

## Some New Books in Review

*Military Life in Dakota: The Journal of Philippe Régis de Trobriand.* Translated and edited from the French original by LUCILE M. KANE. (St. Paul, Alvord Memorial Commission, 1951. xxv, 395 p. Illustrations, map. \$7.50.)

At the close of the Civil War De Trobriand, French baron, but American citizen and brevet major general of volunteers, had returned to France to write his memoirs when word came that he was appointed a colonel in the regular army. On completing his *Quatres Ans de Campagne à l'Armée du Potomac*, he reported to Washington in July, 1867, and was assigned to the command of the middle district of the Department of Dakota. From this tour of duty resulted the superb private diary now for the first time completely put into English.

When on August 19, 1867, he stepped ashore at Fort Stevenson on the Missouri 1,235 miles above Omaha he found his fort unbuilt, his garrison in tents. The only fortification was a few tree trunks driven behind the tents in which the officers' wives were living "to convince them that they are safe from Indian arrows." Provisions lay under a temporary shelter near the wharf. The cattle grazed on the plains. The buildings of the fort were being constructed six hundred yards away from the camp, exposed completely to the Indians. All this was guarded by half a dozen sentinels. De Trobriand would have plenty to do.

The immediate problem was the building of the fort. Lack of labor and difficulty of supply made otherwise simple matters complicated. When winter set in only a portion of the buildings had been even partially completed. But "necessity makes men ingenious," and with boards and sailcloth the soldiers installed "rather comfortable quarters [to] brave the rigors of the season." Desertion and drunkenness required severe disciplinary action. The corruption of Indian agents often made relations with the tribes difficult. A communication system between the distant posts had to be set up — in the winter official mail was to be carried by dogsled.

The Indians, the colonel soon found, "are much less fearful than they are painted." If this had not been true, how could weak, isolated posts, manned by two or three companies, be maintained? Soon after he had reached Fort Stevenson, some five hundred Indians arrived in the neighborhood and behaved threateningly, but a single cannon shell in their midst caused them to ride away in great haste. The only real danger was that of isolated assassination. The hostile Indians were in fact less troublesome than the friendly ones. The latter, at peace with the United States, could not be roughly handled and it was a point of honor with them to steal.

De Trobriand found a great many things to set down in his diary other

than military matters. Soon after he arrived he rode over to the Fort Berthold trading post, where he met Gros Ventres, Ree, Mandan. He devoted pages to their marriage, burial, sacrificial customs; he described their lodges, their costumes, their games, their behavior at powwows. We live with him through a five-day blizzard, during which the drifts rose to eighteen feet and his own quarters were buried, so that communication with other buildings on the post had to be by tunnel. We experience the dust storms of the plains, the grasshopper plagues, the prairie fires. While writing the opening pages of the diary, De Trobriand spent sixteen days at Omaha waiting for a steamboat and observing a far western city and its typical people. Then for fifteen slow days the "Deer Lodge" struggled up the Missouri to reach Fort Stevenson; we find what that was like. We meet officers and officers' wives, Indian agents and traders, Indian chiefs and frontier scouts. We watch gold miners returning down the Missouri in mackinaws.

At last, after nearly two years far from his family, Brevet Brigadier General de Trobriand could write on March 22, 1869: "Red-letter day!" His regiment was to be relieved as soon as the river was navigable; he was to proceed with his command to Newport Barracks, Kentucky, to await a new assignment. "So we leave the desert plains of Dakota and the Indian tribes to return to the United States. Heaven be praised." But the army was always the army. Thirteen days later: "Any one *who relies on the future* is a fool!" The mail had just in brought news of a reorganization of the army: Congress had cut the infantry establishment from forty-five to twenty-five regiments and De Trobriand was one of the colonels retained. So we leave him on his way to his new command, the District of Montana, a thousand miles farther from home.

This is a document of the first importance, excellently written, excellently translated. Filled with intelligent, unbiased observation, a rich and varied record of life on the frontier, a fascinating story, *Military Life in Dakota* must arouse enthusiasm in the student and the common reader alike. Miss Kane has increased our debt to her by providing able annotations and by using as illustrations ten sketches by the author, who was an artist as well as a literary and military man. Our only regret can be that she was not able to reproduce all the drawings she has listed in the appendix. In every way this is a book truly worthy of Clarence W. Alvord, in whose honor it is published.

