
Reviewed by Jesse H. Shera

THE TWO most recent volumes of the Jefferson papers to come from the Princeton University Press bring to a stormy conclusion the years of Jefferson's governorship of Virginia, carry him through a trying period of personal bereavement and melancholia with the death of his wife on September 6, 1782, and culminate in his great legislative work in the Continental Congress of 1783-84.

The fifth volume is predominantly the story of a young and largely ununited nation at war with a major world power, and the tireless efforts of a civilian administrator to cope with disastrous events which brought his own Virginia almost to the brink of panic. Here is presented a Jefferson who, though he dared not forget immediate military considerations—the problems of supporting Greene's army in the south, the threat from the Indians in the southwest, the needs of George Rogers Clark's projected campaign against Detroit, the assistance to Lafayette and Steuben in a final attempt to capture Benedict Arnold—never lost sight of his role as a civilian and never forgot that the war was being waged for the "holy cause of Liberty."

But of the two volumes here reviewed, the second provides the richer store for the historian. In its pages Jefferson's career as governor of Virginia comes to an end. Here are presented the documents relating to the proposed inquiry into his conduct as governor—an attack which, though he was fully vindicated, wounded Jefferson more than any other in his entire life. Here, too, is the record of his brilliant leadership in the Continental Congress of 1783-84; his first recorded address to the Indians; the correspondence with George Rogers Clark, Isaac Zane, Archibald Cary, and others concerning anthropological and other scientific subjects which were later to be incorporated into his Notes on Virginia; his first use of codes, including a particularly famous letter to Madison now correctly decoded for the first time; his address to Washington when the latter surrendered to Congress his commission as commander-in-chief of the American army; his draft of the ratification of the peace treaty; and his reports on the Connecticut-Pennsylvania territorial dispute.

Perhaps of greatest interest, however, particularly to students of the history of the Middle West, is the fresh material on the Virginia deed of cession of the territory northwest of the Ohio (6:571)—a surrender of local authority in the best interests of national concern for a vast natural resource, and a stand against the attempts of selfish interests to exploit this great domain for private profit. Immediately after the acceptance of the Virginia deed of cession, Jefferson proposed his "plan for the Government of the Western Territory," more familiarly known as the Ordinance of 1784, and the foundation stone of American territorial policy from that date to the present (6:581). The central object of the ordinance was two-fold: first, to provide for the formation, from these western territories, of new states, republican in government, which would be admitted to the Union on an equal basis with the original thirteen; and second, to guarantee that the ordinance was applicable to all parts of the national domain, those to be added in the future as well as those already acquired. In these documents, then, are available for the first time the full account of Jefferson's role in the development and political
maturin of the early West. With this dramatic record of Jefferson's vision and confidence in the future of the new nation in which he never lost faith, even in its darkest hours, the sixth volume is concluded.

One need scarcely add that these two volumes exhibit the same scholarly excellence as their predecessors. It is gratifying to be able to report that a badly needed index to the first six volumes has been promised by the editors for publication in the autumn.

**TRADERS AND INDIANS**


Reviewed by Grace Lee Nute

THE FIFTEENTH volume on the lengthening shelf of Hudson's Bay Record Society publications continues the fourteenth, which began the story of inland penetration from Hudson Bay. It consists of an introduction, the Cumberland House journals from 1779 to 1782, and an outpost's journals for the same period. There is a short appendix and an index.

Richard Glover, associate professor of history in the University of Manitoba, supplies the introduction. It consists of some fifty pages of penetrating comments, first, on the character of the man at York Factory, Humphrey Marten, to whom the greatest credit is due for meeting the North West Company's competition in the West; second, on the Orkneymen who were the instrument of Marten's success; and third, on the terrible outbreak of smallpox which ravaged most of the fur country north and west of the Mississippi River in 1781–82. Dr. Glover does not give much space to the importance of birchbark canoes in Marten's schemes for meeting his rivals, for that topic was thoroughly discussed in the preceding volume. A reader cannot miss the significance of those vehicles, however, for they enabled the "Pedlars" to put the English traders on their mettle.

