Catholic Colonization on the Western Frontier
(Yale Publications in American Studies, no. 1). By James P. Shannon. (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1957. xiii, 302 p. 11 illustrations. $5.00.)

Reviewed by Val Bjornson

That Father Shannon, recently installed as president of the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, is truly "a gentleman and a scholar" has long been obvious to all who know him. The extent of his scholarly attainments as a historian, evident earlier in his career as a teacher of history in his alma mater, is emphasized in this impressive work, the published version of his doctoral dissertation at Yale University.

The author states categorically that "The largest and most successful Catholic colonization program ever undertaken in the United States was that sponsored by Bishop John Ireland in Minnesota between 1876 and 1881." These western Minnesota colonies are the book's major theme. Although there are departures from that central emphasis, they are made mainly to underline the basic wisdom of Ireland's policies as a colonizer. An Irish colonizing venture which failed in the state of Virginia in the early 1880s is described in some detail, its mistakes contrasted with the sounder approach made by Minnesota's statesman-prelate.

Amid all the careful documentation and philosophical scrutiny that Father Shannon gives Catholic migration to Minnesota, there is sprightliness and warmth in the accounts of pioneer life in Swift, Big Stone, Lyon, Murray, and Nobles counties. Parish records, newspaper files, and interviews with some of the surviving colonists form the raw material for a fascinating description of life on the prairie.

Interestingly, too, the files of railroad firms become documentation for this unusual study of mass migrations. The church leader's contract with the Winona and St. Peter Railroad for lands in Lyon County is offered in the appendix. Ireland had been named a land agent by five different railroads, and Dillon O'Brien, the layman he selected to direct Catholic settlement, was named by Governor John S. Pillsbury to the state board of immigration. As Father Shannon puts it: "During the years that Bishop Ireland was most active, the Church, the State, and the railroads were all equally anxious to secure settlers for the newly opened western lands; and since it was possible for good citizens to be at the same time good Church members and frequent railroad patrons, a common interest shared by these three agencies worked toward the rapid population of Minnesota and often toward jointly sponsored programs of colonization."

The interesting philosophical point discernible throughout Father Shannon's excellent historical work is that we have overrated the frontier environment's influence on man. Some past studies have romanticized the pioneering era, giving the impression that men and women, regardless of background, rose to meet its frontier challenges. What Father Shannon maintains—and supports—is "the need for more detailed study of the origin and character of the culture that settlers on the western frontier brought with them."

Thus, the farmers who showed skill in adapting to their new Minnesota surroundings were, for example, the Belgians in Lyon County and the Germans at Fulda in Murray County, who had been successful farmers on a smaller scale in their homelands. On the other hand, the author takes into account a second factor when he writes that "the actual process of migration, through various stages, conditioned the Irish-American farmer," as he settled first in the East and then progressed, at intervals, westward to Minnesota. "Unlike the earlier closely ruled communal settlements and religious Utopias which secured social agreement by the fiat of
the leaders," Ireland's colonies. Father Shannon observes, "recruited a body of like-minded farmers who shared in general the same background and ambitions."

The author is careful to give credit to the "intellectual progenitors" of his thesis. He calls attention to earlier studies that were of help to him in interpreting American history "from the point of view of the various subordinate cultural units which make up the kaleidoscopic American scene." In taking this approach, he has contributed a volume of real significance in the historic treatment of both state and national backgrounds. It is to be hoped that Father Shannon's stimulating approach and keen perception may help guide others in similar studies of the Minnesota melting pot.

RESTRICTIVE IMMIGRATION


Reviewed by Stewart Holbrook

THIS is a most interesting study of the development of American attitudes that resulted in the restrictive immigration acts of the 1920s, which fixed the quota of each nation at two per cent, based upon the number of its immigrants in the United States as of 1890.

If we are to accept Mrs. Solomon's thesis, the restrictions were almost wholly the work of New England Yankees, apparently a most potent minority, whose "heart pumped its peculiar ideas through the intellectual veins of the nation." The Yankee leaders were mostly of the Brahmin class who inhabited Boston and its environs and were commonly graduates of Harvard. These are the villains of the book. They feared that the mounting waves of immigrants to the United States posed a threat to the "old" American culture and ideals and even to the "race." Perhaps this is one reason why so many distinguished Yankees felt a kinship with the Jews of old, who after all held similar ideas and had been most successful in their adherence to them.

In any case, the Brahmins, who "were well meaning if patronizing toward the foreigners in their midst," began as early as 1850 to question the advisability of unrestricted immigration. The older generation of Brahmins had originally favored the open-door policy; America was the hope of the oppressed all over the world. It was an ideal they had fought for, and it died hard. Others, though less idealistic, put their hope in a melting-pot theory. Then, when it appeared that the swarming immigrants did not fuse easily, even idealists lost faith and joined the restrictionists. That is, most of them did. Mrs. Solomon discovered at least six Yankees, who "did not fear the strangers who were peopling the nation." They must have been lonely.

Time passed and, one after another, the alleged menaces disappeared from New England — the Irish, the French Canadians, and the Italians. These groups had supplied the vast majority of arrivals, although there were also Poles, Germans, Scandinavians, and Jews. Meanwhile, as Mrs. Solomon remarks, "the Second World War destroyed the easy acceptance of racism all over the globe." And in the United States, the democratic birthright, which "Channing, Emerson, and Eliot had accepted and enlarged," came to have fuller meaning, as the descendants of immigrants "illuminated the futility of 'scientific' racial judgments." The author does not make a point of it, but all this seems to leave both the Jews and the old-line Yankees out on a limb.

LABOR PATTERNS


Reviewed by George B. Engberg

MOST RESEARCH HISTORIANS hope by their work to discover important facts and to publish them in such form that they will contribute to a better understanding of the world in which we live. Dr. Erickson has done that, for her study refutes some long accepted ideas about the complex relationships involving American

MR. HOLBROOK, a professional writer, is the author of numerous books. Among them is The Yankee Exodus, a study of migration from New England (1950).

MR. ENGBERG, the author of an unpublished study of Minnesota labor, is associate professor of history in the University of Cincinnati.
industry, organized labor, and European immigration in the late nineteenth century. She provides a new interpretation that must be considered by anyone who wishes to understand American economic development in the post-Civil War period. Her work is especially essential to an understanding of the labor policies of big business, the rivalry between craft unions and the Knights of Labor, the fear of skilled workers that there was not enough in the wage fund for all to fare well, and the shadowy worlds of the padrone, labor agency, immigrant recruiter, and strikebreaker.

In a profusely documented study, the author describes the failure of American attempts by emigrant companies and employer associations to recruit skilled European workers. Conditions in Europe and America prevented effective use of a contract labor system. Unskilled labor, on the other hand, came in large numbers without contracts and provided an almost bottomless pool from which strikebreakers often were drawn. The frequent use of immigrants with newly developed machinery also encouraged wage earners to demand the restriction of immigration as a type of protection similar to that afforded manufacturers by the protective tariff.

