**Manifest Destiny and Mission in American History.** By FREDERICK MERK. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1963. x, 266 p., xii. $5.95.)

**Reviewed by Helen McCann White**

THE TERM “manifest destiny” to express the American idea of “expansion prearranged by Heaven over an area not clearly defined” was coined some time in 1845. In the popular mind the concept referred to geographical expansion in areas ranging from small parcels of land adjoining frontier settlements to areas of continental, hemispheric, and even global extent. The popular concept also included Christianizing the heathen, extending education and scientific progress, as well as exporting manufactures, the blessings of liberty and American political institutions into the areas where the United States was destined to expand.

The greater part of Professor Merk’s book is devoted to a careful study of manifest destiny in the 1840s as revealed in newspapers, legislative and diplomatic records, personal papers, and in the published utterances of such outstanding exponents of the concept as John L. O’Sullivan and Matthew F. Maury. Among the major forces responsible for the development of manifest destiny, Merk lists the growing power of man over the physical universe, economic distress during the 1830s and 1840s, the desire for more land, the sheer inspiration of the geography of the continent, and a generation of young national leaders.

Overlooked in his list of factors, despite the obvious Calvinist terminology of the concept, is any suggestion of the importance of religious missionary zeal in the growth of manifest destiny. One may also question the inspiration of geography for great numbers of Americans who had no intimate acquaintance with grandeur of continent, hemisphere, and globe. Certainly in Minnesota a Maury, a von Humboldt, or a James W. Taylor writing about geography were more inspirational than the land itself.

Students of Minnesota history, while not deeply concerned with expansionism in the South and Southwest may see in the attitudes of the 1840s the ideas that were rampant in Minnesota during the next two decades. Minnesota evidence, however, does not support Merk’s assertion of the “virtual disappearance of continentalism from American thought after 1848,” nor his statement that this later era revealed a “continuous demonstration of a temper in the American public the opposite of expansionism.”

Neither has Professor Merk convinced this reviewer, on the basis of the evidence set forth in his study, that manifest destiny was not a “true” expression of national spirit. The author’s attempt to separate “manifest destiny” and “mission” and to assign to mission the more “desirable” qualities of altruism, dedication, and idealism, seems unsound. Yet his detailed study of the 1840s, and Albert Weinberg’s earlier volume entitled *Manifest Destiny*, offers a provocative challenge to extend the study of this concept through changing phases, perhaps even to the present-day era of foreign aid and the Peace Corps. Heaven may not be invoked so convincingly today, but further study may help us to learn how much a conviction of predestination, how much altruism and dedication to humanity, and how much frank economic, political, and military self-interest have been stirred together into the great public brew of manifest destiny, past and present.

**FREE TRADER**

*West of the Mountains: James Sinclair and the Hudson’s Bay Company.* By D. GENEVA LENT. (Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1963. xiv, 334 p. Illustrations, maps. $6.75.)

**Reviewed by Dorothy O. Johansen**

THIS STUDY of James Sinclair is of general interest to students of Western history, Cana-
dian and American. A son of Chief Factor William Sinclair, the elder, and a native wife, James Sinclair was educated at Edinburgh, and returning to Canada in 1826, spent one year as an apprentice to the Hudson's Bay Company. He then became associated with Andrew McDermot as a “petty trader,” on company terms, at Red River. During the troubled days from 1845 to 1848 he was a temporary and moderate leader of the Métis who wanted free trade as well as a clarification of their civil rights. In this connection, Sinclair's activities have been described by W. L. Morton in his introduction to Eden Colville's Letters (1956) and in volume 2 of E. E. Rich's History of the Hudson's Bay Company (1959).

Miss Lent's treatment of this phase of Sinclair's career is neither as thorough nor as critical as that of either Morton or Rich. Throughout her study data can be found which suggests that Sinclair's relations to the company were less ambiguous than she has made them appear. She maintains that Sinclair suffered from “conflicting loyalties” to half-breeds and to company, and to American and British interests. It seems to this reader, from the evidence offered, that Sinclair was not committed to the cause of the Métis, although he served it in defending his own privileges. “You know how little I cared about the free trade provided I was let alone and fairly treated,” he observed in a letter to McDermot. He also served the company when it was to his advantage. In fact, during 1841 and 1850 — shortly before and after the free trade incident — he was in the employment of the company.

Morton commented in a footnote that the story of Sinclair's trips to Oregon in 1841 and 1854 “unfortunately has not yet been told.” Miss Lent has set forth the story of these little-known expeditions during which Sinclair used two unexplored passes through the Rockies. In 1841 he brought the horse-drawn carts of a party of Red River Métis across Whiteman Pass. This expedition was clearly for the purpose of strengthening the company's hold on the Oregon country against increasing numbers of American immigrants. In 1850 Sinclair was commissioned by Governor George Simpson to gather another party to make the same journey.

