REVIEWS OF BOOKS


Two aspects of the "new history" as applied to American development are the tendency to bring history up to date and the trend away from a purely political treatment of the past. History today seeks to explain the forces and events which have brought about the complex conditions of the present. The student is not left dangling in mid-air, halfway between the past and the present; nor is he offered a diet of husks. Professor Shippee is an exponent of the "new history," and in his newly published book he covers the field of American history from the Civil War to 1923 and makes a notable attempt to explain the realities of our development as a nation during that period.

The work is not a political history and it is not an economic history, but it manages to present the story of American political development in a fresh way; and it succeeds in bringing before the reader the outstanding facts of that mighty economic revolution which in the last half century has transformed American life. Nor does it fail to trace the interrelations between economic forces and politics, either in its treatment of domestic or in its handling of foreign policies. One critic has objected that the author attempts to ride two horses, leaping from one to the other as the exigencies of the situation demand. The figure is not a happy one. After all, the trip from 1865 to 1923 is a long one to make on a political nag. It is nearer the truth to say that the author does not bind himself to one mode of locomotion. He uses the horse — or should one say the elephant and the donkey? — but he also employs, at different stages of his journey, the railroad, the automobile, and the electric car, while here and there he even ventures up in an airplane. To change the figure, he recognizes that a complex of forces has gone into the making of modern America, and he does not depend upon any one key to
unlock the many doors which the student must enter. Consequently the believer in the economic interpretation and the believer in the political interpretation of history will be alike dissatisfied, but it is not so sure that the economic or the political historian can give, within a similar number of pages, an account of our recent national development which comes closer to the truth. Probably the author would frankly admit that his emphasis is intended to be rather upon the economic than upon the political factors, for he is profoundly conscious of the importance in American life of the economic revolution. And yet he is attempting to survey the situation as a whole, not trying to fit the facts to a theory, but rather to lay the facts themselves before the reader.

The most serious criticism that the present reviewer has to offer is that the book does not venture much into yet a third type of historical writing — the realm of social and intellectual history. After reading it one does not carry away many definite pictures of the life of the people themselves during the changing period — their social customs, their manners, the intellectual currents which influenced their existence, their religious thinking, their games, sports, diversions, and entertainment. The author gives us many starting points, which, if properly developed, will lead to some of these things, and he might answer the criticism by pointing out that after all a textbook cannot be expected to furnish sermons as well as texts. Texts are usually considered points of departure for discourses or investigations.

To write the history of recent events is a difficult matter indeed. Lack of perspective makes any attempt at final appraisement of events extremely hazardous. Many bundles of documents and papers of first importance are under lock and key, unavailable to the investigator. Finally, it must be confessed that even historians are human, and scholarly detachment is not always easy to attain in dealing with the heated partisan controversies of yesterday. Professor Shippee is keenly aware of the fact that many of his conclusions are necessarily tentative. "Time alone," he says, "allows the perspective by which unimportant details take their proper place in the background and really significant happenings stand out clearly." The historian must do his best, how-
ever, and in this case the author's judicial approach, honesty, and evident common sense inspire confidence.

The scope of the book under review can best be indicated by a brief description of its subject matter. The author departs from the conventional by giving at the outset, in addition to a survey of reconstruction in the South, a keen analysis of reconstruction in the North. He follows this with a general view of the country in the middle seventies — at the close of reconstruction — and then tells the story of the South's gradual emergence "Out of the Depths." Chapters on "Politics of the Hayes Administration" and "The Tariff and Politics" bring the story up to the administration of Grover Cleveland. Before discussing Cleveland's first term, the author gives first a compact account of the "Coming of Big Business," with concluding sections on "integrated industry" and the relations of "big business" to government, and thereupon a brief survey of the rise of labor. After a series of five chapters covering in the main the political story from the middle eighties to the middle nineties, he turns his attention to "Foreign Relations," pointing out that the rise of interest in this field was closely connected with the industrial revolution and the depletion of the public lands and with the demand for markets and supplies of raw materials. Three chapters are crammed with facts about foreign relations in the eighties and nineties, the war with Spain, and the acceptance of the "white man's burden," — the "Parting of the Ways." The dominant characteristics of the "New Age" — at the beginning of the twentieth century — are then discussed and the author explains that it was a new age "because something of a realization of the significance of material changes particularly of the past quarter century was dawning." In this section a real approach is made to the social meaning of the economic revolution. An important feature of the new age was "big business," and to this subject the author returns, describing the situation at the time when "trust busting" was coming into vogue.

Foreign policies under President Roosevelt are dealt with under the caption, "The Fruits of Imperialism." A footnote on the subject of Roosevelt's connection with the first Moroccan crisis contains this interesting remark: "Even if the part played by
the president was not the determinative part, the Algeciras Con-
ference and the events which led up to it demonstrate that in
world affairs the United States was virtually forced to assume a
responsibility which would have been undreamed of a dozen, or
even half that number of years before." Single chapters suffice
for the Roosevelt domestic policies and the administration of
President Taft. The overthrow of "Cannonism" in 1910 the
author considers "much less significant than it seemed at the
time," for "it exalted the caucus and did not in any considerable
degree destroy party regularity." A good account of "The
Progressives" is followed by a survey of "President Wilson's
Peace Program." Foreign affairs then come to the center of the
stage in chapters on "Latin America and the Monroe Doctrine,"
"The Trials of a Neutral," the entry into the war, the American
participation, and the treaty. The author's point of view is per-
haps expressed in his comment on the passage of the Knox
Resolution in 1921: "So the war ended. America had gone
into the struggle fired by an idealism which President Wilson had
voiced for his countrymen. But a 'slump in idealism' had
followed, and, to outward appearances, America intended to draw
back into the shell which many people believed was real." Chap-
ters on "Post War Problems" and "The Return of the Repub-
licans" bring the work to an end. Apropos of the reaction the
author remarks, "In the post-war sweep of reaction there was a
general tendency to decry everything which questioned the exist-
ing order; it was a carrying over of the worse features of war
hysteria heightened by tales of what was occurring in Russia.
Too frequently it was used as a smoke screen to hide the real
purposes of those who emphasized it."