The passage in 1885 of the Foran Act banning immigrant contract labor resulted from the efforts of the window-glass workers who were organized as an assembly of the Knights of Labor. In Congress the real reason behind the proposal became lost in the growing concern over increased migration from central and southern Europe. One result was that judges, who sought to interpret the law on the basis of the arguments advanced at the time of passage, became involved in the general prejudice against the bulk of the later immigrants and failed to prevent both the occasional importation of skilled workers under contract and the use of unskilled masses as strikebreakers.

Dr. Erickson, trained primarily in American universities, but teaching in the London School of Economics and Political Science, has drawn her material from a wide variety of sources in the United States, the British Isles, and Europe. She refused to be bound strictly by the dates in the book’s title and so provides pre-Civil War background in some instances and in others carries her story to logical stopping places in the last decade of the nineteenth and the first decade of the twentieth centuries. Her work touches so many phases of life in the northeastern quarter of the United States that it becomes a part of social and political as well as economic history.

**GERMAN INFLUENCES**

*German Culture in America: Philosophical and Literary Influences, 1600–1900.* By Henry A. Pochmann, with the assistance of Arthur R. Schultz and others. (Madison, The University of Wisconsin Press, 1957. xv, 865 p. Tables. $7.50.)

Reviewed by Charles G. Cleaver

PROFESSORPOCHMANN’S purpose, in this vast book, was to analyze “the more significantly cultural” influences of Germans on Americans before 1900. Specifically, approximately half the book is about philosophy, and the other half is about literature. The author’s method is to study concrete and palpable evidences of important American writers’ and thinkers’ indebtedness to specific Germans. Often he pins down his observations statistically: how many performances of German plays did Boston or New York audiences see in a given year, for example, or how many translations of German poems appeared in American journals. Much of his attention is devoted to major influences on major figures—notably Emerson, Irving, Hawthorne, Poe, Whitman, Henry Conrad Brokmeyer, and William Torrey Harris—but he also makes note of lesser influences on major figures and major influences on lesser figures—minor writers, teachers, journalists, and clergymen.

The volume is remarkably free from the kind of special pleading one normally finds in such books; Mr. Pochmann seldom seems to claim too much for his Germans. Although one might quarrel with his attributing to Martin Luther much of the liberal dissent from the seventeenth century Puritan theocracy, Mr. Pochmann nevertheless establishes that Germans influenced the American colonies much more heavily than we had supposed. Proving influence is a slippery business; but the author almost always makes his assertions stick.

The scope of the book does not embrace discussions of German influences which might be of

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particular local interest to Minnesota readers, such as, for example, the influence of the large late-nineteenth century immigration of Germans into the upper Midwest. Midwesterners must always find interesting, however, the astonishingly lively clubs which gathered in the 1860s and 1870s at St. Louis, Missouri, and at Jacksonville and Quincy, Illinois, to translate, discuss, and write articles about Hegel and Kant. Mr. Pochmann gives the "St. Louis movement" an unusually full treatment. He also discusses briefly the influence of Germans on the organization and curricula of such midwestern universities as Michigan and Wisconsin.

The overwhelming amount of information contained in this book presented organizational problems which the author did not fully solve. About five hundred pages of text, in double columns, are accompanied by about three hundred pages of notes, and it is sometimes difficult to discover the principle by which certain material was put into the text and other material was relegated to the notes. Even individual paragraphs sometimes change direction, apparently in order to accommodate information which could not handily have been put elsewhere. The trouble seems to have been one of selectivity, a reluctance to throw anything away. But the weakness of the volume is also its strength; it is a very complete book indeed, and among its exceedingly abundant facts are a very large number which are not only new, but also illuminating and suggestive.

GERMAN-AMERICAN PRESS

The German-Language Press in America. By CARL WITTKE. (Lexington, University of Kentucky Press, 1957. vi, 311 p. $6.50.)

Reviewed by Lynwood G. Downs

WITH THIS VOLUME Dean Wittke of Western Reserve University, author of various books on the immigrant from Germany, turns his attention to the publications of this minority group. From the preface we learn that he does not intend to present a complete history of the German-language press, but rather that he has selected a number of categories for detailed discussion. Even with this limitation, the reader is faced by an almost bewildering array of persons and periodicals. For Milwaukee, New York City, and Philadelphia alone, the index lists over a hundred and fifty publications. For the most part, the presentation follows the traditional chronological pattern. Two chapters, one dealing with the "Radical Press"—the periodicals advocating social, political, and religious reform—and a second on the "Official Organs" that represented special interests, such as the farmer, labor, the Turners, religious groups, etc., fall outside the pattern.

The author emphasizes the role of the foreign-language press in acquainting the recent immigrant with his new environment while at the same time preserving the cultural ties with the land of his origin. Obviously the foreign-language publisher has a problem. If he succeeds too well with the Americanization of his readers, he loses his subscribers and goes out of business. Dean Wittke follows the fortunes of the German-language press from Benjamin Franklin's ill-fated Philadelphische Zeitung of 1732 through a golden era under the impact of intellectuals exiled by the German revolution of 1848, to its "darkest hour" during World War I, concluding with the few survivors of 1956. It is the author's contention that "for more than two centuries" the German-language press "has been essentially an American press published in a foreign tongue." One paragraph is devoted to the German press of Minnesota, with brief references scattered throughout the book. It is regrettable that much of the accessible information about Minnesota periodicals is based upon tradition, now hallowed by time and frequent repetition, but not always supported by the facts. A few of the misstatements may be noted: the Chaska Thalbote was not a "Republican sheet . supported by party funds." Albert Wolff did not edit the St. Paul Volkszeitung "for forty years," nor did he serve "several terms in the state legislature." The Volkszeitung was formed by the merger of two newspapers in 1877 and Wolff retired in 1893. Minnesota did not have sixteen German-language publications in 1939. These faults, however, do not detract measurably from the book's excellent over-all picture of the German-language press in America, portrayed with facility and skill upon a broad canvas.

MR. DOWNS, professor of German in the University of Minnesota, has written widely on the social and cultural activities of Minnesota's German pioneers.
Footnotes in this work have been intentionally kept to a minimum. There is no bibliography. The index gives quite a complete listing of the publications discussed, but it is totally inadequate with respect to the people mentioned. If any principle was followed in the inclusion or exclusion of names, this reviewer was unable to discover it.

**PUBLISHING PIONEERS**


Reviewed by Joseph F. Wall

MISS STERN presents a serious study of a neglected aspect of American cultural history, the development of book publishing in this country. She traces this history through the lives of certain representative publishers, beginning with James Bemis, issuing his Federalist pamphlets and schoolbooks on the western frontier of upper New York State in 1804, on through to Ernst Steiger, who with dictionaries in hand welcomed the new immigrants to this country at the end of the century.

In choosing a biographical approach, the author has placed major emphasis upon the men who made the books. She has given little attention to the technical problems of book publication in the nineteenth century treated by Donald Sheehan in his book entitled *This Was Publishing.* Nor has she chosen for study the more obvious pioneers in the field: the Harper brothers, Mathew Carey, or Charles Scribner. Except for Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leslie and George W. Childs, few of Miss Stern's heroes of the publishing frontiers will be familiar to the general reader. With a true book collector's love for the rare, she has dusted off for display such obscure specimens as Jacob W. Cruger, public printer for the Republic of Texas, and John Russell — "Lord John" of Charleston — whose publications died with the slave culture they extolled.

