knife, given by Mr. John A. Weeks of Minneapolis; a powder flask, a bullet mould, and several other objects, presented by Mr. C. J. Betleg of Monticello, Iowa; and a hospital sergeant's suit, some dress and service coats, and a helmet and some caps used by a national guardsman at the time of the Spanish-American War, presented by Dr. James C. Ferguson of St. Paul.

A grain cradle, a handmade wooden grain truck and vise, a tin candle mould, a tin candle lantern, a small iron kettle, and several other pioneer objects have been presented to the society by Mr. W. O. Cody of Waseca.

The pioneer was a resourceful individual, accustomed to doing a great many tasks which are taken over today by specialized workmen. For one thing, he was forced by circumstances to be a carpenter, and in many cases he had to make his own tools. An interesting recent addition to the society's museum objects relating to pioneer life is a collection of old-fashioned carpenter's tools, received from Mr. C. J. Betleg of Monticello, Iowa. It includes several edging, tonguing, and grooving planes, one smoothing plane for a curved surface, a gauge, a screw driver, a spoke shave, a brace, and a number of special bits.

To the society's collection of objects illustrating the history of American domestic life have been added several plates of Staffordshire, Wedgewood, ironstone, and Canton ware and some other pieces of china, presented by Mrs. James T. Morris of

Minneapolis; a small horsehair upholstered chair, a marble top center table, and a walnut secretary, given by Mrs. George O'Brien of St. Paul; a framed bouquet of hair flowers, presented by Mrs. Gunda Hemmings of Red Wing, who made it in 1860; a velvet coat and dress skirt of 1872, and an evening dress of 1891, given by Mrs. Julius Heilbron of St. Paul; and a child's silk dress of 1888, presented by Mrs. Hoyt J. Calkins of St. Paul.

A copy of Bishop Baraga's prayer book in the Ottawa language, — *Ottawa Anamie-Misinaigan*, — which was printed at Detroit in 1832 (207 p.), has been presented by Mr. William G. Loye of Minneapolis, a student in the University of Minnesota. Father Verwyst, in his *Life and Labors of Rt. Rev. Frederic Baraga* (p. 132), states that a thousand copies of the prayer book were printed at a cost of \$212. Probably very few of them are now in existence. Another edition was printed in Paris in 1837.

Some eighty valuable books and pamphlets relating to Minnesota education, which were not already represented in the society's library, are included in a collection of 327 miscellaneous items received from the Winona State Teachers College.

Gifts of miscellaneous Swedish-American books, pamphlets, and leaflets, totaling about six hundred items, have been received from Miss Esther Johnson of Minneapolis and Miss Minnie Osmann of St. Paul. Much of this material is of a fugitive sort, very difficult to secure unless collected contemporaneously. A number of Minnesota imprints are included, among them a pamphlet issued in 1875 at St. Paul containing the constitution of the Scandinavian Union, an organization which aimed at united action politically and socially among the Scandinavians.

Among valuable recent library acquisitions are sixty-eight books and pamphlets relating to the United States acquired from two European book dealers. Many are books of description by French and German travelers in America, several of them written with a view to the needs of prospective European emigrants. For students of American history — and especially students of immigration — materials of this type are naturally of great importance. In several of the books Minnesota receives special

attention. For example, in Heinrich Bosshard, *Anschaungen und Erfahrungen in Nordamerika: Eine Monatschrift* (Zürich, 1853), a series of valuable letters appears, including ten written in Minnesota in August and September, 1853, by an intelligent German traveler who published his travel letters in the form of a monthly magazine, which was eventually bound. Karl Andree's *Geographische Wanderungen* (Dresden, 1859) is a two-volume work which includes an interesting section entitled "Der Staat Minnesota am obern Mississippi." An old geography, E. W. von Greipel's *Malte-Brun's neuestes Gemälde von Amerika und seinen Bewohnern* (Leipzig, 1819), is of interest for its account of the Selkirk settlement and a description of the Chippewa Indians, and also for its account of the early Norse voyages to America. A chapter on the Sioux Indians is included in Paul Wilhelm of Württemberg, *Erste Reise nach dem nördlichen Amerika in den Jahren 1822 bis 1824* (Stuttgart and Tübingen, 1835). In J. S. Sondermann, *Die Mission der kirchlichen Missionsgesellschaft in England unter den heidmischen Indianern des nordwestlichen America* (Nurnberg, 1847), are printed German versions of letters and extracts from the diary of A. Cowley, a missionary in the Red River Valley, for 1844 and 1845. Gottfried Fritschel's *Geschichte der christlichen Missionen unter den Indianern Nordamerikas im 17 und 18 Jahrhundert* (Nurnberg, 1870) contains an account of the western missionary activities of the French Jesuits. Considerable attention is paid to the activities of the Know-Nothings and the position of the immigrant in America in La Gracerie, *De la République des Etats-Unis de L'Amérique du Nord* (Paris, 1857). Several books in the collection, such as Theodor Griesinger, *Lebende Bilder aus Amerika* (Stuttgart, 1858), contain interesting analyses of American social institutions and conditions. A chapter on Minnesota in a French encyclopedia published at Paris in 1892 is an interesting compilation; it is found in volume 16 of Elisée Reclus, *Nowvelle géographie universelle*. Taken as a whole these books make an important addition to the society's large library of works of travel and description.

