

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Agriculture of the Hidatsa Indians, an Indian Interpretation. (The University of Minnesota, *Studies in the Social Sciences*, no. 9). By GILBERT LIVINGSTONE WILSON, Ph. D. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota, 1917. x, 129 p. Plates, text-figures.)

Corn among the Indians of the Upper Missouri. By GEORGE F. WILL and GEORGE E. HYDE. (St. Louis, William Harvey Miner Company, 1917. 323 p. Plates.)

The writer of the first of these volumes began his observations and studies among the Hidatsa Indians in 1906, when he was a Presbyterian minister in North Dakota. During a later pastorate in Minneapolis, he was a student of anthropology in the graduate school of the University of Minnesota, and in this connection, during the years 1912 to 1915, this work was prepared as his doctor's dissertation. It is a translation of the accounts given to the author by Maxi'diwiac (Buffalobird-woman), daughter of Small Ankle, who was leader of the Hidatsa at the time of their removal to what is now Fort Berthold Reservation, on the Missouri River about 75 to 125 miles northwest from Bismarck. Maxi'diwiac's narrations were interpreted by her son, Edward Goodbird, pastor of the Congregational chapel at Independence, in this reservation, whose life story was published by Dr. Wilson in 1914.

For his part in this interesting monograph on Hidatsa agriculture, which is in some degree representative of farming and gardening by many tribes in the northern part of the United States before the coming of the white men, Dr. Wilson claims no credit beyond that for the details of arrangement and of idiomatic expression in the interpreter's translation. "Bits of Indian philosophy and shrewd or humorous observations found in the narrative are not the writer's, but the informant's, and are as they fell from her lips. . . . It is an Indian woman's

interpretation of economics; the thoughts she gave her fields; the philosophy of her labors. May the Indian woman's story of her toil be a plea for our better appreciation of her race."

This narrative has successive chapters on the Hidatsa crops of sunflowers, corn, squashes, and beans, telling how the woman prepared the gardens and fields, and how they planted, cultivated, harvested, and cooked each of these crops, or stored them for winter use and for seed. Tobacco was also cultivated, but only by the old men. The Hidatsa raised nine well-marked varieties of corn, which they kept distinct by planting them in separate fields. The soft white and hard yellow varieties were most extensively raised, as they could be prepared for food in many different ways.

In the second book here reviewed, the authors state that it has been found that fifty varieties of this most useful product in Indian agriculture were formerly raised by tribes in the Missouri Valley. They note the purpose of their researches as follows: "To describe these newly discovered varieties of native corn; and to give some account of the agricultural methods of the Upper Missouri Indians, of their manner of harvesting and storing the crop, of the ways in which they prepared corn for food, of their traditions relating to the origin of corn, and of their corn rites. . . . The work of collecting seed of the old Indian varieties of corn has been very successful; nearly all of the sorts formerly grown by the tribes along the Missouri, from the Platte northward, have been recovered, experimental plantings have been made, and the seed has been rather widely distributed among corn breeders. . . . The work of breeding and crossing these native corns will now be taken up again; and it is to be hoped that hardier and heavier yielding varieties for the Northwest may be produced in abundance."

It is estimated that the Missouri tribes most expert in hunting, as the Kansa, or Kaws, and the Osage, cultivated an average of a third of an acre, planted chiefly in corn, for each person, while other tribes, who depended less on the hunt, averaged about an acre for each man, woman, and child.

Will and Hyde think that the Minnesota Ojibway may have received their corn from the Mandan, a tribe closely related to

the Hidatsa. Schoolcraft says, in the narrative of his expedition to Cass Lake in 1820, that the Indians were cultivating corn in the region of Red Lake, and to a lesser extent on the Upper Mississippi.

As the first among the Sioux to raise much corn, these authors note the Isanti, or Santee people, who, previous to 1750, lived about Mille Lacs, but were driven south to the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers by the Ojibway. Cass and Schoolcraft saw cultivated fields of corn adjoining Little Crow's village, near the site of St. Paul, and on the second day of August, 1820, they attended a ceremonial feast of these Sioux held at that place. This festival was one that was held when the ears were ripe for boiling, and the Indian women presented many basketfuls of the corn to the travelers, who accepted as much as they could store in their canoes.