JOHN FRANCIS McDERMOTT

*Mesabi Pioneer: Reminiscences of Edmund J. Longyear.* Edited by GRACE LEE NUTE, in collaboration with the author. (St. Paul, The Minnesota Historical Society, 1951. x, 116 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

The importance of the discovery and development of the mighty Mesabi Range in northern Minnesota can hardly be over-emphasized and certainly will not be generally appreciated until historians view these events in true perspective. In this book Edmund J. Longyear, ably assisted by Grace Lee Nute, gives us an eyewitness account of the early days of the Mesabi and leads us, literally step by step, along the famous Mesabi Trail which was gradually

driven westward along the iron formation from the railroad at the frontier town of Mesaba toward Grand Rapids, a hundred miles away on the Mississippi. Much of this road the author himself and his diamond drill crews chopped out of the magnificent forest that covered the area in the 1890's, for Mr. Longyear was bent upon the discovery of iron ore, not the mining of it. Since the tools of his trade were the diamond-tipped, steam-driven drills that probed far into the earth and brought up samples of rock to be carefully studied and analyzed, roads were essential for the movement of his equipment.

Mr. Longyear was a member of the first class to graduate from the Michigan College of Mines. He worked in the Ishpeming district for a short time and then, "during a lull in exploration," he married Nevada Patten. After the honeymoon, he left his bride with his mother and started exploring for iron ore in the vicinity of the new Minnesota boom town of Mesaba. There the grading of the railroad from Two Harbors to Tower had opened up the famous "Red Pan Cut" through the iron-bearing rocks of the Mesabi. This drew miners and prospectors to the spot and they "not only dug holes everywhere in the immediate vicinity but . . . also struck off from this railroad station into the wilderness." At that time, Mesaba had hotels, stores, and saloons, and it was the main outfitting point for the prospectors. Later, after the soft, rich Mesabi ore was discovered farther west it became a ghost town, and the new towns of Eveleth, Virginia, Mountain Iron, and Hibbing drew the prospectors.

The author speaks warmly of the early days in which he played such an important part in building up the Mesabi from "rocks and muskegs into a land of scores of communities constituting one of the most industrialized sections of Minnesota." He explains the theory of the existence of the iron formation that made him decide to drill the first hole with his newly arrived rig about a mile and a half south and west of the town of Mesaba. The first diamond drill hole put down on the Mesabi Range resulted. It was drilled down 1,293 feet, passing through lean, magnetic iron formation for a distance of over eight hundred feet, but striking no rich ore.

The next hole was drilled some twelve miles farther east, near Iron Lake, where, on an exploring trip, Mr. Longyear and his men found good ore indications. They put down three holes in this area, but found only the lean, banded magnetic iron formation called taconite. They were looking for hard, red hematite, actually something now known to be rarely encountered on the Mesabi. Farther west the occurrence of soft hematite was being reported, and so Mr. Longyear, with his crew and his drill rig, started westward along the miserable Mesabi Trail, drilling and prospecting as they went on a journey that took them clear to the Mississippi at Grand Rapids. He reports in detail upon the activities of other prospectors working along the trail and upon the results of his own discoveries.

By 1896 the true picture of the Mesabi was becoming clear and the new town of Hibbing was growing rapidly. Mr. Longyear moved there with his family and took part in the platting and building of the new town. There he built his first real office and a grand house for his wife and rapidly growing

family. Hibbing "was a very lively town in 1898, 1899 and 1900," and, among other business establishments, it had forty-five saloons. In 1901 Mr. Longyear's expanding business took him to Minneapolis whence, in more recent years, his drilling activities have taken him and his men into far distant fields. The reader of this interesting book is left with the distinct impression, however, that Mr. Longyear's real interests have always revolved about the romance of discovery during his first ten years on the Mesabi.

This book is a grand historical document. It is to be hoped that the early recollections of other pioneers in the Mesabi area will follow. The reader will be impressed by the fullness of the lives of these sturdy people, and if this book is to be criticized at all, it is because the reader gets only occasional glimpses of the Longyears as real, human individuals. Mrs. Longyear was one of the very first women to go to the Mesabi district and she must have had a rugged existence there. What interesting human documents the memoirs of the wives of some of these pioneers would make! Perhaps Miss Nute and the historical society will give us some of them sometime.