According to Miss Lent, it may have been the “astute” governor's intention “to diminish the population of Red River of further dissenting elements, at the same time ridding it of a free trader whose future dealings might have been detrimental if his popularity and influence became too evident in the settlement.” It is very possible, however, that Simpson could not ignore Sinclair's success in the first such enterprise; he did not know that in 1854 when the expedition got under way Sinclair would try a second pass, Kananaskis, with less success. Moreover, the reasons for this project were not simply those which Miss Lent offers, and she overlooks the fact that Simpson was urging the United States to purchase the company's possessory rights in the Oregon country. Sinclair's orders to restore Fort Walla Walla, if carried out, and the permission granted him to raise herds of cattle there for his own profit, would enhance the value of the site, and the company could claim more for lands improved and cultivated by its own settlers.

In spite of Miss Lent's timidity in coming to grips with the interpretation of her data, this is an interesting book. One suspects that it was in manuscript a much longer work which has been cut down. This may account for some confusion in footnotes, chapter organization, and idiosyncrasies of style.

**FUR TRADE NABOB**

McGillivray: Lord of the Northwest. By MARGORIE WILKINS CAMPBELL. (Toronto and Vancouver, Clarke, Irwin & Company Limited, 1962. 337 p. $6.50.)

Reviewed by Robert J. Riley

NEARLY a century and a half ago William McGillivray boarded a vessel bound for London and, in his old age, bade a final farewell to his beloved Montreal. With his departure, McGillivray's thoughts must have passed back through time to the summer day in 1783 when he first arrived in the New World, a Scotch lad filled with hopes for a successful career in the fur trade.

McGillivray had, indeed, been successful. Beginning in 1784 as an apprentice clerk at a small post in the Assiniboine River country, he

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had, by 1799, climbed through the ranks of the famed North West Company as clerk, bourgeois, and agent, to chief superintendent. There had been other accomplishments and offices too: colonel of the voyageur corps in the defense of Canada during the War of 1812; a seat in the legislative council of Lower Canada; membership in a fur trade social fraternity, the Beaver Club; and provincial grand master of the Free and Accepted Masons of Lower Canada.

McGillivray's had been a notable, perhaps enviable, career, but it had not been without tribulation. There had been early years spent at the wilderness outposts of the fur trade—years that made a man old before his time. As chief superintendent, he had found the demands of competition with the American Fur Company and the Hudson's Bay Company unrelenting. There had been the War of 1812 with its irreparable damage to the property and profits of the firm that he guided. There had been, too, the Earl of Selkirk, who had threatened the supply line to the company's interior posts with his Red River Settlement—a threat which resulted in the tragic Fenianic War. And finally had come the unpleasant, but seemingly necessary, union with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821.

Mrs. Campbell's forceful style and desire for historical accuracy make it a pleasure to follow her account of McGillivray's life from a humble birth in Scotland through an illustrious fur trade career to his burial beneath the nave of Wren Church in London sixty-one years later. Her introductory promise "to write about a man rather than a figure in history" is kept, for she makes McGillivray come alive as a real personality. Moreover, the biography also provides an interesting resume of the founding, maturity, decline, and demise of the North West Company.

Although Mrs. Campbell's style and the breadth of her research are admirable, the work is not without its weaknesses. The most important of these from the scholar's point of view is the absence of annotation. Her research has apparently been extensive, but a great deal of its value is lost because she fails to identify specifically the sources of her information. Readers will also recognize Mrs. Campbell as an "ultra-staunch" Nor'wester, at times lacking objectivity in her treatment of the Hudson's Bay Company. Occasional instances of "mistaken identity" appear in the author's discussion of events and description of features at the North West Company's depot at Grand Portage and its successor, Fort William. In one such instance, the description of the rival X Y Company post at Grand Portage, which appears in George Heriot's Travels Through the Canadas, has been applied to that company's post at Fort William. In summary, however, one cannot doubt that this biography of one of North America's notable pioneers is a readable addition and a welcome contribution to the literature of the fur trade.

CANADIAN BEGINNINGS

GUSTAVE LANCTOT, by his own researches and as former dominion archivist of Canada, knows more Canadian history more intimately than most Canadian historians. He is now crowning a life devoted to this study with a volume which raises in this reader the hope that Canadian historiography may at last be ripening to maturity. Dr. Lanctot reveals the origins of Canada with rare insight, imagination, and skill. A very old and shopworn story is told with complete freshness and an almost total lack of provincialism. The story is related in Canadian terms, and the author is not bothered that they are neither French, British, nor American terms.