WARREN UPHAM

Elling Eielsen og den Evangelisk-lutherske Kirke i Amerika. By E. O. MÖRSTAD. (Minneapolis, Folkebladets Trukkeri, 1917. 474 p. Illustrated.)

The student of Lutheranism who seeks information concerning the division into sects which resulted in the Hauge Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church will find much of interest in this work, which purposes to show Eielsen's sincerity as a Christian and as a pastor and to prove the lack of foundation for criticism passed upon his ordination as a pastor as well as upon his later religious activities. The book opens with an account of religious conditions in Norway and of Eielsen's early work in the Scandinavian countries. Then follows a narrative of his departure for America on July 15, 1839, and his trip across the country through Albany and Buffalo to Chicago, where he preached his first sermon.

A short review of religious conditions in the Fox River settlement, Illinois, and in early Scandinavian settlements in Wisconsin is given as a preface to a discussion of Eielsen's ordination, for it was to minister to this region that he was made, according to Mörstad, the first Norwegian Lutheran minister in America. This is followed by an account of the first meeting of Lutherans

held at Jefferson Prairie, Wisconsin, in 1846, and the adoption of a church constitution. From this place on throughout the volume, differences of opinion and sectarian strife constitute an outstanding theme. These difficulties ultimately resulted in a separation of the religious communities into those who aligned themselves to form the Hauge Synod in 1876, and those who stood firmly by Eielsen and the first constitution, thereby constituting the Evangelical Lutherans.

For the student of history other than religious, Mörstad's *Elling Eielsen* offers little that is of interest, and this scanty material is difficult to find since it is scattered throughout the book, which, unfortunately lacks an index. Short biographical sketches are given of laymen and churchmen who worked both with and against Eielsen in the religious field. Minnesota is seldom referred to. A letter dated North Cape (Wisconsin) January 29, 1863, written by Mrs. Eielsen to her husband who was then in Norway, includes a few details concerning the Indian outbreak in Minnesota. An account of a church meeting which was held in Fillmore County, June 5-13, 1875, deals only with doctrinal controversies. Again, when writing of a visit paid by Eielsen, in 1875, to Pastor Thompson, who had charge of a congregation of ninety families in Lac Qui Parle, the author devotes his attention exclusively to matters religious.

Mörstad makes frequent use of private and church letters and of periodicals, particularly the *Chicago Lutheraneren*. For pioneer history he depends largely upon Langeland's *Nordmaendene i Amerika*. The plan of the book lacks concentration and direct progress of the central purpose. A strong religious and sectarian flavor pervades the whole. One concludes a reading of the book, however, with a belief in the unwavering, stern sincerity of the pioneer pastor, Elling Eielsen, whose activities in America extended even to Texas, but whose main work was done in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota, centering in Chicago where he both began and concluded his religious teachings.

SOLVEIG MAGELSEN

The Lure of the Mississippi. By DIETRICH LANGE. (Boston, Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard, 1917. [2], 268 p. Illustrated.)

The place long occupied by the novel in the field of historical writing has in recent years broadened out to include juvenile story books in which the plot centers about some actual events. Among the writers contributing to this development is Dietrich Lange, who finds in the history of the Mississippi Valley a storehouse from which he has drawn materials for a series of boys' stories of adventure. In his latest book, *The Lure of the Mississippi*, he uses the circumstances of the Indian uprising of 1862 and Civil War conditions on the lower Mississippi to furnish the background for a narrative of two southern boys, who narrowly escape from the Sioux Indians only to undertake a long and adventuresome trip to their home in the besieged city of Vicksburg. The author reconstructs for his young readers the life of frontier days and, also, weaves into his narrative bits of wood lore that add to the interest as well as to the value of the book.