The Montreal company also had, as an inheritance from the conquest, a class of superb canoe men, the French-Canadian voyageurs, to man those vehicles. Fortunately for the London company, it had begun to make use of the services of Orkneymen before the North West Company came into being. Dr. Glover gives the historical background of the Orkneymen—their Norse origin, their acquisition by Scotland in 1486, their proficiency in handling boats, the bleakness of their island home, and the lure of a more luxurious (!) life on the shores of Hudson Bay—and he then shows how apt they were in becoming canoe men.

Nowhere else does one get such a picture of the catastrophe that hit the North American Indians in 1781–82 as in the journals kept at Cumberland House and Hudson House. Suddenly at least seventy-five per cent of the Englishmen's customers and producers of furs vanished—killed by an epidemic of smallpox which began, apparently, on the upper Mississippi. The dramatic and appalling experiences of finding whole bands of natives rotting in their lodges are recounted quietly but with telling despair.

Through these pages flit shadowy figures of Minnesota's past—Captain James Tute, the leader in Jonathan Carver's expedition, which Robert Rogers sent out to find the "Ouragan" River; Venant St. Germain; Peter Pond; Jean Etienne Waden, whose daughter bore Dr. John McLoughlin a son and namesake at his post on Crane Lake or in that vicinity about 1812; and a few others. Grand Portage is mentioned several times by the diarists. Already it was a place of rendezvouz for the Nor'westers. In fact, future historians of the fur-trade era in Minnesota will have to consult this entire series when attempting to give a well-rounded account of the period.

**HISTORY IN A DICTIONARY**


Reviewed by Vernon Carstensen

THE JOB of making a useful, short dictionary of American history is difficult, perhaps impossible. Messrs. Martin and Gelber boldly proclaim that they have sought to "cover the

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significant developments in economics, finance and banking, labor relations, constitutional and administrative law, social welfare, literature, industry, science, religion, commerce, international relations, foreign policy, education, and the arts, while not eschewing the traditional political and military events." All this within the compass of half a million words! But because of space limitations they have restricted biographical entries "to those prominent personalities who, in the authors' opinion, have most notably distinguished themselves." In treating other topics, the "authors' judgment" has been the determining factor. They plead lack of space in explaining other omissions.

The authors give no hint as to what guided their judgments or shaped their opinions. A cursory examination of the book does not give enlightenment on this point. Only seven Adamses, for example, distinguished themselves enough to be included, and all were related in one way or another to John Adams, who of course got in. (The Dictionary of American Biography devotes sixty-eight double-column pages to the Adamses.) Among the living men whose names are included are Mordecai J. B. Ezekiel and Robert M. Hutchins, but not Louis Bean or James Conant.

Inclusion of some topics is puzzling. "Agriculture" gets almost two columns, and though the article also directs the reader to an article on farms, no such article is to be found. Almost four columns are devoted to a piece on "Literature" which concludes with the wholly incomprehensible sentence: "Historical writing drew on the past in the works of Merle Curti, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., Roy F. Nichols, and Van Wyck Brooks." There is no entry at all under the term United States, and under America the only item is "America, discovery of." There seems to have been no cross check to bring what was said in one article into agreement with what was said in another related to the same subject. Thus, for example, in the article on "Agriculture" we learn that only seventeen per cent of the American people lived on farms in 1952, while in the piece on "Farmers" we are told that "the proportion of farmers to the total population had fallen in 1952 to approximately 20 per cent." Then, under "Population," we are informed that "According to the census of 1950, 86 per cent (of the American people) now live in urban areas."

Careless writing and sloppy proofreading combine to produce errors and confusion. Grand Coulee Dam was "built in 1942"; pack trains seem to have been used only in the eastern part of the United States; the Great American Desert turns out to be the Great Salt Lake Desert; regionalism is a "contemporary development in public administration"; Charles Martin Hall perfected his aluminum reducing process in 1825. Italic and roman letters are mixed helter-skelter in the article on the Mexican War. Part of the paragraph on the hydrogen bomb is included in the piece on John Wesley Hyatt, and it then reappears in its proper place below. This list could be much expanded.

The volume contains many entries. Much of the information is probably accurate, but also trivial. I find it hard to believe that either the student or the "lay reader" will find much satisfaction in trying to use this book.