One cannot always follow Dr. Lanctot in his exuberant acceptance as proven of facts which must have been true. This reader knows no reason to doubt that the Irish reached Canadian lands in the Middle Ages. On the other hand, he is equally unaware of any certain proof that they did. Surely it is a matter for reservation of opinion rather than the cheerful confidence with which Dr. Lanctot tells the story.

This is, however, a slight and, in Dr. Lanctot, an engaging fault. The great fact with respect to the history of New France in the period of

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this volume is that it is slightly incredible. The vastness of the land and the fewness of the human actors serve in part to produce this effect. It is increased by the intrusion — fervent, mystic, and baroque — of the missionaries of the Society of Jesus into the fur trade wilderness. It is a period of history that requires much explanation to be made credible and much sympathetic insight to be made convincing. Although I think that Dr. Lanctot has not explained a great deal that requires explanation, he does inform his text with a sympathetic insight that makes his the most professional treatment of this period to have been published in the present century.

The book itself is simple and well made. It is also well documented; the bibliography is excellent; the index is just adequate. The illustrations are good but few.

A NATION'S REAL ESTATE


Reviewed by George B. Engberg

QUESTIONS about who owns land and under what conditions it can be obtained and transferred are among the most important in the history of any nation. Such problems were at the heart of the feudal system, have been principal causes of strife in collectivist societies, and have had particular bearing on the growth of American countries where acquisition of practically unoccupied land has been a major feature of growth. Since public land matters loom large in the history of the United States, it is very appropriate that Professor Carstensen edited this volume for initial publication in 1962 to observe the sesquicentennial of the establishment of the general land office and the centennials of the homestead act and the Morrill land grant college act. The collection includes about thirty articles from scholarly journals (especially the Mississippi Valley Historical Review and Agricultural History) discussing origins of the public land system, distribution of lands, consequences of the distribution, and protection and management of the public domain.

Most of the articles deal with problems of the public domain that are nationwide in nature, but some on local and regional matters are included because of their illustrative value. About sixty pages are devoted to a discussion of the railroad land grant legend, both in defense of the railroads and in criticism of the grant system. Equally extensive comment is made on the "safety valve" corollary of the Turner theory that unoccupied areas of the West siphoned off surplus Eastern labor. Of particular reference to the Minnesota scene are Fremont P. Wirth's "The Operation of the Land Laws in the Minnesota Iron District," and Lucile M. Kane's "Federal Protection of Public Timber in the Upper Great Lakes States."

Since articles from periodicals are the only ones included, important chapters from excellent monographs and general histories of the public domain do not appear. This limits the usefulness of the book, which the editor expects will supplement the standard histories of the public lands. Readability, end-of-chapter notes, tables, graphs, and appendixes all contribute to an excellent collection of important materials, although the index is incomplete. While any reader might wish that other articles had been included, it appears that Mr. Carstensen's advisory board has chosen wisely.

REFORMERS AND RED MEN


Reviewed by Roy W. Meyer

UP TO the end of the Civil War, the slogan "Extermination or Removal" probably expressed for most white Americans the only alternatives available in solving the Indian problem. Extermination could not be seriously entertained, however, as a deliberate national policy, and when settlers began to occupy the Great Plains, the practical limitations of a removal policy finally became evident. After 1865, therefore, another approach to the problem — assimilation — gained prominence. It is the gradual acceptance of this relatively novel approach that Professor Fritz chronicles.

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Much of his book is devoted to the conflicts over the management of Indian affairs — conflicts between idealistic Easterners and land-hungry, Indian-hating Westerners; between the interior department and the war department for control of the Indian bureau; between religious denominations for control of the agencies which were parcelled out among them as part of President Ulysses S. Grant's "Peace Policy." Less attention is given to the conflict between the advocates of rapid, compulsory assimilation and those who favored gradual, voluntary assimilation within the framework of the surviving tribal systems. Throughout his study, Professor Fritz relies heavily on material and examples drawn from Minnesota and the Dakotas.

The most impressive portions of the book are those depicting the plight of the plains Indians during this period. As the bison on which they depended dwindled, they surrendered their vast hunting grounds in return for subsistence at agencies, only to face starvation when Congress failed to appropriate sufficient funds. Treated as hostiles if they left their reservations to hunt, often disarmed to prevent weapons from reaching their still unsubdued brethren, surrounded by encroaching whites whose preference for dead Indians is amply documented, they oscillated between desperation and apathy. What wonder that reformers saw in assimilation the only hope for the Indians?

As with any book on a subject still controversial, there is much in Professor Fritz's study with which many readers will disagree. His picture of Catholic missionary activities, although thoroughly documented, may seem one-sided, and his analysis of Catholic motives may strike some readers as biased. The omission of any mention of peace commissions before 1867 is regrettable, as is the absence of any extended evaluation of the entire movement for assimilation. The book will probably supplement rather than supplant the pioneer work in the field, Loring B. Priest's Uncle Sam's Stepchildren, with which the publishers invite comparison.