J. S.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

The annual meeting of the society on the evening of January 14, 1918, was the first meeting to be held in the new building. At the business session, which convened in the manuscript room, the following life members of the society were unanimously elected to serve on the executive council for the triennium, 1918-21: Everett H. Bailey, Charles Bechhoefer, Solon J. Buck, Rev. William Busch, Frederick M. Catlin, Lorin Cray, Oliver Crosby, William W. Cutler, Frederic A. Fogg, William W. Folwell, Guy Stanton Ford, Darwin S. Hall, Harold Harris, Frederick G. Ingersoll, Gideon S. Ives, Victor E. Lawson, William E. Lee, William H. Lightner, William A. McGonagle, William B. Mitchell, Charles P. Noyes, Victor Robertson, J. F. Rosenwald, Edward P. Sanborn, Rev. Marion D. Shutter, Charles Stees, Warren Upham, Olin D. Wheeler, William G. White, Harry E. Whitney, and Edward B. Young. Following the business session the society adjourned to the south gallery for the annual address, which was delivered by Dr. Lester Burrell Shippee of the University of Minnesota, on the subject: "Social and Economic Effects of the Civil War with Special Reference to Minnesota." This part of the meeting was open to the public and the audience numbered about two hundred.

In connection with its account of the annual meeting of the society the *St. Paul Daily News* published in its issue of January 13, a picture and brief description of the building, together with some account of the moving. Somewhat the same ground is covered in an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* of January 20. This is accompanied by an exterior and three interior views of the building.

The following new members, all active, have been enrolled during the quarter ending January 31, 1918: Mrs. Fred A. Bill, C. Edward Graves, Dietrich Lange, Albert R. Moore, and Harold S. Quigley of St. Paul; Miss Medora Jordan and Lester B.

Shippee of Minneapolis; Lieutenant Sydney A. Patchin, stationed at Houston, Texas; Charles H. Budd and Mrs. James H. Gordon of Montevideo; Denver C. Leach of Willmar; and Thomas Bardon of Ashland, Wisconsin. Deaths among the members during the same period were as follows: Hon. Charles E. Otis of St. Paul, November 8; Kenneth Clark of St. Paul, November 11; Hon. Charles Keith of Princeton, November 30; George F. Piper of Minneapolis, December 1; Joseph S. Sewall of St. Paul, December 22; Rev. William McKinley of Winona, January 12; Rev. Arthur E. Jones of Montreal, Canada, January 19; Bishop James McGolrick of Duluth, January 23; and Andrew C. Dunn of Winnebago, January 28.

OCCUPATION OF THE NEW BUILDING

The Minnesota Historical Society is experiencing at the present time one of the most important transitions in its annals. Nearly seventy years after its organization by a group of far-seeing men in the first year of the existence of the territory of Minnesota, it is now for the first time installed in quarters adequate to house its collections and activities, specifically designed to meet its requirements, and worthy of its high purposes.

The work of moving the library and other property of the society into the new building began on December 11, 1917. The newspaper volumes and stock of publications, so long stored in the Old Capitol where they were in constant danger of destruction by fire, were taken first. Then followed the moving of the greater part of the newspaper collection in the New Capitol, after which it was necessary to wait until January 3 for the completion of the elevator in the main book stack before the transfer of the general library could be begun. By the end of the month, however, practically all the possessions of the society were in the new building. Before a single book was moved a comprehensive scheme of arrangement was worked out making it possible for most of the books to be put in their proper places on the shelves as they were brought over. In order that service to the public might be interrupted as little as possible, the classes of books most in use were left to the last. On January 10, however, it became necessary to close the reading room in the Capitol,

but the reading room in the new building was opened to the public less than a week later.

Because of delays at factories and in transportation, only a part of the furniture for the building has been received as yet, and it has been necessary to employ a variety of makeshifts. All the departments are in operation, however, with the exception of the museum, which cannot be permanently installed until new equipment is received. As this equipment will not be ready for several months, plans are now being worked out for the temporary display of some of the more interesting museum material.

DEDICATION OF THE BUILDING

At the November meeting of the council, Messrs. Charles P. Noyes, Solon J. Buck, Everett H. Bailey, Frederic A. Fogg, and Frederick G. Ingersoll, who as members of the executive committee for the triennium 1915-18, had charge of the society's interests in connection with the construction of the building, were appointed a special committee on dedication. Since the Mississippi Valley Historical Association is to hold its annual meeting in St. Paul on May 9, 10, and 11, the committee decided to arrange for the dedication exercises to be held in connection with that meeting, when a considerable number of distinguished men in the field of history from outside the state will be able to participate. The program for the exercises has not been completed as yet, but it is expected that there will be an afternoon and an evening meeting, at one of which the dedicatory address will be delivered by Frederick Jackson Turner, professor of history in Harvard University. The committee feels that it is most fortunate in securing for this occasion not only one of the foremost historians of the country, but one whose researches and inspiration have contributed especially to an adequate understanding of the significance of the West in American history.

