

Minnesota History and the Schools

“PICTORIAL MINNESOTA”

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THE MINNESOTA Historical Society has begun the publication of a series of picture leaflets under the title *Pictorial Minnesota*. Each set is to contain about a dozen pictures. They are reproduced on white paper of good quality and thus show details without any strain upon the eyes. An illuminating caption tells something of each picture and also what it shows. The first two sets have appeared and deserve attention.

Set I, “The Indians,” shows pictures of a Chippewa hut, a Sioux tepee, a buffalo hunt, gathering wild rice, making maple sugar, playing la crosse, Little Crow, Leading Feather, and the title page of an issue of *The Dakota Friend*, a monthly magazine published in the Dakota language by Gideon H. Pond. Set II, “Pioneer Buildings and Equipment,” shows two log cabins, a log school, the Chapel of St. Paul, inside views of log cabins, groups of household utensils, the Sibley House, a city house of 1860, and a farm scene of 1870. Other sets are to be prepared.

It is difficult to secure contemporary pictures which are authentic, clear, and significant. Yet such pictures are worth the effort needed to obtain them. The individual who undertakes the task of finding a set of pictures dealing with some aspect of early Minnesota is likely to give up and accept fabricated drawings. Fortunately the historical society, with its great resources, can succeed where even an enthusiastic individual might fail.

The new series should serve several purposes and various groups. A lecturer could pass them to small groups and vivify his presentation. Public libraries should make several sets available. Schools should acquire many sets. In fact, if all schools acquired several sets for use in scrapbooks, class reports, and notebooks, they would

thereby remove the temptation on the part of the pupils to mutilate library books.

The historical and educational value of the series is beyond question. The clarity and authenticity of the work, judging by the first two sets, are of high quality. The great value of visual aids has been proved and re-proved, and so teachers will already be convinced of the value of *Pictorial Minnesota*, not only in teaching Minnesota history but also in presenting American history and literature courses.



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