NEWS AND COMMENT

At the meeting of the American Historical Association and allied organizations, held in Richmond, Virginia, from December 27 to 31, there were as usual many sessions and conferences, each with its appeal to special groups of scholars. Owing to the presence of a considerable number of English historians, much emphasis was given in the program to topics in European history, especially in the medieval period; and since the meeting was held in the capital of the Southern Confederacy many of the papers devoted to American history dealt with Civil War and southern problems. One noteworthy paper of general western interest was a study of "The Persistence of the Westward Movement in the United States," by John C. Parish, which threw important new light upon the westward tendencies of American development after the disappearance of the frontier. One of the features of a meeting of the American Historical Association is the president's address. The death of Woodrow Wilson elevated to the acting presidency of the association Dr. Charles M. Andrews of Yale University, whose address was a review of progress in American historical work during "These Forty Years." At the Conference of Archivists Mr. Robert B. House discussed the problem of caring for American archives and called special attention to the recent losses which have resulted from fires. His paper brought out the importance of the movement both in state and nation for more adequate archives housing. That the movement for archival reform is progressing, however, was shown in a paper on "Archive Legislation, 1921-1923," by George S. Godard. At the Conference of Historical Societies a discussion of "The Museum of History: A Problem" was led by Mr. L. V. Coleman.

The preparation of a dictionary of American biography comparable to the English *Dictionary of National Biography* has been made possible through a gift of a half million dollars from the *New York Times* to the American Council of Learned Societies. A permanent committee of management headed by

Dr. J. Franklin Jameson will select an editor-in-chief for the enterprise and the editorial work will be done in Washington. The dictionary will contain twenty volumes, the first of which is expected to appear within four years.

A thoughtful survey of "Religious Influences in American History," by Carl Wittke, is published in the University of California *Chronicle* for October.

In a volume entitled *Immigration: Select Documents and Case Records* (Chicago, 1924. 809 p.), edited by Edith Abbott, a mass of source material on the history of American immigration is brought together, among the most interesting items being a series of twenty-three documents throwing light upon "The Early Emigrant Ships and Attempted Regulation of Steerage Conditions, 1751-1882."

A plea for historical museums which visualize the past as a continuous development is made in a paper on "The Function of Historical Museums," by Caroline McIlvaine, which is published in the October *Bulletin* of the Chicago Historical Society.

In an important joint report by committees of several historical associations on "Books for Historical Reading in Schools," printed in the *Historical Outlook* for October, some attention is given to local history. "The resourceful teacher," it is pointed out, "will find local history (and sometimes local romance) stimulating alike to himself and his pupils. It is a field where first-hand evidence often proves available and where the pupil's interest has natural roots." It is interesting to note, in this connection, that the English Board of Education, in a *Report on the Teaching of History* (London, 1923), states, "It is essential that in each school attention should be paid to the history of the town and district in which it is situated. * This will generally be best done not by giving a separate course of work on local history, but by constant reference to the history of the locality as illustrative of the general history." The point is made that the usual textbook contains nothing but broad generalizations. The history of the locality is to be drawn upon for concrete illustrations.

Aids to Geographical Research: Bibliographies and Periodicals is the title of a useful work by John K. Wright, published by the American Geographical Society (1923. 243 p.).

Professor Dixon R. Fox's review of "Outstanding Activities of the Historical Societies 1920-1923" and Mr. William B. Shaw's paper on "The Historical Society Magazines as Viewed by an Outsider" are published in the *Proceedings* of the Nineteenth Annual Conference of Historical Societies for 1923 (Washington, 1924. 27 p.).

"The Historical Society of Today" is the title of an address by Worthington C. Ford which may be read with profit by all workers in the field of state and local history. It is published in a volume of *Addresses Delivered at the Observance of the Centennial of the New Hampshire Historical Society, September 27, 1923* (Concord, New Hampshire. 71 p.).