Covering a wide area in both time and space, Miss Stern is necessarily limited in the attention she can give to each figure. The reader would like to know more about the romantic team of Elliott, Thomas, and Talbot, who first lived their individual dime-novel adventures in the Far West and in Central America and then settled down in Boston to publish other men's imagined versions of like adventures; or the aptly named James Redpath, whose fiery abolitionist publications helped pave the tragic road to Civil War.

Subtitled *Book Publishers and American Frontiers,* this history proposes to deal with both the Turnerian geographical "frontiers of space," and the philosophical "frontiers of the mind," and the publishers included are accordingly separated into those two classifications. The organization is not entirely precise and consistent, however, and one might quarrel with the geographical assignment given to the Unitarian concern of Walker and Fuller, and to William Hilliard, owner of a bookstore and publishing house near Harvard University.

Nor is there any clear relationship between the main body of the text and the final chapter with its supplement, "United States Book Publishing Firms Surviving from Before 1900," useful as the latter may be as a reference; for Miss Stern has dealt almost exclusively with publishers who did not survive the nineteenth century. The reader is apt to question the author's statement that "the publisher of the nineteenth century could find himself at home in the nation of the twentieth century" — especially in regard to the particular publishers about whom Miss Stern writes with such knowledge and sympathy. An excellent bibliography is further evidence of the thoroughness of the scholarship that preceded the writing of the book.

**TURNER'S THESIS**


Reviewed by James P. Shannon

It is always encouraging to find new evidence that American history is receiving increased attention from scholars in other lands. The present booklet by Professor Andersen of the University of Oslo offers American readers another analysis of the perennially popular "frontier hypothesis" of Frederick Jackson Turner. By analyzing
the writings produced by Turner in the decade from 1883 to 1893, the author hopes to explain "the genesis and the birth of a great idea." He is not interested in Turner's later more mature work, but only in the personal experiences and sources which produced the original frontier essay.

Mr. Andersen starts his book in 1893, works his way back to 1888, and gives to every extant piece of Turner's writing a searching textual analysis such as is usually reserved for the sacred Scripture. Students of Turner's works will recognize at once the hazards involved in this method of using careful, logical, point-for-point analysis on the ideas of a man whose writings are shot through with intuitive appreciations and unvoiced allegiances which do not yield themselves to purely logical analysis.

Most of the discussion centers on Turner's concepts of democracy, evolution, land, and nature. Mr. Andersen rarely offers any critical comment on Turner's ideas, being content merely to point out the sources of the major concepts in the frontier essay. Although he presumes that his readers are well acquainted with the essay, it is difficult to discern the reading public addressed by this book. It would probably be most useful to students of methodology in intellectual history. Because of the sharp focus and intensive study given to each of Turner's earlier writings, readers will be grateful for the summary outline which the author provides at the end of each section of the work.

I am in full agreement with the results of a survey made by the Mississippi Valley Historical Review a few years ago, which concluded that Turner's essay on the frontier is still one of the fundamental documents in American historiography. But I am not convinced that the proper way to study that vital document is by microscopic textual criticism of Turner's earlier works. Is it not possible that students of Turner are beginning to work for diminishing returns? Is there not some danger that the method used in the present study might lead to pedantic antiquarianism in evaluating the work of a man whose large hypotheses have marked out research projects and arguments for two generations of historians?

If this book should require a second printing, more careful editing would improve it. Numerous misspellings occur, and a convoluted rhetoric makes several sentences almost unintelligible. At the beginning of the work the author promises a general overview of Turner's frontier hypothesis. The promise is not fulfilled. In fact, the atomized, small-scale focus of the work, lacking as it is in any comprehensive synthesis, makes it difficult for American readers to accept the author's airy dismissal of Henry Nash Smith's penetrating analysis of Turner as "superficial."

FRONTIER HUMOR


Reviewed by Erling Jorstad

TO THE GROWING LIST of critical studies of frontier American folk humor, Norris W. Yates has added an account of the influential mid-nineteenth century sporting magazine, The Spirit of the Times. Readers who are led by the book's title to expect a broad study of the magazine and its editor, William T. Porter, are, however, doomed to disappointment. The author's purpose is a limited one: to discuss Porter's influence "in promoting the regional writing of the Old Southwest and assisting the comic realists of this area to reach a national public."

To some degree, Mr. Yates has achieved his purpose, although he admits that he has "used a very small bucket...in dipping into the teeming pool of material offered by the Spirit."

The author's research was extensive; he actually read all the available issues of the journal, a prodigious feat. He understands and explains with clarity the political, social, and economic conditions that helped create the Big Bear stories, and he offers some of the choice tall tales to illustrate his arguments. But Porter, the man, never clearly comes alive. The sources of his income are not explained; the reasons why he left the Times are not made clear to the reader. The focus wanders from the magazine itself to what present-day students of frontier folklore have

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MR. JORSTAD, the author of an unpublished study of Henry H. Sibley, is a member of the history faculty in St. Olaf College, Northfield.
said about it. And, irritatingly, the author consistently breaks the flow of his narrative by unnecessarily intruding such phrases as "a point we have tried to make earlier in our own way," "as we have seen previously," and "one must conclude that."

Although it is futile to complain about what a book is not, it is exceedingly disappointing that Mr. Yates chose to limit his study to such a narrow aspect of the role of the Times in furthering frontier humor. The journal included many excellent sports and humorous stories from the Northwest as well as from the Far West. Henry H. Sibley, for example, was a regular and widely read contributor. Had the author touched on the national influence of the Times, he could have made a major contribution to our knowledge of frontier literature. Perhaps we can hope that he will elect to undertake that task in a future volume.

**SHEPHERD'S STORY**

*Sheep Life on the South Dakota Range.* By **Archer B. Gilfillan.** Foreword by J. Frank Dobie. Illustrations by Kurt Wiese. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1957. xix, 272 p. $4.00.)

Reviewed by Walker D. Wyman

IN THE frontier bibliography the vast business of sheep ranching occupies a very small niche, although it was an important segment of the livestock industry. The mental picture of western America possessed by the ordinary citizen today is as bare of sheep and shepherders as it is full of longhorn cattle and cowboys. The romanticists have taken over the ranching business, have made the cowpuncher the Knight of the American Round Table, and have rejected the sheepman and his flock as uncouth phases of an otherwise honorable industry. What little we know today about sheep probably came from cattlemen: sheep eat grass too short and stink up the water holes. No one ever heard of a person being as crazy as a sheepherder. "When asked why this is so, the answer is that shepherders associate not only with sheep but, worse, with themselves."

This book goes a long way toward redressing the balance in the realm of serious range literature, though dozens more are needed. *Sheep* is the personal record of a University of Pennsylvania Phi Beta Kappa member, who chose to become a shepherd on the South Dakota range rather than to follow the family tradition of the ministry. It stands as one of the few such books on sheep ranching, and it is easily one of the most sensitive pieces of literature written about the whole frontier process. It is an excellent example of the contribution of the little men who were there. In a lighthearted way, Gilfillan tells about the sheep wagon, the boss, weather, lambing, wolves, amusements, dogs, and other matters in the daily life of the sheepman, and each account is filled with anecdotes, yarns, and tongue-in-cheek statements. Originally published in 1929, *Sheep* has long been known to a few people as a classic in frontier literature; its reissuance by the University of Minnesota Press should enlarge the audience that will treasure this honest little book.