However, it is important to note the desirability of assimilation as the ultimate solution to the Indian problem. Such writers as John Collier, Oliver La Farge, and D'Arcy McNickle have shown that this is not the only possible view of the matter. The movement for assimilation might be seen in a new perspective if it were dealt with by someone on the other side. The position of the National Indian Defense Association, dismissed by Priest as romantic and sentimental, would take on greater significance, and the ethnocentrism of nearly everyone else in the movement would be more evident.

Professor Fritz has, nevertheless, made an important contribution to the growing body of literature on the subject of Indian assimilation. One need not subscribe to some of his obiter dicta (such as: "The emphasis upon the tribal relationship under the Wheeler-Howard Act of 1934 may now be regarded as an interlude in the effort to assimilate the Indians") in order to recognize that he has added to our understanding of American thinking and action on the Indian question during a crucial period.

**GETTYSBURG HEROES**


Reviewed by Frank L. Klement

The story of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry has been told and retold — and it is a story truly worth retelling. The Reverend Edward D. Neill, chaplain of the much-publicized regiment, gave considerable space to the unit's story in his History of Minnesota, published more than eighty years ago. In the early 1890s William Lochren briefly detailed the history of the First Minnesota, gilding the lily. About twenty-five years later Return I. Holcombe wrote another eulogy, guided by the maxim, "Say nothing of the dead, unless it be good." Now Mr. Imholte presents what he hopes will be the definitive account.

**MR. MEYER,** whose article on "The Prairie Island Community" won the Solon J. Buck Award for 1961, is now engaged in research on a full-length study of the Minnesota Sioux.

**MR. KLEMENT** is professor of history in Marquette University at Milwaukee and the author of several books on the part played by Middle Western states in the Civil War.
His story is based upon extensive research, mainly in manuscript materials and newspaper reports. He begins with a discussion and analysis of the Minnesota militia in the prewar years. Through Governor Alexander Ramsey, Minnesota was the first state to tender men to the federal government following the fall of Fort Sumter. After a haphazard start, featuring disorganization and reorganization, the First Minnesota reached Washington in time to participate in the first battle of Bull Run, suffering heavier casualties than any other Northern regiment. In the months that followed, the First Minnesota saw much action — Ball’s Bluff, the peninsular campaign, second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. But it was at Gettysburg that the regiment won a special place in history when its veterans obeyed General Winfield S. Hancock’s order to “Charge those lines” and check the enemy, performing the suicidal assault heroically. “The charge,” notes Mr. Imholte, “was the climax of the regiment’s career” — demonstrating its worth as a military organization.

The author’s account, written in a prosaic and lackluster style, occupies three-fifths of the book. The roster of the First Minnesota takes up forty-four pages and the notes (does one dare call them footnotes if they are put together at the end of the text?) fill thirty-five pages. The bibliography attests to the author’s deep dredging and diligence.

Minnesotans have reason to be proud of the record of the First Regiment, and the appearance of The First Volunteers, a hundred years after the heroic performance at Gettysburg, is a centennial tribute to men from “the Minnesota hinterlands” who were forged into “a well-oiled fighting machine,” and who, in Mr. Imholte’s concluding words, “rightfully occupy a significant niche in the history of the state and nation.”

**ISOLATIONIST ODYSSEY**

Senator Gerald P. Nye and American Foreign Relations. By WAYNE S. COLE. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1962. 293 p. Illustrations. $5.75.)

Reviewed by Russell W. Fridley

PROFESSOR COLE has written a sympathetic biography of Gerald P. Nye. In doing so, he fortunately chose to interpret the North Dakotan’s turbulent career through the latter’s stance on foreign policy — the arena in which Nye was catapulted to fame in the 1930s as one of the foremost spokesmen for isolationism and neutrality.

The author considers Nye a striking example of the “agrarian isolationist” who made the painful shift in world outlook between the two world wars from liberalism to conservatism. Contributing to this shift was the pronounced urbanization of the farmer and the decline of rural America. “In the 1920’s and early 1930’s,” writes Mr. Cole, “most leading isolationists on foreign affairs were liberals or progressives on domestic issues.” He painstakingly traces and convincingly explains Nye’s agonizing odyssey. He finds that life on the semiarid plains of western North Dakota was the most powerful determinant of Nye’s early agrarian radicalism and later isolationism. “Each of the major theories on the origins of isolationism,” maintains Cole, “leads the researcher to North Dakota sooner or later.”