ARMY ON THE FRONTIER

Broadax and Bayonet: The Role of the United States Army in the Development of the Northwest, 1815-1860. By FRANCIS PAUL PRUCHA. (Madison, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1953. xii, 263 p. Illustrations. $4.00.)

Reviewed by George H. McCune

THIS IS a story about the United States Army. Most histories dealing with the army, at least those appearing since the end of World War II, emphasize heroic living and heroic dying, maneuvers and strategy, tactics and victories. This book, however, is different—different in the sense that the emphasis is on the nonmilitary contributions of the army. Those who read its pages for material to supplement the after-dinner TV program will be disappointed. All this, of course, is not meant to infer that there is no drama, nor record of thrilling experience in Dr. Prucha's book, for there is.

The time is 1815 to 1860. The place—the
Old Northwest. The characters are old and familiar friends of readers of Minnesota History: the fur trader, the whisky trader, the pioneer, the farmer, the cattle dealer, the soldiers, the politicians, the generals, and the Indians.

This book could also be correctly titled "Transit of Civilization to the Frontier," or, one that I like better, "Oases of Culture on the Frontier." The author has done an admirable piece of writing with both themes as underlying threads in his story. The soldiers not only had to keep intruders from Indian lands, but they also served as policemen, offered protection and economic opportunity to settlers, erected forts from hand-hewn lumber and stone, cultivated extensive gardens, built necessary roads for transporting military supplies, and within the environs of the various posts set up libraries and theaters, sponsored churches, and healed the sick.

To many settlers and traders living in the Old Northwest the army and its activities were an obstruction to the advance of settlement. Others welcomed the army for the security it brought and for the business it gave to frontier entrepreneurs. The nonmilitary activities of the army depended in no small degree upon its corps of officers. For the most part they came from the better classes of society and were disciplined and educated at West Point in mathematics and engineering. Some, like Zachary Taylor, David Twiggs, Francis Lee, Henry Leavenworth, and Josiah Snelling learned to be practical administrators who trod the narrow line between military and civil jurisdiction. Samuel Woods and N. J. T. Dana built frontier posts and directed the work of carpenters, cabinetmakers, bricklayers, cooperers, weavers, farmers, and blacksmiths. The construction of Fort Snelling, for example, "is eloquent evidence of skilful planning and direction of no mean ability in stone laying and woodwork." Other unsung and unnamed officers directed the planting of gardens. Fort Howard was known "for the great perfection of its crops." At Fort Snelling "the produce was so plentiful that some of it could be given away."

Other important nonmilitary activities of the army were in the field of science. Thus the army's contributions included mapping, exploring, and recording the natural phenomena encountered on the frontier. The names of Lewis Cass, Stephen H. Long, and Henry R. Schoolcraft (a civilian aided by the army) have long been known to readers of Minnesota History. Other activities, some of them little known and recorded, included observing and reporting meteors, collecting seeds, observing and recording daily weather phenomena, and even an experiment involving the observation and the physiology of digestion.

Nor were these the only nonmilitary aspects of army life. Every garrison had time for dancing, merrymaking, theatricals, and dramatic productions with homemade settings. Music was furnished, according to the best traditions, by the post band. Garrison schools for the children of army men flourished at nearly every post of any size, and the teachers were recruited from the ranks, with an occasional soldier or officer's wife taking turns. In many instances children from the civilian community were admitted to the garrison school.

Space does not permit a more detailed survey of the nonmilitary activities of the army on the frontier. It is to be found, however, in this book, which is for the student, at any grade level, for the general reader, and for the serious historian. Teachers looking for enrichment material to enliven the formal study of history will find an abundance of ideas for oral reports, pageants, socio-drama, and historical programs. To all lovers of history, and more especially those now living in the area of the Old Northwest, Dr. Prucha's narrative offers a welcome change from straight military history or studies made solely from an economic or political approach.