**DAKOTA LANDSCAPE**

*North Dakota: A Human and Economic Geography.* By **Melvin E. Kazeck.** (Fargo, North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1956. xvi, 264 p. Illustrations, maps. $4.75.)

Reviewed by John R. Borchert

ALTHOUGH a large amount of regional history enriches American literature, surprisingly little has been written on regional geography. Few monographs attempt to broaden and deepen our understanding of the geographic, or spatial, structure of America's smaller regions and localities. Professor Kazeck has attempted to fill this need in North Dakota, where he is a member of the geography staff in the state university.

He has assembled a large amount of factual information on the state, interpreting its general significance for an understanding of North Dakota's landscape. There is an almost encyclopedic treatment of topics ranging from the...
beaches of Glacial Lake Agassiz through oats, oil, and the Nonpartisan League to soil types. The first chapter offers a brief résumé of historical changes in the use of North Dakota land. The next three chapters, which comprise the major unit of the book, contain a description and discussion of three broad agricultural regions of the state—"The General Farming Area" (the Red River Valley), "The Wheat Region" (the glacial-drift plains between the Red River Valley and the Missouri River), and "The Cattle-Wheat Region" west of the Missouri. The remainder of the volume presents chapters on "Industries," "Transportation and Principal Cities," "Soil and Water Development," and "The Future of the State."

The text does not seem to demonstrate the validity of dividing the state into only three agricultural regions. It is true that these areas constitute physiographic subdivisions, but the author's crop and livestock maps reveal that many more regional distinctions are possible on the basis of farm land use. In some cases, differences within the regions delineated by the author seem to be more sharply defined than differences among them. For example, one would like to know more about the reasons for such apparent subregions as the durum wheat district, the high plains west of the Missouri, the James Valley, and others. And one is left wondering about the patterns of land values, crop combinations, farm tenure, and other factors that tend to characterize a region and give it unity.

The data on cities are presented simply according to their rank in population. One wishes that the author had grouped the urban areas and analyzed them regionally and in relation to the agricultural hinterlands they serve. Likewise, the material on transportation is organized according to types of carriers, and there is a brief historical sketch of the growth of each type. No treatment of traffic density and flow is included, nor is there any discussion of the patterns of routes in relation to agricultural regions and cities.

One might expect the primary contribution of such a geography to be its description and explanation of the spatial structure of North Dakota. In this, the book falls short. Dr. Kazeck has undertaken with great energy and zeal a task that badly needed doing. It is to be hoped that he and others will build and elaborate upon this initial work.

MICHIGAN POLITICS

Political Party Patterns in Michigan. By STEPHEN B. and VERA H. SASARSOHN. Foreword by DAVID B. TRUMAN. (Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1957. x, 76 p. Paper, $1.75.)

Reviewed by G. Theodore Mitau

IN SIXTY-NINE packed but smoothly written pages, the authors of this brief monograph have been able to offer in broad outline an amazingly clear and concise perspective of the major political factions within the Michigan party system.

To understand the internal development of parties is to understand the leaders, tactics, interest groups, and resources of the factions composing and controlling the parties. The authors show how in the struggle for power through the effective control of the direct primary and the state nominating conventions (which in Michigan still name candidates for subordinate statewide offices) an interesting shift of emphasis can be noticed in both major parties. The trend is away from the more strictly personal and patronage-centered politics of the predepression era to a "new" type of politics, characterized by "the rise of policy-oriented factions . . . backed by the two greatest concentrations of economic power in the state, the major automobile manufacturers and the United Automobile Workers of America."

In this more issue-centered kind of politics, particularly during the last twenty years, the stakes have been the nature of tax and labor laws and "who will write them . . . who will enforce them — or fail to enforce them." That such efforts toward a more responsible party system, even at the state level in Michigan, represent a most difficult challenge to our political traditions of "personalism" and "localism" is well illustrated with vivid pictures from the Feikens-Summerfield conflict within the Republican party and with details of labor battles within the framework of the Democratic party. Discipline must necessarily come hard in a pluralistic society such as ours, where the essence of party politics will have to remain the politics of coalitions.

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This publication is of value because it focuses attention on factions, not as aberrations, but as proper norms for a process of free politics. So understood, the outcome of intraparty battles for nomination in such critically large and populous Michigan counties as Wayne, Oakland, and Kent, has significance for all those group interests which seek to commit candidates to the support of party platforms and policies.

Since this monograph, despite its brevity, presents so well the vital and dynamic clash and coalescence of party factions in one state, this reviewer can only hope that it may serve as a model for similar meaningful studies of other state party systems. In this way the general public—the ultimate electoral jury—could be given a more comprehensible and dramatic picture of the role that parties, interest groups, and law play in the actual formation of public policy on state and national levels.

FINNISH FICTION

1 Remember. By Tyyne E. Konga. (New York, Vantage Press, 1955. 269 p. $3.50.)

Reviewed by John I. Kolehmainen

IT IS NOT EASY for a nonprofessional writer to transform his own everyday experiences into the exciting stuff of the novel, but Mrs. Konga has succeeded fairly well in 1 Remember. This first novel about Finnish immigrants and their children is set in Carlton County during the years following 1908. It reveals in an appealing manner many of the hardships and sorrows as well as the joys and rewards of pioneer life in Minnesota's northern submarginal regions. The characters, for the most part, are well drawn, and the descriptions of the sauna, the ceremonies held on Midsummer Eve, Christmas, and New Year's, and other immigrant activities, are revealing and true to life. The author is less successful in handling the romantic aspects of her story; at times they strike one as sentimentalized and overstrained.

The reactions of this reviewer's family to the book might be mentioned. A son aged sixteen couldn't find time to read it. A daughter aged twelve, just returned from a sojourn of eight months in Finland, was quite receptive, and found the novel well-written and interesting, although she disagreed violently with some of its romantic episodes. The reviewer's wife (age undisclosed), who is a native-born Minnesotan of Finnish ancestry, regarded Mrs. Konga's book as a readable and authentic account of immigrant life in the state, but she dismissed its Hollywoodish ending as artificial and unnecessary.

Very few fictional accounts of Finnish-American life have appeared in English, and while the book under review is not of the stature of Giants in the Earth or Ah, Wilderness! it is good enough to merit our respectful attention.

SIOUX CHIEFTAIN

IN HIS biography of Sitting Bull: Champion of the Sioux, Stanley Vestal has produced a work that is scholarly, yet as exciting to read as any modern western novel (University of Oklahoma Press, 1957. 349 p. $5.00.). The present volume is a revised version of Mr. Vestal's earlier study of Sitting Bull, published in 1932 and out of print for years. It contains a few minor changes in the early chapters and includes additional material, such as that on Sitting Bull's relationship with the followers of Chief Joseph. A notable addition is the revelation that it was White Bull who killed Custer at the battle of the Little Big Horn. Since White Bull was still living when the earlier edition was published, Mr. Vestal had presented the Custer episode as an encounter between White Bull and an anonymous "soldier on foot." Although the new material is indeed welcome, the fact that this book is again available is in itself good news to those interested in western history.