Nye began his political career in Wisconsin as a country editor at the age of eighteen. After a brief sojourn in Iowa, he moved to North Dakota and became editor of the 

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home, his long-time political foe, William Langer, successfully converted the Nonpartisan League into his personal political machine, thus maneuvering Nye more and more into the arms of the conservatives. A developing dislike of Roosevelt coupled with a haunting fear of presidential power also influenced Nye's outlook. And as the war clouds gathered, his domestic liberalism, already waning, gave way to a preoccupation with American foreign policy.

The author graphically portrays the period of 1934-36 when Nye reached the summit of his power as he headed the Senate's investigation of the munitions industry—a role, Mr. Cole reminds us, as much antibusiness as antivar. Nye also occupied a key position in the passage of the neutrality acts later in the decade.

As Mr. Cole relates it, the Nye story is not without drama. Always doctrinaire in his approach to issues, the North Dakota Senator found himself unable to change with the world. Just prior to World War II, Nye, along with Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., and others, was undeniably one of Roosevelt's most formidable opponents and a tireless spokesman for the America First Committee. With the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Nye's era of prominence ended. Time and an increasingly perplexing world had passed him by. A member of an isolated minority with little influence, adrift from his party and the nation's war policies, his defeat in 1944, after two decades in the Senate, was not surprising.

Mr. Cole is impressed by Nye's courage, sincerity, and industry. He finds him significant in American history as a strong spokesman for a point of view rather than as an innovator of ideas and policies. Nye was, in his biographer's words, "less effective in accomplishing legislative goals than in revealing and publicizing evils." One only wishes that Mr. Cole had pursued this diagnosis further. His overall appraisal of Nye is quite gentle when one recalls that this man's thoughts and actions were synonymous with the cause of isolationism and nonintervention at the very point in the world's history when the West was in mortal danger from Nazi Germany.

Historians and others who write will be interested in Mr. Cole's high praise of the co-operation given him by Senator Nye, who still resides in Washington, D.C. "His candor, helpfulness, and respect for my intellectual freedom in the project," writes Cole, "could serve as models for other public figures."

SCANDINAVIAN METHODISTS


Reviewed by Merrill E. Jarchow

ALTHOUGH never on a par numerically with their American counterparts, nor with their Lutheran brethren, the Norwegian and Danish Methodists yielded nothing to the first two groups in such qualities as devotion to the faith and missionary zeal. Their story is a significant as well as a highly interesting chapter in American religious and immigrant history.

Tracing their origins to such places as a Norwegian Quaker colony established in New York in 1825, the American frontier of the 1830s and 1840s, and various seamen's missions of the 1840s along the Atlantic Seaboard, the two Scandinavian Methodist groups were of sufficient significance and influence to be accorded in 1880 the status of a conference by the general conference of the Methodist church. Organization of the Northwest Norwegian conference (later the Norwegian-Danish conference) was effected in Racine, Wisconsin, in September of that year.

At its inception the conference embraced 43 congregations with a total of 2,266 members. By 1906, largely as the result of the flood tide of Scandinavian immigration to the United States, the peak in membership and in number of congregations was reached—5,102 and 99 respectively. The greatest strength of the denomination in the United States was centered in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, but work was carried on from Concord, Massachusetts, to Dawson, Alaska, while in Norway and Denmark Methodism owed much of its origin to native sons returning home after conversion in the United States. Following World War I dwindling immigration plus the forces of Ameri-
canization foreshadowed the end of the Norwegian-Danish conference. This arrived in 1943, but during its life the organization had “fulfilled an indispensable and sacred mission.”

Early in its history Norwegian-Danish Methodism faced numerous problems: Yankee suspicion of foreigners, a desperate shortage of pastors, the hold of traditional Lutheranism, and the absence of its own press. Nevertheless under the leadership of men such as Christian B. Willerup, Ole P. Petersen, and Andrew A. Haagensen, impressive progress was made. Later preachers, Hans K. Madsen, Carl W. Schevenius, and Carl J. Larsen, for example, carried on in the same high tradition.

The author, son of a Norwegian Methodist pastor and onetime editor of Den Khristelige Talsmand, has produced a volume which not only measures up to all scholarly standards but also reflects deep affection for “the warm and intimate fellowship shared by this company of immigrant Methodists.”

**HISTORIC TOWN**


Reviewed by John T. Flanagan

THE FIRST commercial sawmill in Minnesota began operations at Marine in May, 1839. For the next half century the little town on the St. Croix River depended on lumber. Yankees, Frenchmen, and Scandinavians settled there, ran mills, stores, and taverns, and built a succession of wooden buildings — most of which eventually burned. By the end of the century the Minnesota pineries were nearing depletion, and Marine had passed through its boom days. Now well into its second hundred years, Marine is a quiet country town and a favorite summer residence for St. Paulites.