FRONTIER ART


Reviewed by Bertha L. Heilbron

IN ITS VAST sweep of time from about 1500 to the early decades of the present century this book surpasses anything previously published on the art record of the West. True, Bernard DeVoto appends an essay on the

MISS HEILBRON is the editor of this magazine.
"First Illustrators of the West" to Beyond the Wide Missouri, and Robert Taft deals with Artists and Illustrators of the Old West in a bulky work fresh from the press. But Mr. DeVoto stresses the output of a single painter, Alfred J. Miller, and he considers no one who worked before 1820; and Professor Taft limits his discussion to the period from 1850 to 1900. Only because he interprets the term "Old West" in the broadest sense can Mr. McCracken include such illustrators as the unknown German who produced the "First Picture of America" about 1505, and Jacques Le Moyne, the "first artist of record who visited any part of America and made pictures from personal observation." To Europeans of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, all America was the West. It is the author's recognition of this point of view that justifies a survey in his opening chapter of the "First Views of a New Land" across the Atlantic.

Surprising as it may seem, the Middle West figures in this account of the earliest American art era with a crude representation of a buffalo from Gomara's Historia general de las Indias (1553). Both this sketch and that of Hennepin's woolly beast are reproduced, the latter to illustrate a chapter on "Four Flags in the West." With a chapter entitled "All the West a Studio," however, the upper Mississippi country comes into its own. There the author discusses the contributions of three artists familiar to Minnesota readers — Samuel Seymour, Peter Rindisbacher, and James Otto Lewis. Others who exploited the pictorial riches of the Minnesota country follow in rapid succession — George Catlin, "Dean of Western Artists," Seth Eastman, "Soldier with a Sketchbook," John Mix Stanley, Charles Deas, and Charles Wimar. There are chapters also on men like Karl Bodmer, Alfred J. Miller, and Friedrich Kurz who pictured the Missouri and Rocky Mountain areas; and on such later figures as Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran.

That there should be some startling omissions in a work so encyclopedic in character is to be expected. Most serious, perhaps, is the lack of a chapter on George Caleb Bingham. He is represented only by a brief sketch in the "Biographical Check List of Western Artists" which concludes Mr. McCracken's work. Though this is a most useful feature of the book, it, too, overlooks some men who made important contributions to Western art. Where, for example, are Eastman Johnson, Adolf Hoeffler, Joshua Shaw, Charles Alexandre Lesueur, and Edwin Whitefield? It is gratifying, however, to find in the list the name of General Alfred Sully, whose exquisite water colors of Western forts, including Minnesota's Fort Ridgely, might well have inspired the writer's remark that "A skillful artist could give a fuller description of all the new country's aspects, its inhabitants, and the forts being built along the new routes of travel than could the most competent reporter."

Mr. McCracken's approach to his subject is, to use his own expression, "documentary." Whenever possible he has allowed the frontier artists "to speak for themselves, in their journals, diaries, and letters, as well as their pictures." This reviewer feels that Mr. McCracken could have greatly increased the value of his book had he told where to find the collections of pictures and documents on which he based his narrative. True, he locates many of the individual pictures reproduced, but a statement about available collections at the end of each biographical sketch in the "Check List" would have proved invaluable to students of Western art. Such sources for pictures as are given convey the impression that the author leaned heavily on Eastern collections, neglecting the rich pictorial resources to be found in Chicago, St. Louis, Madison, St. Paul, and other Western centers. Mr. McCracken's own preoccupation with Frederic Remington, whose biography he published in 1947, is reflected in the numerous reproductions of that artist's work scattered throughout the volume.

But whatever this Portrait of the Old West lacks, it certainly represents the handsomest and the most complete treatment of an intriguing subject thus far published. With forty magnificent reproductions in full color and nearly a hundred illustrations in black and white, the book has plenty of eye-appeal. The fact that the artist of the frontier must speak first of all through his pictures is richly recognized by both author and publisher. Not only the historian, but the journalist, the movie director, the theatrical producer, and the teacher will find in Mr. McCracken's book a priceless store of visual material on the Old West. And no student of American art can afford to overlook it.

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LUMBERJACKS’ HERO

Paul Bunyan, Last of the Frontier Demigods.

By DANIEL C. HOFFMAN. (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press for Temple University Publications, 1952. xiv, 213 p. $4.50.)

Reviewed by Carleton C. Ames

AS MR. HOFFMAN correctly indicates in his preface, this is the first book about Paul Bunyan “to give the history of [the] changes in his character and fame and to analyze why they occurred.” Not just another collection of the familiar tall tales of the logging camp, this volume presents an analytical study of the nature of a folk legend and endeavors to place the Paul Bunyan myth in the framework of that analysis.