F.S.C.

ZEPPELIN AT ST. PAUL

AN INTERESTING Minnesota episode in Count Ferdinand Zeppelin's career is related by John Toland in Ships in the Sky: The Story of the Great Dirigibles (New York, Henry Holt and Company, 1957. 352 p.). The author tells of Zeppelin's first balloon ascension made during a visit to St. Paul in 1863 as a German military observer with the Union army, a flight that significantly influenced his later career in the development of lighter-than-air craft.
AN INDISPENSABLE GUIDE for scholars is the long-awaited Index to the Writings on American History, 1902-1910 recently issued by the American Historical Association (Washington, D.C., 1956. 1,115 p.). Begun by David M. Mat­
teson as a labor of love, the volume was com­
pleted after his death by Esther Z. Bailey, Rose Engleman, and others. This valuable reference tool is more than a “consolidated or cumulative index,” for its compilers have added “references and subject classifications which will not be found in the separate indexes” to the annual bibliographic volumes of Writings issued by the association. Thus it brings together the treasury of information contained in the classified lists of books and articles on United States and Ca­
nadian history published annually since 1902. The Minnesota entries in the Index will lead searchers to a wealth of material published over the years in this magazine and elsewhere.

A COLLECTION of selected readings dealing with the historical, economic, and sociological aspects of Agricultural Cooperation has been edited by Martin A. Abrahamsen and Claud L. Scroggs and published by the University of Min­
nesota Press (Minneapolis, 1957. 576 p. $7.50.). Drawn from the writings and speeches of forty-nine economists and co-operative leaders, the readings chronicle “the more important his­
torical highlights of agricultural cooperation as an emerging institution.” They also provide in­
formation on “Cooperatives in the Modern Econ­
omy.” Of particular interest is an introductory chapter, entitled “Historical Highlights,” in which Mr. Scroggs traces the growth of produc­
ers’ and consumers’ co-operatives in the United States, outlining the activities of such groups as the National Grange, Farmers’ Alliance, Nonpartisan League, American Society of Equity, Farmers’ Union, and the American Farm Bureau Federation. Also mentioned is the work of such independent co-operatives as Minnesota’s Lakeland Creameries, Central Livestock Associa­
tion, and Midland Cooperatives.

A STIMULATING PAPER on “The Impact of the American Indian on American Culture,” by A. Irving Hallowell is included in the April issue of the American Anthropologist. The writer reviews the literature on acculturation and points to some of the more obvious white borrowings from the red man—corn and potato culture, clothing, and music—but he declares that a complete study remains to be done on how culture in the United States has been “af­
acted through interaction with the American aborigines.” A valuable bibliography accompani­
s the article.

STUDENTS of the fur trade era will find both interesting and valuable Henry R. Wagner’s little book on Peter Pond, Fur Trader & Explorer, which has been published by the Yale Univer­
sity Library as number 2 of its Western Histori­
cal Series (New Haven, 1956. 108 p.). In his introduction, Mr. Wagner traces Pond’s move­
ments as a trader in the West, beginning with his travels in the Wisconsin and Minnesota re­
region before the American Revolution, and con­
tinuing with the explorations documented by his maps of the following decade. “For an account of Pond’s movements” after 1775, writes Mr. Wagner, we must rely “largely on his contem­
poraries and his notations on his various maps,” which “give us practically the only reliable ac­
count of his activities in the Northwest.” A series of quotations from contemporary and later writers who characterized Pond are pre­
sented, and a group of documents relating to his activities are reproduced. Most significant, perhaps, are facsimile reproductions of “three basic maps of Pond,” dating from the 1780s. On separate sheets in a folder of their own, they are large enough to be useful to students con­
cerned with Pond’s contribution to North American geography.

THE STORY of “La Salle on the Mississippi” is featured in the April issue of American Heritage, which presents color reproductions of sixteen of the twenty-eight oil paintings in which George Catlin recorded the heroic explorer’s accomplish­
ments. The pictures, commissioned by Louis Philippe of France, were completed just before the king’s fall in the revolution of 1848, and the artist never was paid for his work. More than sixty years later the pictures were added to the collections of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Among the events de­
picted by Catlin, against backgrounds that he saw just as they were in the late seventeenth century, is Father Hennepin’s discovery of the Falls of St. Anthony—one of the subjects re­
produced in the present issue. Accompanying the pictures is a reprint of Francis Parkman’s narrative of La Salle’s story as recorded in the 1879 edition of the historian’s Discovery of the Great West.
TWO LETTERS written in 1847 by a member of David Dale Owen's surveying party are among those edited by William B. Hesseltine and Larry Gara and published under the title "Historical Collecting: Letters of A. Randall to Lyman Copeland Draper, 1846-1853," in the April issue of the Bulletin of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio. In them, Randall speaks briefly of his geological work in Minnesota and Wisconsin and describes his efforts to procure books and manuscripts for Draper.

A LITTLE BOOKLET listing Logger's Words of Yesteryears has been compiled by L. G. Sorden and Isabel J. Ebert and published privately (Madison, Wisconsin, 1956. 44 p.). It contains definitions for about twelve hundred terms used by loggers in the western Great Lakes area.

MANY Minnesotans played prominent roles in the History of American Football, according to Allison Danzig, author of a comprehensive and well-illustrated volume on nonprofessional football published recently by Prentice-Hall Incorporated (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1956. 526 p. $12.50). The author devotes considerable space to the career of Walter "Pudge" Helfinger, who practiced the "art of mowing them down" at Yale University from 1888 to 1891. The University of Minnesota's famous coaches, including Dr. Harry Williams and Bernie Bierman, and such well-known players as Bronko Nagurski, Herb Joesting, John McGovern, and others, receive biographical and pictorial treatment in the pages of this work. Also included is a discussion of the origins of football, a chronological list of changes in the rules of the game, and information on the invention and use of various plays and tactics. The latter portion of the book is devoted to a year-by-year history of the sport as it was played by large college or university teams from the 1870s to the present, stressing the personalities of coaches and players. The University of Minnesota teams of 1916, 1934, and 1940 receive special attention in this section.

TWO INTERESTING accounts of nineteenth-century travel in Minnesota may be found in the April number of the Bulletin of the Missouri Historical Society. The "Diary of John Corcoran," edited with an introduction by Charles van Ravenswaay, describes the migration of a group of Selkirk settlers from the Red River colony to St. Louis in 1827. Corcoran's party journeyed through Minnesota via a Red River trail, stopping at the trading posts of Hazen P. Mooers and J. B. Renville. At Fort Snelling, they boarded the steamboat "Josephine" for St. Louis. In the same issue of the magazine, James Shields, onetime Minnesota settler and politician, recalls his "Thrilling Adventures Among the Sioux and Chippewas" of Minnesota in 1857. Reprinted in condensed form from Ward's Valley Monthly for May, 1876, the narrative tells of Shields' encounters with Alexander Faribault and Johan Georg Kohl, of a brief expedition to Otter Tail Lake, and of his visits to an Indian camp where he witnessed the torture of Chipewa captives by the Sioux.

