Some NEW BOOKS in Review...


Reviewed by Alvin C. Gluek, Jr.

This is the first of Professor Rich's projected two-volume history of the Hudson's Bay Company from 1670 to 1870, the richest and most exciting years in the company's long life. The volume under review covers the period from pre-charter days until 1763. It is logically divided into three parts: the company's "prehistory" to 1670: the struggle between the English and French fur traders for the bay itself, 1670–1713, which ended in victory for the former in the treaty of Utrecht; and the final conflict between the two forces, the bay-side English and the encircling coureurs de bois, which was terminated by the expulsion of the French from North America in the treaty of Paris.

This book presents good, solid history founded upon manuscript materials (largely from the company's archives) and buttressed by various monographs in the field. Its value for the scholar is undoubted; but it is dubious whether the "ordinary reader" — in the author's words — will ever use it. The style might not prove engaging: the detail might be stifling. And yet the extraordinary reader, for whom presumably Mr. Rich is writing, might also be somewhat disappointed. The text is barren of footnotes and citations (special copies with references will be deposited in certain Canadian and British libraries), and it possesses no bibliography other than lists of selected works that append each chapter. Furthermore, the serious reader ought to equip himself with a map or maps, for those in the text are inadequate. These are, however, but the slightest defects in an otherwise excellent book.

How does this book compare with other works in the field, for example, with Douglas MacKay's The Honourable Company or Arthur S. Morton's History of the Canadian West to 1870–71? It lacks the easy-going, entertaining prose of MacKay's book, which will probably remain the best popular history of the company. It is not, like Professor Morton's work, the history of a region, but rather of a company. Professor Rich, more than Mr. Morton, is concerned with business operations, and this is a sympathetic, yet unbiased history of the company. The historian will find, scattered throughout the book's nearly seven hundred pages, a very complete story of an amazing enterprise, and he will become familiar with the practices and methods of British entrepreneurs over almost a century of formative business development. The author has meticulously investigated the growth of the company, observing changes in its financing, in management and direction, in marketing and sales, and in corporate form. The result is one of the most lucid and skillfully presented "company" histories that this reviewer has ever read. With equal skill, Mr. Rich has woven together the intricate, international threads obtaining in the relationships between Britain and its company and France and its various enterprises. The diplomatic historian will appreciate the author's insight into the complex called Rupert's Land.

Professor Rich offers several interesting new interpretations of company and Northwest history. The historian has usually accepted the French withdrawal from Hudson Bay in 1713 as resulting from English victories in Europe during the War of the Spanish Succession. Mr. Rich, however, asserts that the French retired willingly because their fur trade, a perennially unsteady economy, had been completely ruined by surpluses during the war. Commonly, the historian has criticized the company for vegetating on the bay while the energetic French slipped in behind, intercepting the Indians en route to Hudson Bay and thereby exerting great and damaging pressures upon the company. Mr. Rich maintains that the French posed no economic threat whatever till 1780, and that thereafter, despite mounting competition, the
company continued on its profit-making way. For good reasons, the company elected not to move inland. Interior posts would have to be carefully situated lest they rob the bay instead of the French. Inland posts demanded English wood runners, men of a type too rarely found on the company’s rosters. But the most convincing premise in this conservative proposition was that, until the French had been expelled from the continent, little purpose would be served in moving inland to compete with them.

Common in both Canadian and American minds is the picture of the Hudson’s Bay Company as a gigantic, powerful monopoly cherished by the crown and Parliament and feared by other businesses for its size and strength. Professor Rich depicts the company as it really was from 1670 to 1763: an enterprise of slight stature whose annual imports and exports never exceeded twenty to thirty thousand pounds even by the end of the era, a business which never enjoyed positive influence in Parliament or the court, a lesser business which ruled over neither London’s exchanges nor its coffee houses. For some of its life, the company conducted its business in “Joe’s Coffee House.” Until the administration of Governor Sir Bihye Lake from 1712 to 1748, the company was operated on a fantastically informal basis. In one instance, it declared dividends when there were no profits; in many others, members of the governing committee seemed more anxious about the progress of their sales and loans to the company than in the advancement of its own fortunes. One wonders how the company endured at all, and the conclusion must be that it survived simply because it was stronger than its competition.

In sum, this is an excellent book — the best written to date upon the history of the Hudson’s Bay Company — and this reviewer eagerly awaits the publication of the second volume.

FRONTIER HERO

Robert Rogers of the Rangers. By JOHN R. CUNEIO. (New York, Oxford University Press. 1959, xii, 308 p. Illustrations, maps. $6.00.)

Reviewed by Russell W. Fridley

THIS IS an ably written biography of Major Robert Rogers, the famous and colorful frontiersman, hunter, trader, explorer, and military scout. A gifted stylist, the author painstakingly carries Rogers through the high points of his career as a yeoman farmer in the New Hampshire backwoods; as a remarkably successful recruiter of volunteer units in the Colonial army; as leader and organizer of a company of Rangers that quickly distinguished itself; as head of the Ranger or scouting branch of the British army in the Colonies; as military emissary to the West following the French and Indian War; as the ill-fated commander of Fort Michilimackinac; as the architect of an ingenious plan to search for the Northwest Passage; and finally, as a tragic figure during the imprisonment which was followed by his death.

Some of the best pages of the book deal with Rogers on the battlefields of the French and Indian War, where he exhibited dashing courage, amazing ingenuity, and incredible endurance. His military feats are depicted in detail— at Halifax in 1757, at Ticonderoga in 1758, and at Crown Point in 1759, when he and his Rangers destroyed the Abenaki Indian village of St. Francis in a daring raid, and in the final campaign at Montreal in 1760.

Mr. Cuneio’s study provides ample support for the long-held conclusion that Rogers was the most romantic figure of the French and Indian War. Nor can one quarrel with the author’s championship of Major Rogers’ remarkable qualities, for obviously this roving frontiersman was a natural leader of men and an able military tactician, possessed of unusual courage and a personality of truly fascinating proportions. Moreover, one can certainly accept Mr. Cuneio’s treatment of the trials and tribulations that plagued Rogers throughout his career. Circumstances frequently led him into misfortune, as the author indicates. The book is marred, however, by the absence of any adequate appreciation of Rogers’ basic faults. He most certainly displayed a lack of principle in his illicit trading with the Indians; this unfortunate trait can hardly be condoned in view of his actions as commander at Michilimackinac, where he exerted great effort to administer his territory, especially the Indian trade, in his own interests.

