REVIEWS OF BOOKS


In the Chronicles of America Series, of which Dr. Buck’s book is volume 45, real progress has been made in the art of history writing: Earlier efforts at collaboration have generally suffered from an undue deference to the chronological method. Each author would be assigned a definite period of years to cover, and with his own sense of values he would work out his field in his own peculiar way. Incidents would be opened by one writer never to be closed by another. Contradictions in point of view and even in matters of fact could not always be corrected by the most careful editing. And the reader of a single volume was apt to have much the feeling of the casual attendant at the “movies” who happens in on the twelfth episode of the “Perils of Pauline.”

The editors of the fifty volumes of the Chronicles of America have avoided many of these shortcomings by adopting the topical rather than the chronological method of treatment. Each writer has been given some particular phase of the nation’s development to trace through from beginning to end, with the result that each volume is a unit in itself and may be read and enjoyed entirely apart from the rest. None the less, the editors have seen to it that the units are “all articulated, and so related” that, taken together, they present a real vision of the development of this country from the beginning to the present. The old plan gave to the reader a set of short strings of assorted sizes, which he laboriously tied together to form a badly-knotted, unsymmetrical “thread of history”; the new plan provides many slender strands ready to be rolled together into one unbroken and harmonious cord.

Another departure, equally noteworthy, is the attempt to make the narratives sufficiently spirited to attract “those of our citizens who are not in the habit of reading history.” The editors
rightly feel that not the few alone, but rather the many, "need to know the experiences of our nation in times past" if we as a people may hope to "interpret aright the great social and economic forces of our own times." Writers have been selected, therefore, as much for their literary ability as for their scholarly attainments; the length of each narrative has been rigorously limited to about two hundred pages; and matters of interest solely to the technical historian have been waived. Viewed as a whole, the result is fairly satisfactory, although it seems unfortunate that the price of the edition should be so high that even well-established libraries hesitate to buy it, while the ordinary reader, whom the editors profess to be so anxious to reach, can never hope to own the set. Beautifully bound and printed as this edition is, to achieve the purpose of the editors another edition less expensive should certainly be provided.

With the battle cry of the Nonpartisan League resounding throughout the state today, citizens of Minnesota can hardly be surprised at the inclusion in this series of "a chronicle of the farmer in politics." Nor can they wonder at the selection of a Minnesotan to write the narrative, for Minnesota has been in the forefront of every agrarian movement since the Civil War. As the author of a scholarly monograph on *The Granger Movement*, published in 1913, and as superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, Dr. Buck has necessarily come into constant contact with the chief sources of the subject upon which he writes. In fact it was well-nigh inevitable that he should be assigned the task of narrating "that phase of political history which began with the Grange, passed through Greenbackism and Populism, and finally culminated in the battle for free silver and the rise of William Jennings Bryan in 1896."

While Dr. Buck makes little pretense of contributing anything new in this volume, he has brought together in readable fashion the essential facts of the whole agrarian movement in the Northwest. If the outline here presented had been more widely understood by the reading public of a few years ago, the emergence of the Nonpartisan League might not have been viewed as so extraordinary a phenomenon. The reader of these pages can scarcely avoid the generalization that once every so often, in a period of hard times, the farmers unite to avenge
their wrongs, take a hand in politics, and make their influence felt; then, when their efforts miscarry or the fat years succeed the lean, they permit their sentiment for coöperation to disappear, their organizations to die down or die out, and once again the old order reigns. The granges of the seventies waxed strong on the argument that the lack of agricultural prosperity was mainly due to the railroads, and that their shortcomings must be remedied by the state. The movement, however, soon collapsed, though not until it had taught the farmers the value of combination, and not until it had won notable decisions from the courts affirming the “right of States to fix maximum charges for any business which is public in its nature or which has been clothed with public interest” (p. 59). Next after the Granger movement followed the rise and fall of Greenbackism, with its contention that through currency inflation the farmer might increase the price of the things he had to sell, and at the same time prevent the appreciation of his debts. The Greenbackers yielded in their turn to the founders of the farmers’ alliances, who endorsed every good thing, and finally in conjunction with the forces of labor blossomed forth as the People’s Party. Carried away by the free silver fetish, this movement, too, met disaster, going down to defeat with Bryan in 1896. The reviewer is sorry, though doubtless Dr. Buck is not, that the editors saw fit to exclude any detailed treatment of the twentieth century farmers’ activities in politics. It would be interesting to know the author’s speculations on the probabilities of history repeating itself.

In spite of the popular manner of presentation employed, this book has the earmarks of scholarly workmanship. The bibliographical note at the close shows the author’s wide familiarity with the sources, and the methods of the trained historian are by no means obscured by the scarcity of footnotes in the body of the work. Chapter 5, for example, which explains why the Granger movement collapsed, could never have been written by the merely casual investigator. The author, moreover, maintains an attitude of complete impartiality. The wrongs of the farmers are recognized, but so also are their excesses. At no time does he lay himself open to the charge of special pleading.

The book is undeniably entertaining. It ought to be of some interest even to the “dry-as-dust historian” to note how this end
is achieved. In the first place, the thread of the story is never lost. In spite of many incidental analyses of causes and effects, the reader generally has his attention fixed upon a narrative. Again, much is made of the many extraordinary individuals who adorn the pathway of the agrarian crusade. Four pages, for example, are devoted to a presentation of our own Ignatius Donnelly, and two to “Sockless Jerry Simpson” of Kansas. Several lively episodes such as the meeting of the Kansas legislature of 1893 have also been fortunate enough to escape an undeserved proscription. Finally the author has a ready and graceful flow of English. The volume merits and doubtless will obtain a wide popularity, especially in Minnesota and the Northwest.

JOHN D. HICKS


This volume is made up of two monographs, one on the fur trade and the other a history of The Pere Marquette Railroad Company. Since the latter study has no special interest for Minnesota readers it will not be reviewed here. It might be in place, however, to criticise the policy of binding in the same volume two monographs as different in character as these two are. Each has its own title-page and index, and there is no title-page for the volume as a whole, in spite of the fact that it is paged consecutively throughout.