The author has done a competent job of following the Paul Bunyan story through well-defined stages of its development. After discussing the nature of folk tales, he takes the reader through the evolution of this particular legend from its origins in the “Pine and Panhandle,” through a transition from “Sticks to Slicks,” to its final transfiguration as “National Literature.”

Mr. Hoffman is not concerned with origins in the way that a historian might be—that is, he does not undertake to identify, date, and document the first Paul Bunyan story, but rather to describe the soil out of which the stories grew and to recognize the progenitors, both mythical and real, of the great logger. Based on tales of such heroes as Davy Crockett and Mike Fink, embodying some of the characteristics of the Yankee peddler, and adapted and molded in the peculiar environment of the pineries, the figure of Paul Bunyan came into being as the folk hero of the shanty boys, according to Mr. Hoffman.

From the lips of its humble creators, the story passed to the pens of the “Popularizers” who made the mighty Paul known to a wide audience, many of whose members would not have known a peavey from a crosshaul. This popularization began, according to Mr. Hoffman, with pamphlets written by W. B. Laughead as an advertising device for the Red River Lumber Company in 1914. Other versions followed, among the best-known being the works of Agnes Turney, Esther Shepherd, James Stevens, and Harold Felton. From the first these writers began to change the character of the stories and of their chief protagonist. Less and less, as the popularization goes on, do the tales sound like authentic products of the logging camp. Mr. Hoffman’s sometimes caustic and, in this writer’s opinion, quite justified, treatment of such tampering would be more definitive if he had given us, for purposes of comparison, some of the original stories. Unfortunately, his numerous quotations from the legends are, with a few exceptions, from the popularized versions.

Whether told by lumberjacks or written about by James Stevens, the Paul Bunyan stories were designed simply to entertain. It remained for the poets to raise him to a higher status. For Robert Frost, Paul is “individualism in exile.” Carl Sandburg uses him to symbolize “The People,” and W. H. Auden sees him as an American demigod. In these works, some of the tales drawn from the popularizers serve as a nucleus around which the poetic theme is woven.

Mr. Hoffman’s book is required reading for those interested in the Bunyan story. It perhaps endeavors to take in a little too much territory, and this reviewer was not always able to understand clearly the connection between the discussion and the Bunyan legend. Nevertheless, he read the book with great enjoyment and recommends it highly.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Hoffman should have omitted from his book a discussion of one point which is, perhaps, largely a matter for the historian, but upon which the whole significance of this work depends. Some students of the Bunyan myth have voiced a suspicion that it is spurious, and that one of the popularizers should have been termed its inventor. This question of the authenticity of Paul as a folk hero is one with which Mr. Hoffman does not deal, except for a casual reference. This is not the place to debate the question, but if it should turn out that the legend is a hoax rather than a myth, there would not have been much point to Mr. Hoffman’s labors.

DR. AMES, a member of the history faculty in the Wisconsin State College at River Falls, has been on leave conducting some special research in Washington, D.C.
GOLD-SEEKERS’ SAGA


Reviewed by Kenneth Bjork

THE NEWSPAPER may be an inaccurate measure of public opinion, but it is an invaluable guide for discovering what people have read on a particular subject. In the case of the California gold rush it is especially important to determine the role of the press in the spread of the gold fever. Mr. Wyman gives no such analysis of the several Missouri newspapers used in his study. He does, however, present a careful selection of letters written by men who traveled to California and printed, with one exception, in St. Louis and St. Joseph papers. Mr. Wyman renders a distinct service to the historian and the general reader alike, for his collection is both informative and colorful; the letters tell, in the lean-muscled way of such documents, the story of enthusiasm, hope, disappointment, or moderate exultation that was the gold-seeker’s lot. Dealing thus with the very stuff that has gone into America’s growth, they make a modest contribution to a grassroots literature.

It was characteristic of the emigrant that, in moving westward, he frequently wrote in great detail of his experiences on the trek, only to throw pen aside after reaching his destination; in this respect the argonauts of 1849 and 1850 were no exception. As a consequence, this volume is more significant for its descriptions of the overland journey than for its accounts of life in California. The reviewer could not help thinking what an American Chaucer might do with some of the passages in the letters written along the trail. He would glory, for example, in the account of the sixty-year-old emigrant who, “with his rifle on his shoulder and his faithful dog by his side . . . trudged on foot from the forests of the Kennebec”: and in such descriptions as that of the “lean but stalwart Scotchman” who made his way across the plains—pushing a wheelbarrow!