From the very beginning, in the army Rogers showed a lack of capacity for administration which led him into difficulty. The author overlooks the fact that the Rangers were not immune from weaknesses: their innate independence.

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and want of self-discipline definitely diminished their usefulness and posed the genuine problem of how to fit them into the regular army. At the same time, it is obvious that Rogers' sense of the dramatic and his abundant daring at times led him to prefer spectacular and hazardous exploits to more reasoned courses advocated by his superiors. Finally, one should not ignore the dishonesty and progressive dissipation which undermined several of Rogers' ventures. That he possessed a great vision for the expansion of the British Empire is undeniable, but his lack of scruple in promoting that empire and his own fame also must be recognized.

On the field of battle, Robert Rogers was a truly compelling figure—undoubtedly one of the most remarkable military leaders in human history. On the other hand, he never seemed able to cope with the common problems of peace and civilization. It is unfortunate that the author was not more successful in accurately portraying all aspects of Rogers' character. Had he focused upon Rogers' great qualities and serious shortcomings alike, his study of this magnetic figure would have been far more fascinating and valuable.

Minnesotans will be particularly interested in the author's treatment of Rogers' visionary plan to find the vainly sought Northwest Passage and his relationship to Jonathan Carver, the trading explorer. While some aspects of the tangled Carver story remain to be unraveled, Mr. Cuneo reveals a grasp of recent scholarship on Carver and his travels through the Minnesota country under Rogers' direction.

Although Mr. Cuneo has added little to the existing knowledge of the well-known Major Rogers, he has told this story in a fresh and vivid style that makes enjoyable reading. At the same time, he has portrayed the career of this colorful adventurer against a background of momentous events in the pre-Revolutionary period which he did much to shape.

ORGANIZED LABOR


Reviewed by George B. Engberg

Professor Rayback of Pennsylvania State University has written a comprehensive survey of American labor which deals primarily with labor organization and secondarily with the American working class as a whole. The tenth of the book devoted to the Colonial and Revolutionary periods presents the earliest phase of American labor activity with more than the normal amount of completeness. About a third of the volume is devoted to a "Transitional Era," including a needed emphasis on the importance of the extensive railroad strikes of 1877, and ending with the decline of the Knights of Labor about 1890. The "Modern Era" from 1890 to the late 1930s receives over half of Mr. Rayback's space.

A good case could be made for dividing the last seventy years between a period of relatively futile unionism from 1890 to the Great Depression and a time of strength beginning with the New Deal. The story, almost by necessity, centers around the broad national labor organizations, with only incidental reference to local unions or to national craft groups, and thus misses the full impact of some leading unions such as the carpenters and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. Extended attention is given, however, to the United Mine Workers, especially the key role of John L. Lewis, including his reported willingness to be a vice-presidential candidate in 1940, only to find the other party to the political marriage an unwilling one.

The author indicates his acquaintance with political history as well as with labor matters by frequently relating the labor story to the political arena. In this connection he mentions the Farmer-Labor party in Minnesota and mistakenly puts Magnus Johnson in the governor's chair rather than in the United States Senate. The only other references to the Minnesota scene deal with the co-operative movement among the post-Civil War coopers and the abolition in the state of contract labor by convicts.

A twelve-page bibliography covers printed materials, but many readers would have appreciated specific documentation of quotations and startling facts, as well as some support for the author's opinions on controversial issues. There are occasions when the description is somewhat less than clear as the author gropes unsuccessfully for the best word or phrase, but on the
whole this is a welcome and straightforward story of the principal developments in American labor organization.

WESTWARD MIGRATION


Reviewed by Carlton C. Qualey

ONE APPROACHES this handsomely published and rather expensive volume by a distinguished Kentucky historian with great expectations, which are only partially fulfilled. The author's engaging storytelling ability comes through from time to time, the portions dealing with the field of his own specialization are particularly well done, and those who enjoy frontier military history will be pleased by the large number of pages devoted to this aspect of the westward movement.

There will, however, be many who will question the disproportionate space given to military and political history, much of which might well be relegated to general histories of the United States. For example, twenty pages are devoted to the French and Indian War, with nearly four pages on Braddock's defeat. There are eighty-five forts listed in the index. Not until after two-hundred pages does one get full treatment of frontier social history, and this is in the form of a cross section as of the year 1800. Later chapters on frontier social, economic, and intellectual history likewise have this static cross section character. Certain topics, such as the Mormons, are given incomplete treatment, for the author seems unaware of recent important publications on the large European immigrant elements in the Mormon story.

Space devoted to the upper Mississippi Valley states is limited compared to other regions, and the section on Minnesota will be of little use to students in this area. Only one work on Minnesota history is cited in the bibliography, and there are three errors in the listing. The author is not William Watts but William Watts Folwell; the place of publication is St. Paul, not New York; and the date of publication is 1921-30, not 1903. In the index, under Henry H. Sibley, a page reference to William Sibley is included. On page 20 there is an unsupported assertion that "Scandinavians intermarried with Italian and French settlers." One's confidence in the author's scholarship is somewhat shaken by these evidences of carelessness, but these are minor flaws compared to the generally disappointing nature of the volume. Perhaps it can be revised and improved in a later edition, if there is one.

COURT RECORDS

The Business of a Trial Court: 100 Years of Cases. By FRANCIS W. LAURENT. (Madison, The University of Wisconsin Press, 1959. xxxiv, 314 p. Maps. $6.00.)

Reviewed by Walter N. Trenerry

ALL THOUGHTFUL LAWYERS have felt that historians overlook many sources easily available in legal records. The University of Wisconsin apparently took this to heart, for it assigned to Mr. Laurent the job of investigating court records in one area during a period of a hundred years and to report what he found. The author proved capable of the stupendous drudgery of reading clerks' and judges' files and minute books covering all trial courts—that is, courts which hear cases in the first instance and in which the parties, witnesses, and, if used, juries, are present—in Chippewa County, Wisconsin, between 1855 and 1954.