The monograph on the fur trade comprises a survey, in nine short chapters, of the French, British, and American periods of the trade in Michigan, with an additional chapter on “The Trader’s Life.” The first chapter, “Pioneer Trade,” deals with the French policy and introduces such characters as Nicolet, Groseilliers and Radisson, La Salle, and the Jesuits. With chapter 2 the scene shifts to Detroit and an account is given of the work of Cadillac and his successors, while chapter 3 deals with the rivalry of Michilimackinac and other posts with Detroit. Chapters 4 and 5 take up the British policy and early trade, bringing the story down to 1796, when the posts were surren-
dered under the provision of Jay's treaty. American traders then appear upon the scene, and an account is given of the rivalry between British and American trading interests, which continued until after the War of 1812. The fur trade was at its height between 1815 and 1834, after which came a rather rapid decline as the fur-trader's frontier passed into Wisconsin and Minnesota. Five maps at the close of the study give the location of the principal posts during the different periods, together with land cessions under Indian treaties and the amount of the fur trade in different counties in 1840. There is a useful bibliography, but the index is distinctly inadequate.

The monograph appears to be carefully done, but there is not very much in it of special interest to a Minnesota reader. The names of Groseilliers and Radisson, Du Luth, and Joseph Rollette are about the only ones suggestive of Minnesota. Perhaps the chief interest of the study to Minnesotans lies in the fact that the fur trade in Michigan is a type of what took place in their own region when the fur-trader's frontier passed over the upper Mississippi country; and it is of special interest to remember that the two frontiers were linked together in the person of Henry Hastings Sibley, who was born in Detroit, passed through the apprenticeship stage in the fur trade at Mackinac under Robert Stuart, and became a partner in the American Fur Company in 1834, when Ramsay Crooks became president of the reorganized company after the retirement of John Jacob Astor.

WILSON P. SHORTRIDGE
The executive council of the society at its stated meeting on April 12 adopted a resolution authorizing the executive committee "to make arrangements for annual summer meetings for the reading of papers and other exercises of a social or educational character, at such time and place as the committee may determine." In many states, as for example Illinois and Michigan, such meetings, lasting one or two days, are held annually in different cities and are attended by members from all parts of the state. The programs often include, besides papers and addresses, such things as luncheons or receptions to visiting members, pageants, and trips to historic sites. Whether or not such a meeting will be held in Minnesota the coming summer has not been decided as yet.

Amendments to the by-laws adopted by the council at the same meeting, reduce the number of stated meetings of the council from four to two a year, on the second Mondays in April and October. The annual meeting of the society will be held in January as heretofore, and each new council will meet, primarily for the election of officers, as soon as may be after the adjournment of the triennial meeting of the society at which the members of the council are elected.

The following papers were read at the open session held in connection with the April meeting of the council: "Jane Grey Swisshelm, Reformer," by Lester B. Shippee, of the University of Minnesota, and "The Introspections of a Belated Puritan," by Solon J. Buck, superintendent of the society.

Six new members, all active, were enrolled during the months of February and March, 1920: Mrs. Julia Bassett Friday of Hawley, the Honorable Olai A. Lende of Canby, Foster Hanno- ford of Minneapolis, Margaret McFetridge of St. Paul, Rudolf Herz of Eagle Butte, South Dakota, and Joseph McAloon of Harris, Kansas. The only loss recorded in the membership ranks during the same period was that of the Honorable Thomas
M. Owen of Montgomery, Alabama, whose death occurred March 25. Mr. Owen had been director of the Alabama State Department of Archives and History since 1901.

The "practical" value of certain phases of the work of the society has recently been demonstrated by the special services rendered to several business establishments which have sought assistance: the large collection of historical pictures has furnished illustrative material for a number of advertising booklets; sketches of the Red River cart and other museum specimens have supplied motives for use in wall decoration; and a producer of historical pageants has derived suggestions as to scenes, incidents, and costumes from the society's library and museum.

The society has recently had an opportunity to be of service to the farmers of the Northwest. In its issue for February 28, The Farmer informed one of its readers who desired "a list of farm names, preferably Indian names," that the "Minnesota Historical Library, St. Paul, will furnish you a list of Indian names from which to choose." The society was not aware that this item had been published until a deluge of letters inquiring for such a list poured in from farmers throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, and South Dakota, who had evidently decided to avail themselves of an opportunity to secure appropriate names for their farms. In response to this demand a list of some eighty Sioux, Chippewa, and Algonquian names with their English translations was immediately prepared and a copy was sent to each person who asked for it. Copies of the list are still available, and anyone interested will be supplied with one upon request.

The society has just published a Handbook of forty-six pages descriptive of its organization and activities. The booklet is intended for free distribution and a copy will be sent to anyone interested upon request.

Mr. C. Edward Graves, librarian of the society since November, 1917, has resigned, and Mr. Robert W. G. Vail has been appointed to the position. Mr. Graves's faithful and efficient
service covered the trying period of the removal of the library to the new building and its rearrangement therein; and it was with sincere regret that his resignation, to engage in what he hopes will be more remunerative work, was accepted. Mr. Vail comes to the society from the New York Public Library, with which he has been connected since 1914. During the war he was manager of the New York dispatch office of the American Library Association for five months, after which he enlisted in the coast artillery.

The position of reference assistant, in charge of the desk in the reading room, which had been vacant since January, was finally filled early in April by the appointment of Miss Hazel E. Ohman, formerly on the St. Paul Public Library staff. Members of the catalogue and accessions departments took turns serving at the desk in the interval, much to the detriment, however, of the work in those departments.

A brief article entitled "Attic Dust and Treasures," written by Mr. Vail, the new librarian, was published in the March number of Library Notes and News, the magazine issued by the department of education for distribution to all librarians in the state. As the title suggests, the article was a plea for the preservation of the historical material to be found in every attic, which all too often is destroyed at house-cleaning time. Reissued in mimeographed form, this article was mailed to several hundred members of the society and others who might be interested, with very gratifying results in the shape of contributions of books, magazines, newspaper files, museum objects, and manuscript letters, diaries, and account books.