The present brochure by the librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society is a labor of love. Mr. Dunn knows the St. Croix Valley well and is himself a summer resident of Marine. He has chosen to assemble his material chronologically. Year by year he records the important facts —

Mr. Flanagan, who has written widely on Midwestern literature, has been for many years a summer resident of the St. Croix Valley.

**UNTILLED FIELDS**

TWELVE ESSAYS exploring Research Opportunities in American Cultural History have been brought together in a book edited by John Francis McDermott (Lexington, Kentucky, 1961. 205 p.). The work grew out of a two-day conference held at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, in October, 1959, by scholars who discussed the possibilities for fresh studies in the American past. Since the limitations of the meeting were extremely general, there is little pattern or cohesiveness among the resulting papers. According to the editor they form “a statement of work to be done, a broadcast of suggestions, an indication of the wide range of subjects to be found in relatively untitled fields of research.”

In the first essay Lester J. Cappon re-examines the colonial period. Gaps in the recorded cultural history of several population groups are pointed out by Mr. McDermott (the French), Howard H. Peckham (the Indians), and Theodore C. Blegen (nineteenth-century European immigrants). The profitable results of crossing disciplinary lines in the study of cultural history are illustrated in essays by John T. Flanagan (literature), Joseph Ewan (science), Edgar P. Richardson (the visual arts), and Richard M. Dorson (folklore). Neglected areas in the study of institutions and activities which have helped to shape the nation’s cultural heritage are reviewed by David Kaser (the book trade and publishing industry), David Mead (popular education and cultural agencies), and Philip D. Jordan (recreation). Although the subject matter of the conference was national in scope, all but one of the participants represented in the book are from states in the Mississippi and Ohio valleys, and their work tends to focus strongly on the Middle West.

R.G.
THREE LECTURES delivered at the University of Florida by John D. Hicks have been published under the title Rehearsal for Disaster (Gainesville, Florida, 1961. 192 p.) They comprise a study of the boom and collapse of 1919-20 in terms of historical parallels with the larger boom and collapse which engulfed the nation a decade later. Mr. Hicks examines the objectives and tactics of the major sectors in American society during this period. Business and government he groups together, for "there was no serious divergence between what the government did and what the business interests wanted done." In separate chapters he treats "The Role of Labor" and "The Plight of Agriculture," whose place in the American economy was "never to be the same again." In conclusion Mr. Hicks places a large share of responsibility for the immediate postwar inflation and crash upon "the infancy of business and of business-dominated governmental leadership."

OPPOSITE SIDES of the same coin are presented by two recent books which deal from different viewpoints with the right of dissent in American society. First in order of historical time is Aliens and Dissenters: Federal Suppression of Radicals, 1903-1933, by William Preston, Jr. (Cambridge, 1963. 352 p.). Mr. Preston centers his study around the period of hysteria during World War I, which was climaxed by mass arrests and deportations of radical aliens in 1918-20. He links this with a growing nativism, which he maintains, had its roots in the economic and social dislocations of the 1870s, 1880s, and 1890s. A large share of the book is devoted to the history of the Industrial Workers of the World, since that organization was the primary target for federal repression during the years from 1915 to 1920. There are frequent references to its membership in northern Minnesota, and to the activities of ex-Governor John Lind, who, as an influential member of the state's public safety commission, urged the United States department of justice to proceed against the radical organization at the national level and "saw the fruition of his lobbying in the Chicago I. W. W. trial." Mr. Preston has made wide use of records in the National Archives, some of which were unavailable to scholars before the mid-1950s. His work is exhaustively annotated, and he has added an extensive bibliographical note.

The subject to which Mr. Preston devotes his book forms only the first chapter of Roger Burlingame's volume, The Sixth Column (Philadelphia and New York. 1962. 258 p.). Although he employs footnotes to identify the main sources of his material and includes a substantial bibliography, Mr. Burlingame's style and purpose are more controversial than scholarly. His work is a hard-hitting polemic against those groups and organizations from the American Legion to the John Birch Society, which in the author's opinion have worked for the suppression of vital American liberties from 1919 to 1961. Minnesota readers will find their state represented by the Wrenshall school board which in 1961 discharged a high school teacher for using the book in his senior English class.