The results of this exhausting and boring business are set out in numerous statistical tables, topic by topic, the principal analyses being according to subject matter, status of parties, nature of the court, and results. If, for instance, anyone conceivably wants to know how many wives seeking divorces in Chippewa County in the last hundred years based their cases on the impotence of their spouses, he will find the information here (two).

The author draws no conclusions but is content to parade his neat little army of data. Conclusions, as he says, were no part of his assignment. He reconnoitered and this is what

MR. QUALEY, professor of history in Carleton College, Northfield, has worked extensively in the field of immigration history.

MR. TRENERRY, who resides in St. Paul, is a lawyer by profession and a member of the society's executive council.
he saw. You may do the interpreting. This re-
viewer can only look with stupefaction at what
appears to be research for the sake of research,
undertaken without purpose, resulting in a
pointless collection of inert, neutral, lifeless,
charmless data. This is not quite the use legal
records have for historians; their use is rather
in furnishing illuminating insights in individual
cases.

Making an interpretation on his own, this
reviewer is going to conclude that Mr. Laurent
undertook this in good-humored compliance
with a faculty request, knowing it to be an or-
deal by research, and that he will now turn his
unquestioned scholarly abilities into pathways
of roseate, effulgent, and florescent romance.

ORE, SHIPS, AND STEEL

Vein of Iron: The Pickands Mather Story. By
WALTER HAVIGHURST. (Cleveland, The World
Publishing Company, 1958. 223 p. Illustra-
tions. $4.00.)

Reviewed by Roy V. Scott

AS PROFESSOR HAVIGHURST states, there
"were many frontiers in America following the
Civil War." This book represents an attempt by
a professor of English at Miami University in
Ohio to recount the development of one of the
great iron mining and shipping companies which
arose on the Lake Superior frontier in the period
which Vernon L. Parrington so aptly described
as "the great barbecue." Pickands Mather and
Company, formed in 1883, began mining opera-
tions with two small properties in the Marquette
district of upper Michigan, made the first major
development on the Gogebic Range a few years
later, and soon was a major producer from the
vastly richer Mesabi area. Combined with its
mining interests, Pickands Mather entered the
shipping business, moving ore to the lower ports
and transporting coal to the head of the lakes.
Finally, the concern entered the steel industry,
thereby completing the organization of a ver-
tically integrated company handling iron from
pit to finished product. Seventy years after its
establishment, Pickands Mather is one of the
giants of the American iron and steel industry.
Furthermore, it is still seeking worlds to con-
quer as, along with such competitors as the
M. A. Hanna Company, it attempts to solve the
problem of utilizing taconite as a replacement
for high quality, direct shipping ores, which are
being rapidly exhausted.

This book is for the general reader who, no
doubt, will enjoy learning about a few of the
problems connected with the iron and steel
business, reading of the devastating storms
which on occasion have played havoc with
Great Lakes shipping, and being informed of
the sterling characters of every man who has
served Pickands Mather. On the other hand,
few economic historians will need to consult
Professor Havighurst's study. The author, who
is a master of glib expression and neat phrase,
plays on the trivial and ignores the unpleasant.
The reader is unimpressed to learn that James
Humphrey Hoyt died after being struck be-
tween the eyes by a golf ball while he was at-
ttempting to work his way out of a sand trap,
or that Pickands Mather mules, inspired by a
strange type of devotion, "never balked or
bolted." Instead, the economic historian would
like to know by what methods Pickands Mather
secured the lands and the leases which pro-
duced such wealth, he would like to have some-
what more attention devoted to the working
conditions and attitudes of the men in the pits
and on the lake steamers, and he would like to
have a balanced account which does not give to
management an appearance of infallibility.
Unfortunately, to provide information of this na-
ture requires a type of research which Professor
Havighurst has not done or was not permitted
to do.

ILLUSTRATED PERIODICALS

THE "FIRST American magazine engraving of
the Mississippi River" was a view of the Falls of
St. Anthony in the New York Magazine for
May, 1796, according to Benjamin M. Lewis,
whose Guide to Engravings in American Maga-
zines, 1741–1810, is a recent publication of the
The engraving, which was the work of John
Scoles, was based on Jonathan Carver's view of
the falls. It is reproduced in the first of two
plates illustrating the booklet. The author is
librarian of Hamline University, St. Paul.
TWO OF Carl I. Wheat's "five projected volumes" on *Mapping the Transmississippi West* are now available in print (San Francisco, 1957, 1958, 264, 281 p.). Among the maps reproduced or discussed in the opening volume, which covers the period from 1540 to 1804, are those of Hennepin, Lahontan, La Verendrye, Peter Pond, Jonathan Carver, and David Thompson. Volume 2, embracing the years 1804-45, "from Lewis and Clark to Fremont," includes reports on the cartographic contributions of such Midwest explorers as Zebulon M. Pike, Stephen H. Long, and George Catlin. Strangely enough, however, the author makes no mention of Joseph N. Nicollet and his magnificent map of the area between the upper Mississippi and the Missouri. Each of these monumental folio volumes contains a useful "Bibliocartography," with a "chronological listing and description of all maps considered," as well as an "Alphabetical Index" of maps arranged by the names of their makers.

EXAMPLES of the "Rich and Varied Record of Indian Life" left by Paul Kane are to be found in the August issue of *American Heritage*, which devotes nine pages and the cover illustration to reproductions of works by this Canadian artist. The brief descriptive text points out that "Probably no other artist except George Catlin ever left such a complete and accurate record of the forms, the faces, and the way of life of this continent's aborigines." Most of the pictures here presented stem from a trip to the Pacific Northwest which Kane made in 1846, and all are from original paintings and sketches in the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum at Toronto.

AN EXHIBIT of the work of Seth Eastman, an artist and soldier who was stationed at Fort Snelling in the 1830s and 1840s and who served for some time as commandant of the Minnesota post, has been arranged by the traveling exhibition service of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. The display will open on October 1 at the City Art Museum of St. Louis, and will be on view at the Science Museum in St. Paul from January 1 to 24, 1960.