E. W. DAVIS

*The Political Career of Floyd B. Olson.* By GEORGE H. MAYER. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1951. 329 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Historians often pass rude judgment upon those who attempt biographies of controversial figures of the recent past. They feel that such authors cannot dispassionately weigh issues close to those of contemporary times and that they lack sufficient information for sound judgments about men and events. In short, the historian wants what he calls perspective — often meaning prejudice with hardening of the arteries.

Dr. Mayer bravely and successfully challenges this dogma in his biography of Floyd B. Olson, who died in 1936 after a political career almost unmatched in his state for controversy. Since 1936 Olson has ceased to be remembered as a man and has become a myth, a myth clad with a halo in the eyes of some and with horns in the eyes of others. Dr. Mayer has restored Olson, the man, and has given a sharply focused and balanced picture of him.

Floyd B. Olson was born in Minneapolis in 1891 to a family of average circumstances. After graduating from high school, he became a transient worker for a time. This rough experience confirmed his already formulating role of the rebel against authority and against the existing economic order. Returning home, he took a degree in law and soon became Hennepin County attorney. He joined the Farmer-Labor party and was elected governor in 1930, aided by a Republican split and by the support of thousands of independent voters, always a key factor in his political success.

Olson's subsequent career is thoroughly described by Dr. Mayer. It is impossible to discuss here all its important aspects, but two recurrent themes deserve mention. One is Olson's political philosophy. In the conservative spectrum, he was redder than Moscow and even many liberals regarded him as at least a left-wing Socialist. Dr. Mayer disagrees with this nice catalogue. He

persuasively interprets Olson as more act than philosophy, a pragmatic rebel and not a doctrinaire radical, and above all a practical politician. Olson rejected the capitalistic system of his day, but did not hanker after elaborate and preconceived schemes of social reconstruction; he went as far as he could today and waited until tomorrow to go farther.

Dr. Mayer also emphasizes the constant intramural warfare within the Farmer-Labor party. Three groups were in conflict: the farmers, organized labor, and the independent, non-party supporters of Olson. To compound the confusion, there were the eminent mavericks, Arthur Townley of Non-partisan League fame, and the lofty Shipstead, who remembered his Farmer-Labor origins only when it paid him to do so. Finally, a small and crafty group of professional politicians waged a constant, and increasingly successful, behind-the-scenes battle with Olson for control of patronage and of party machinery. It required a master to hold such a fractious team as this on the road or, indeed, even in harness. Dr. Mayer's description of this conflict shows in part the reasons for the later fate of the party. Olson might well have echoed the Bourbon prediction—"After me, the deluge."

This book is an excellent addition to the rapidly growing literature on Minnesota politics. Dr. Mayer has handled his controversial subject with nice balance and discrimination. Without refusing to interpret his materials, he has steered a straight course between the Scylla of slanted criticism and the Charybdis of hero-worship. The literary style is very good: the narrative flows smoothly and logically, the characterizations are sharp and penetrating, and the author's feel for just the right word in each situation is really outstanding. *The Political Career of Floyd B. Olson* will be read with great profit by the politician, the layman, and the professional historian alike.

DONALD F. WARNER

*Liberty and Property.* By R. V. COLEMAN. (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1951. xiii, 606 p. Illustrations, maps. \$5.00.)

Mr. Coleman's *The First Frontier* was reviewed in this magazine in June, 1948. The present book carries on the story of the American colonies from 1664 to 1765. It has both the strength and the weakness of the earlier volume. The weakness lies in the lack of attention to some of the "fine points" of colonial history and to those "trends" of which historians are fond. On the other hand, it is narrative history at its best and is even more entertaining than the first volume. It is mostly a book about people—planters, preachers, merchants, politicians, servant girls. Hundreds of quotations have been picked from the printed sources and neatly woven into apt and entertaining character sketches. Here is William Penn, not only struggling to maintain his "Holy Experiment" in Pennsylvania, but with his growing waistline. Lord Cornbury, one of the most corrupt of governors, also appeared almost daily in woman's clothing. There is Anne Surriage, the barefoot girl who scrubbed a tavern floor in Marblehead, but who became the mistress and then the wife of a British baronet and a member of high society in Boston.