It is a favorite sport of reviewers to bag a covey of misprints
and minor errors. A large flock of them offer easy targets in the
work under review, but doubtless most of them will be eliminated
in the second edition. The book is written in a sober style,
vigorous at many points, but never sprightly. The work has
gained in compactness by the rigorous compression of facts, but
it has probably lost something in readability. The publishers
apparently impressed upon the author the fact that it was to be
a textbook — and a textbook it is. It is one worth reading by
students of American history who are in college and by those not in college.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN

Collections of the State Historical Society [of North Dakota].
Volume 5. Edited by ORIN G. LIBBY. (Grand Forks, 1923. 283 p. Illustrations, maps.)

As might be expected in a volume of "Collections," the book under review is made up of a series of miscellaneous papers, preceded by the customary lists of officers, of life and annual members, and of newspapers received, and articles of incorporation and by-laws. In volumes of this sort one wishes that such material could be relegated to the back pages if not removed entirely and printed in reports of the society.

Of special interest to Minnesota readers are the letter of the Reverend G. A. Belcourt, the missionary priest at the Red River settlement, describing a buffalo hunt in 1845, translated from the French original in the Congressional series (31 Congress, 1 session, House Executive Documents, no. 51, p. 44-52 — serial 577); the diary kept by David M. Holmes while on a trip from Grand Forks to the Black Hills and back in 1876; and "A Sketch of the Minnesota Massacre" by Victor Renville, son of the Gabriel Renville who headed the friendly Sioux during the outbreak of 1862. A careful comparison of the latter narrative, written in the third person, with Gabriel Renville's "Sioux Narrative of the Outbreak in 1862, and of Sibley's Expedition in 1863," written in the first person and published in the Minnesota Historical Collections, 10:595-613, shows such striking similarities as to render it probable that Victor Renville refreshed his boyhood recollections of the outbreak from the older account written by his father. The new material in the present narrative consists of the brief story of the death of Victor Renville, father of Gabriel, in an Indian fight about 1832; the account of the early life of Gabriel himself; the "list of camps at which scouts were stationed from 1863 to 1865"; and the genealogy of Victor Renville in the appendix. Gabriel Renville's story, however, gives a much fuller list of the scouts under his command. Mr. Samuel J. Brown made the Minnesota translation of Gabriel Renville's account from a
manuscript written in the Sioux language in the possession of Victor Renville. Like most reminiscences, Victor Renville's account contains some inaccuracies. For example, one looks in vain in the treaty of 1858 for any provision by which "only Indians on eighty acre improved farms could get" the aid provided for agriculture under the treaty of 1851 (p. 256), and Big Eagle's account of the Sioux Outbreak (Minnesota Historical Collections, 6:389) shows that the Acton murderers belonged to Shakopee's band instead of Little Crow's as stated on page 257. Mazakutemani (shoots the iron or gun as he walks), better known as Little Paul, is wrongly called Cloud Man (p. 262). Nevertheless the publication of Victor Renville's narrative is to be commended, since all possible light is needed upon the circumstances surrounding the Sioux Outbreak of 1862.

Articles in the volume of more purely North Dakota interest are a "History of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa," by John Hesketh, with several special sketches as appendices; the "W-Bar Ranch on the Missouri Slope," by Bertha M. Kuhn; and an elaborate "History of the Formation of Counties in North Dakota," by Luella J. Hall, occupying nearly one hundred pages and illustrated by thirty-eight maps.

Instances of hasty proof reading are to be noted here and there, some of which are indicated on the errata sheet. The book is well bound, printed on good paper, and supplied with a table of contents and an adequate index.

Willoughby M. Babcock, Jr.
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

The state appropriation for the regular activities of the society has been set at forty-seven thousand dollars for each year of the next biennium—an increase of three thousand dollars. The legislature appropriated also eighty-five hundred dollars for the construction of an additional level of the bookstacks in the Historical Building. The task of continuing and completing the work of the Minnesota War Records Commission was turned over to the society, and it received a special appropriation of six thousand dollars a year for this purpose. In the act for the reorganization of the state government the society is specifically mentioned as an agency of the state and the expenditure of its state appropriations is subjected to the supervision of the new department of administration and finance.

That county agricultural agents will add to their usefulness if they become familiar with the historical backgrounds of their respective communities is the view of Mr. Frank E. Balmer, state leader of the county agents. To every county agent in the state he has sent a bibliography of Minnesota county histories prepared by the society and mimeographed under his direction. The agents have also received copies of the sections of Dr. Warren Upham's Minnesota Geographic Names relating to their respective counties. At the same time Mr. Balmer has vigorously urged the value both of local and of state history to the group of practical agricultural workers under his direction. His action is a promising step in the development of local history interest and is peculiarly appropriate in view of the importance of the agricultural factor in Minnesota history.