THE ROLE of "The Health Seeker in the Westward Movement, 1830-1900" is the subject of an interesting article by John E. Baur appearing in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for June. Although he touches briefly upon Minnesota's attractions for health seekers, he is concerned largely with the Far West—the Rocky Mountains area, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, California, and the like. Since Mr. Baur contends that the "desire for renewed health" as a reason for leaving the East "has been generally neglected by historians," he apparently is unfamiliar with the writings of Helen Clapesattle, Philip D. Jordan, and others concerning frontier Minnesota as a health resort. Although the writer looks upon the health seekers as "an elusive and not easily identifiable element in the mid-nineteenth century migration to the Far West," he expresses the belief that "in addition to augmenting the population they often supplied money and talent, and in the cases of the less well endowed, labor, for the regions in which they settled."

WRITERS of limited experience and college students will find some useful suggestions in the newly published *Historian's Handbook: A Key to the Study and Writing of History*, compiled by Wood Gray of George Washington University and a group of his colleagues and published by Houghton Mifflin Company (Boston, 1959, 58 p. $1.00.). In an introductory note Mr. Wood defines his threefold purpose: "to introduce the college freshman and general reader to the nature of history, with suggestions as to how he may study it effectively; to guide the advanced student through the preparation of a term paper or thesis; and to offer the practicing historian a convenient reference manual." About twenty pages are devoted to lists of bibliographies and other reference sources that may be found in any well-equipped library.

SECTIONS on "The Nature of Local History," the "Levels of Local History," and "Research and Writing" are included in Philip D. Jordan's recent booklet on *The Nature and Practice of State and Local History*, which has been issued by the Service Center for Teachers of History (Washington, 1958, 45 p.). A brief introduction deals with "The House of History," where "ample space is provided for those concerned with the neighborhood and with local activities."

SOME interesting references to Minnesota materials are to be found in volume 1 of the
Records of the United States House of Representatives, compiled by Buford Rowland, Handy B. Fant, and Harold E. Hufford, and published by the National Archives as number 113 of its Preliminary Inventories (292 p.). For example, committee reports listed for the Thirtieth Congress, 1847–49, include records on “the case of Henry H. Sibley claiming a seat as Delegate from Wisconsin Territory”; a “contract with H. M. Rice for removing Winnebago Indians to Minnesota,” and information about “surveys for railroad route from the Mississippi Valley to the Pacific Ocean” are listed for the Thirty-first Congress; and material on “roads and bridges in the Territory of Minnesota” is recorded under the Thirty-fifth Congress.

AN INVENTORY of Cartographic Records of the Bureau of the Census, compiled by James B. Rhoads and Charlotte M. Ashby, has been issued by the National Archives as number 103 of its Preliminary Inventories (108 p.). Included is a list of more than two hundred annotated “enumeration district” maps prepared between 1900 and 1940 for Minnesota counties, cities, and townships.

“HERETOFORE, studies of dialect and folklore have concentrated on rural areas,” according to Raven I. McDavid, Jr., whose discussion of “Linguistic Geography and the Study of Folklore” appears in the Autumn, 1958, issue of New York Folklore. The writer goes on to point out that “today a majority of Americans live in urban areas, and future studies might profitably be directed to these areas.” He reports a number of studies in the field that are now in progress—among them an investigation of the St. Paul–Minneapolis area by Robert Webber.

SHAKERS, Universal Friends, Dorrilites, Rapplites, and Fourierists are among the sects discussed by Everett Webber in Escape to Utopia: The Communal Movement in America (New York, 1939. 444 p.). Both secular and religious leaders draw the interest of the writer, who “recounts with great good humor the pitfalls that beset these creators of a strange social phenomena,” according to the jacket blurb. The book makes only slight mention of Midwestern sects like the Hutterites and the Mennonites.

SCORES of items relating to Minnesota are listed by Lorna M. Daniells in Studies in Enterprise: A Selected Bibliography of American and Canadian Company Histories and Biographies of Businessmen, which has been published by the Harvard University graduate school of business administration (Boston, 1957. 169 p.). Particularly numerous are works of Minnesota interest grouped under such headings as “Food and Kindred Products,” “Lumber,” “Printing and Publishing,” “Railroads,” and “Fur Trading.”


INCLUDED in Walter F. McCulloch’s volume of Woods Words: A Comprehensive Dictionary of Loggers Terms are some four thousand words and phrases used especially by the men who engaged in lumbering operations on the Pacific coast (1958. 217 p.). The author, who is dean of the school of forestry in Oregon State College, collected the terms while working both as a logger and as a forester, and he has supplied definitions that are detailed and at times lengthy.

THE FAUNA and flora native to the Mississippi Valley from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico are described by Virginia S. Eifert in a book entitled River World: Wild Life of the Mississippi (New York, 1959. 271 p.). She writes of “the river of nature in all its aspects, deliberately excluding man and his settlements and impositions,” drawing her material from firsthand studies made during several seasons.

“CHANGES in Corn Production on the Northern Margin of the Corn Belt” are analyzed by Howard G. Roepke in Agricultural History for July. Concerned primarily with corn growing in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, the author reports on production from 1940 to 1954. He suggests that the “introduction of quick-maturing and reliable varieties of hybrid corn” caused a “significant increase in grain corn production in areas formerly marginal for corn.” The writer expresses the belief that hybrid corn may have had some part in “the extension of the Corn Belt crop-livestock system into certain areas of southern Wisconsin.” Eight maps showing various areas of production illustrate the article.