A HANDBOOK on Modern Archives: Principles and Techniques by T. R. Schellenberg, assistant archivist of the United States for the National Archives, includes a chapter of particular interest to historical societies (University of Chicago Press, 1956. 248 p.). Under the title "Library Relationships," Mr. Schellenberg explains differences between archival materials and historical manuscripts, distinctions that have confused many laymen and some professionals in the field. Archives, he points out, are produced in direct connection with the activity of an organization or a government agency, while historical manuscripts, which are usually the product of a spontaneous thought or feeling, are created in a more haphazard manner. The author notes, too, that archival institutions are receiving agencies, preserving the records of the institutions they serve, while historical libraries are collecting depositories, gathering manuscripts of historical importance from many sources. The volume contains a wealth of data on the technical problems faced by archivists in controlling the volume of records, appraising and arranging them, and providing reference services. L.K.

SOME ANNIVERSARIES

THE following communities are among those whose recent anniversary celebrations were marked by the appearance of special publications.

Adrian. A series of articles appearing in issues of the Nobles County Review, published at Adrian, from April 26 to May 31 commemorates the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the village. Census schedules and tax returns have been utilized to describe Adrian's development in the 1880s and 1890s and to document its decline as railroads and other forms of transportation altered its trade area.

Albert Lea. The Albert Lea Tribune of June 7 calls attention to the centennial of the organization of Freeborn County. A large number of its 128 pages are devoted to a review of the early history of the area and to biographical sketches.
of pioneer residents. Exceptionally complete coverage is given to church history and to saw and flour milling in the county.

Breckenridge. The hundredth anniversary of the platting of the town in 1857 was marked by the appearance of a Breckenridge Centennial History, compiled by a special book committee. The substantial illustrated pamphlet contains information on about three hundred pioneer Wilkin County families, a detailed account of city government since 1896, and data on the establishment of local trade unions. In a series of reminiscent articles published in issues of the Breckenridge Gazette-Telegram, between May 2 and June 13, Will Bentley recalls details in the growth of many of the town's business firms. His account is especially complete for the period from 1880 to 1900.

Gibbon. A number of articles in the Gibbon Gazette of July 11 call attention to the seventieth anniversary of the incorporation of the village in 1887. Included are the reminiscences of Andrew W. Gulbranson on "Early Experiences in Gibbon and Severance Townships" and of John Lagerstedt on the community's business history. Portions of the early minutes of the village council also appear in the issue.

Hastings. In connection with the community's centennial celebration from June 30 to July 6, the St. Paul Pioneer Press of June 23 carried an illustrated article by Fred Leighton describing the "Ruins of Century-Old Mill" built by Alexander Ramsey and Dr. Thomas Foster in 1857 on the Vermillion River near Hastings. A special twenty-four-page edition of the Hastings Gazette of July 25 marks the hundredth anniversary of the paper's establishment. Information on the newspaper and its publishers appears along with accounts of the Le Duc, Felton, Truax, and other pioneer families. A review of the building and razing of the spiral bridge is also included.

Madelia. A centennial edition of the Madelia Times-Messenger of July 4 commemorates the establishment of the town. Its 40 pages present information on Madelia's newspaper, its businesses, sports, musical organizations, and members of its professions. Sketches of numerous pioneer settlers are also featured.

Melrose. A special edition of the Melrose Beacon of June 13 marks the hundredth anniversary of the town's founding. Its 26 pages include historical background on the government of the village, its churches, schools, newspapers, and businesses. A useful chronology of important local events from 1917 to the present also appears.

Osakis. A centennial edition of the Osakis Review of July 4 comprises 80 pages. Of special interest are excerpts from the diary of William H. Crowe, a pioneer Osakis businessman. They offer considerable information on the town's growth and government, and on economic conditions and social life there in the period from 1865 to 1900. Many other aspects of the community's history are stressed in the issue, including its businesses, churches, schools, and the development of resorts on Lake Osakis.

Stewartville. A substantial volume entitled The Stewartville Story has been issued by a local book committee to mark the centennial of the village's settlement (387 p.). Historical sketches of the surrounding townships of High Forest, Pleasant Grove, Pleasant Valley, Rock Dell, Sumner, and Racine are included as well as data on the background of the community—its government since 1883, its fire department, schools, utilities, clubs, and many other phases of life there. An effort has been made to obtain biographical information on all the professional men known to have practiced in the community. Additional biographies of leading citizens may be found in the Stewartville Star of July 18.

A CHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY of the development of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company is presented in a booklet entitled To Have Seen A Century, issued to mark the centennial of the firm's founding at Janesville, Wisconsin, in 1857 (1957. 49 p.). The pamphlet accents the company's activities in the nineteenth century, and contains information on its founder, John C. Johnston, on its expansion into Minnesota in 1861, its methods of selling insurance, the type of policies it issued over the years, on the investment of company funds, and the growing public acceptance of insurance.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

TWO of the forty awards of merit given by the Minnesota Association for State and Local History in 1956 are awarded to Minnesotans. One was given to Dr. R. C. Hunt and his family of Fairmont for the gift of a large brick building to the Martin County Historical Society; the other was recognized for a Minnesota lumbering community of the 1870s, owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Madden.

MINNESOTA'S Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations are the subject of a study, made by William Anderson with the assistance of Waite D. Durfee, Jr., recently published by the University of Minnesota Press (Minneapolis, 1956. 181 p. $3.00.). Following a short outline of Minnesota's
economy as affected by its location, population characteristics, and natural resources, the authors trace the history of fiscal relations between states and the federal government from 1783 to 1953, noting the services of territorial delegates Henry H. Sibley and Henry M. Rice in securing federal aid for Minnesota. Mr. Anderson compares the state and national tax structures "with special reference to overlapping," and attempts to determine the amount of money which flows up and down the channels between the state and federal governments, and between the state and its local units. Valuable tables are included, showing the amounts of federal grants-in-aid to Minnesota and the state's contributions to the national treasury.

REMINISCENCES by Calvin Mooers of his experiences in Minnesota in the 1860s as well as genealogical information on Some Descendants of Edmund Mooers, 1614-1877, of Newbury, Massachusetts, may be found in a booklet compiled and edited by Amy Mooers Williams (Detroit, 1936. 68 p.). Mooers records his first-hand observations on the Sioux Outbreak of 1862 in Wright County and on his service with Hatch's Battalion at Pembina and Fort Abercrombie from 1863 to 1866. Entries in his expense book, kept while he was on duty at the fort in 1865, are also reproduced in the pamphlet. Among other members of the family about whom genealogical information is included are Hazen P. Mooers, well-known Minnesota fur trader of the early nineteenth century, and Josiah Prescott Mooers, for whom Mooers Prairie in Wright County was named. A brief excerpt from Calvin's reminiscences, dealing with the murder of the Amos Dustin family, appears in the Summer number of the Magazine of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research under the title "Indian Warfare in the Red River Country."