The additions to the active membership during the quarter ending March 31, 1925, numbered 38, which bring the total to 1,378. A list of the names of the new members, grouped by counties, follows:

COTTONWOOD: Anthony C. Knudsen of Storden.
HENNEPIN: E. Floyd Allen, C. M. Anderson, Wilbur H. Cherry, John Clark, Arthur C. Danenbaum, Henry F. Douglas,

ISANTI: Archie W. Troelstrup of Cambridge.
KANDIYOHI: Walter H. Stowe of Willmar.
LYON: Carl W. Hansen of Russell.
MCLEOD: Henry Braun of Hutchinson.
POPE: Conrad A. Nelson of Glenville.
RAMSEY: Dr. Louis E. Daugherty, Rhoda J. Emery, Joseph S. Mackey, W. Robert Mills, Oscar W. Swenson, Mrs. Horace Thompson, and James H. Weed, all of St. Paul.
RICE: Keith Clark and Clyde A. Duniway of Northfield.
STEELE: Dr. James W. Andrist of Owatonna.

The society lost eight active members by death during the last three months: Martin O. Hall of San Diego, California, January 17, 1925; Harlan P. Roberts of Minneapolis, February 3; Mrs. R. H. Jefferson of Bingham Lake, February 9; Dr. David O. Thomas of Minneapolis, February 11; John F. McGee of Minneapolis, February 15; George W. Buck of Duluth, February 22; Allan K. Pruden of St. Paul, February 25; and Willis Drummond of Minneapolis, March 9. The deaths of two other active members, C. Francis Colman of Duluth, on April 23, 1924, and Timothy Doherty of St. Paul, on November 21, 1924, have not previously been reported in this magazine.

The number of subscribers to the society's publications has been increased to 164 by the addition of 8 institutions during the last quarter. These include the Dyckman Free Library of Sleepy Eye, and the public schools of Arco, Baudette, Cambridge, Canby, Dilworth, Kimball, and Marshall.

The nineteenth in the society's series of monthly radio talks was given on January 19 from the Twin City broadcasting station WCCO, by Miss Bertha L. Heilbron, research assistant, on the subject "Minnesota as Seen by Famous Travelers." The
superintendent gave the next talk in the series on February 12, taking as his subject "Lincoln and Minnesota." The twenty-first talk was on "The Voyageur" and was given by Dr. Grace L. Nute, curator of manuscripts, on March 17.

As usual members of the staff spoke before a number of organizations during the quarter ending March 31, generally on the work of the society or phases of Minnesota history. The superintendent addressed the Six O'clock Club, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the University of Wisconsin alumnæ, all of Minneapolis; the assistant superintendent spoke before the Hamline Six O'clock Club of St. Paul; and the curator of the museum, before the Current Events and Literary Club of Minneapolis.

Two articles dealing with "The Correlation of State and National History," with special reference to Minnesota, have been published by Theodore C. Blegen, the assistant superintendent, in the February and April numbers of the Journal of the Minnesota Education Association.

The Minnesota Historical Society is showing its interest in the forthcoming Norse-American Centennial celebration by loaning the centennial management the material for a typical pioneer log cabin. This cabin, to be erected with the assistance of the state timber department under the supervision of Mr. Chilson D. Aldrich of Minneapolis, who is giving his services as architect, will be set up near the Woman's Building at the Minnesota State Fair grounds in time for the centennial and later will be removed to the Historical Building, where it will be housed in the society's museum. While the cabin is typical for Minnesota in general, it will illustrate equally well the sort of homes built by the early Norwegian immigrants.

The society has had printed a number of large outline maps of Minnesota, which are intended to be used as base maps for various purposes. County lines are not shown, and the map differs from most maps of the state in that the northeastern triangle is not amputated.

The legislative session, as usual, resulted in a considerable increase in the number of visitors to the society's museum. Especial-
ly noteworthy is the record-breaking number of one hundred classes which visited the rooms during the first three months of the year. In a total of 3,545 students and teachers, 2,119 were from Minneapolis, 692 from St. Paul, and 734 from schools outside the Twin Cities. The number from St. Paul would have been much larger had it not been for restrictions on excursions due to the smallpox epidemic. Among the rural classes was one from Dawson in Lac qui Parle County near the western border of the state.


Considerable assistance was given by the curator of the museum to officials of the Ramsey County Historical Society in connection with the loan exhibition of that society at the St. Paul Public Library in March.

**The Curator of Manuscripts Goes Hunting**

From December 25 to February 1 Dr. Grace Lee Nute, the society's curator of manuscripts, visited various cities, chiefly in the East, searching for unpublished material of interest to students of Minnesota history. She found many important papers which it is expected will be transcribed or photostated for the society and thus made available for the use of investigators in Minnesota. It is believed that a brief account of the results of her search will be of interest to the readers of this magazine.

At the Newberry Library in Chicago she examined a series of diaries and sketchbooks of Frank B. Mayer, artist delegate to the famous conclave in 1851 which produced the treaty of Traverse des Sioux. The diary volumes, three in number, are reported by Dr. Nute to cover Mayer's "journey from the East and his stay in Minnesota, including the treaty meetings." Five sketchbooks are filled with pencil drawings of Minnesota scenes and persons, including Little Crow, Kaposia, the camp at Traverse des Sioux,
Red River carts, and Indian men, women, and children. Other material of interest found at the Newberry Library is the memoirs, in three volumes, of Henry H. Snelling, a son of Colonel Josiah Snelling. In the first volume is considerable material reflecting the author's memories of a Minnesota childhood about a hundred years ago, when Colonel Snelling was in command of the fort which bears his name.