A BRIEF historical sketch of the Burlington railroad’s mail service between Chicago and Council Bluffs, Iowa, is presented by David P. Morgan in a booklet entitled Fast Mail: The First 75 Years (38 p.). In it is recorded the story of the “first solid mail train west of Chicago,” which has been operating daily—“de-
A STIMULATING discussion of "The Themes of North Dakota History," originally read by Professor Elwyn B. Robinson before the seventy-fifth anniversary conference of the University of North Dakota on November 6, 1958, has been published in the Winter, 1959, issue of North Dakota History. As the "six great themes of the state's most significant experiences," the author names and analyzes "remoteness, dependence, radicalism, economic disadvantage, the Too-Much Mistake, and adjustment." He also demonstrates that these themes spring from fundamentals like "the cool, subhumid grassland at the center of the continent, that they are tied to one another, and that they run through the state's history, virtually from the beginning to the present day." In discussing his second theme, dependence, Mr. Robinson touches on his state's relations with the metropolitan center of the Twin Cities. He notes, for example, that Minnesotans "corporations own many banks and some newspapers in the state," that "thousands of North Dakotans read the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune," and that "North Dakota produces raw materials—wheat, cattle, flaxseed and so on—for outside markets," notably the Twin Cities.

SOME LETTERS and diaries of Iowa soldiers who were stationed in Dakota Territory, particularly at Fort Randall, during the Civil War have been edited by Mildred Throne for publication in the April issue of the Iowa Journal of History. Under the title "Iowa Troops in Dakota Territory, 1861-1864" the editor presents chronologically arranged documents which "tell a story of the monotony of a frontier army post, give accounts of the Indians, both friendly and hostile, and reflect the disappointment of men far removed" from the Civil War. Most of the excerpts are from the papers of Henry J. Wiebeck, a soldier with Company B, 14th Iowa Volunteer Infantry.

IN THE October issue of the Palimpsest, William J. Petersen describes "The Race of the Grey Eagle" and the "Itasca" in 1858 from Iowa to St. Paul. The writer relates that the captain of the "Grey Eagle," determined to be the first to announce at St. Paul the completion of the Atlantic cable, set out from Dubuque on August 17 in an attempt to overtake the "Itasca." Nearly twenty-five hours later his mission was accomplished, after a race that is described as "without parallel in Upper Mississippi steamboating." Mr. Petersen also is the author of an article on "Iowa under Spain" in the November issue, where he calls attention to Jonathan Carver's and Peter Pond's travels of the 1760s and 1770s.

THE MONTANA pattern has been brief, explosive, frenetic, and often tragic. The economic picture has often been one of exploitation, over-expansion, boom, and bust. The political scene has been equally extreme—from fiery, wide-open violence to apathetic resignation." Thus writes K. Ross Toole in the opening chapter of his recent history of Montana: An Uncommon Land (Norman, Oklahoma, 1959. 272 p.). That the history of this mountain state overlaps that of Minnesota at some points soon becomes apparent to the reader. Both, for example, were largely embraced in the Louisiana Purchase, and they shared certain explorers like the La Verendryes, the Baron Lahontan, and Major Stephen H. Long. The latter are among those who figure in Mr. Toole's chapter on "The Land and Its First Penetration." Other themes discussed in the volume, which the author describes as "essentially an interpretive study," include "Trappers, Posts, and Priests," gold and copper mining, politics, "The Indian and the Military," and "The Montana Heritage."

THE CAREER of a Minnesota photographer who with members of his family pictured and chronicled "everything of significance about Yellowstone National Park" after 1881 is reviewed by Hugh D. Galusha, Jr., in the July issue of Montana: The Magazine of Western History. Under the title "Yellowstone Years," the writer tells the story of Frank Jay Haynes who "from a base studio in Moorhead, Minnesota (1875-6)," then after 1879 from Fargo, and finally from a "studio in St. Paul (established in 1889) . . . traveled widely throughout the frontier Northwest" assembling pictorial records. According to the writer, Haynes "had his first public exhibition at the Minnesota State Fair" in 1877, and this "contributed to his being appointed 'Official Photographer' for the Westward-building Northern Pacific Railway." On that line, from 1885 to 1905, Haynes operated his "Palace Studio" car over the entire system between St. Paul and Seattle. The unique records of the frontier West which he and his son, Mr. Jack Ellis Haynes, assembled are now preserved by the latter at Bozeman, Montana.

ONLY MEAGER information about Nathaniel Pitt Langford is to be found in Dorothy M. Johnson's "new introduction" to the recent reprint of his Vigilante Days and Ways (Missoula,
Instead of telling about the author of this Western classic and the circumstances under which he wrote, Miss John­son chooses to add her own comments about the vigilantes and their exploits. She does reveal, however, that he was a member of the Fisk ex­pedition of 1862, that he was the “first superin­tendent of the first national park, Yellowstone,” and that his later years were spent in St. Paul.

A FACSIMILE of “the exceedingly rare first separate printing” of Abraham Lincoln’s “House Divided” Address has been issued by the Illinois State Historical Society (Springfield, 1958. 24 p.). An introduction by Clyde C. Walton explains the circumstances leading up to the events of June 16, 1858, when Lincoln delivered the ad­dress before the Illinois Republican state convention and triggered the opening of the Lin­coln-Douglas debates.

THE APRIL, 1958, number of Illinois Libraries is a “Manuscript Issue,” devoted to the hold­ings of the state’s major libraries and historical institutions. Of special interest to historians from other states are accounts of the manuscript collections of the Chicago Historical Society, by Margaret Scriven, and of the Newberry Library, by Stanley Pargellis. Included also is a useful “Survey of Manuscript and Local History Col­lections in Illinois,” which embraces not only public and college libraries and local historical societies, but private collectors as well.

SOME COMMENT on a journey to Prairie du Chien in 1829 is included in Francis P. Weisen­burger’s sketch of “Caleb Atwater: Pioneer Poli­tician and Historian” which appears in the Ohio Historical Quarterly for January. Atwater was one of three commissioners who went to the Wisconsin community to negotiate treaties with the Winnebago, Chippewa, and other Indian tribes. Noted also is the publication two years later of Atwater’s Remarks Made on a Tour to Prairie du Chien, which included a dictionary of the Sioux language.

PRESCOTT, the community which faces west­ward toward Minnesota at the point where the St. Croix joins the Mississippi, figures promi­nently in Lawrence H. Larsen’s essay on “Pierce County in 1860,” published in the Spring num­ber of the Wisconsin Magazine of History. The author notes that in 1851 the town was founded by a Minnesotan, Philander Prescott, for whom it was named, but that its progress was retarded somewhat by the rivalry of “communities like Hastings, Red Wing, Hudson, and Stillwater which entertained visions of achieving economic eminence.” Eventually, writes Mr. Larsen, “the coming of the railroad not only ruined the river traffic but also made Minneapolis and St. Paul the great commercial centers of the area. By 1880 Prescott was a sleepy river town.”