A catalogue of Minnesota imprints has recently been begun by the library. When it is completed cards for all books, pamphlets, and newspapers printed in Minnesota from the introduction of the first press in 1849 to 1880 will be filed not only in the general catalogue, where the arrangement is alphabetical by authors, titles, and subjects, and in the shelf list, where the arrangement follows the classification of the books themselves, but also in an imprint catalogue where they will be grouped first by the places in which they were printed and then according
to the dates of printing. In the cases of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth the cards will be grouped by printers before the chronological arrangement is applied. Newspapers will be entered under the date of publication of the first issue. This catalogue, besides being a valuable bibliographical tool, will facilitate the study of the history of printing in any given town or the work of a particular press.

Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock Jr., curator of the museum, spoke on "The Fur Trade" at a meeting of the Mutual Aid Blind Society of St. Paul on the evening of February 28.

"How the First Settlers Came to St. Paul," "The Indian Medicine Man," and "The History of Fire Arms" were the subjects of talks by the curator at the children's history hours in the museum on February 28 and March 13 and 27. The one scheduled for February 14 was canceled on account of the influenza epidemic. Credit for attendance at these meetings and notes on the lectures is given in some of the schools. The visits of classes or other special groups during these two months was unusually large, twenty-four such groups, with a total of 753 students, being recorded. Two of the classes, by prearrangement, were given special lectures by the curator on "The Settlement of Minnesota."

The increased attendance of classes in the museum was doubtless due in part to a circular letter, signed by the curator, which, under date of February 16, was sent to the principals of 745 schools in the state. This letter called attention to "the opportunities for visualizing and making real the teaching of history through the exhibits and work of the museum," and pointed out that the facilities offered are useful in connection with the teaching, not only of history, but also of political science, geography, domestic science, and other subjects. The state department of education and the superintendents of schools of the Twin Cities coöperated with the society in bringing this letter to the attention of principals and teachers.

A number of boys interested in stamp collecting have organized a club which meets twice a month in the museum.
A special exhibit of a group of pictures illustrating lumbering in Minnesota, designed as the first of a series of exhibits relating to the various industries of the state, has been arranged in the museum. Displays of Washington and Lincoln material were made during February by both the museum and the manuscript division.

Under this heading will be published in each issue of the Bulletin notes on the most important additions to the collections of the society during the preceding quarter, whether received as gifts, deposits, exchanges, or purchases. Attention should also be directed to the notes on "War History Activities" in the "News and Comment" section, where the principal acquisitions of the Minnesota War Records Commission are described. The society is designated by law as the custodian of the material being assembled by the commission.

A few months ago Mr. Edson Gaylord of Minneapolis, a life member of the society, acquired from a dealer in old books in St. Louis a journal of Major Lawrence Taliaferro, Indian agent at Fort Snelling, which covers the years 1827 to 1829. Recently Mr. Gaylord loaned this journal to the society and upon examination it was found to be a missing number of the series of Taliaferro Journals in the manuscript collection. This series was acquired from Taliaferro himself, through Dr. Neill, in the sixties; and a letter from the major, found in the Neill Papers, refers to his having sent one of the journals to an editor in St. Louis. This is undoubtedly the volume in question. Mr. Gaylord intends ultimately to give the original journal to the society. In the meantime, carefully collated typewritten copies of it are being made at his expense, one of which is intended for the society. A full page article about this journal and the career of Major Taliaferro in Minnesota appeared in the Minneapolis Journal of April 11. The volume itself formed the central feature of a special Taliaferro exhibit, which was installed in the museum just before the April meeting of the council.
Through the courtesy of the library of Oberlin College, which owns the original manuscript, the society has been permitted to make a typewritten copy of the “Reminiscences of the Early Oberlin Missionaries and Their Work in Northwestern Minnesota, as Dictated . . . by Rev. S. G. Wright, Missionary, 1890.” The writer of this document served as a missionary to the Chippewa at Red Lake from 1843 to 1859 and was employed in government service among them from 1859 to 1862, from 1867 to 1873, and from 1875 to 1881. The reminiscences are a valuable source for the history of northern Minnesota and it is probable that they will be published in some future number of the Bulletin.

A small but valuable collection of papers of Governor Henry A. Swift has been presented by his daughter, Mrs. Gideon S. Ives. Of special interest in this collection is a letter from Governor Gorman, dated January 31, 1857, concerning the attempt to remove the capital of the territory to St. Peter. A copy of the removal bill and a roll call giving the probable vote in the House of Representatives accompanied the letter. Other items of historical value are a letter from Elias F. Drake, dated June 26, 1862, claiming the credit for the construction of the first railroad in Minnesota, between St. Paul and St. Anthony, and one from Senator Benjamin F. Wade of Ohio, dated January 6, 1863, concerning the attitude of Senator Rice in the slavery controversy and his cordial coöperation with the Republicans after the attack upon Fort Sumter.

A small but interesting group of autographs has been received from Mrs. John W. Friday of Hawley, Minnesota. Among the celebrities represented are Edward Everett Hale and John Burroughs, the latter by a two page letter written to Mrs. Friday from West Park, New York, January 24, 1912, in which he says, “I should like to be set down for a week at your plantation in that interesting country [Minnesota]. There must be a lot of live natural history there for the gathering.”

Mrs. Charles M. Neely of St. Paul, has enriched the society’s collections by the gift of a number of manuscripts of colonial and mid-western interest. Among them are three letters of her
great aunt, Matilda Hoffman, the fiancée of Washington Irving, and copies of two unpublished letters written by Irving himself to her grandmother, Anne Hoffman. One of the letters of Irving, dated August 10, 1807, gives "as accurate a return as was ever furnished by a health committee" of the bodily health of the Hoffman family, which had been considerably impaired by the "flu." Irving's description of the ailment, in spite of its humorous tone, touches a responsive chord in present day readers. The papers of mid-western interest are land grants of 1841 and 1843 issued to Mrs. Neely's father, the Honorable Richard S. Molony, and a letter written by Mr. Molony from the Democratic convention at Baltimore in 1852, bewailing and explaining the defeat of Lewis Cass and announcing the nomination of Franklin Pierce for the presidency.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, the society has received two valuable Norwegian manuscripts from Mr. Alfred Adsem of Minneapolis. One of these—a letter written by Thorwald Nadland at Stavanger, Norway, June 28, 1825—is especially significant because it embodies a copy of a letter written by Kleng Peerson at New York in December, 1824, to relatives and friends in Norway. Peerson was the advance agent of early Norwegian immigration to the United States, and his letter clears up a number of disputed points in regard to his connection with that movement. The other document is a joint letter written August 6, 1850, by a group of immigrants just arrived in New York. Mr. Blegen has also been instrumental in enabling the society to make a photostatic copy for its collection of another manuscript pertaining to early Norwegian immigration to the United States. This is a journal left by Ole Trovatten, an immigrant, in which he recounts his trip from Norway to Wisconsin in the early forties and describes the Norwegian settlements in Wisconsin. The original of this valuable document belongs to Mr. Halvor Skavlem of Janesville, Wisconsin.