From Chicago Dr. Nute journeyed to Richmond, where she attended the annual meeting of the American Historical Association. After its close she went to Washington, where she first examined, at the Library of Congress, the Joseph N. Nicollet Papers. They comprise a large mass of manuscript journals, maps, and other records relating to the famous scientist's explorations, principally in the thirties. Naturally much of the material has to do with Minnesota. As examples may be cited a "Journal 1838 From St. Peter's to Spirit Lake," and a diary dated June 18 to July 15, 1838. In the latter, which is one hundred pages in length, is an interesting account of Joseph Renville. One paper in the collection, entitled "Agriculture in the Sioux Country, in respect to the condition of the Sioux Indians," is, in Dr. Nute's opinion, probably from the pen of Lawrence Taliaferro, the Indian agent.

As is well known, the government archives at Washington constitute a mine of historical information on the various states of the Union. An illustration of the importance of some of this material for Minnesota history is afforded in the bureau of the census, where Dr. Nute found the five manuscript volumes of the census of 1857 — the enumeration made with a view to proving the qualifications of Minnesota for statehood.

From Washington Dr. Nute went to New York to examine the American Fur Company Papers in the possession of the New York Historical Society — papers which are literally invaluable for the history of the fur trade in Minnesota under the American Fur Company régime. Calendar cards for much of this material have already been secured as well as a considerable number of photostats (see ante, 5:504).

Perhaps the most interesting material which Dr. Nute's investigations brought to light was a series of volumes at the Congregational House in Boston, where the records of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions are kept. The
volumes in question contain letters, reports, and journals from missionaries to the Sioux and Chippewa, and they undoubtedly are sources of fundamental value for Minnesota history. One volume, entitled "Sioux Ojibwas 1831–1837" contains letters and detailed reports from Jedediah Stevens, Sherman Hall, William T. Boutwell, Granville T. Sproat, Thomas S. Williamson, Edmund F. Ely, and Frederick Ayer; the diary of Hall from August 5, 1831, to March 25, 1833; Boutwell’s diary entitled "Tour with Mr. Schoolcraft, June 4–Aug. 6 [1832]"; and Sproat’s diary for 1837. A similar volume covers the period from 1838 to 1844. In a volume entitled "Ojibwa, Pawnee and Stockbridge Indians, 1844–1859," are letters from Boutwell, Ely, Sproat, Hall, Charles Pulsifer, Abigail Spooner, Leonard H. Wheeler, and others. Yet another volume covers the period from 1860 to 1871. Five volumes contain "Dakota Mission" material. Of these the first is perhaps the most valuable, for it contains more than 450 documents, for the period from 1844 to 1859, including letters from Moses N. Adams, John F. Aiton, Hugh D. Cunningham, Joseph W. Hancock, Robert Hopkins, Alexander G. Huggins, Jonas Pettijohn, Gideon H. and Samuel W. Pond, Joshua Potter, Stephen R. Riggs, and Thomas S. Williamson. Particularly numerous are the letters from the last two. In the other volumes are the records of the Dakota missionary activities to 1883.

In all these libraries and government departments, Dr. Nute reports unfailing courtesy and helpfulness from those in charge of the manuscripts she wished to consult. A fine spirit of coöperation has grown up among historical agencies throughout the country which furthers incalculably the work of assembling unpublished material for regional history.

Through Mr. Gunnar J. Malmin of Northfield, a copy has been received of an important letter written by the Reverend Jens Rynning, father of Ole Rynning (see ante, 2:223), which was printed in the newspaper *Morgenbladet* of Christiania, Norway, in its issue for October 10, 1839. It incorporates a letter by Hans Barlien, dated at "St. Fransville," Missouri, on April 23, 1839,
which tells about conditions in the western Norwegian settlements. Rynning, an influential minister, presents, after quoting the Barlien letter, an interesting argument against the emigration and offers a curious tabular comparison of the situation in Norway as compared with that in America, to the disadvantage of the latter.

The value of the society's calendar cards for manuscripts in the national archives is well illustrated by a group of papers recently photostated on the basis of references supplied by Dr. Newton D. Mereness. The photostats are of a letter from Governor Ramsey to the chief of the Indian office early in 1850, two letters from Norman W. Kittson, and one from the Reverend George A. Belcourt, all dealing with conditions at Pembina, and especially with the relations of the American traders and their rivals of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Some twelve letters written by Jane Williamson, sister of the missionary Dr. Thomas S. Williamson, from the Yellow Medicine mission in 1853, have been presented by Miss Margaret Aiton of Minneapolis, daughter of Mrs. John Aiton, to whom they originally were written. The letters are of special interest because they interpret from a woman's viewpoint the situation which confronted the early missionaries. Miss Aiton has also presented a biographical sketch of Dr. Williamson and reminiscences of the mission by her mother, together with a number of photographs of members of the Williamson family.

A rare and valuable source of information on the Swedish element in Minnesota is the weekly newspaper, Minnesota Posten, which began publication at Red Wing on November 7, 1857 — the first Swedish newspaper in Minnesota. The society now has available for the use of students a file of this paper covering the period from its beginning to October 13, 1858. Accompanying it is a copy of a prospectus of the paper issued by the Reverend Eric Norelius, its editor. "The Swedes, like other foreigners, are strangers in a new land, scattered like sheep having no shepherd [sic]," he wrote. "They need encouragement and enlightenment on the subject of Religion; they need an organ
to advocate their cause and by means of which they may set themselves in communication with each other, and ways and means be discussed that will best promote their spiritual welfare. Politically, they need a true understanding of the laws and institutions of this country so that they may be able to do their duty as citizens and enjoy the privileges afforded. They need, moreover, to be enlightened on the political questions of the day, so as not to become the tools of every party politician to further his own selfish interests as the case has often been heretofore. These wants the paper contemplated will attend to.”