But this is not just a history of people along the Atlantic coast line. The Mississippi Valley gets its share of attention. The exploits of the French and others are deftly woven in with affairs farther east. A chapter on La Salle is followed by a chapter on William Penn, which begins: "While La Salle was recuperating at Michilimackinac, that autumn of 1682, William Penn stepped ashore at New Castle, on Delaware Bay." Madam Knight's journal of her trip from Boston to New York in 1704 is the connecting link between a discussion of New England at the end of the seventeenth century and an account of affairs in New York—a chapter called "Patents and Pirates." Least satisfactory are the concluding chapters on the events of 1763-65, if for no other reason than that they are too brief.

Books such as these, if used widely, should do much to increase interest in American history. It was peopled with fascinating individuals. They are set forth in this book as in no other work on the period.

MERRILL JENSEN

*The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, volume 2, 1777 to 18 June, 1779; volume 3, June 1779 to September 1780; volume 4, October 1780 to February 1781. Edited by JULIAN P. BOYD. (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1950-51. Illustrations. \$10.00 each.)

These, the latest volumes of the *Jefferson Papers*, cover the years during which their author was concluding his legislative career in the Virginia House of Delegates (vol. 2), and in addition include approximately three-fourths of his two-year term as the second governor of Virginia (vols. 3 and 4). These documents, which have here been so carefully assembled and meticulously edited, constitute an extraordinarily complete record of legislative activity and civil administration during the formative years of one of the most important of the thirteen original states. Here is the record of a public figure who had retired from Congress, declined a diplomatic appointment to France, and entered public life in Virginia with the deliberate intention of remodeling its legal structure. Thus the most important feature of the first of the three volumes here reviewed is, perhaps, the publication in full for the first time of the complete text of the *Revisal of the Laws*, a plan of legislative activity which resulted in the submission of 126 bills to the Virginia legislature on June 18, 1779. In the text of these bills is spread before the reader a panorama of Jefferson's philosophy of the functions, rights, and responsibilities of statehood, and included are such important examples of Jefferson's political thought as the bills for "Proportioning Crimes and Punishments," for the "More General Diffusion of Knowledge," and for "Establishing Religious Freedom."

On June 2, 1779, Jefferson formally accepted election to the governorship of Virginia, and volumes 3 and 4 of the *Papers* cover the major portion of his two-year term. Much of it, as one might expect, deals with military matters: the supplying of men and material for the defense against the British and the Indians of Virginia and its extensive western domain, the treatment of de-

serters, the establishment of arms factories and military hospitals, the treatment of British and German prisoners, the protection of the country against the invasion threat of General Leslie, the plan for the capture of Benedict Arnold at Portsmouth, the expeditious handling of the troubled relations with the Cherokee. And always there was the ever-present problem of supporting the unstable Continental currency. Here is the record of a civil administrator in wartime working to provide Virginia's share of the prosecution of the Revolution, to extend and protect its western lands, and to build a substantial, just, and efficient structure of state government.

But not all the documents here reproduced are restricted to legislative and administrative matters. During this period Jefferson began his long and important correspondence with James Madison, James Monroe, and, especially, John Adams. There was time, too, for other interests. In these volumes are recorded the concern of their author for science, his correspondence with Rittenhouse and other scholars in Europe as well as America, and his productive association with the American Philosophical Society. Here also are reflected Jefferson's enthusiasm for agriculture, gardening, and book collecting. Even during the critical months of his governorship, Jefferson found the opportunity to begin assembling data for his later *Notes on the State of Virginia*. For breadth of interest and diversity of activity Benjamin Franklin is probably his only American rival. Small wonder that, even today, in American political and social thought the Jeffersonian influence is a dominant force.

Finally, one cannot help observing that, whereas the first volume of these papers covers a sixteen-year period (1760-76), the fourth, of approximately equal size, records the documentary output of only five months (October, 1780, to February, 1781). Already the writings of Thomas Jefferson have attained a magnitude and importance sufficient to reward most men for a lifetime of effort!

J. H. SHERA

*Peter Skene Ogden's Snake Country Journals, 1824-25 and 1825-26* (Hudson's Bay Record Society, *Publications*, vol. 13). Edited by E. E. RICH, assisted by A. M. JOHNSON. With an introduction by BURT BROWN BARKER. (London, The Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1950. lxxix, 283 p.)

Peter Skene Ogden's name is so well known in American history that the appearance in print of two diaries kept by him and hitherto unpublished are cause for rejoicing. Completely devoid of literary merit, these detailed records of two important journeys and policy-making seasons in the fur trade of the Hudson's Bay Company will serve local historians constantly and be of great use to many others.