A valuable and interesting paper on "Copper Mining in the Early Northwest," by Louise Phelps Kellogg, is published in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for December.

A number of "Beliefs and Tales of the Canadian Dakota" are published by Wilson D. Wallace in the *Journal of American Folk Lore* for January-March, 1923. They are based upon material collected in Manitoba and derived chiefly from Wahpeton Dakota Indians. Particularly interesting is a cycle of spider tales.

An interesting letter written by a Norwegian immigrant in Chicago on June 20, 1843, and relating chiefly to the question of temperance in Norway and in America is published in *Vossingen* for July-October.

A novel dealing with pioneer life among the Norwegian settlers on the Dakota prairies has been published in Norway by Professor O. E. Rølvaag of St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, the author of numerous books of fiction dealing with Norwegian-American life. Its title is *I de Dage* [In Those Days].

Solstad, the Old and the New is the title of a new novel by James A. Peterson (1923. 344 p.) which has its setting in

Minnesota and the Far West before the Civil War and is centered about the theme of the Norwegian immigrant and his reaction to the American environment.

The annual meeting of the Swedish Historical Society of America was held in the Historical Building on October 12. Papers were read by Mr. Victor Lawson of Willmar on "The First Settlements in the Kandiyohi Region and Their Fate in the Indian Uprising of 1862," and by Mr. Theodore W. Anderson of Minneapolis on the "Early Swedish Pioneers in Kansas." The *Year-book* for 1924, which is reviewed *ante*, p. 58, was distributed to members of the society.

An interesting review of the career of Lewis Cass is given in an article entitled "Detroit's Presidential Candidate," by Milo M. Quaife, published in the *Burton Historical Collection Leaflet* for November. Appended to the article are several Cass letters, hitherto unpublished, one of which, written on April 21, 1831, from Washington, discusses arrangements for the Schoolcraft exploring expedition.

Gossip, anecdotes, tales of curious episodes, brief accounts of individuals and organizations, and miscellaneous matters make up the bulk of a volume entitled *Them Was the Good Old Days: In Davenport, Scott County, Iowa*, by W. L. Purcell (Davenport. 232 p.). The result is somewhat of a hodgepodge, but the student will find in Mr. Purcell's pages much good material illustrative of middle-western social history.

A study of *The Sale of War Bonds in Iowa*, by Nathaniel R. Whitney, has been brought out as a volume in the *Iowa Chronicles of the World War* (1923. 236 p.).

An interesting piece of social history is given in a study of "The Beginnings of Dutch Immigration to Iowa, 1845-1847," by Henry S. Lucas, which appears in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for October.

It is announced that the Missouri Historical Society has recently acquired the original sketchbooks of Henry Lewis, the artist some of whose paintings of scenes along the Mississippi River, made in the forties, are reproduced in the volume entitled

Das illustrierte Mississippithal. A new edition of this rare work was recently reviewed in this magazine (see *ante*, 5: 446).

An encyclopedia of South Dakota, a compendium of detailed information in a volume of a thousand pages or more, is announced for early publication by Mr. Doane Robinson, secretary of the State Historical Society of South Dakota. The work is "the product of fifty years' industrious gathering of material about Dakota."

"How Our Ancestors Settled in Wisconsin: A Story of the Conglomerate Peoples Composing Our Population" is the title of an article by Mr. Charles L. Curtis, published in the *Wisconsin Magazine* for October, in which special attention is given to the German, Scandinavian, Swiss, Polish, Irish, and Welsh elements in Wisconsin's population.

"Some American Influences upon the Canadian Federation Movement" is the title of a valuable essay by Reginald D. Trotter, published in the *Canadian Historical Review* for September. In his discussion of the situation in the Canadian Northwest the author uses with discrimination a number of documents drawn from the manuscript papers of James W. Taylor, owned by the Minnesota Historical Society.

The publication of source materials relating to the Riel rebellions in the Canadian Northwest is paving the way for a definitive study of that phase of western history. An interesting document under the title "Louis Riel's Account of the Capture of Fort Garry, 1870" is presented by A. H. de Trémaudan in the *Canadian Historical Review* for June, 1924. It is printed in the French original and in translation, with elaborate annotations.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

A tablet commemorating the discovery of the source of the Mississippi River was unveiled at the Minnesota Historical Building in St. Paul on November 5 by the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Minnesota. An illustrated lecture on Itasca Park was given by Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, an address on Henry R. Schoolcraft was made by Dr. Solon J. Buck, and

the speech of dedication was given by Dr. James K. Hosmer. The tablet, which will be placed later in Itasca State Park, bears the following inscription: "Itasca Lake, source of the Mississippi River, discovered by Henry R. Schoolcraft from the summit of this hill, July 13, 1832. This tablet is placed by the Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Minnesota, 1924."