Some twenty letters relating to the “Swedish-American Republican State Club,” mainly for the year 1902, have been added by Mr. C. O. Alexius Olson of Minneapolis to the papers of the Swedish Historical Society of America, which are in the custody of the Minnesota Historical Society.

A contribution to the available sources of information on the Sioux Outbreak of 1862 has been made by Mr. E. L. Fryer, a participant in the war, who has written and presented an account of the campaign in the Yellow Medicine area.

A notebook containing Civil War records of members of Company K, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, is one of a small group of papers recently presented by Mr. Orrin F. Smith of Winona. On almost every page one finds such entries as “killed at Gettysburg,” “killed at Bull Run,” and “died of wounds received at Gettysburg.” Another item of special interest in the group is a Republican ballot for Winona County for the election of 1868, which contains the names of Grant for president and of Morton S. Wilkinson for congressman from the first district. The ballot is less than six inches in length.

Two letters written in 1920 by Senator Knute Nelson, paying tribute to his early teacher, Mary Dillon, have been given to the society by Mr. Bjorn Holland of Hollandale, Wisconsin, through the courtesy of ex-Governor Preus. Mr. Holland has also presented a short sketch of the life of Miss Dillon, prepared by himself. A letter written by Nelson on January 29, 1884, to Mr. Luth Jaeger of Minneapolis, which has been turned over to the
society by the latter, deals with the political situation in Norway and is of special interest because in it Nelson outlines his theories of sovereignty.

A short sketch of early lumbering methods by Mr. Nathan Butler of Minneapolis, whose experience in lumber camps dates back to the infancy of the lumber industry in Minnesota, has been loaned to the society by the author for copying, through the courtesy of Mr. Wright T. Orcutt of Minneapolis.

Business records of the lumber firm of John DeGraw and Son of St. Paul for the year 1878 to 1910, including daybooks, journals, and correspondence, have been presented by Mr. S. R. DeGraw of St. Paul.

Typed copies of extensive contemporary newspaper accounts of the ceremonies in St. Paul in September, 1883, attendant upon the reception of Henry Villard and his party, who were on their way west to drive the last spike in the Northern Pacific transcontinental road, have been presented by the Northern Pacific Railway Company.

Several Minnesota organizations have recently turned over to the society records, the permanent preservation of which is desirable from the standpoint of state social and professional history. The constitution and by-laws, minutes of meetings, and membership lists of the Norwegian Singing Society of Minneapolis for the years from 1889 to 1903 have been presented by Mr. Victor Nilsson of Minneapolis. Minutes of meetings and a scrapbook of programs of the Minnesota Academy of Medicine for the period from 1887 to 1923 fill five volumes given by Dr. John E. Hynes, secretary of the organization. Seven volumes of minutes and scrapbooks of the Minnesota State Dental Association have been deposited through its secretary, Dr. H. L. Cruttenden of Northfield.

The society has secured, through the courtesy of Mr. Carle Zimmerman of the University of Minnesota, a set of maps showing the geographical distribution of the individual membership of the Nonpartisan League in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Idaho, and Montana, probably for the year 1920. These maps, which were
obtained by Mr. Zimmerman from the League headquarters in Minneapolis, should be particularly useful for the study of agricultural conditions and the reaction of environment on political affiliations in the Northwest. From the Minnesota and the national Nonpartisan League the society has also secured approximately eighty thousand membership cards,—chiefly for Minnesota, but including some South Dakota and Iowa records,—which give the names and addresses of members, dates of joining the League, amounts paid, subscriptions to League publications, changes of address, renewals of membership, and organizer's initials. It is hoped that card records of the League for other states — Nebraska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Kansas, Oklahoma—will eventually be received from the same source. Obviously such materials constitute an important addition to the society's sources for the study of recent agrarian developments.

A valuable paper dealing with the history of the Baptists in Sweden and particularly the career of a Swedish Baptist missionary, Petter Leander Lundberg, has been written and presented to the society by Mr. Swen Bernard of St. Paul. The paper throws light upon the religious aspects of the background of the Swedish immigration to the United States.

To the society's collection of pioneer objects have been added a heavy basswood ox yoke, which was used by a party of pioneers emigrating from Illinois to Minnesota in 1868, and a band cutter used in threshing, given by Mr. William Schrump of Dennison; an old coffee mill given by Mr. N. Groth of West Union; and a peculiar six-armed skein reel and a copper cowbell presented by Mrs. George W. Dicus of St. Paul.

An unusually interesting example of an old grandfather's clock has been deposited with the society by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Varney of St. Paul. The clock, which was made in 1756 by David Blasdel of Amesbury, Massachusetts, has substantial works, a painted pewter dial, and a painted wooden case. It is both an ornamental and a utilitarian addition to the society's museum, for, although nearly 170 years old, it is still faithfully keeping time.
Two relics of the fur trade recently received are an iron trade ax with wide cutting edge from Mr. Oscar Gimmestad of Belview, who found it on an old Indian trail; and an old iron muskrat spear of unusual size, from Mr. C. B. Moses of Lake Crystal, who unearthed it on his farm.