From the T. Guldbrandsen Publishing Company, publishers of the Minneapolis Tidende, through the courtesy of Mr. Carl Hansen and Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, the society has received a file of Emigranten, a Norwegian newspaper published at Madison, Wisconsin, for June to December, 1857, and for all of 1859,
1862, 1864, and 1865. This file is a mine of valuable material for the student of immigration, politics, and similar topics in the history of the Northwest during this period. The issues from October 10 to November 1, 1859, for example, contain a hitherto unknown account of a contemporary trip through Minnesota.

A valuable source for the religious history of the Middle West recently acquired by the library is a file of the Northwestern Christian Advocate (Chicago), one of the oldest and best known religious papers of the region. This file, which was secured from the Garrett Biblical Institute of Evanston, Illinois, in exchange for some of the society’s duplicate material, consists of forty-eight volumes beginning in 1858 and ending in 1901. There are a good many large gaps in the file, but it is hoped that other files which will contribute to the filling of the gaps may be picked up from time to time.

A booklet entitled Proceedings on the Occasion of the Presentation to Mr. Charles W. Ames of the Cross of the Legion of Honor by Dr. Marcel Knecht . . . Representing Ambassador Jules J. Jesserand, at St. Paul, Minnesota, November the Twelfth, 1919, has been presented to the society by Mr. Ames. It contains an account of the ceremony, including a report of the addresses of Governor Burnquist, Dr. Knecht, and Mr. Ames, by which the French government conferred upon the donor, in appreciation of his services in the World War, the “title Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur, with the Cross of the Order.”

The writing of local history is a thankless task and is not only unremunerative but the author is indeed fortunate if he can find friends and subscribers to pay the bare cost of printing. Many a historian is not even so fortunate and needs must content himself with a brief appearance in the columns of his local paper, where the history which has been years in the making is read from week to week and then scattered and forgotten. A valuable record of this sort is sometimes rescued from oblivion, however, finds its way into the permanent form of a scrapbook, and eventually reaches the local history shelf of a reference library, where it elbows a place among the subscription histories with their steel engravings, ponderous bindings, and doubtful
historical value. Such a scrapbook history, modest but interesting and valuable, has recently been put together and presented to the society by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Varney of St. Paul. It is a fifty page, double column, quarto volume, with a typewritten title page, which reads: "Sketches of Kensington History, Rockingham County, New Hampshire. By Rev. Roland D. Sawyer. Published in the Exeter, N. H. News Letter. 1918–1919."

Twenty-four bronze replicas of medals in the presidential series have been presented to the society by Senator Frank B. Kellogg. These, together with the three original silver or pewter medals which are among the museum specimens, form a complete set beginning with the administration of President Washington and continuing down through that of President Wilson. The earlier medals of this group are known as the "Peace and Friendship" series, because of the clasped-hands design and the inscription "Peace and Friendship" on the reverse side. Each medal bears on the obverse the effigy head of the president in whose administration it was issued. A medal of this sort was valued by the Indian as a decoration and also as a mark of distinction which indicated his friendship for and loyalty to the government issuing it. When the United States began to deal with the Indian tribes after the Revolution, it found them in possession of British flags and medals as symbols of their allegiance to King George. The representatives of the American government collected the English tokens and issued American medals and flags to take their places. The later medals in the collection belong to the presidential series, but are not of the "Peace and Friendship" type. The design on the reverse side commemorates the presidency of the man whose effigy appears on the face of the medal. The three original medals in the possession of the society of those for Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, and Franklin Pierce.

The Honorable John T. Johnson of Fergus Falls, formerly a member of the legislature, and his mother, Mrs. Thomas Johnson, have recently presented a fine collection of articles from their old homestead near Waseca, which illustrate pioneer
life in Minnesota. A hand loom for weaving cloth, a Saxony
spinning wheel, skein reels, a broadax for hewing timbers, hand-
made carpenter tools, a wooden chest made in 1798, and other
interesting domestic articles are included among the specimens.
The Johnsons came from Norway in the early fifties and settled
near Waseca. Some of the articles appear to have been brought
from the old country; others, such as the loom, were probably
made in Minnesota, although they are naturally similar in design
to implements with which the makers were familiar in Norway.

A Sioux cradle or bag for a papoose and a long trunk strap,
both decorated with beads, a buckskin game bag, a hunting knife,
and several other Indian articles, all from Montana, are valuable
museum items recently received from Robert Somerville of Chi-
cago, Illinois.

Arthur Graves Douglass and his son, Ralph E. Douglass,
both of Minneapolis, have given to the society a fowling piece
which was presented to their ancestor, Benjamin Graves, by Gen-
eral Washington at the close of the Revolutionary War. Graves
served in Massachusetts and Connecticut regiments during the
greater part of the war and is said to have acted as body servant
for Washington for several years. The gun was given to him
in recognition of his fidelity.
NEWS AND COMMENT

A valuable collection of manuscripts bearing upon the history of the fur trade and early steamboating in the upper Mississippi Valley has recently been purchased by the Wisconsin Historical Society. It consists of material collected by Captain Joe Buisson, a steamboat pilot and master, who died recently at Wabasha, Minnesota, where he was born in 1846, and whose father and grandfather were well-known fur-traders. Of special value in the collection are some 140 papers acquired from Alexis Bailly, the noted fur-trader, which cover the period from 1821 to 1850. Numerous photographs of steamboats and pilots are also included. Students of western history will rejoice that this collection has found a depository where its preservation is assured and where it may be freely consulted.