In the *Community Bookshelf* for October, a publication of the Minneapolis Public Library, there is a section entitled "Tales of the Trails." It is explained that under this heading will be presented, from time to time, "glimpses of Minnesota history which the tourist finds of interest." The first installment describes an imaginary tour of the Mississippi from Lake Itasca to the Twin Cities, with explanations of place names and brief historical sketches. The second installment, in the November-December number, tells about Minneapolis, St. Anthony Falls, St. Paul, Red Wing, Frontenac, Wabasha, Winona, and Lake Pepin, including explanations of names and brief résumés of Indian legends.

A Calendar of Minnesota Government, 1925, compiled by Esther Crandall, has been issued as number 4 of the *Publications* of the bureau for research in government of the University of Minnesota (62 p.). In the *Calendar* one page is devoted to each week of the year and scheduled events connected with local county and state government are announced. Many anniversaries and other items of historical interest are included. The pamphlet is in fact a political and historical calendar and should serve many useful purposes.

An illustrated lecture entitled "Pictures of Minnesota before the Days of Photography" was given by Mr. E. C. Gale of Minneapolis at the Minnesota Institute of Arts on November 23.

An attractive little booklet, entitled *The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux with the Sioux Indians on the Minnesota River, July 23, 1851* (1924. 20 p.), which has been issued by the Hubbard Milling Company of Mankato, contains a compact and fairly accurate account of the treaty. Its chief value, however, lies in a series of interesting marginal drawings of such subjects as Indians, early explorers, river scenes, trading posts, wigwams,

buffalo, covered wagons, and prominent individuals who were connected with the making of the treaty. The frontispiece is a reproduction in colors of F. D. Millet's painting of the signing of the treaty.

A bronze tablet commemorating the discovery of the Falls of St. Anthony by Father Hennepin was presented to the city of Minneapolis by the Minnesota chapter of the Daughters of American Colonists on October 4. The ceremonies at the unveiling of the tablet, which is located at the east end of the Tenth Avenue Bridge, included an address by Dr. William W. Folwell on the "train of events which brought Father Hennepin to this point on the Mississippi river."

In a series of twenty-one articles which appear in the daily issues of the *Minneapolis Journal* from September 23 to October 13, a "veteran of Minnesota politics" presents rambling reminiscences of some of the major political happenings in the state during the past forty years. The series as a whole seems to have been written as an argument against the primary election and in favor of the old convention system. In developing his theme, however, the author sketches, from a partisan Republican viewpoint, interesting pictures of such events as the presidential preference primary of 1916 (October 4), the Democratic state convention at Duluth in 1904 (October 7), and the Hammond-Lee campaign of 1914 (October 10).

Students and alumni of St. Olaf College joined at Northfield on November 6 in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the college. A feature of the program was a review of the history of the college presented by the Reverend Olaf Lysnes of Clinton, Wisconsin.

The dedication of the new library of the University of Minnesota is fully reported in the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* for October 30. The building itself is described in an article by Clarence H. Johnston, its architect; Frank K. Walter, the university librarian, discusses "The Library as an Administrative Unit"; and there is an interesting article entitled "Early Beginnings—A History," in which special attention is given to the influence of Dr. William W. Folwell, the university's first

president and first librarian, upon the history of the university library.

A sketch and a portrait of the Reverend Thomas L. Riggs of Ree Heights, South Dakota, who was born at Lac qui Parle in 1847, and who, like his father, the Reverend Stephen R. Riggs, spent most of his life as a missionary among the Sioux, are published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 30.

A sketch of the Reverend Ezekial G. Gear, who came to Minnesota in the late thirties to serve as chaplain at Fort Snelling, is published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 26. The sketch is occasioned by the presentation of a relic of his service, a gold cross, to the woman's auxiliary of the Episcopal church of Minnesota.

A celebration in honor of "Minnesota's great dairy pioneer," Professor Theophilus L. Haecker, was held at the University Farm on January 1, when the new dairy building was named for him — Haecker Hall.

In the *Minneapolis Journal* for October 12, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the return of the Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry after the Spanish-American War, incidents connected with that home-coming are recalled. A number of pictures of the arrival of troops in Minneapolis appear with the article.

The 1924 *Annual Review* of the Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars (88 p.) contains, in addition to a brief history of the national organization, a "History of the Department of Minnesota, V. F. W.," by T. M. Thomson, and numerous sketches of posts and individuals.