The society's collection of objects illustrating the development of American domestic life has been enriched recently by gifts of dresses, gloves, and sewing appliances of the early part of the present century, from Miss Mary H. Folwell of Minneapolis; a gentleman's shirt of the style worn in the middle eighties, from Mrs. Nellie Wright of Excelsior; a fine Lowestoft cup and saucer, from Miss Abby A. Fuller of St. Paul; and a small Seth Thomas mantel clock of about 1867, from Mr. S. R. DeGraw of St. Paul.

A full World War uniform of a private in the ordnance department and an officer's uniform overcoat of the Spanish-American War, both used by the late George W. Dicus of St. Paul, have been presented by Mrs. Dicus.

Views of the St. Paul ice palace celebrations, of buildings and street scenes in the Twin Cities, of Lake Minnetonka and White Bear Lake, and of the ceremonies connected with the completion of the building of the Great Northern transcontinental road are among the more than four hundred photographs dating from the eighties and nineties which have been presented to the society by the Buckbee-Mears Company of St. Paul. Other additions to the picture collection include a small framed picture showing Governor Ramsey and the Minnesota Senate of 1861, from the executive office of the state through the courtesy of Mr. Herman E. Samuelson; and a group of pictures of presidents of the Minnesota Dental Association from 1884 to 1900, presented by its secretary, Dr. H. L. Cruttenden of Northfield.
NEWS AND COMMENT

A notable article on "The Significance of the Section in American History," by Frederick J. Turner, appears in the March Wisconsin Magazine of History. Mr. Turner believes that the "significance of the section in American history is that it is the faint image of a European nation and that we need to re-examine our history in the light of this fact." Our politics and our society, he asserts, "have been shaped by sectional complexity and interplay not unlike what goes on between European nations." He points out that our national action must be shaped to the fact of a "vast and varied Union of unlike sections" and that insistence upon particular sectional interests without a sympathetic understanding of the interests of other sections should be avoided.

To place the various religious movements in America since colonial days in their general setting in American history is the object of Dr. Henry K. Rowe's History of Religion in the United States (New York, 1924. 213 p.). Perhaps the most interesting chapter in the book is that entitled "Religion on the Frontier," a scholarly review and interpretation of an important aspect of the westward movement. In one brief chapter Dr. Rowe disposes of a subject which offers material for many volumes. The story of "home missionary" activities in pioneer Minnesota alone is a long and intricate one. It is also one of absorbing interest, and when it is fully told it will fill out an important chapter not only in Minnesota history but also in the history of the West. Many new materials for such a study have recently come to light.

The Federal Farm Loan Bureau, Its History, Activities and Organization is the title of a useful study, by W. Stull Holt, which has been brought out by the Institute for Government Research as number 34 of its Service Monographs of the United States Government (Baltimore, 1924. 160 p.).

Some recent regional agricultural history is embodied in the series of papers published under the title "The Agricultural Situation in the United States," in the January issue of the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.
The "agrarian crusade" continues to receive the attention of research workers in the field of western history. Two articles in the March number of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* relate to the subject—one on "The Background of Populism in Kansas," by Raymond C. Miller, and the other on "Ohio and the Greenback Movement."

*An Annotated Catalogue of Books Belonging to the Finley Collection on the History and Romance of the Northwest* has been published by Knox College (Galesburg, Illinois, 1924. 67 p.). This collection, which is especially strong on the French period, has been assembled and presented to the library of Knox College by Mr. Edward Caldwell of New York. The catalogue contains much useful bibliographical information and is supplemented by a reprint of Appleton P. C. Griffin's "Bibliography of the Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi Valley," which was originally published in the *Magazine of American History* for March and April, 1883.

A valuable illustration of scientific method as applied to the study of a local community and its history is afforded in a pamphlet entitled *Rural Religious Organization, a Study of the Origin and Development of Religious Groups*, by J. H. Kolb and C. J. Borman (Madison, 1924), in which the situation in Dane County, Wisconsin, is subjected to careful analysis. The result is not merely an illuminating explanation of church tendencies in a typical mid-western community but also is an informing contribution to social history. The pamphlet is issued as number 60 of the *Research Bulletins* published by the agricultural experiment station of the University of Wisconsin.

For people possessing the divine gift of curiosity and unafraid of dust, garrets have an irresistible lure. A progressive teacher in St. Louis, Miss Julie Koch, has exploited the family attics of her students with such conspicuous success that in reporting her experiment in an article published in the April *Historical Outlook* she employs the following title, "The Garret: A Depository for Source Material in American History." She declares that "a wealth of historical material for the middle west is lying idle in the garrets of some of our pioneers." Perhaps under the guidance
of history teachers, high school students may help the mid-western states to save many valuable historical records from destruction. Miss Koch makes it plain that her students enjoyed studying the curious and illuminating early letters and other papers which the attic hunts disclosed.

The coördination of state and national history by the use of a volume of readings in state history as a part of the general American history course is proposed for Pennsylvania schools by Asa Earl Martin, who describes his plan in the April *Historical Outlook* in an article entitled "One Solution of the State History Problem."

Sensible suggestions about *State and Local History in the High School* with special reference to Iowa are made by Bruce E. Mahan in number 12 of the *Bulletin of Information Series* issued by the State Historical Society of Iowa (1924. 7 p.).

Indian pictographs carved on the surfaces of great boulders near Pipestone are described and a number of legends connected with the region are related in an article in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for March 1. Some of the strange examples of primitive art to be found on these pictured rocks are reproduced with the article.