The Pioneer Rivermen's Association held its annual meeting in St. Paul on March 12, with an attendance of forty members and their families. A feature of the meeting was the exhibition, by means of a stereopticon, of pictures of river steamboats formerly piloted by those in attendance and other views recalling the days when river transportation was in its prime. The account of this meeting in the St. Paul Pioneer Press for March 13 and an editorial on "Ye Old Time Steamboat" in the same paper for March 15 called forth a communication from Mr. Fred A. Bill thanking the Pioneer Press for the attention accorded to the association and describing the old-time river traffic between St. Paul and St. Louis. This is published in the March 20 issues of both the St. Paul Dispatch and the Saturday Evening Post of Burlington, Iowa.

The Read's Landing Association, an organization composed of former residents of what was once a prosperous river town, held its annual meeting in St. Paul on February 20. Members recalled the days when Read's Landing was a busy commercial center, while they viewed familiar scenes of the town's prosperous period, which were projected on a screen. Mr. Fred A. Bill,
president of the association, furnished the *St. Paul Daily News* with an interesting sketch of the history of the town from the first establishment of a trading post on its site by Augustine Roque about 1810 to its decline when the railroads began to supersede the river for transportation purposes about 1870. This sketch and some excellent pictures, including a view of the wharf at Read’s Landing as it appeared in 1867, a portrait of Charles R. Read for whom the town was named, and portraits of Mr. Bill, are published in the issue of the *News* for February 22.

The Winona County Old Settlers’ Association held its annual meeting at Winona on February 21. In an address delivered before the gathering the Reverend Patrick R. Heffron contrasted modern with pioneer conditions. The names of members of the association who died during the year with the dates of their arrival in the county are published in connection with a detailed account of the meeting in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for February 21.

Pageants depicting the chief events in the history of Minnesota and, especially, of the particular communities in which they are produced will be staged in a number of places in the state during the summer. The feature of the home-coming celebration to be held in Marshall, Lyon County, on June 17 and 18, in observa­tion of the semicentennial of the founding of the town, will be such a pageant; another will be presented in Red Wing on August 5 and 6.

“The Rhythm of Sioux and Chippewa Music,” by Frances Densmore, in the February number of *Art and Archaeology*, is a study of the significance of the rhythmic qualities of Indian songs and their drummed accompaniments, by the author of several books on the subject of Indian music (see ante, 2: 583). In this paper Miss Densmore maintains “first that the rhythm of Sioux and Chippewa songs expresses the idea of the songs, and, second, that the relation of the rhythm of voice and drum expresses in a measure the cultural development of the race.”

In “Further Discoveries Concerning the Kensington Rune Stone,” in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for March, Mr.
Hjalmar R. Holand presents the results of his search, in October, 1919, for the “two skerries” mentioned in the inscription as “one day’s journey north from this stone.” Applying his theory that the expression “day’s journey” is a “recognized unit of distance” of about eighty miles, Mr. Holand locates the skerries in Cormorant Lake of Becker County, Minnesota. Two holes, apparently made with a chisel, in boulders on the shore of the lake and a number of depressions or “sunken graves” on a knoll near-by are adduced as evidence. An interview with Mr. Holand, published in the magazine section of the St. Paul Daily News for February 22 under the title “Did White Men Visit Minnesota Before Time of Columbus?” covers about the same ground.

“The Early History of Jonathan Carver,” by William Browning, in the Wisconsin Magazine of History for March, is based largely on the local archives of Canterbury, Connecticut, and Weymouth, Massachusetts, and appears to establish conclusively that the explorer was born in Weymouth, April 17, 1710, and “came of able stock on both sides.” The evidence indicates, also, that he was descended from Robert Carver, brother of the first governor of Plymouth Colony. Another item of Carver interest in the same number is the first installment of “A Journal of Life in Wisconsin One Hundred Years Ago, Kept by Willard Keyes of Newfane, Vermont.” Keyes came to Prairie du Chien in 1817 in company with the Reverend Samuel Peters and others who were trying to substantiate a claim to the famous grant of land supposed to have been made to Carver by the Sioux Indians at Carver’s Cave near St. Paul in 1767. In addition to throwing light on that abortive project, this installment of the journal contains incidental references to Lord Selkirk and his settlement on the Red River and to Robert Dickson and other “Indian traders returning from St. Peters river.” It presents an interesting day by day narrative of the trip by way of Mackinac and the Fox-Wisconsin route to Prairie du Chien and of life at this frontier outpost during the winter of 1817-18. It might be noted in passing that the expression, “the Carver Grant in western Wisconsin,” used in a footnote (p. 340) is misleading, as the boundaries described in the reputed deed cover a section of Minne-
An article entitled "Fur Famine Stalks the Trails of Old Red River Carts and Prices Soar Aloft," in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for February 8, sketches the history of the fur trade in Minnesota and the Northwest. The development of St. Paul as a market for furs from the pioneer period to the present receives special attention.

The *Northwestern Miller* for February 18 publishes an article entitled "From White Pine Forest to Farm Land," by Rollin E. Smith. It recalls the "first invasion of the north woods of Wisconsin and Minnesota . . . for the sole purpose of taking out the white pine," which produced a district dotted with lumber camps and sawmill towns and inhabited by lumberjacks. How the "cut-over lands," which were considered useless following the depletion of the forests, may be used for purposes of agriculture is demonstrated by the author. Photographs illustrative of the life of the lumberjack accompany the article.

The sketches of "Leaders of Minnesota Progress," by E. Dudley Parsons, which have been running in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Journal* (see ante, p. 309), ceased to appear after March 21, despite the fact that two of the twelve originally announced had not been published. The subjects of the sketches in the issues from February 1 to March 21 are Edward D. Neill, Henry Whipple, James J. Hill, Ignatius Donnelly, Dr. William W. Mayo, Newton H. Winchell, Frederick W. Weyerhaeuser, and Cushman K. Davis.

An interview with Dr. William W. Folwell on the occasion of his eighty-seventh birthday, published in the *Minneapolis Journal* for February 15, contains some interesting reminiscences of his life and activities. The pioneer educator tells about his own education, his Civil War experiences, the circumstances which brought him to Minnesota, and conditions as he found them at the University of Minnesota upon his arrival; he describes the growth of that institution between 1873, when degrees were conferred upon two graduates, and the early nineties, when his work of promoting secondary education began to bear
fruit in the enormously increased size of the student body; and he expresses his desire to see "elementary college work in every community."