A state-wide campaign to raise funds for a memorial to Senator Knute Nelson on the grounds of the state Capitol in St. Paul was launched in November.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The sixtieth anniversary celebration of Trinity Lutheran Church of Red Wing took place on October 18 and 19. A brief history of the church is published in the *Red Wing Daily Republican* for October 20.

How Austin became the county seat of Mower County through the theft from Frankford, a rival town, of a tin box containing the county records, is related in an illustrated feature article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 9. The progress of Austin since that event, the completion of its new bridge across the Red Cedar River, and the erection recently of a number of imposing structures in the town were celebrated on Armistice Day.

An account of the pioneer experiences of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Low, among the earliest settlers in Murray County, is published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 30.

On October 15 a memorial chapel, a replica of the old Traverse des Sioux Presbyterian Church, which was erected in the early fifties, was dedicated at the Traverse des Sioux cemetery. The activities of early missionaries in this region, notably of the Reverend Thomas S. Williamson, were recalled in the dedication sermon by the Reverend Maurice D. Edwards of St. Paul, a portion of whose address is printed in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 19.

In few ways is the development of Minnesota more clearly reflected than in the story of its press — a story to which another chapter has been added recently in a "Fortieth Anniversary Number" of the *St. Peter Herald*, issued on October 17. This paper is among the most interesting in the state, for from 1886 to 1904 it was edited by John A. Johnson, who later won fame as governor. A valuable outline of the history of the newspaper, illustrated with a reproduction of the first issue and with portraits of its editors and publishers, occupies a conspicuous place in this issue. An account, by Conrad Peterson, of the growth of Gustavus Adolphus College, which has been located in St. Peter for fifty years, and sketches of local business concerns and manufactures are included. The subject matter is by no means limited to St. Peter, for the issue contains brief histories of neighboring villages, such as Norseland, Eureka, Klossner, and Lafayette; and much attention is given to the development of Nicollet County's "biggest industry" — dairying.

Among the papers presented at a meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society at Duluth on December 15 was one on "Early History of Head of the Lakes," by John A. Bardon. The president of the society, Mr. William E. Culkin, announces in his second annual report that the membership is now 120 and indicates that many valuable historical documents were acquired during the year. In accordance with provisions in the constitution of the society, a copy of this report has been transmitted to the Minnesota Historical Society.

At the dedication of Merritt Memorial Park in Duluth on October 26 a bronze tablet was set up to mark the spot where the first church in "Oneota" — now a part of Duluth — stood.

A number of interesting historical papers relating to Stevens County, which were first presented before the Students' Club of Morris and have now been published in the *Morris Tribune*, afford a good example of the possibilities for local historical research which are open to women's clubs and other organizations throughout the state. In the *Tribune* for November 21 is a paper by Mrs. F. A. Hancock dealing with the scenes of Edward Eggleston's story, "The Gunpowder Plot," which are laid in Stevens County on the banks of the Pomme de Terre River. In the issue for December 26 a valuable account of "The First Newspaper of Stevens County" is presented by Mrs. Hancock. The paper in question is entitled *Frontier Business*, and several articles from the first issue in 1876 are reprinted. An excellent account of the Nelson-Kindred Congressional contest of 1882, with special attention to its Stevens County aspects, by Mrs. C. G. Dickey, appears in the *Tribune* for November 28 and December 5.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater, which was established in 1849 by the missionary, William T. Boutwell, was celebrated on December 7, 8, and 9. An illustrated history of the church appears with an announcement of the program for the celebration in the *Stillwater Daily Gazette* for December 5.

An old settlers' picnic and home-coming celebration was held at Bloomington on October 7.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank of Minneapolis was marked by the issuance of a small pamphlet which contains historical material on the development of the bank from 1874 to 1924, including a facsimile of the articles of incorporation.

The opening of the Minneapolis Public Library thirty-five years ago is recalled in an interesting article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for December 14. Special attention is given to the career of Miss Gratia Countryman, the present librarian, who has been connected with the library continuously since its opening.

On October 20 the congregation of the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church of Minneapolis celebrated the fortieth anniversary of its founding. A brief history of the church and a sketch of the Reverend Stanley B. Roberts, who has been its pastor for twenty-five years, appear in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for October 5. Another Minneapolis church, the Swedish Tabernacle, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with elaborate programs presented throughout the week of October 12.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of St. Paul, which was organized in 1849 by the Reverend Edward D. Neill, was celebrated on November 30 at the House of Hope Church, with which the earlier congregation was united in 1914. Other St. Paul churches which have observed anniversaries recently are the First Baptist Church, which celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary during the week of October 5; and the First Swedish Lutheran Church, which held special services in commemoration of its seventieth anniversary on October 12 and 13.



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