One of the most interesting possibilities in connection with the Norse-American Centennial celebration in St. Paul in June is the organization of a Norwegian-American Historical Society. An important field of activity would be open to such an organization both in the collection of historical material and in publication. Undoubtedly large numbers of immigrants' letters and diaries are still preserved among the descendants of the Norwegian pioneers who came to the upper Mississippi Valley. Organized effort might result in the permanent preservation of much material of this type and in its accessibility to the public. Such records are of course valuable not only for the history of the Norwegian element in the United States but also for the general history of the westward movement.

Elaborate plans have been worked out for exhibits which are to be on display at the Minnesota State Fair grounds, St. Paul, during the Norse-American Centennial festivities. From a great
many sources objects are being assembled which will illustrate Norwegian-American life and activities. In connection with the exhibits essays are being prepared by special students on all the more important phases of the history of the Norwegian-Americans and presumably arrangements will later be made for their publication.

A joint resolution adopted by the legislature of the state of Minnesota and approved on January 30 recites the services of the people of Norse descent to Minnesota and the Northwest and expresses the state's official approval of the centennial celebration in June.

*School Calendar 1824-1924; A Who's Who Among Teachers in the Norwegian Lutheran Synods of America* is the title of a compendious biographical work compiled and edited by Dr. Olaf M. Norlie (Minneapolis, 1924. 802 p.). This book is valuable not only for its record of educational activities among Norwegian-Americans but also for its vast fund of bibliographical information. The volume contains sketches of 3,600 individuals — about 2,700 teachers in higher institutions, about 700 parochial school teachers, and about 100 each Sunday school teachers and "promoters of the Norwegian schools." Each biographical sketch contains information concerning the writings of the individual. The volume bears testimony to the scholarly care and enormous labor which Dr. Norlie has expended in gathering and organizing his material. His preface is a suggestive essay from the statistical point of view, on Norwegian-American educational history. It should be noted that this volume is one of a "calendar series" which is intended to make available in compact form a vast amount of information about the Norwegians in the United States.

A brief article on "Icelandic Pioneers in North America" is published in the *Quarterly Journal* of the University of North Dakota for January.

A study of *The Germans in the Making of America*, by Frederick F. Schrader, has been brought out by the Knights of Columbus in their *Racial Contribution Series* (Boston, 1924. 274 p.).
The fur trade in Iowa is dealt with in a series of popular articles by George F. Robeson in the January Palimpsest. One presents a lively description of "Life Among the Fur Traders."

An interesting phase of Red River history is recalled in an article entitled, "How the Scotch Came to Iowa 100 Years Ago," which is published in the Des Moines Register for January 25. The story revolves around the adventures of Ebenezer Sutherland, who left Scotland in 1815 to join the Selkirk settlers and who, after enduring the hardships of life in the Red River colony for more than twenty years, made the long journey in 1838 through Minnesota via Fort Snelling to the Scotch colony in Jones County, Iowa. The narrative includes an outline of the career of his son, Mr. D. W. Sutherland of Manning, Iowa.

The renaming of the village of Falsen, North Dakota, for La Vérendrye and his sons is the occasion for the publication of a somewhat detailed review of their explorations in the Northwest, by J. L. Close, in the Great Northern Semaphore for March.

An article entitled "The Public Archives of Canada" by H. P. Biggar, in the February issue of the Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research of the University of London will be very helpful to anyone who has occasion to use the collections or publications of the Public Archives of Canada for research purposes. The article furnishes not only "a brief résumé of the various series of records," but also a key to the location of calendars or selections which have been printed. A second installment will appear in the June issue of the Bulletin.

General Minnesota Items

A commission to obtain designs for a statue of Alexander Ramsey to be installed in National Statuary Hall in Washington and for a monument to Henry H. Sibley to be erected on Pilot Knob near Mendota was provided for by chapter 58 of the Laws of 1925. The commission is to be appointed by the Governor and is to secure estimates in addition to designs, but no expense to the state can be incurred without further legislation. The erection of a statue of the late Senator Nelson on the Capitol
grounds opposite the statue of Governor Johnson is also author-
ized by a joint resolution of the legislature. This statue is to be
erected by the Knute Nelson Memorial Association, which was
appointed by Governor Preus and has been raising money for the
purpose. Still another project for a statue is embodied in a
joint resolution of the legislature authorizing the Governor to
appoint a commission to be known as the Lumberjack Memorial
Association and giving consent to the erection by this commission
on the Capitol grounds of a “Statue of the Lumberjack, with the
proper inscription.” Funds for this statue also are to be raised
by subscription.

A method of changing the names of lakes and streams in Minne-
sota and of supplying names for such as have none is provided
by chapter 157 of the Laws of 1925. The decision is to rest with
county boards or with joint boards in case more than one county
is concerned and is to be made upon petition and after public
hearings. The boards are instructed to avoid duplication of
names as far as possible, and there is a provision that no name
which “has existed for forty years” shall be changed.

The Pipestone State Park designed to include the famous pipe-
stone quarry in southwestern Minnesota, which was long used
by the Indians, is established by chapter 107 of the Laws of 1925.
A small tract of land embracing the quarry was reserved for the
Indians in 1858, and the expectation is, apparently, that part of
this will be turned over to the state for park purposes by the
United States. In connection with this project, there has been
issued a sixteen-page brochure containing a petition to the legis-
lature from the Pipestone County Park Committee, a report to
the state auditor by W. E. Stoopes, assistant state park engineer,
and a section entitled “Indian Legends.” The historical interest
of the proposed park is stressed and a number of illustrations are
included.