Installments of Dr. Cyrus Northrop's "Reminiscences" continue to appear from time to time in the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* (see ante, p. 234). In the chapter published November 24, headed "Coming to Minnesota," Dr. Northrop tells how a group of regents persuaded him to accept the presidency of the University of Minnesota in 1884 and describes the commencement of his new life and new duties in the West. The three chapters which have since appeared, on December 22, February 2, and March 1, are concerned with what is perhaps the greatest formative period in the development of the university, the four years from 1888 to 1892, when "the institution acquired a momentum that has never ceased" and Dr. Northrop succeeded in putting into operation his twofold policy of organizing new colleges and erecting additional buildings. Considerable space is devoted to the movement, which gained formidable support from members of the legislature in the late eighties, "to take the college of agriculture out of the hands of the regents, separate it from the University, [and] make it a college directed by farmers." The author gives a dramatic account of how John S. Pillsbury prevented such division by offering to the legislature the funds needed for the completion of a science building (Pillsbury Hall) for the university, asking in return only the "assurance of the future safety of the University from dismemberment." Now and then Dr. Northrop pauses to pay tribute to notable persons who have served the university or the cause of education in Minnesota. Among them are Henry H. Sibley, president of the board of regents from 1876 to 1891; Ignatius Donnelly, "an ex-officio member of the board of regents 1860–1863 (Lieutenant-Governor) and later . . . an influential force in the legislature"; Dr. George H. Bridgeman, president of Hamline University; and numerous members of the university faculty.

A valuable addition to the available material on the subject of Norwegian immigration is *Utvandringshistorie fra Ringerikesbygderne*, by O. S. Johnson of Spring Grove, Minnesota (Minne-
apollis, 1919. 416 p.). This history of immigration to Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and other states of the Northwest from the Ringerike district in Norway has been published under the auspices of the Ringerikeslaget, a society organized at Albert Lea in 1916 by former residents of Ringerike who now live in the United States. The opening chapter is devoted to a history and description of the home district in Norway, and individual sketches of the five communities of which it is composed are scattered throughout the volume. In a brief section at the end recent events in Norway of interest to the members of the society are recounted and the names and addresses of members of the organization are published. The bulk of the volume, however, is made up of family histories and records of the immigration of "Utvandrede fra Ringerike," or individuals who have come to the Northwest from that district. Since a large per cent of these people have settled in Minnesota, the work is of decided interest in this state. It has also been published serially, beginning in August, 1916, in Samband, a Norwegian magazine of Minneapolis, designated by the Ringerikeslaget as its official organ.

In the February and March issues of the North Star, Mr. Theodore C. Blegen writes about "The America Letters" written by pioneer immigrants from Norway to their relatives and friends in the old country, which had a very important part in stimulating immigration to the United States. The article is based in part on hitherto unused material and contains translations of some of the letters.

The growth of a little Swedish community centered about a Lutheran church, Beckville in Meeker County, is traced and the golden jubilee of its church is commemorated in a volume entitled Minnesalbum med en Illustrerad Historik utgifen af Svenska Evangeliskt Lutherska Beckville-Församlingen I Meeker County, Minn., med anledning af dess Femtioår-Jubileum, Den 28-30 Juni 1919 (Rock Island, Illinois, 1919. 120 p.). The illustrations consist of portraits of pastors and members of the congregation and of photographs of the exterior and interior of their place of worship.
The controversy between Minnesota and Wisconsin over the location of the boundary line in the harbor at Duluth (see ante, p. 222), was settled on March 8 by a unanimous decision of the United States Supreme Court favorable to Minnesota. As a by-product of this case a large amount of interesting and valuable data relating to the Duluth-Superior region and especially to the navigation of the bays at the head of Lake Superior has been put in the way of preservation by being printed. *The Transcript of Record*, which contains the testimony taken by the court commissioner, comprises two volumes of 1,074 pages numbered consecutively. Other documents printed in connection with this case are the *Brief for State of Minnesota* (283 p.), the *Brief for the State of Wisconsin* (xviii, 377 p., maps), the *Reply Brief for State of Minnesota* (90 p.), and the decision of the court (10 p.). The first 128 pages of the Wisconsin brief are devoted to an elaborate historical discussion, with many quotations from sources, designed to establish the meaning of the term “the mouth of the St. Louis River.”

“St. Paul Northwest Bank Center for 70 Years” is the title of an excellent outline of the financial history of Minnesota’s capital in the *St. Paul Daily News* for March 21. The numerous private banks established between 1854, when Charles W. W. Borup and Charles H. Oakes founded the first bank in the territory, and the Panic of 1857, which was survived by only two banks, are listed; the effects of the Civil War are noted; the development of two of the city’s leading financial institutions, the First National Bank and the Merchant’s National Bank, is traced; and the work of such leaders as Henry P. Upham, Horace Thompson, and Maurice Auerbach is evaluated. Portraits of six pioneer bankers of St. Paul and a picture of a dollar bill issued by an early private bank appear with the article.

With the exception of a description and history of “Carver’s Cave,” published March 21, Benjamin Backnumber’s articles on “St. Paul Before This” in the Sunday issues of the *St. Paul Daily News* during February and March have consisted entirely of biographical sketches of persons who figured in the early history of Minnesota, and, especially, of St. Paul. The subjects of the sketches and the dates on which they appeared are as

An entire section of the St. Paul Dispatch for March 30 is devoted to the announcement that Noyes Brothers and Cutler, wholesale druggists of St. Paul, have achieved the "half century mark in business progress." Although most of this space is occupied by accounts of the present activities of the firm, a brief sketch of its history is included. Outstanding events in the growth of the business are noted, such as its establishment as "a drug and paint business . . . under the name Sims, Vawter and Rose," its purchase by Daniel R. and Charles P. Noyes, the entrance into the firm of Edward H. Cutler, and the four moves to larger quarters necessitated by increased business. The early days of the business, when the Indians "brought medicinal roots to the store and exchanged them for merchandise or cash" and the wares handled by the concern were "distributed by railroad, boat and ox-cart as far as transportation reached, and as fast as it extended," receive special attention. Pioneer methods of distribution are also treated in an article on Frank E. Noble, "dean of Noyes Bros. & Cutler's sales force," who has spent "forty years on the road." Pictures published in the section consist of portraits of officers, buyers, and salesmen of the firm and photographs of buildings occupied by it.