There were dangers, hardships, and sufferings on the road, especially in crossing the Nevada desert. Such experiences, frequently punctuated by tragedy, are recorded with the stoic restraint that characterized the sagas of old. The editor has found adequate, though unavoidably less detailed and less satisfying, descriptions of California life in and out of the mountain camps.

From the point of view of the student of American history, California Emigrant Letters leaves something to be desired. It lacks both index and footnotes, and its one map is generally inadequate even when studied under a magnifying glass. It is obvious that editor and publisher aimed at the popular market. Even so, students might have been given at least a few clarifications of obscure and often tantalizing passages in the letters, for such aids, if judiciously inserted, could not possibly offend the general reader. The reviewer also confesses to a certain confusion that results from reading bits of a single letter under several or more of the ten subject headings that serve as chapter titles. More serious by far, the collection contains not one letter recording the sea journey to California, either by way of Panama or around Cape Horn. The introduction is well written and suggestive, and the illustrations by the editor’s wife are excellent.

INVENTING MANUFACTURER


Reviewed by Elwood Maunder

THERE IS something about the name Eli Whitney which rings a bell in the minds of most Americans. Hardly a man is now alive in this country who does not remember the story of the intrepid Connecticut Yankee who went south as a private tutor, invented a cotton gin, and thereby helped to set in motion a great chain of events which led to the Civil War. Unfortunately, Whitney’s great contribution as the first practitioner of mass-production

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Professor Bjork of St. Olaf College, Northfield, is making a special study of Norwegian migration to the Pacific coast and Alaska.
methods of manufacturing is less well known. Jeanette Mirsky and Allan Nevins have done an outstanding job of throwing the white light of their scholarship upon this less dramatic, but more important, area of Whitney's contribution to American economic history.

Readers of American history will find this book immensely rewarding for, as its title implies, it portrays its central character against the background of the world in which he lived. Indeed, it is out of the skillful handling of historical facts concerning their subject's world that the authors bring to life this man who ranks as one of America's great inventors and one of its pioneer engineers. Eli Whitney emerges from this book as a more flesh-and-blood person than we have known before. More than that, the authors have shed interesting light upon the origins of our nation's industrial revolution and related it to that which was growing so powerfully in England.

A special word should be said for those interested in the history of firearms. This book is a mine of good information about the early development of musket manufacturers. The entire book is buttressed by an excellent bibliography and an index.

CIVIL WAR POLITICIAN


Reviewed by Kenneth Carley

NO ONE recognized Schuyler Colfax, former speaker of the House and onetime vice-president of the United States, when he died of a heart attack in a Mankato, Minnesota, railroad station on January 13, 1885. En route to give a lecture in Iowa, he was identified from papers in his pockets.

Colfax has been neglected ever since, especially by biographers. Now at last he has a competent biography. The author's style is rather plodding, and some of his judgments are not entirely convincing, but he has done a careful job of examining the evidence, and his biography probably will be the standard one for some time to come.

As the book's subtitle indicates, Colfax had his ups and downs. In South Bend, Indiana, his home from 1841 until his death, Colfax built the St. Joseph Valley Register into the chief Whig newspaper in northern Indiana. He finally gave up newspapering for politics.

An early convert to the new Republican party, Colfax was elected to Congress in 1854. He remained in the House of Representatives until 1869, serving the last six years as speaker during the turbulence of Civil War and Reconstruction. Although Mr. Smith admits that Colfax's narrow partisanship (he was a Radical Republican) "can hardly be called farsighted statesmanship," he says Colfax "was one of our great speakers." A pious, kindly man (nicknamed "Smiler"), Colfax was an able, fair-minded presiding officer.