VARIOUS ASPECTS of man's conquest of the sky are dealt with in three recent publications. Of most interest to scholars is Aeronautics and Astronautics: An American Chronology of Science and Technology in the Exploration of Space, 1915-1960, by Eugene M. Emme (Washington. 1961. 240 p.). It has been published by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the hope of providing "perspective on the ever-accelerating pace of events" in the field of space exploration. It also provides a valuable research aid for the historian attempting to present and interpret the mass of scattered and fragmentary information available in this field. The main body of the book is devoted to an almost day-by-day chronology of events from 1915 to 1960, including not only the well-publicized milestones, but also lesser-known achievements in research and engineering which made them possible. Three useful appendices provide chronicles of earth satellites and space probes, world airplane records, and significant balloon flights launched between 1915 and 1960. The latter holds particular interest for Minnesotans, since a large proportion of the sixty-two flights listed were either made from the upper Midwest or involved the work of Minnesota organizations such as General Mills, Winzen Research, the G. T. Schjeldahl Company, and the University of Minnesota. A brief bibliography and an index are included. Minnesota's prominence in modern plastic balloon research is also high lighted by Kurt R. Stelling and William Bellar in Skybooks (New York, 1962. 264 p.). This popularly written and extremely sketchy history of ballooning from 1783 to the present includes a final chapter on "Space Labs." In it the authors give an ac-
count of such manned flights as "Manhigh II" (launched from Crosby on August 19, 1957) and the "Strato-Lab" series, most of which rose over South Dakota.

In *The Sky's the Limit: The History of the Airlines* (New York, 1963. 317 p.), Charles J. Kelly, Jr., focuses on the commercial rather than the scientific challenge of the sky. In the course of his survey he devotes a chapter to Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., and his contribution to commercial aviation. There is also a brief account of the development of Northwest Orient Airlines, as well as numerous scattered references to the Minnesota-based firm. R.G.

RAILROAD BUFFS will welcome Leslie V. Suprey's *Steam Trains of the Soo* (Mora, Minnesota, 1962. 66 p.) but they will not be alone in appreciating the striking photographs with which this picture history of the Soo Line is filled. Although much of its information is contained in picture captions, the book also includes a brief historical summary of the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railway, written by Jim Lydon, and a roster of Soo Line railroad locomotives.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU's notes on his journey to the Northwest and the letters of his traveling companion, Horace Mann, Jr., have been edited by Walter Harding under the title *Thoreau's Minnesota Journey: Two Documents.* They are published by the Thoreau Society as number sixteen of its Booklets (Geneeseo, New York, 1962. 60 p.). As Mr. Harding points out in his introduction, Thoreau's notes were "intended only for his own use" and were "the skeleton on which he would hang a fully-developed account of his excursion"—a work he did not live long enough to complete. Although Mr. Harding has done much to make the text understandable, a good deal of the author's meaning must be guessed at. Mann's letters, giving a far more readable and connected picture of the trip, are presented in full for the first time. Readers of *Minnesota History* will recall that several of them, edited by Mr. Harding, appeared in the June, 1961, issue of this magazine, commemorating the centennial of Thoreau's journey to the Northwest and the letters of his traveling companion, Horace Mann, Jr., have been edited by Walter Harding under the title *Thoreau's Minnesota Journey: Two Documents.* They are published by the Thoreau Society as number sixteen of its Booklets (Geneeseo, New York, 1962. 60 p.). As Mr. Harding points out in his introduction, Thoreau's notes were "intended only for his own use" and were "the skeleton on which he would hang a fully-developed account of his excursion"—a work he did not live long enough to complete. Although Mr. Harding has done much to make the text understandable, a good deal of the author's meaning must be guessed at. Mann's letters, giving a far more readable and connected picture of the trip, are presented in full for the first time. Readers of *Minnesota History* will recall that several of them, edited by Mr. Harding, appeared in the June, 1961, issue of this magazine, commemorating the centennial of Thoreau's visit to the state.

INTERFAITH co-operation among Protestants, Catholics, and Jews is the subject of a volume entitled *A Tale of Ten Cities: The Triple Ghetto in American Religious Life,* edited by Eugene J. Lipman and Albert Vorspan (New York, 1962. 544 p.). Included are chapters written by anonymous "expert observers," whose reports are admittedly not "scientific studies" but "straightforward accounts of what knowledgeable and active individuals know and see" in the various communities represented. Minneapolis and St. Paul are combined (and compared) in one chapter. A brief review of "The Past" defines Minnesota as a "land of churches" and quickly examines the roots of the state's various religious groups. The nameless author concludes that "too often religion has been the source of community conflict and unworthy squabbles." He cites numerous past examples of interfaith tension, while in the area of "Social Discrimination," he feels that "Religious segregation is strong" in both of the Twin Cities.

**THE MINNESOTA SCENE**

A COLLECTION of documentary materials made by the Reverend Colman Barry for the archives of St. John's Abbey furnishes the basis of an article in the *Scriptorium* for 1962. In "St. John's Among the Chippewa: An Archive Survey," the Reverend Tobias Maeder examines the scope of the documents and sketches the main features of the story which they tell. He points out that the involvement of the Benedictine group with the Indians was through so-called "contract schools," of which St. John's operated three from the 1870s until 1896—one at the abbey itself, one on the White Earth reservation, and one on the Red Lake reservation. The story of this effort is a long and complicated one, involving difficulties with the United States government, with Protestant groups active on the same reservations, and with the bureau of Catholic Indian missions. The unifying element throughout, Father Maeder feels, "is the question of governmental financial support to sectarian groups." He concludes that "this story needs retelling on a larger scale, taking into account the Indian tribes that benefited from the contract schools and government schools."