Pioneer methods of handling and distributing mail are recounted in the reminiscences of "Pat O'Brien, for 50 years a postal clerk, and John J. McGuire, nearly 40 years a city carrier," published, with their portraits, in the St. Paul Daily News for March 14 under the heading, "Old Timers Recall St. Paul in Stage Coach Days."
Portraits of twenty St. Paul mayors appear in the *St. Paul Daily News* for February 8 under the heading “Men Who Have Piloted the Good Ship St. Paul.” The caption of each picture includes the mayor’s name, the dates of his term of service, and the name of the political party with which he was affiliated.

An article on “The Sacajaweaans” in the *St. Paul Daily News* for March 21, recounts the history of the society which later became the St. Paul Political Equality Club. Portraits of the leaders of the organization accompany the article.

An article entitled “Minneapolis History Told in Bronze and Marble, with Statues for Chapters,” in the *Minneapolis Journal* for March 28, enumerates the memorial and decorative monuments which have been erected in Minneapolis from time to time and notes the sculptor and location of each. Photographs of six of the statues are reproduced with the article.

“Pioneer Drug Stores Pictured by City’s Oldest Apothecary,” is the title of an article in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for March 7 by Frank G. O’Brien, who claims to be “the oldest surviving druggist in Minneapolis.” The author’s portrait accompanies the article.

A story of “When Minneapolis Flashed as a Film Making Possibility” in the pioneer period of the motion picture industry is narrated in the *Minneapolis Journal* for February 29. From the very incoherent account it appears that “Hiawatha,” the first dramatic production of “the independents,” was filmed in Minnehaha Glen in 1909, with such present day stars as Mary Pickford and Thomas Ince in the company.

The life of John T. Blaisdell, a pioneer lumberman and landowner of Minneapolis, is sketched in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for March 7 under the heading “Talk of Renaming Blaisdell Avenue Calls to Mind Sturdy Pioneer Who Helped Build Up Minneapolis.” Mr. Blaisdell’s activities in providing a school for his neighborhood, first in the parlor of his own dwelling, then in a separate building of but one room, and finally in the brick structure which today is known as the Whittier School, are recalled by his daughter, Miss Mary A. Blaisdell. A portrait of
the pioneer Minneapolitan and a picture of his early home accompany the article.

The *Minneapolis Journal* for February 8 contains a collection of stories about Lincoln recalled by local people who knew or came in contact with him. Interesting incidents in the domestic life of the great president are supplied by Dana Todd, whose father, General John B. S. Todd, was Mrs. Lincoln's cousin. The bereavement of the nation at the time of Lincoln's assassination is described by Judge Ell Torrance, a member of the guard of honor which watched the body while it lay in state in Baltimore. The illustrations include portraits of President and Mrs. Lincoln and of members of the Todd family.

*Fête Sale, 1894–1920*, an advertising pamphlet issued by The Young-Quinlan Company of Minneapolis, contains a pictorial record of the growth of Minneapolis to 1874 “made through the courtesy of and from photographs taken by E. A. Bromley and from original pictures held by The State Historical Society.”

An article by “The Rambler” in the *Shakopee Argus* for March 5 is an example of what a single copy of an old newspaper can reveal about the pioneer life of a community. Items and advertisements and a partisan editorial in the earliest copy of the *Argus* in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society, that for July 4, 1863, furnish most of the material for the article. The locations in the present town of business houses of the Civil War period are noted, frequently with information concerning the subsequent activities of the owners; and incidently the reader may learn something of the economic needs of the pioneer. Data on the early history of the *Argus* are also included.

A history of the *St. Peter Tribune*, which was established February 15, 1860, and ceased publication January 21, 1920, appears in the *St. Peter Free Press* for January 24. The various owners and editors of the *Tribune* are noted, but special attention is given to Joseph K. Moore, who founded the paper, and Andrew R. McGill, who subsequently became governor of Minnesota.
Articles of Minnesota or general interest in the Wisconsin Magazine of History for March are, besides those already mentioned, "An Experiment of the Fathers in State Socialism," by Milo M. Quaife, which deals with the history of the Indian trading houses operated by the United States government during the first quarter of the nineteenth century; chapter 5 of Miss Kellogg's "Story of Wisconsin," treating of "Foreign Immigration in Territorial Times"; and "Recollections of Chief Mayzhuc-ke-ge-shig," by John Thomas Lee.

Over 250 new members have been added to the rolls of the Wisconsin Historical Society during the last year and a half as a result of a vigorous drive conducted by a special membership committee with an enthusiastic chairman. A large increase in membership is also reported by the State Historical Society of Iowa. Obviously there are many people in the western states sufficiently interested in history to help support their state societies if the matter is adequately brought to their attention.

A noteworthy plan for marking historic sites is being worked out in North Dakota. The locations of forts, trading posts, battles, and points along famous trails, such as that followed by Lewis and Clark, are accurately ascertained; the sites are then purchased by the communities in which they are located, converted into parks, and placed in the trusteeship of the state historical society. Eventually the local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution expect to erect appropriately marked stone tablets in these parks.

The Canadian Historical Review is the latest recruit to the ranks of American historical magazines, the first number appearing under date of March, 1920. While new in this form, it is in a sense a continuation of the former annual Review of Historical Publications Relating to Canada. The format is similar to that of the Mississippi Valley Historical Review, but a larger proportion of the space is devoted to book reviews and, in addition, each number contains a comprehensive and classified "List of Present Publications Relating to Canada." The managing editor is W. S. Wallace, University of Toronto Library, Toronto, Ontario.
War History Activities

Work of the Minnesota War Records Commission on the compilation of individual records of Minnesota soldiers, sailors, and marines now centers in efforts to arrange as rapidly as possible the thousands of service records which have been and are still being secured with the cooperation of the soldiers’ bonus board. Only when this is done and the results are compared with those obtained by the county committees and other agencies can omissions be discovered and supplied on a large scale. The first step in the process, sorting the records by counties, is nearly completed, and work will soon commence upon the larger task of arranging the records of each county in alphabetical order and of making up check lists for use in the completion of both state and local files. In the meantime the St. Louis County branch of the commission, under the direction of the Honorable William E. Culkin of Duluth, chairman, is making a direct comparison between the state and local files for that county with the primary object of supplying omissions in the latter.