The program for the Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting, which is being worked out by a committee of which Professor Chauncey S. Boucher of St. Louis is chairman, bids fair to be of unusual interest. This association held its first annual meeting in Minnesota, at Lake Minnetonka, in 1908, and it is eminently fitting that it should return a decade later and

join in dedicating a new building to the cause of history. Programs of both the association meeting and the dedication exercises will be mailed to all members of the Minnesota Historical Society, when they are completed, and it is hoped that every member who can possibly do so will arrange to attend.

GIFTS

Mr. Charles T. Andrews of South Bend, Indiana, has presented to the society a copy of the *Genealogical Biography of Charles T. and Mary E. Clark Andrews*, compiled by him, on the inside back cover of which he has pasted a photograph of Owatonna in 1864, showing the main street and the then Fenno residence, now the site of the Burt house, in which he was married and lived during the winter of 1864-65. The photograph also shows in the foreground a caravan of ox-drawn prairie-schooners proceeding down the street.

A collection of ambrotypes of the members of the first legislature of the state of Minnesota, 1858, is a recent gift to the society from two of its life members, Mr. John A. Stees of St. Paul, and his son, Mr. Charles Stees. The pictures were exhibited for the first time at the annual meeting of the society, January 14, 1918, when Mr. Charles Stees made a brief presentation speech.

Dr. James C. Ferguson of St. Paul, who has recently gone into military service, has presented a small but interesting collection of Indian artifacts of stone and copper; also an old flint-lock found near Rock Lake in Crow Wing County, and a curious powderhorn, the history of which is unknown. Mr. John Seibert of Hillman is jointly responsible with Dr. Ferguson for part of these gifts.

An old record book of the German Farmers' Fire Insurance Company of Washington County has been presented by Mr. Henry Vollner of Stillwater. In addition to the treasurer's accounts from the time of the organization of the company, March, 1867, until 1888, the book contains the minutes of two preliminary meetings which were held to provide for and adopt a constitution, the constitution itself, and a list of the members.

Mrs. James J. Hill has presented to the society two museum articles of unusual interest. One is an initial shot from the flag of the First Minnesota Regiment at the battle of Gettysburg, which is accompanied by a copy of the note written to Mr. Hill by Mrs. W. W. Dike at the time she gave him this bit of the old flag, January 6, 1898. The other is a tamarack cane given to Mr. Hill by Simeon P. Folsom of St. Paul. In a letter to Mr. Hill, Mr. Folsom states that when he came to St. Paul in July, 1847, a house, built of tamarack logs, stood at the corner of what is now Jackson and Third Streets. He purchased the building and in it opened the first hotel in St. Paul. In December of the same year he sold the place to Jacob W. Bass, who ran it as the "St. Paul House." The old house was torn down in 1871, after it had served as a part of the Merchants Hotel for a number of years.

NEWS AND COMMENT

At the annual meeting of the American Historical Association held in Philadelphia during the holidays, subjects of war interest held first place. The collection and preservation of archival and other material for the history of America's participation in the war was discussed both in the conference of archivists and in that of historical societies. Attention was called also to the fact that the pressure for office space in Washington is resulting in the removal and destruction of archival material, some of which is of great historical value, and resolutions were adopted urging the temporary housing of this material in Washington or nearby, in order that it might ultimately be restored to the permanent archives. The situation which has developed serves to emphasize the short-sightedness of the federal government in not having provided long ago for an adequate archives building. Historical societies throughout the country were urged to cooperate in an effort to prevent the further destruction of historical papers. The association selected Minneapolis as the place for the annual meeting in 1918, but the council was authorized to change the meeting place or call off the meeting entirely if the transportation situation or other conditions resulting from the war should make such action advisable.