AN ILLUSTRATED biographical volume, entitled William Joseph Rohan: A Constructor in the Building of the Americas, by William G. Hawkins has been published by the Winston Brothers Company of Minneapolis as a tribute to its chief executive (1957. 101 p.). Mr. Rohan joined the general contracting firm in 1909; thus the book contains information on the growth of the Winston company from that time to the present as well as on Mr. Rohan's personal life. Also included is a section on the early history of the firm, which was founded in 1875 by Philip B., Fendall G., and William O. Winston. In it, the author mentions the company's work in the construction of the Great Northern Railway, in stripping operations on the Mesabi Range, and in channel improvement on the Mississippi River. A "HISTORY of the Minnetonka Division" of the Northern States Power Company, by Herbert W. Meyer, appears in two installments in the April and May issues of Our Shield, the company's magazine. Mr. Meyer points out that the Minnetonka area "is completely different from any other division" of the company in that the tourist trade rather than industrial needs was responsible for the development of steam, gas, and electrical utilities there. He touches on the railroads, steamboats, and hotels that catered to nineteenth-century tourists as background for his discussion of the corporate history of the Minnetonka division's predecessors — the Minnesota Power Company and the Northern Power Company.

ON THE OCCASION of the dedication of a new school building at Argyle, the Marshall County Banner, published there, devoted a special eight-page illustrated section in its issue of April 11 to the history of the Argyle public schools from 1880 to the present. Lists of teachers and school board members, résumés of courses of study for selected years, and information on the community's successive school buildings are included.

IN A SERIES of articles, appearing irregularly in issues of the Brainerd Daily Dispatch between May 23 and June 11, Carl Wright tells of the growth and decline of "Old Crow Wing," the trading and outfitting center that grew up around the American Fur Company's post at the junction of the Crow Wing and Mississippi rivers. Mr. Wright speaks of the establishment of the post by Allan Morrison in 1843, battles between the Sioux and the Chippewa in the area, the relationship of Fort Ripley to the village, and its heyday in the mid-nineteenth century. He attributes the disappearance of the settlement to the removal of the Chippewa to White Earth and the building of the Northern Pacific Railroad through near-by Brainerd.

CHISAGO COUNTY as "the first permanent settling place" of the Swedes in Minnesota is the subject of an article by Theodore A. Norelius entitled "Swedes Pioneer a New Land," appearing in the April number of the Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly. Mr. Norelius tells of the immigration in the early 1850s of Swedish pioneers to the Chisago lakes district, where they founded such communities as Center City and Lindstrom. He reports that many descendants of these settlers continue to farm in the area today.

VARIED and useful information may be found in a recently published booklet entitled A Citi-
A SKETCH of the opening of the "Vermilion Iron Range" appears in Skillings' Mining Review for April 27. Brief accounts are given of the beginnings of the towns of Tower, Soudan, and Ely, and of the development of the Soudan, Chandler, Zenith, Pioneer, and other mines. Such notable mining figures as John Pengilly, Don H. Bacon, Elisha Morcom, and others are mentioned, and total production figures for various mines are listed. A number of early photographs of the range illustrate the article.

THE ENDEAVORS of the monks of St. John's Abbey at Collegeville in various educational fields are featured in the 1957 edition of Scriptorium, an annual published by the abbey (144 p.). Five illustrated articles outline the historical development of St. John's Seminary, its college of arts and sciences, and its preparatory, commercial, and Indian industrial schools. The beginnings and subsequent evolution of each are chronicled, and considerable information is presented on curriculum, faculty, student activities, and physical plant. The Indian school, begun in 1868 as a boarding institution for Chippewa children, was discontinued in 1896. Later educational efforts of the Benedictines on the Red Lake and White Earth reservations are noted.

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A CHAPTER in the history of bus transportation in Minnesota is set forth by Violet Maryland Weckman in The Story of Victor Maryland, The Pioneer Bus Man, a mimeographed booklet issued recently by the St. Louis County Historical Society (1957. 8 p.). Mrs. Weckman's father started a bus line between Gilbert and Biwabik in 1915, when forerunners of the Greyhound Lines were also operating on the Mesabi Range. Later, he added more busses, and his Maryland Transfer Line extended its service to Virginia, Aurora, Mesaba, Tower, Soudan, and other iron range towns. Mrs. Weckman describes the bus drivers' difficulties in negotiating northern Minnesota's primitive roads during the years of the company's operation from 1915 to 1922.

AN INTENSIVE STUDY by Walter F. Becker of one phase of railroad building in Minnesota may be found in an article on the shipment of railway equipment by river to the state in the period from 1861 to 1869, which appears in the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society's Bulletin for October, 1956. The author has attempted to trace cargoes of rolling stock carried to Minnesota by steamboat or barge before 1869 for use by the St. Paul and Pacific, Winona and St. Peter, Minnesota Central, Minnesota Valley, Southern Minnesota, Lake Superior and Mississippi, and Hastings and Dakota railroads. On the basis of information compiled largely from newspaper sources, he gives the date of each shipment, the steamboat carrying it, and if possible the name of the locomotive.

HARD-TO-FIND information on "The Winona and St. Peter Railroad" is brought together by Charles Towle in the January 12 issue of the WeeklyPhilatelicGossip. The author gives an account of the building of the road and its subsidiary lines and includes data from an 1874 timetable, a list of the road's mail contracts from 1867 to 1888, and a map showing its route through Minnesota.

THE DAKOTA County Historical Society officially opened its new museum in the Municipal Building at South St. Paul on March 29. Exhibits featuring pioneer and Indian artifacts were assembled for the occasion. Also on display was a portion of the society's large Le Due collection of furnishings, books, and papers.

THE HENNEPIN County Historical Society has purchased the former George C. Christian house at 2303 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis. This large building, conveniently located near other cultural centers, provides the society with unusually ample facilities for the housing and exhibiting of its collections. A fund drive is in progress to raise one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars to complete the purchase and rehabilitation of the house. On June 21 the society's new quarters were damaged by fire, and the opening of its museum will be delayed.

AN ATTRACTIVE illustrated map showing historic sites in the area has been prepared and published by the Pine County Historical Society. Included are the locations of ghost towns, missions, copper mines, quarries, mills, and other spots associated with the development of the county. Each site is numbered, and a brief descriptive text may be found on the reverse side of the map. The result of several years of research by members of the group, the map...
may well serve as a model for similar efforts in other parts of the state.

**BEYOND STATE BOUNDARIES**

A PREVIOUSLY unpublished report by Fred Dustin on “An Archaeological Reconnaissance of Isle Royale,” sponsored by the University of Michigan in 1929-30, appears in the March issue of *Michigan History*. After examining the literature on Isle Royale, particularly Charles T. Jackson’s account of his visit to the island in 1847-48, Mr. Dustin was able to locate numerous indications of prewhite occupation and mining. An excellent map, showing the sites of Indian villages and prehistoric copper mines, accompanies the report. The development of the “Isle Royale National Park Movement” is described in the same issue.