Only those familiar with the background of Ogden's dangerous expeditions can adequately appreciate these apparently laconic and rather prosaic accounts of them. Through high mountains, over and along scores of important and unimportant rivers between Wyoming and the Pacific, and across the territories of warlike natives, such as the Snake, Blackfeet, Nez Percés, and Ute

Indians, Ogden and his men passed and repassed. Using the scorched-earth device for preventing American traders from getting a foothold in the Oregon Country—or so Ogden and his employers, the Hudson's Bay Company, fondly believed—Ogden was far too busy with immediate problems and probably too exhausted physically after each day's strenuous exertions to write entertainingly for future generations. Without the introduction by Dr. Barker, the average reader would sense little of the high drama that packed the diarist's days and, too often also, his nights.

Names that were soon to mean much to the world appear in the diaries. Dr. John McLoughlin, George Simpson, and Jedediah Smith are frequently mentioned. Casual references are made to Mount St. Helen, the Three Teton, Great Salt Lake, Spokane House, the valleys of almost countless rivers in Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah, the ranges and peaks of many mountains, wild life, and, especially, Indian life and psychology. Individual Indians, half-breeds, voyageurs, traders, and trappers dart into and out of the pages until the reader's brain reels. To help him, footnotes appear on practically every page, the work of such fine scholars as the editor and Miss A. M. Johnson, archivist of the Hudson's Bay Company; and of such enthusiastic local historians as Lewis A. McArthur and Robert W. Sawyer. The last two, with Ralph M. Shane and "numerous Forest Rangers who accompanied Mr. Sawyer step by step over the 1825-26 route," have produced a very helpful map, showing the routes of the two expeditions. There is also a reproduction of a map drawn by William Kittson, who accompanied Ogden in 1824-25.

Kittson's diary for that journey is also printed in this volume, appearing as a part of Appendix A. This man was a relative of Norman W. Kittson, a well-known fur trader in Minnesota in the middle of the nineteenth century, who was later a business associate of James J. Hill. Related also, by marriage, to the family of the two Alexander Henrys of Minnesota exploration renown, Kittson shared with his more famous relatives the urge to explore unknown regions. There are few other Minnesota connections with this book—always excepting Dr. John McLoughlin and the usual route to Oregon before 1835, that is, the canoe highway through Minnesota's northern boundary lakes.

GRACE LEE NUTE

*The Emigrants.* A Novel by VILHELM MOBERG. Translated from the Swedish by GUSTAF LANNESTOCK. (New York, Simon and Schuster, 1951. xv, 366 p. \$3.75.)

The Scandinavian saga of western settlement has long fascinated novelists as well as historians. Norwegian-born O. E. Rølvaag and Johan Bojer have told the story of Norwegian settlers on the Dakota prairies, and Danish-born Sophus K. Winther has produced a long narrative of Danes in Nebraska. Among native American writers Willa Cather has been most conspicuously successful in dramatizing racial amalgamation west of the Mississippi. But in general the Swedish emigrant has attracted less fictional attention than his



Norse counterpart, and for this reason alone the new novel by Vilhelm Moberg, the first of a projected fictional trilogy, should win readers.

*The Emigrants* deals with a small group of sixteen peasants from Ljuder Parish, Småland, who in 1850 boarded the brig "Charlotta" at Karlshamn and after ten strenuous weeks arrived at the port of New York. Roughly the novel can be divided into two parts: the events leading up to the voyage, and the voyage itself. Each section is carefully written and reveals close use of documentary sources.

The sixteen who left Sweden represent a surprising variety of motivation and are probably a fair epitome of the whole migratory movement. Karl Oscar Nilsson, the virtual leader, leaves with his family because even hard work, thrift, and sobriety cannot ensure the cottager a decent income from the stony land he works. Robert, Karl Oscar's younger brother, is a fugitive indentured servant with no future beyond hard cuffs and low wages. Jonas Petter joins the group because he can no longer endure cohabitation with his shrewish wife. Ulrika of Västergöhl is included because her neighbors cannot forget that she was once a professional harlot and are unable to give her credit for conversion to a new and spiritual life. And Danjel Andreasson, a mild, soft-spoken little man who refuses to acknowledge the parish theocracy and wishes to serve Christ in his own way, goes because he is the victim of religious persecution. Thus economic, social, moral, and religious motives impel the Småland peasants to cut their ties with family and fatherland.