THE CENTENNIAL of a central Wisconsin community is commemorated in A History of the City of Stevens Point, a booklet published by the Portage County Historical Society (1958. 80 p.). In addition to chapters on such topics as industry, politics, racial groups, and recreation, the pamphlet includes exceptional illustrations, many of which picture the lumber industry and local store interiors.

A SURVEY of “Seventy-five Years of Cana­dian Bibliography,” by W. Kaye Lamb, appears in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada for June, 1957. The writer, who is archivist of Canada, discusses general bibliog­raphies and periodical indexes of Canadi­ans published in French and English since 1837, carefully noting the scope, arrangement, and quality of each. He also draws attention to the many lists which have resulted from various un­successful attempts to establish an annual cata­logue of Canadian imprints.

PROBLEMS solved as “Canada and the United States, working together . . . harnessed 189 miles of mighty river for deepwater navigation and power” are stressed by Andrew H. Brown in an elaborately illustrated article entitled “New St. Lawrence Seaway Opens the Great Lakes to the World” in the National Geographic Maga­zine for March. The writer explains that with the opening of the seaway, inland cities, includ­ing Duluth, are “as handy to Europe as Miami and New Orleans.” In the April issue of the same periodical, Nathaniel T. Kenney discusses the “New Era on the Great Lakes” that was inaugurated by the seaway’s opening in the spring of 1959. The passage is pictured as a “Channel to the Heart of a Continent” by Mar­vin J. Barloom in the New York Times Magazine for June 21. He notes that now for the first time, “the fleets of the high seas can freely penetrate halfway across North America to Chicago and Duluth.” In the American Swedish Monthly for July, James Winchester points out that America has “its fourth seacoast and the world its eighth great sea” now that “The New Seaway Is Open.” The event was marked at Duluth, the westernmost point on the route, with a city­wide celebration from July 8 to 15. The com­
munity is featured as a “Gateway to the Sea” in a supplement (64 p.) to the Duluth News-
Tribune for July 5, which is rich in material on the Duluth-Superior port, its facilities, and its
opportunities for future development. The new Duluth Public Marine Terminal is described and
pictured, and the functions of the Duluth Port Authority are explained. Historical backgrounds
are exploited under the heading “Northwest Passage to Riches,” with brief accounts of explora-
tion, the fur trade, early canals on the St. Lawrence, and pioneer shipping, and the long struggle
for the seaway that ended with the arrival on May 3, 1959, of the “Ramon de Larrinaga,” the “first deep draft ocean ship to reach the Twin Ports” of Duluth-Superior.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

A SERIES of six annual “Humanities Awards” for “outstanding original unpublished work” by
Minnesotans in the fields of American history, military history, or biography, and for novels,
novelle, and dramas, has been announced by the McKnight Foundation of St. Paul. Each award
will consist of a “suitable certificate” and a thousand dollars. Manuscripts for the 1959 awards must be submitted not later than December 1, and the winners will be announced early in April, 1960. Detailed information about the awards may be obtained by writing to the secretary of the McKnight Foundation, 735 Mendota Street, St. Paul.

MINNESOTA, and especially Northfield, are well represented in two thick volumes of Chronicles from the Nineteenth Century: Family Letters of Blanche Butler and Adelbert Ames, compiled in 1935 by Blanche Butler Ames and privately issued in 1957 (Clinton, Massachusetts, 719, 689 p.). Ames, who was appointed provisional governor of Mississippi during the reconstruction era in 1868, was part owner of a flour mill at Northfield, which was operated by his father and brother. As early as 1866, Adelbert predicted that the mill would “prove a gold mine to us by and by”; ten years later its product took a first prize in the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia. Upon visiting Northfield on her wedding trip in 1870, Blanche reported that she “found that she could satisfactorily condense the country “splendidly wooded,” and the town “like a good-sized New England village.” In the years that followed, there were many visits and some brief periods of residence in Northfield for the Ames family. The resulting mass of family correspondence, here presented in largely unedited form, contains a wealth of information about social and economic conditions in Minnesota during the last three decades of the nineteenth century. Mills and wheat crops throughout the area drew Adelbert’s attention. Thus, in a letter of May 3, 1878, he gives his spontaneous reaction to news of the explosion which wrecked the “largest mill in the state and country” at Minneapolis. A visit to the Red River Valley is reported in a letter of October 23, 1877, which contains a vivid description of the Dalrymple farms. The area about Taylors Falls and St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, inspected by Adelbert in September, 1886, is the subject of a group of letters. He felt that the villages “present a sorry appearance. Great Expectations have been their bane.” Much material about Minnesota in an era of rapid development could be gleaned from these letters by a trained student of state history.

THE ST. PAUL backgrounds of DeWitt Wallace’s career and of the Reader’s Digest, which he established in 1922, are described by James Playsted Wood in Of Lasting Interest: The Story of The Reader’s Digest (Garden City, New York, 1958, 264 p.). Mr. Wood devotes his opening chapters to Mr. Wallace’s youth in St. Paul, where his father was first a professor in Macalester College and later its president, and to early editing and publication ventures which eventually led to the founding of a highly successful periodical. While recovering from wounds received in World War I, young Wallace “found that he could satisfactorily condense articles of what he considered lasting interest from the current magazines,” writes Mr. Wood. The “first trial issue of DeWitt Wallace’s original magazine” closely followed his return to St. Paul. It was published from an office in the Globe Building in St. Paul in January, 1920, and two years later it served as the model for volume 1, number 1, of the new magazine.