The opening article in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for December is a suggestive essay on "The Frontier a World Problem," by Carl Russell Fish. Part of this issue is devoted to a translation, with foreword, by Rasmus B. Anderson, of Ole Nattestad's "Description of a Journey to North America." This, with Rynning's "Account of America" in the *BULLETIN* for November, makes available in English two of the rarest and most important sources for the history of the beginnings of Norwegian settlement in the Northwest.

Two new entrants in the field of local history publications are the *Proceedings* of the Historical Society of East and West

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, volume 1 of which, for 1916-17, has been issued as a *Bulletin* of Louisiana State University; and the *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, a quarterly published by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, the first number of which is dated January, 1918. It is estimated that more state and local historical publications of a serial character have been started during the last two years than in any preceding ten years.

The State Historical Society of Iowa has published a biography of *Samuel Jordan Kirkwood*, by Dan E. Clark (1917. 464 p.). The fact that Kirkwood was governor of Iowa during the Civil War, makes it especially appropriate that this volume should appear at the present time when the nation and the states are once more exerting all their energies in preparation for a great military struggle.

Number 7 of *Iowa and War* (January, 1918) is entitled *Old Fort Madison—Early Wars on the Eastern Border of the Iowa Country*, by Jacob Van der Zee (40 p.). It consists of a sketch of early Indian difficulties, the Revolution, and the War of 1812 in the upper Mississippi Valley.

The Washington State Council of Defense has appointed war history committees in each of the counties of the state. These committees are said to be "busily at work gathering newspaper clippings, photographs, manuscript and all other records which will be helpful to a thorough study and understanding of the great events when the war is ended. These records are to be deposited in the most central and most adequate public library in each county. . . . Each committee is also working on the basis of patriotic service by providing funds to meet expenses as they arise in the work." A list of the committees is published in the *Washington Historical Quarterly* for January.

Prize Essays Written by Pupils of Michigan Schools in the Local History Contest for 1916-17 (1917. 26 p.) is the title of number 9 of the *Bulletins* of the Michigan Historical Commission. This contest, arranged by the Michigan Daughters of the American Revolution and the Michigan Federation of Women's Clubs, appears to be a very effective device for arousing interest

in local history. The subject assigned was "The First School and the Children who Attended It," in the writer's home city or village.

The American Indian; An Introduction to the Anthropology of the New World (New York, 1917. 435 p.) is the title of what appears to be a scholarly summary of the extant knowledge in this field, by Clark Wissler, curator of anthropology in the American Museum of National History, New York. The book contains a valuable bibliography and over a hundred illustrations.

Under the heading, "Men Who Are Winning in the War," *Leslie's Weekly*, for January 12 prints a sketch of Julius H. Barnes of Duluth, now serving as president of the United States Food Administration Grain Corporation. The article is by Samuel Crowther.

In a pamphlet entitled *Erindringer* (1917. 39 p.) John T. Nystuen tells the story of his eventful life from the time he left Norway, in May, 1854, to the present. He includes a description of his voyage from Bergen to Quebec and of his subsequent journey to the Middle West, where, as a pioneer in Wisconsin and Iowa, and later in Minnesota, he experienced the usual hardships incident to the development of a frontier region.

In a work entitled *Danske i Kamp i og for Amerika fra ca. 1640 til 1865* (Omaha, 1917. 397 p.), P. S. Vig discusses the participation of Danes in military events connected with American history. Some of the chapters are concerned with Danish activities in wars "For America in Europe," and "For America" in the colonial period, while others are devoted to the "Danes in the American Revolution," "Danes in the Mexican War, 1846-47," and, lastly, to those who fought in "The Civil War." The book contains a considerable amount of biographical material.

The 1917 number of the *Mistaltenen* contains sketches of some Minnesota Danes in its department headed "Danisk Foretag-somhed" (Danes of Note). This publication is issued annually in the interests of Danish-Americans.

Under the title "Valdriser i Triumph, Minn." the October, 1917, number of the *Samband* publishes Christian Satter's story of his

life from the time he came to Green County, Wisconsin, until he had acquired a large farm in Triumph. Mr. Satter's experiences were typical of those of early settlers with small funds.

The Department of Minnesota, Grand Army of the Republic, has published a pamphlet entitled *The Report of the Committee on the Soldiers' Home* (8 p.), which contains a sketch of the history of this institution from its inception in 1886.