The voyage is long and bitter to these cottagers who have never seen the sea and know nothing of its terrors. Cramped quarters, inadequate sanitary facilities, poor food exact their toll, and long before the ten weeks are over many a poor emigrant wonders seriously whether America can offer enough to compensate for uncleanness, seasickness, and scurvy. Especially in this part of the novel Vilhelm Moberg uses both the technique and the style of naturalism, so that some readers may find his language occasionally offensive. But the one-class, virtual steerage accommodations of the brig "Charlotta" are best pictured in the terms which the voyagers knew to their sorrow. Happily for the peasants and for the New World, heroism and strength eventually overcome the bitterness of disillusionment.

*The Emigrants*, despite interpolated tales and scenes, reads more like social history than like a novel. Karl Oscar and his family achieve some vitality as people, but mostly they are historical types, the sturdy, self-reliant farmers who founded the Swedish settlements in the New World. Nor is their artistic centrality heightened by the author's constant shifting of focus. Moreover, Vilhelm Moberg's method of narration fails to increase the story's tension or suspense. He uses dialogue sparingly, and he seems to prefer a summarized, almost static narration. *The Emigrants* has some interesting and vivid material, but as a story it is rather dull. Its basic merits are sociological and historical, rather than artistic. One hopes that if the story is continued, the author will find means of dramatizing his protagonist more convincingly.

JOHN T. FLANAGAN

*Empire in Pine: The Story of Lumbering in Wisconsin, 1830-1900.* By ROBERT F. FRIES. (Madison, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1951. viii, 285 p. Illustrations. \$4.00.)

For over half a century lumbering was the principal non-agricultural industry in Wisconsin. At one time it employed over twenty-five per cent of all industrial workers, nearly four times as many as any other industry. The part-time employment provided by lumbering was an important factor in supporting many pioneers as they opened up the farming areas of the state. The investment in the Wisconsin lumber industry was nearly one-quarter of the total industrial capital of the state toward the end of the nineteenth century. The lumber produced made possible the construction of homes, factories, railroads, and farms in Wisconsin and throughout the northern part of the nation from the Atlantic coast states to the Rocky Mountains. Wood, especially white pine, was indeed the basis for much of the nation's development during the nineteenth century, and Wisconsin for a time led the nation in lumber production.

Professor Fries has turned a fine doctoral thesis into an excellent published account of the growth, problems, and influence of the lumber industry in Wisconsin. After a survey of the natural setting for the industry and the early attempts to produce lumber, he discusses the logging, river transportation, milling, and marketing phases. Extended consideration is given to the relations with the railroads, to the struggle between the Chippewa Valley lumbermen and the Mississippi River Logging Company, and to monopolistic tendencies within the industry. The legal and illegal acquisition of land for logging is described in light of the practices current on the frontier and the failure of Congress and the Wisconsin legislature to provide adequate legislation and law-enforcement machinery. Wages, unionization, strikes, and other matters of concern to labor are dealt with. Consideration is given to political and social influences, such as the economic status of members of the industry, the political activities of lumbermen, discipline of lumber crews, wearing apparel, and recreation among lumberjacks. A final chapter is concerned with the decline of the industry, conservation measures, successor industries, and the problems of cutover lands.

Dr. Fries has done an admirable piece of work in compressing the story of a great industry into relatively small space. He has described clearly the essential steps in the lumbering process. Contemporary, but clear, photographs add greatly to the presentation, although the reader is often eager for more information about when and where the pictures were taken and who should receive credit for them. Transportation is particularly well covered, as three of the fourteen chapters deal with the river and rail movement of logs and lumber. In writing the chapter on problems of management, the author was faced with the paucity of accurate records, and he can hardly be criticized severely for his brevity on such topics as the comparative amounts of invested capital, gross products, and rate of profit. In considering the material on labor, it would seem pertinent to question the statement that the training of workers

was expensive (p. 105), and to ask why more attention was not given to the movement of the 1890's which sought a reduction in the length of the working day.

The material in this book is well supported by ample footnotes, which refer especially to newspapers and company records to be found at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Additional information of value might have been gained from greater use of newspapers on the edges of Wisconsin at such lumber centers as the Green Bay region of northeastern Wisconsin and the Stillwater area on the St. Croix. The not inconsiderable collection of Daniel Shaw Lumber Company records at Eau Claire and the Minnesota Historical Society, and the papers of the Wisconsin Land and Lumber Company in the Michigan Historical Collections are not cited. Paul Bunyan is brought into the book, but no mention is made of the controversy that has raged over the claim that the Bunyan stories are a twentieth-century invention. In spite of these shortcomings, author and publisher are to be congratulated on the appearance of a sound, well-illustrated book offered to the public at a reasonable price.