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH anniversary of the first shipment of iron ore from Minnesota in July, 1884, and the diamond jubilee of the Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railway, which carried the ore from a Vermilion Range mine to Two Harbors, are the occasions for the publication of a historical survey by William A. Dillan in the road’s house organ, the Missabe Iron Ranger, for July. The writer, who gives emphasis to the history of the railroad, notes that much of his material was drawn from the “personal collection” of Thomas Owens, engineer on the pioneering ore train of 1884. Among the illustrations with the account is a view of the “lone wooden dock at Two Harbors” from

September 1959
which "62,000 tons of ore were shipped" in 1884. To the same issue of the *Iron Ranger*, Herman T. Olson contributes a short sketch of the Tower-Soudan community, giving some attention to the Lake Vermilion gold rush of the 1860s. An abbreviated version of Mr. Dillan's article appears in *Skillings' Mining Review* for July 25. An article on the ore shipment of July, 1884, in the *Two Harbors Chronicle* for July 30, quotes generously from Owens' manuscript account of the event, which is in the collection of the Lake County Historical Society. The story of the Soudan Mine is reviewed and its present operations are described in the June issue of *Ore, Iron and Men*, a publication of the Oliver iron mining division of the United States Steel Corporation. The number commemorates the anniversary of the first shipment of ore, which was marked in the Tower-Soudan community by a jubilee celebration on July 17, 18, and 19.

*DAMAGES* suffered by ore steamers, barges, and residents along the North Shore during the storm of November 28, 1905, are recounted by William E. Scott in an illustrated booklet on *The Wreck of the Lafayette*, a ship that met disaster at the time (Two Harbors, 1959. 48 p.). "Practically without exception," writes Mr. Scott, "the pioneers in shipping circles and those of the North Shore agree that the storm on Lake Superior that day was the biggest they have ever seen. It is the most violent 'Northeaster' on record at the Duluth Weather Bureau." Other vessels damaged or wrecked in the same storm include the "Manila," the "Edenborn," the "Madiera," the "Mataafa," and the "Isaac L. Elwood," according to Mr. Scott, who reports that "Both the North Shore and the South Shore of the big Lake were strewn with a reported twenty-six wrecks and stranded vessels."

"THE MINING of Taconite, Lake Superior Iron Mining District" is reviewed by Clyde F. Kohn and Raymond E. Specht in the *Geographical Review* for October, 1958. Included is much information on current operations of the three companies engaged in processing taconite in Minnesota. Aerial views of Minnesota taconite plants and of towns like Silver Bay and Hoyt Lakes accompany the article.

MINNESOTA is included in the tenth of a series of pictorial maps of "Medical America" issued by the Schering corporation of Bloomfield, New Jersey. Among the "highlights in the medical history" of the state here recorded are the establishment of the University of Minnesota medical school and the Mayo Clinic, the organization of the Minnesota State Medical Association and Dr. Thomas Potts' service as president of its parent society in 1883, Dr. Julius P. Sedgwick's contributions to pediatrics, and Dr. Frank H. Montgomery's publication of a book relating to diseases of the skin.

TWO STUDIES of *Spring Lake Archeology* have been issued in mimeographed booklets by the Science Museum of the Saint Paul Institute as number 3, parts 3 and 4, of its *Science Bulletins* (1959. 28, 11 p.). In the first, Elden Johnson describes "The Spring Lake Archeological Salvage Project" and makes available information resulting from the excavation of "The Sorg Site," where many stone and pottery artifacts and sherds were found. The second *Bulletin* contains a discussion of "The Vegetation of the Spring Lake Area" by Gilbert A. Leisman. Both booklets are fully illustrated with maps, charts, and photographs.

A BIOGRAPHICAL sketch of Dr. Louis Albert Fritsche of New Ulm is contributed by Louise F. Menzel to the *American-German Review* for June-July. This native Minnesotan, who was born in 1862, became widely known both for his work in medicine and for his political and civic activities, according to the author. He was, she writes, one of the first Minnesota physicians to employ aseptic and antiseptic surgery; mayor of New Ulm; an organizer of the Farmer-Labor party; candidate in Minnesota for governor, United States Senator, and Congressman; and founder of the Fritsche Clinic in New Ulm.

SOME "Adventures in Early Sunrise City" are recalled by Mrs. Tracy Locke in the *Chisago County Press* of Lindstrom for January 15. The author, who was born in Sunrise in 1873, mentions its cheese factory, first school, post office, flour mill, stores, and hotels. She also gives the names of many pioneers and Indians who lived near the town, and describes how lumberjacks went down the St. Croix River in wainigans. Photographs from Mrs. Locke's collection illustrate the article.

LUMBERTOWN, a group of fourteen buildings constructed near Brainerd to represent a logging village of the 1870s, is described in an article by Neil T. Crane appearing in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for May 31. Included among the structures installed by Mr. Jack Madden since
1953 are a schoolhouse, a hotel, a livery stable, a saloon, and a general store.

IRON MINING in Fillmore County, where open pit operations are in progress in the heart of an agricultural area, is the subject of an article by Edward Schaefer in the Minneapolis Star for July 31. The author reports that two companies operating near Chatfield and Spring Valley together shipped out about two hundred and forty thousand tons of ore in 1958. Photographs of a crushing and washing plant and an open pit mine accompany the article.

THE EXPANSION of Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company since 1913, when Harold W. Sweatt first joined the organization, is recounted by Carl Rieser in Fortune magazine for May. Under Mr. Sweatt's informal leadership, the author writes, the company has grown "from tending furnaces up to tending missiles in space," becoming "the world's biggest maker of controls."

TWO VIEWS in full color of the Southdale shopping center at Bloomington are among the illustrations appearing with Grady Clay's article, "Metropolis Regained," in the July issue of Horizon. Mr. Clay presents a penetrating discussion of city planning, concentrating upon "the values which have made cities the heart of every civilization."

THE CAREER of Archibald G. Bush, chairman of the executive committee of Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, is the subject of a feature article by Charles F. Stutz in the St. Paul Pioneer Press for June 28, where it appears under the heading "He Sold His Services with Sandpaper." A native of the Granite Falls area, Mr. Bush is described as "one of the century's master salesmen."

TO MARK its centennial, the wholesale firm of Farwell, Ozmun, Kirk and Company of St. Paul has published a booklet entitled From Stern-Wheelers to Space Travel: Our First 100 Years 1859-1959 (84 p.). Established under the name Cheritree and Farwell, the company was one of the earliest hardware firms in St. Paul. The illustrated booklet outlines its continued growth, despite setbacks like a disastrous fire in November, 1891.