In 1869 Colfax was elected vice-president under Ulysses S. Grant, and for part of his term he enjoyed his greatest popularity. Then his fortunes took a nose dive. In 1873 the New York Sun brought to light the fact that Colfax and other Congressmen had accepted stock in the Credit Mobilier of America, a construction company organized in 1864 by promoters of the Union Pacific Railroad to channel their way the profits from building the line. The scandal is too complicated to consider in detail here, but Mr. Smith makes it clear that Colfax acquired twenty shares of Credit Mobilier stock and erred in an early statement which misled people into thinking he had no connection with the organization. The nub of the matter was the question of Colfax's acceptance of a twelve-hundred-dollar dividend. After close study of the contradictory evidence, the author says he "is unable to make an unqualified statement, as some writers do, to the effect that Colfax received the dividend of $1,200 and perjured himself in doing it."

Colfax never ran for public office again. Instead, he made his living lecturing. He was especially successful with his lecture on Abraham Lincoln, whom he had known well during the Civil War. In fact, Colfax was with Lincoln during the last hour that he spent in the White House alive.

Mr. Carley is a feature writer for the rotogravure section of the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, and he often contributes book reviews to the same paper.

Summer 1953
PLANNING THE FUTURE

Most of our readers are now aware that a much reduced budget has necessitated a drastic curtailment of the society's program. Since the legislative appropriation for 1953–55 fell far short of the amount needed to continue all our former activities, many of them must stop—among them the publication of News for Members. Thus up-to-date reports on the society's work will no longer reach its members through a monthly news sheet. To compensate somewhat for this loss, some space in future issues of this magazine will be devoted to accounts of the society's activities and to news of important additions to its collections. Beginning with the autumn issue, the quarterly also will take note of historical activity in Minnesota and elsewhere; and, within the limits of a curtailed library program, it will comment on publications that tell the Minnesota story. We hope to present in the quarterly material of interest and value both to the general reader and to those engaged in research on Minnesota and Northwest history. Watch for this new section. News items that may be used there will be welcomed.

THE LEWIS AND CLARK FIND

The recent discovery by the Minnesota Historical Society of some original records of the Lewis and Clark expedition has been so widely publicized that anything we might say about it at present would merely repeat what has appeared during the past months in current newspapers and periodicals. News of this important find spread rapidly after the St. Paul Dispatch of March 19 announced that the society's curator of manuscripts, Miss Lucile Kane, had retrieved sixty-seven Lewis and Clark items from a St. Paul attic, where presumably they had reposed for more than sixty years among the papers of General John Henry Hammond. In such widely scattered localities as New England and North Carolina, California and Oregon, and as far afield as Hawaii, newspapers carried the dramatic story of the society's new acquisition. At the same time periodicals like Newsweek spread the word of the discovery on a national scale.

Until a complete transcript of these manuscripts has been made we cannot be sure what they add to the story of the expedition of 1803–05. The difficult and technical task of making such a transcript, and of deciphering the almost unreadable notes and journals, is now in progress. It is being done by Dr. Ernest S. Osgood, professor of history in the University of Minnesota, whose expert knowledge of Western history gives him an understanding of the contents and facilitates the solution of the many complex problems involved in deciphering the manuscripts. When he has completed the transcript, we hope to publish a statement that will be of genuine interest and value to readers of this magazine.

MINNESOTA CENTENNIALS

The completion of a century of organized medicine in Minnesota was marked in St. Paul from May 18 to 20, when members of the Minnesota State Medical Association met there for its one-hundredth annual meeting. The commemorative programs and other publications issued for the occasion will be reviewed in the autumn number of this magazine. In the same issue will appear a review of Edward Johnstone's Centennial History of the Masonic Order in Minnesota. There also three St. Paul institutions that marked centennials in 1953 will receive attention. They are the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company, which was organized on March 5, 1853; St. Joseph's Hospital, which began in the old log Chapel of St. Paul; and the First National Bank.

POLICIES AND TECHNIQUES

The society's manuscript and museum programs receive attention in two recent publications. "Collecting Policies of the Minnesota Historical Society: 1849–1952," a paper by Lucile Kane, curator of manuscripts, appears in the April issue of the American Archivist, and "Modern Installations in an Old Building" by Chester Kozlak, assistant curator of the museum, is published in the January issue of the Midwest Museums Quarterly. Miss Kane provides a comprehensive review of the objectives and accomplishments that for more than a hundred years have characterized the building of the society's notable manuscript collection. Mr. Kozlak outlines the problems and techniques recently used in constructing displays that tell the Minnesota story.