GEORGE B. ENGBERG

*A History of La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1841-1900.* By ALBERT H. SANFORD and H. J. HIRSHHEIMER, assisted by ROBERT F. FRIES. (La Crosse, La Crosse County Historical Society, 1951. xi, 274 p. Illustrations, maps. \$3.50.)

La Crosse, a leisurely little city on the banks of the Black River, has its roots in a past grown romantic with distance. Nathan Myrick from Westport, New York, first looked upon the *prairie la crosse* in 1841, when he arrived with goods to trade with the Indians. His cabin broke the ground where La Crosse now stands. In succeeding years, the Indian trade that gave the town its birth dwindled to insignificance. New life came with the exploitation of the Black River pineries. La Crosse was the headquarters for the lumber industry, a center for supplying the logging camps, for sawing, and for rafting. In the short, boisterous years when lumber reigned, the village unfolded into a city. The end of the lumber era came swiftly. In 1899 the three remaining sawmills echoed the old sounds faintly; and to the men who had been young in the youth of the city it seemed that stillness had settled over La Crosse.

The Indian trade, steamboats, first settlements, and the lumber industry—these are grand themes that have teased the imagination of many historical writers. The authors of *A History of La Crosse* successfully communicate the fact and feeling of these early times. But this is only half their story. They write of dozens of more prosaic industries that grew as lumber production declined; they write of city government, churches, education, city planning, education, composition of the population, public utilities, and literature. The book is too brief to treat fairly all the subjects introduced, but the authors have demonstrated an understanding of the elements of good city history.

The volume is well documented, testimony to the wide research done by the authors in manuscripts, newspapers, board of trade reports, and other pub-

lished materials. Among the illustrations and maps is a diagram showing the location of thirty-three sawmills that operated in La Crosse, North La Crosse, and neighboring Onalaska between 1850 and 1910.

The production of *A History of La Crosse* is an example of co-operation among historical agencies in Wisconsin. Both Mr. Sanford and Mr. Hirshheimer have long records of service with the La Crosse County Historical Society, the publishers of their book. Financial support came from the Civic Centennial Committee; expert assistance was provided by Dr. Robert F. Fries through the La Crosse County Historical Society; and Dr. Clifford L. Lord of the Wisconsin State Historical Society gave the manuscript a critical reading. The book, too, is a reminder of the research resources of the La Crosse County society, long known to devotees of local history through the publication of *La Crosse County Historical Sketches*.

LUCILE M. KANE

*Old Indiana and the New World: Address at the Opening of the Library of Congress Exhibition Commemorating the Territory of Indiana, November 30, 1950.* By ELMER DAVIS. (Washington, The Library of Congress, 1951. 14 p. Illustrations. \$2.25.)

Within the few pages of this little book Elmer Davis, a native Hoosier who has lived out of the state for forty years, challenges Hoosiers to wake up, face the problems to today, and start thinking.

The occasion of Mr. Davis' remarks was the opening of the Library of Congress exhibition commemorating the organization of Indiana Territory. The documents in the exhibition showed that there has been variety in the Indiana picture — in the French at Vincennes, the Utopians at New Harmony, and in such individuals as Robert Dale Owen. But, says Mr. Davis, the traditional Hoosier has been disinclined to move from the center, striving to avoid extremes "whether of virtue and of wisdom or of vice and folly." And in this new age, for better or for worse, "the world has broken into Indiana; and Indiana has broken out into the world. . . . The Indiana of tradition could handle the simpler problems of its day; but the problems of the new age take more thinking." The writer points out that "The old tight, introspective, self-satisfied Hoosier culture, which never aspired to the heights but never descended to the depths — which cultivated, about as well as any society has ever cultivated it, the doctrine of moderation in all things, of the golden mean — that is gone." Gone are the days when Indiana could enjoy its "centripetal, introspective culture" — "a culture which was satisfied to turn out, as perhaps its most typical product put it, more first-rate second-rate men than any other State in the country." In his characteristic clear, direct fashion Mr. Davis poses to the Hoosiers of today the problems of the new age in which Indiana must find its place in the larger world scene.