On the basis of lists compiled in connection with its presentation of memorial certificates to the next of kin of Minnesota gold star men, the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety is cooperating with the war records commission in the collection of records and portraits of all Minnesotans who lost their lives in the service. The former organization has prepared and commenced the distribution of printed forms designed to elicit from relatives and friends the biographical material required for a complete Minnesota “Gold Star Roll.” These records when completed will be turned over to the war records commission.

A number of notable additions have been made to the commission’s growing collection of original records of Minnesota war agencies. The Minnesota branch of the woman’s committee of the Council of National Defense has turned over to the commission for permanent preservation its entire state headquarters file of correspondence, records, and papers evolved in the actual conduct of its many and important war activities. The Minneapolis branch of this organization has done the same with its local file and from the corresponding St. Paul organization, the
Council of Home Defense, the commission has received important material, including the records of an intensive survey of the city made early in 1919 for Americanization purposes. Other considerable bodies of organization records have been received from the Minnesota branches of the Jewish Welfare Board and the American Library Association. Also, under special authorization from national headquarters of the War Camp Community Service, the commission has taken over the greater part of the war-time files of its Minneapolis branch and will shortly receive those of the St. Paul branch. Not the least of the new acquisitions is a complete file of the headquarters records of the St. Paul council of the Boy Scouts of America covering the years 1914 to 1918.

A manuscript roster and record of Minnesota Jews in the service, which was used in preparing a similar roster for publication in the American Jewish World (Minneapolis) of September 26, 1919, has been filed with the commission by Mr. L. H. Frisch, managing editor of the World. The manuscript record was compiled by the office of war statistics of the American Jewish Committee, New York, and contains detailed information about individuals which is not included in the published roster.

The commission has been unusually fortunate of late in securing war records in the form of motion picture films. From Mrs. Arthur A. Law of Minneapolis has been received the eight reel film known to thousands of Minnesotans as the "Miles of Smiles" film. This picture, it will be remembered, represents, among other things, the war-time life and activities of Minneapolis; it was produced through the instrumentality of Mrs. Law and others for the purpose of bringing cheer to members of Base Hospital No. 26, the 151st United States Field Artillery, and other groups of Minnesotans at the front. Through the kindness of Mr. Merton E. Harrison of Minneapolis, former director of the war savings organization of the Ninth Federal Reserve District, the commission has received a print of "The Price of Victory" film, a picture illustrative of reconstruction work done at the United States Army General Hospital No. 29, Fort Snelling, and used extensively throughout the Northwest in connection with the Victory Loan campaign. Mr. Glen S.
Lock of Two Harbors, leader of the U. S. S. Iowa band when in the service, has presented a three hundred foot reel showing this band giving a noonday concert aboard the Iowa while the ship was at target practice in Chesapeake Bay.

Under the chairmanship of Colonel Hayden S. Cole of St. Paul, the Ramsey County War Records Committee has evolved into a strong organization with funds sufficient for an aggressive conduct of the work on a scale in some degree commensurate with the possibilities in view. Mr. Harry W. Oehler, a young St. Paul attorney, serves as executive secretary and conducts the work of the committee from his office at 712 Commerce Building. Special attention is now being given to the completion of the St. Paul and Ramsey County “Gold Star Roll” started some months ago by Mayor Hodgson, and to the collection of biographical sketches and portraits of the men there enrolled.

Through the efforts of the chairman, Dr. V. T. McHale of Henderson, the Sibley County War Records Committee has received an appropriation of three hundred dollars from the county board. The committee has opened headquarters, employed a secretary, and prepared a military service record form for local use, which is in some respects an improvement upon the state form after which it is modelled.

A trio of souvenir illustrated histories setting forth the parts played by the citizens of Pipestone, Nobles, and Rock counties in the World War: 1917, 1918, 1919, has been filed with similar works in the state war records collection, through the kindness of Mr. Edward R. Trebon of the Leader Publishing Company of Pipestone, the publishers. An interesting feature, not included in other county war histories previously noted in these pages, is the appearance in the Pipestone and Nobles histories of sections dealing with the organization of such local posts of the American Legion as had been established at the time of publication.

Among other material recently received by the state commission from Mr. Glen S. Locker of Two Harbors, chairman of the Lake County War Records Committee, is a copy of the “Victory Number” of the Agate published by the senior class of Two
Harbors High School in 1919. Instead of an annual commemorating the war services of teachers, alumni, and students of the local high school only, as might be expected, one finds what amounts to a record, and a very creditable record, of the parts played by the citizens of Two Harbors and Lake County in the war. In it appear rosters, records, and portraits of Lake County soldiers, sailors, marines, and civilian war work leaders, together with brief accounts of the personnel and activities of local war organizations. Among unique illustrative features may be noted a large number of facsimiles of war posters and cartoons and of Duluth and Two Harbors newspapers bearing announcements of the declaration of war, of the signing of the armistice, and of important intermediate events. According to an explanatory note by the publishers, much of the credit for the work is due to Miss Elizabeth Steichen, principal of the high school.

Among publications of service men's organizations which may be expected to supply material and open up important sources of information for the military phases of Minnesota's war history, the latest to appear are *Semper Fidelis*, official organ of the Minnesota Marine Club, published bimonthly beginning January 26, in Minneapolis; the *Post News*, official organ of the David Wisted Post No. 28 of the American Legion, Duluth, published bimonthly beginning January 24, and the *Minnesota Home Guard Legion Magazine*, published monthly in Minneapolis.

Former marines and others will welcome the appearance of a brief official history, in pamphlet form, of *The United States Marine Corps in the World War* (108 p.). The account was prepared by Major Edwin N. McClellan, officer in charge of the Marine Corps department of the historical division of the army, for the information of marines and the public pending the publication of a detailed and final history now in the course of preparation.