MORE THAN a hundred pages of the July-October, 1956, issue of *North Dakota History* are devoted to a comprehensive illustrated history of “The Indians of North Dakota,” by Raymond F. Schuleenberg. Writing to fill “a definite need for a popular history” of the tribes that have lived in North Dakota — the Arikara, Assiniboine, Cheyenne, Crow, Dakota, Hidatsa, Mandan, and Chippewa — Mr. Schuleenberg describes their social organization, family life, warfare, religion, arts, crafts, games, music, clothing, food, agriculture, methods of transportation, and traditional ceremonies. In a section on “The Impact of European Culture on the Indians,” the author covers their transition to reservation life. A final chapter is devoted to “North Dakota Indians Today.” A series of articles by Roy P. Johnson, describing in detail “The Siege at Fort Abercrombie” during the Sioux Outbreak of 1862, is reprinted in the January number of the same magazine. Originally published in issues of the *Fargo Forum* for 1953, the article is not annotated, but a useful bibliography is provided.

AN EXPEDITION organized in Minnesota in 1902 to seek land for a Catholic agricultural colony in western Canada is described in “Father Bruno’s Narrative ‘Across the Boundary,’” a portion of which is reprinted in four installments in issues of *Saskatchewan History* for Spring and Winter, 1956, and 1957. The account, which originally appeared in the *St. John’s University Record* in 1903 and 1904, was written by Father Bruno Doerfler of St. John’s Abbey, one of the party of Stearns County men who made the trip. The excerpt covers the journey from St. Cloud to Winnipeg and on to Saskatchewan and includes comments on the land and villages along the way.

A BOOKLET on *Vieilles Chansons de Nouvelle-France* by Russell S. Young is one of the concrete results effected with the help of a grant from the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation of St. Paul (Quebec, Les Presse Universitaires Laval, no. 7, Les Archives de Folklore Series, 1056. 199 p.). During 1953-54 Mr. Young added some seven hundred French-Canadian folksongs to the collections assembled at the National Museum of Canada and in the Archives of Folklore at Laval University. In this pamphlet, he presents fifty Quebec versions of voyageur songs, often with variations in words or music. In a separate section, the singer and the place of recording is indicated for each song.

E.J.

**NEWS OF THE SOCIETY**

THE FIFTH annual Teachers’ Institute in Minnesota History sponsored by the society will be held in the Historical Building on the afternoon of October 10. The program will have for its theme “Minnesota Statehood.” Professor William Anderson, former chairman of the department of political science in the University of Minnesota, will speak on the framing of Minnesota’s constitution. The program will also feature a discussion of the newly published *Resource Guide*, issued by the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission.

A GRANT of twenty-five thousand dollars has been received by the society from the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission to initiate restoration work on the site of old Fort Snelling. Plans call for the excavation of the original walls and the foundations of some buildings of the old post. Also included is the restoration of the Hexagonal Tower and the installation in 1958 of new exhibits in the Round Tower. The work is expected to begin this fall so that as much as possible can be completed in 1958, the centennial of Minnesota statehood.

ON SEPTEMBER 1 Mr. Robert C. Wheeler joined the society’s staff as assistant director. A veteran in the historical field, Mr. Wheeler has for more than ten years been associated with the Ohio Historical Society in various capacities, most recently as assistant director of the Ohio Sesquicentennial Commission. He is the author of a study of *Ohio Newspapers*, published in 1950.

*September 1957*
MORE THAN a hundred and twenty persons joined the society's 1957 annual tour on June 15, which had as its destination Lumberton, USA near Brainerd. The caravan also stopped at Lindbergh State Park near Little Falls and at Fort Ripley, where General Joseph E. Nelson, adjutant general of Minnesota, spoke on the history of the post.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY of the old Crow Wing area was made by representatives of the society and the Crow Wing County Historical Society from July 29 to 31. The party attempted to locate the many historic sites there for the purpose of compiling a map. Participating in the project were Mr. Fridley, the society's director, Mr. Grahn, its field director, Carl Wright and John Humphrey of the local society, and John Morrison and George Kerr, former residents of Crow Wing.

A CONTEST "to obtain the finest possible half-hour television script" dealing with Minnesota's backgrounds is being sponsored by the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission, WCCO television, and the society. As part of the celebration of Minnesota's statehood centennial, the competition has as its purpose the "recognition of the rich panorama" of the state's history. It is open to any resident of Minnesota. The author of the winning entry will be awarded a prize of one thousand dollars in cash. The judges are: Dean Merrill E. Jarchow of Carleton College, Dean Melva Lind of Gustavus Adolphus College, Doctors E. W. Ziebarth and William V. O'Connor of the University of Minnesota, and Mr. Sherman K. Headley of WCCO.

THE HORACE Austin family papers in the society's possession have been augmented by a recent gift of about a hundred items from Miss Helen Austin of Mound. Included in the new accession are letters and newspaper clippings dealing with the careers of Governor Austin and his son Herbert during the period from 1863 to 1939.

THE FOLLOWING manuscript collections have been catalogued and are now ready for use: William F. Davidson family papers, numbering some seventy-five thousand pieces and covering the period from 1819 to 1919 (see ante 34:268); the Louis N. Scott family papers dating from 1883 to 1943 (see ante 35:136); and the papers of Charles N. Orr and the Charles A. Parker family. The former group consists of speeches, correspondence, clippings, and certificates dealing with Orr's career as a St. Paul lawyer and Minnesota legislator in the first half of the twentieth century. The latter collection documents Parker's work as an officer in the firm which developed the three-thousand-acre townsite of St. Paul Park.

IN 1956 and again in 1957 appeals were made to members and friends of the society for funds with which to purchase books in the fields of genealogy and Civil War history. So generous was the response, that the library has been able to secure about two thirds of the needed genealogical works and all of the Civil War volumes on its list. Most of the gifts have been inscribed as memorials, and they are now available in the society's reading room.

TWO VOLUMES containing the Record of the legal proceedings in the suit to quiet title to Captain William Clark's field notes of 1803-06 have been added to the society's library (336, 90 p.). In them may be found the testimony and arguments presented before Judge Gunnar H. Nordbye in 1955, his decision of October 8, 1956, and the brief for the United States government appealing from that decision. Other notable recent additions to the library include a copy of the original nineteen-page edition of Stephen R. Riggs' Sketches of the Dakota Mission, published in 1873 presumably at Greenwood in Dakota Territory. This rare work is the gift of James N. B. Hill of Boston, Massachusetts. A scrapbook, kept by her father Dr. David Day from 1866 to 1896, has been presented by Mrs. A. B. Ewing of St. Louis, Missouri. It is valuable for the wealth of information it preserves on St. Paul's postal history from 1875 to 1888 and on the building of the courthouse there in the late 1880s. Also of interest is a small recently acquired volume by John Huske entitled The Present State of North America, which was published at London in 1755. It contains a map showing the present area of Minnesota as far west as Lake of the Woods to be a part of the province of New York.

RECENT ARTICLES by staff members include Mr. Fridley's account of "Preserving History in Minnesota's State Parks" and Miss Nute's sketch of Christophe Augustin Lamare-Picquot, "Founder of Minnesota's First Natural History Museum," both of which appear in the Spring issue of the Minnesota Naturalist. Miss Kane is the author of a study of "Settling the Wisconsin Cutovers," published in the Winter issue of the Wisconsin Magazine of History, and Mr. Babcock reviews "Historic Fort Snelling" in the May number of the Magazine of the Daughters of the American Revolution.