A STUDY of Indians in Minnesota (Minneapolis, 1962. 66 p.) has been published by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. Though primarily intended as a contemporary survey, it contains some historical data—including a brief review of federal and state laws affecting Minnesota Indians and background information on the economic, educational, health, and social problems of this minority group. The state's largest single Indian community is examined in greater detail by Merle Sherman in "A Geographic Study of the Red Lake Chippewa Indian Band of Minnesota," which appears in volume thirty, number one, of the *Proceedings*
of the Minnesota Academy of Science (1962). Mr. Sherman points out that these people occupy "a position set apart from the other Indians of the state" because they "have a closed reservation with tribal instead of individual ownership of land." This has made possible the development of community enterprises and "the exploitation of resources for their own benefit," most notably in the operation of a commercial fishery. Mr. Sherman recounts the story of this and other efforts and surveys the current situation of the band, concluding that with present population growth it is necessary to use more intensively the limited resources of the land and to "provide for more processing on the reservation in order to increase job opportunities and to develop skills that can help those who leave the reservation to obtain employment."

A SERIES of twelve articles that were assembled by Julius F. Wolff, Jr., from personal interviews as well as the notes and diaries of Joseph Brickner under the title "A Pioneer Game Warden" began in the Conservation Volunteer for May, 1960, and continued through April, 1962. Mr. Brickner's experiences as a member of the Minnesota division of game and fish include service as a game warden in northern Minnesota, chief warden, and warden supervisor, and cover a twenty-eight-year period from 1922 until his retirement in 1950. In his wide-ranging reminiscences, Mr. Brickner notes that his dual role of apprehending violators and teaching conservation in many areas of the state began in St. Paul, where one of his earliest duties was to inspect fur shipments from that city. In the July, 1962, issue of the same magazine, Mr. Wolff began another series, entitled "A Forest Ranger's Diary," this time working from personal interviews and the notes of Leslie R. Beatty, who "spent many years in public service as an administrator of land and forest areas."

AN ANNUAL GRANT of a thousand dollars to be used for awards and research assistance to further the society's publications program has been made by the McKnight Foundation of St. Paul. In 1964 and 1965 half of this amount will be used as an award for the best book-length manuscript received during each calendar year. Manuscripts should be over fifty thousand words, have their principal focus in the field of Minnesota history, and should contribute fresh information or interpretations concerning the area's past. Edited documentary contributions will be considered on the merits of the document itself and on the quality of the editing. If no deserving manuscript is submitted in the course of a year, the award will not be made. The generosity of the McKnight Foundation is also responsible for the color reproductions of Civil War patriotic covers which enlivened the closing pages of this magazine's Civil War centennial issue, published in June. This assistance was given in addition to the five hundred dollars previously made available for the commissioning of art work in the current volume of Minnesota History.

A COMMITTEE of three, including the Reverend Vincent Tegeder, head of the history department in St. John's University, Collegeville, Dr. Maude L. Lindquist, chairman of the history department in the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and Mrs. Rhoda R. Gilman, editor of Minnesota History, met in April to select the winner of the society's Solon J. Buck Award for 1962. Their unanimous choice was Mrs. Helen McCann White, for her article on "Minnesota, Montana, and Manifest Destiny," which appeared in the June, 1962, issue of the magazine. The award, carrying with it a prize of a hundred dollars, is given each year to the author of the best article to be published in the society's quarterly.

TWO MEMBERS of the society's staff have been represented in recent publications. The golden anniversary edition of Anchor and Line, which appeared in July, 1962, featured a series of brief essays on the history of the St. Paul Yacht Club, written by James Taylor Dunn. The society's underwater search program along the fur trade routes of the Minnesota-Ontario border lakes is described by Robert C. Wheeler in an article entitled "Diving Into the Past," which appeared in the Canadian Geographical Journal for August, 1962.

A VALUABLE contribution to the work of the society and especially of its publications department has been made during the past year by Miss Margaretta Ellsworth, who retired in 1962 after thirty-eight years as a teacher in the St. Paul school system. Volunteering her services regularly for three days each week (and often more), she has performed such tasks as inter-filing and consolidating index cards, compiling and checking mailing lists, and stuffing envelopes. In recent months she has assisted the membership secretary in writing receipts and filing membership cards, as well as substituting from time to time for the receptionist at the main desk. No less appreciated than her care and skill are the cheerfulness and dedication which she brings to the many chores assigned her.