The November 12 issue of the *Freeborn County Standard*, contains several articles of historical interest. An account of "How Albert Lea Got Its Name" is accompanied by a picture of Colonel Albert Miller Lea, whose name was given to the lake from which the city took its name. A sketch of the *Standard* traces the development of that paper from its establishment in 1857 to the present. This is illustrated by pictures of the early editors. An interesting description of Freeborn County in 1857 is reprinted from a contemporary issue of the *Minnesota Star*, which published the article "for the information of those seeking homes in the West, particularly in Freeborn county."

The discovery of a collection of printing samples containing letterheads, billheads, and business cards of former Winona business and professional men prompted William J. Whipple to write a reminiscent article which appears in the December 1 issue of the *Winona Republican-Herald*. Mr. Whipple writes interestingly of men and firms that were prominent in the commercial life of the city a generation ago and concludes with a sketch of the eventful, but unsuccessful, career of the Winona and Southwestern Railroad Company.

In the December 26 issue of the *Mankato Daily Review* Colonel George W. Mead and Benjamin D. Pay tell their recollections of the hanging of the thirty-eight Sioux Indians at Mankato fifty-five years ago. Both men were present at the time; Colonel Mead as a member of the Ninth Minnesota, and Mr. Pay as sheriff. A contemporary picture of the scene accompanies the accounts.

"Local History, Old Crow Wing" is the heading of an article printed in the *Brainerd Dispatch* of December 28, in which the compiler Leon E. Lunn, includes extensive quotations from

William E. Seelye's account of his experiences as a member of the Eighth Minnesota during the Sioux Outbreak. Most of the incidents related center about the early settlement of Crow Wing.

Under the title "Minnesota in the Making" the *Mille Lacs County Times* (Milaca) is printing a series of original narratives of early explorations in Minnesota. Extracts from the accounts of Hennepin, Du Luth, and Radisson have appeared recently.

In commenting upon Sydney A. Patchin's article on "The Development of Banking in Minnesota," in the August number of the MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN, Franklin Curtiss-Wedge reviews the early history of banking in Winona. The *Winona Republican-Herald* of November 24 prints his résumé under the title, "History of Early Bankers Recalls 'Boom' Days When Winona Became Real City."

The November 6 issue of the *Rochester Daily Post and Record* contains a letter from Charles C. Willson, in which he traces the names "College Hill" and "College Street" in the collegeless town of Rochester back to 1856 when plans were made to establish a school, to be known as Huidacooper Institute, in that city.

The *Paynesville Press* of December 6 contains a letter from George R. Stephens, of Oklahoma City, which recounts incidents connected with the establishing of the *Press* thirty years ago.

A biography of James H. Vannet, which is appearing serially in the *Thirteen Towns* (Fosston), describes in some detail the experiences of a Pine County pioneer in the territorial days. Mr. Vannet came to Minnesota in 1841, and the account of his life contains information concerning the relations of the early traders with the Indians and the beginnings of the lumbering industry. The author is W. L. Hilliard.

The *Minneapolis Journal* of January 13 tells of the attempts of early settlers in Minneapolis to stake claims on that part of the Fort Snelling military reserve which is now the business district of the city. A picture of Harwood's old, stone livery stable, which was built on the site of one of these early claims, and one of Second Avenue South in 1857 accompany the article.

Some account of life in pioneer days may be found in a sketch of David Shaver which appears in the *Winona Independent* of November 4. Mr. Shaver came to Dodge County in 1858, and was one of the early settlers in that region.

The *Winona Republican-Herald* of November 1 contains a list of the old settlers in that city and its vicinity who have died in the past twelve years. The compiler is Oliver K. Jones.

An article on "Minnesota Pioneers" appears in the November 30 issue of the *Blue Earth County Enterprise* (Mapleton). The latter part of the article consists largely of the reminiscences of the author, Mrs. O. W. Healy, who recalls incidents of pioneer days in Mapleton.

A suggestive piece of work in the field of local history is a sketch of Twin Valley, which appears in the *Twin Valley Times* of November 28. It was written by Florence Vehle, a pupil in the eighth grade of the Twin Valley schools.