GAYLE THORNBROUGH

## WHO'S WHO IN THIS ISSUE

MISS POLLY BULLARD, the "Iron Range Schoolmarm" whose reminiscent narrative opens the present issue, was a daughter of one of the founders of the St. Paul jewelry firm of Bullard Brothers. In this posthumous article, the writer recalls some of her experiences, including a Christmas celebration, while pioneering on one of Minnesota's late frontiers. Later Miss Bullard returned to St. Paul to teach in the public schools of her home city.

In writing on "Lewis' 'Mississippithal' in English," Miss BERTHA L. HEILBRON, editor of this magazine, presents new material on a subject that originally drew her interest some fifteen years ago. In 1936 she edited and the society published *Henry Lewis' Journal of a Canoe Voyage from the Falls of St. Anthony to St. Louis*. There she pointed out a number of questions relating to the publication of Lewis' book on the Mississippi Valley, and suggested that a "future bibliographer" might be able to settle them. A fragment of Lewis' original English text, recently acquired by the Minnesota Historical Society, provides answers for at least some of these questions; thus it has prompted the writing of the present article. For further study of the problem, the University of Minnesota has awarded Miss Heilbron a fellowship in regional writing, under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Professor F. GARVIN DAVENPORT is a member of the history faculty in Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois. While gathering material for a history of American culture, he has made special studies of a number of Midwest scientists, including Newton H. Winchell, the Minnesotan who is the subject of his present article. What the writer describes as a "companion piece" on Alexander Winchell appeared in *Michigan History* for June, 1951. Mr. Davenport is the author also of articles on "Early American Geologists and the Oil Industry," published in the *Indiana Magazine of History* for March, 1951, and on "Scientific Interests in Kentucky and Tennessee, 1870-1890," appearing in the *Journal of Southern History* for November, 1948. At present Mr. Davenport is preparing an interpretive study of the work of Midwest artists.

Dr. GRACE LEE NUTE bases her article entitled "Marin versus La Vérendrye" on the hitherto unexploited journal of an eighteenth-century French explorer and trader in the Minnesota country. The author is research associate on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society and professor of history in Hamline University, St. Paul. Readers of this magazine probably know her best as the author of two popular books on the Minnesota border lake country—*The Voyageur's Highway* and *Rainy River Country*. Her latest book, *Mesabi Pioneer*, which she edited from the reminiscences of Edmund J. Longyear, is reviewed in this issue. She is now writing a history of the Minnesota iron ranges.

Dr. LYNWOOD G. DOWNS, associate professor of German in the University of Minnesota, has long been interested in the cultural activities of Minnesota's German pioneers. The letter from the *Deutsche Musikzeitung* here translated

adds to available information about the career of Philip Rohr, a musician who helped develop a Minnesota townsite of the 1850's. In a survey of "The Writings of Albert Wolff," published in this magazine for December, 1946, Mr. Downs drew attention to the work of a pioneer German literary figure in Minnesota. A study of "The Soldier Vote and Minnesota Politics, 1862-65" was contributed by Mr. Downs to *Minnesota History* for September, 1945.

Dr. JOHN FRANCIS McDERMOTT, who reviews Miss Kane's new edition of the De Trobriand journal for this issue, is professor of English in Washington University, St. Louis. He is an authority on the pictorial record of the Midwest, to which De Trobriand made an important contribution, as well as on the travel literature of the area, and he has the linguistic skill needed for passing judgment on this translation from the French. Others who contribute reviews of recent books to the present number are Professor E. W. DAVIS, chief of the Mines Experiment Station in the University of Minnesota; Professor GEORGE B. ENGBERG, a member of the history faculty in the University of Cincinnati who was formerly on the staff of the society's Forest Products History Foundation; Dr. JOHN T. FLANAGAN, professor of English in the University of Illinois; Professor MERRILL JENSEN of the history faculty in the University of Wisconsin; Dr. JESSE H. SHERA of the Graduate Library School in the University of Chicago; Miss GAYLE THORNBROUGH, a member of the editorial staff of the Indiana Historical Society at Indianapolis; Professor DONALD F. WARNER of the department of history in Macalester College, St. Paul; and two members of the Minnesota Historical Society's staff — Miss LUCILE M. KANE, curator of manuscripts, and Dr. NUTE, who is identified above.



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