TWO landmarks which stood on the same site on White Bear Lake — the Leip Hotel and the clubhouse of the St. Paul Automobile Club—are described by Steve Alnes in the St. Paul Dispatch for June 24. The hotel, which dated from the 1880s, burned in 1897, according to Mr. Alnes, and the clubhouse was erected in 1914. The property passed into private hands in 1936, and now the clubhouse has been removed to make way for a shopping center. Photographs of both buildings accompany the article.

"HOW St. Peter Was Robbed for St. Paul" is the title of a short article by Don C. Miller in the November, 1958, issue of Coronet. The author reconstructs with humor Joseph Rolette's successful plot of 1857 which "saved the capital to St. Paul." A member of the territorial council, Rolette was able to prevent Governor Willis A. Gorman from signing a bill which named St. Peter the capital of Minnesota.

THE STEAMBOAT "Julius C. Wilkie," formerly known as the "James P. Pearson," which houses a museum of upper Mississippi River materials at Levee Park in Winona, was dedicated in ceremonies arranged by the Winona County Historical Society on August 30. The new name honors a former resident of Winona, members of whose family provided most of the funds for the restoration of the boat. The museum on its second deck depicts a "bygone era when the cry of 'steamboat round the bend' was the cue for crowds to come down to the levee," according to a descriptive report in the Winona Daily News for August 18.

A PLAQUE marking the site of the Joseph R. Brown house near Sacred Heart was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on July 19. About six hundred people gathered for the program, which included talks by Dr. George A. Selke, commissioner of conservation, and Senator Leo Lauerman. The area where Brown built his house, which was destroyed in the Sioux Outbreak, is now maintained as a state wayside park. Among those who attended the ceremonies were the traveling historians who joined the Minnesota Historical Society's tour to Lakes Traverse and Big Stone on July 18 and 19.

READERS of Dan Whetstone's article in the June issue of this magazine will be interested in some notes on his experiences as a newspaper editor in the Renville County village of Franklin appearing in the Cut Bank Pioneer Press for July 16. This golden anniversary edition of the Montana newspaper commemorates the passing
of fifty years since it was founded by Mr. Whetstone in 1909. A full-page feature by his granddaughter, Kay Whetstone, quotes extensively from his recollections of Gibbon, where he served as a "Printer's Apprentice" from 1898 to 1901, and adds an interview about the years as publisher of the Franklin Tribune which followed.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

THE APPROPRIATION for the society's work granted by the 1959 legislature makes necessary some curtailment of its activities. Two positions on the library staff were eliminated, leaving the society with thirty-seven instead of thirty-nine positions. The reduction in funds makes it necessary to close the library on Saturdays and the museum on Sundays; the museum, however, will be open on Saturdays from 12:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. One addition to the appropriation provides a thousand dollars for a survey of historic sites in Minnesota. A detailed report on the society's financial situation as it results from the legislature's action appears in the August issue of the Minnesota History News.

THE SEVENTH annual teachers' institute in Minnesota history will be held in St. Paul under the society's auspices on October 8. Revolving about the theme "The Regional Approach to the Study of Minnesota History," it will open in the auditorium of the State Office Building at 1:30 P.M. with a panel discussion of "The Red River Valley: Its Present Resources and Development." Speakers will include Neil Thompson of Moorhead State College, Mason Boudrye of the Minnesota Academy of Science, and Roy Johnson of the Fargo Forum. A tour of the Historical Building, dinner in the cafeteria of the Highway Building, and an address on "History, Geography, and the Study of Minnesota" by Professor John R. Borchert of the department of geography in the University of Minnesota are other features of the program, which will continue until 7:00 P.M. Those who plan to attend should make reservations through Miss Mathilda Heck at the Minnesota Historical Society.

THE SITE of the important Sioux village of Kathio on Mille Lacs Lake is included in Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Ayer's recent gift to the society. In addition to more than a hundred acres of lakeside property, they have presented their extensive collection of Indian artifacts and other materials, a new building in which to house and display them, the Indian trading post which they long have operated, and a trust fund for their perpetual maintenance and operation. Mr. and Mrs. Ayer have been living and working at Vineland in the Mille Lacs Lake area since 1914, and there they assembled their unique Indian collection, which is particularly strong in materials relating to the Minnesota Chippewa. Plans are under way for the early opening of the museum and for the permanent preservation of the property as a park and historic site.

THE TOUR to Winnipeg sponsored by the society on August 14 is the subject of editorials in the Minneapolis Tribune for August 20 and the St. Paul Pioneer Press for August 21. Both stress the "international goodwill" that marked this trek of eighty-four Minnesotans to the Canadian city north of the border. The Tribune also includes a letter to the editor from the society's assistant director, Robert C. Wheeler, in which he notes some of the "common history" shared by Manitoba and Minnesota. In describing the friendly reception accorded the visitors, he reports that "we were welcomed by Marcel Boulic, provincial secretary; speakers were arranged at every site; the Hudson's Bay company sponsored two meals, printed an attractive program, and even arranged for a Scottish bagpiper; the bells of historical St. Boniface were tolled in our honor; and the Manitoba Historical Society opened every door." Mr. Wheeler concludes that "What was planned as an informal tour turned into a semi-official visit with diplomatic overtones."

THE SOCIETY'S director, Mr. Fridley, is an ex officio member of an interim commission established by the 1959 legislature to draft plans for Minnesota centennial observances of the Civil War in 1961 and the Sioux Outbreak in 1962. Five state senators and five representatives were named to the commission. At its organization meeting on August 14, Senator Leslie E. Westin was elected chairman, Representative John Tracy Anderson, vice-chairman, and Representative Richard J. Parish, secretary. The legislature appropriated $2,500 to finance the work of the commission.

ON SEPTEMBER 4, Mr. William K. Gamber resigned as curator of the society's museum, a position he had held since last November. He plans to study for the Catholic priesthood at the St. Paul Seminary. His successor in the museum has not yet been named. Another change in personnel took place in August, when Miss Esther Johnson, a member of the library's cataloguing staff since 1928, retired.