In an article entitled "Chisago County and the War" the *Chisago County Press* (Lindstrom) of December 20 calls attention to the part played by the Scandinavians of Minnesota during the Civil War. In this connection the *Press* reprints from a contemporary issue of the *Hemlandet* an appeal issued by Colonel Hans Mattson "To the Scandinavians of Minnesota," in 1861.

In the August number of the BULLETIN (page 209) attention was called to the story of the "White Squaw of Fox Lake Isle" published in a local newspaper and purporting to be based on an old manuscript. It has since developed that this story was a "brain fancy" as the writer has expressed it, and that the old manuscript never existed.

A number of former residents of Waseca living in Minneapolis met together on the evening of December 15 for a general reunion of the "Old Home Folks." It is planned to make this gathering an annual event.

The Carlton County Old Settlers' Association held its annual meeting at Barnum, December 12. An address on the war by Congressman C. B. Miller was the principal speech of the occasion.

Some economic aspects of the "Settlement of Itasca" County are discussed in the December 12 issue of the *Grand Rapids Herald-Review*.

In the issue of October 10 the *Minneapolis Svenska Folkets Tidning* prints an historical sketch of the John W. Thomas Company, one of the older mercantile houses in Minneapolis.

The *New Prague Times* of December 13 introduces a survey of local organizations and commercial interests with a résumé of the history of New Prague.

An interesting sidelight on economic conditions in Minnesota during the Civil War is found in the *St. Peter Free Press* of December 8. This is a list of staples with their wholesale prices in 1865 and their retail prices at the present time. Material for the list was obtained from the books of Auerbach, Finch and Scheffer, St. Paul, for September, 1865.

Under the title "Roses for the Living" the *Le Sueur News* is publishing biographical sketches of men who are leaders in Le Sueur County activities.

A column of "Library Notes" contributed to the *Swift County Review* (Benson) by Ernest R. Aldrich frequently contains material relating to the state's history. The early career of the Universalist Society in Minnesota is discussed in the issue of October 30 in connection with a notice of Rev. Marion D. Shutter's biography of Rev. James Harvey Tuttle. A sketch of General William G. Le Duc and a collection of historical incidents relating to Benson and its vicinity appear on November 20 and 27, respectively.

Students of religious and social history will be interested in the newspaper accounts of special services held by various churches throughout the state, as these articles often include historical sketches of the congregations. A history of the Redwood Falls Methodist Episcopal Church by A. E. King appears in the *Redwood Falls Sun* of November 2 in connection with a description of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the church. A list of the pastors of the church accompanies the article, and some reminiscences of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ferris

in the November 9 issue of the *Sun* supplement Mr. King's account. The *Alexandria Citizen* in its account of the fiftieth anniversary of the First Congregational Church of that city includes a history of the church and a roll of its pastors. The November 22 issue of the *Sauk Center Herald* contains an account of the work of the Benedictine order in West Union, a work which has extended over a period of twenty-five years and has culminated in the dedication of a new building for the St. Alexius Catholic Church on November 18. Among the articles dealing with Scandinavian churches are the *Fergus Falls Ugeblad's* account of the forty-fifth anniversary celebration of the Fergus Falls Evangelical Lutheran Church in the October 19 issue; a history of the Comfrey Swedish Lutheran Congregation from the time the members left Sweden to the present time, in the *Comfrey Times* for November 29; and a résumé of the twenty-five years of activity of the Mankato Scandinavian Baptist Church in the *Mankato Daily Free Press* of November 28.

Some articles recently published in the section of the *Saturday Evening Post* (Burlington, Iowa) devoted to "The Old Boats" deserve especial attention from students of early river transportation. A biographical sketch of George W. Gauthier, one of the early rivermen, by Fred A. Bill, is printed in the issue of December 15. On the same date appears an article by Captain George Winans in which he tells of his experiences in trying to use, for the first time, a steamboat to tow log rafts down the Mississippi. This account was read at the December 15 meeting of the Pioneer Rivermen's Association in St. Paul, an extended notice of which appears in the *Post* for December 15. In addition to this special section, the *Post*, in its issues of November 17, 24, December 1, and 8, publishes the log of the steamer "Lilly," which was kept by her engineer, Eben B. Hill, during a trip from St. Louis up the Missouri to Fort Benton, and return, in 1867.



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