In the Third Biennial Report of the Minnesota War Records
Commission, for 1923 and 1924 (31 p.), the secretary, Mr. Frank-
lin F. Holbrook, reviews the work accomplished by the comis-
sion since its establishment and indicates the general nature of
its plans for the biennium 1925-27. The work of the first bien-
nium of its activities was largely devoted to the collection of records. Mr. Holbrook writes, "Some idea of the extent of the collection may be gained from the fact that it comprises, exclusive of all except the manuscripts, nearly a million and a half separate items and fills hundreds of filing-case drawers. The records in these collections will contribute very largely to the interest, the fullness, and the accuracy of Minnesota's war history." In the appendix to the report Mr. Holbrook publishes a descriptive catalog of the "state's war records collection for the periods of the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the World War." From the impressive amount of material which has been gathered not only in the field of individual service records and records of military units but also in that of "home activities," it is apparent that foundations have been laid for a comprehensive history of Minnesota in the World War. The commission's activities in its second biennium resulted in the bringing out of the work on Minnesota in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection, which was reviewed in this magazine for August, 1923. The biennium of 1923–25 witnessed the publication of Mr. Collins' History of the 151st Field Artillery and the beginning of work on the comprehensive series of narrative and documentary publications as originally planned. Two specific projects, it is announced, have been started, one, a history of the Minnesota units in the Sandstorm division, and the other, "the compilation of the projected three-volume general roster of Minnesota service men." Another possible narrative volume is suggested to deal with "Recruiting and the Selective Draft." Since Mr. Holbrook's report appeared action by the state legislature has made necessary a radical change in plans for the further prosecution of the war records work. The collections of the commission will be turned over to the Minnesota Historical Society at the end of the fiscal year and the society will undertake to complete the work "in two volumes without roster" as directed by law (see ante, p. 198).

An exhibit of early maps of America at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts was explained by its director, Mr. Russell A. Plimpton in a lecture on March 1. A brief account of the exhibit in the Minneapolis Journal for March 1 calls attention to some early
French maps which locate the Falls of St. Anthony and the Minnesota River.

"Rediscovering Minnesota" is the title of a series of articles on "Where the Names Came From" which appears each day on the editorial page of the *Minneapolis Daily Star*. Explanations of Minnesota geographic names, largely based upon Dr. Warren Upham's book on that subject, are offered.

Points along the Minnesota River Valley are discussed in the third installment of "Tales of the Trails," in the Minneapolis Public Library's *Community Bookshelf* for February.

"Navigation Above the Falls of St. Anthony" is the title of a detailed chronological narrative by Captain Fred A. Bill, installments of which appear each week in the *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa, beginning February 7. The author evidently has combed contemporary newspapers to gather the bits of information for the little-known story of this phase of Mississippi River traffic, which begins with the trial trip of the steamboat "Governor Ramsey" on May 25, 1850. He deals first with river transportation between St. Anthony and St. Cloud, and he quotes long extracts referring to this traffic not only from St. Paul and St. Anthony newspapers, but from those of smaller settlements along the river, such as Monticello. In the *Post* for March 7 Captain Bill describes in some detail the trip of the "Anson Northup" in 1858, when it went over Sawk Rapids and pushed northward to Pokegama Falls, and he quotes one newspaper's prediction that in time "a canal forty or fifty miles long will connect the Mississippi with Red Lake river, thence into Red River of the North, and thus procure water transportation from New Orleans to Pembina."

A "History of Great Northern Railway Company" is published as number 6 of a series on "American Railroads" in *Shipper and Carrier: The National Illustrated Traffic Journal* for February. As a background for the history of the railroad, events of essential Minnesota interest, such as the ill-fated bond issue of 1858 and the opening of the state's first railroad, are recalled; and the early career of James J. Hill is reviewed with emphasis upon his first railroad contacts. The story of the con-
struction of the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad from 1864 to 1872, of its failure in the latter year, of its reorganization in 1879 as the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway Company, and of the final change of name to the Great Northern in 1890 is then outlined. Taken as a whole this is a useful account of the origin and expansion of the Great Northern Railroad, excellently illustrated by three maps showing the system in 1880, in 1900, and in 1925.

"Motordom Observes Silver Anniversary" is the heading used by the *Minneapolis Tribune* in its issue of February 1 for the announcement of the 1925 Twin City automobile show. With the descriptions of the latest automobile improvements are published pictures of some early models and a review of the development by years of the automobile industry from 1899 to 1924. An account of the experiences of Mr. O. W. Thomas of Minneapolis as "Minnesota's first automobile driver" appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for January 14.

Some of the contrasts between the principles of "frontier law-making" in Minnesota and those which were to guide the state's forty-fourth legislative session are pointed out by Mr. Charles B. Cheney in an illustrated article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for January 4. Especially does he compare the economy measures of the recent session with the lavish expenditures sanctioned by the legislature of 1858.

The Sioux Outbreak and the Minnesota frontier of 1859–62 furnish the background for a five-part story entitled "The Homesteaders," by Hugh Pendexter, in the issues of *Adventure* from November 30, 1924, to January 10, 1925. The author has evidently studied the literature on the subject extensively; and, in spite of a number of palpable errors, his picture of the times is not only vivid but also realistic from the historical point of view. Many of the characters are real persons and many of the incidents were actual occurrences.

**LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS**

Masonic activities on the Minnesota frontier are recalled in a pamphlet entitled *Fiftieth Anniversary, Mt. Tabor Lodge No.*
In addition to an account of the organization of the lodge in February, 1873, and an outline of its history, the booklet contains sketches and portraits of charter members and first officers and facsimiles of documents from the early records of the lodge.

Beginning with its issue for February 26, the *Taylors Falls Journal* prints weekly installments of a “History of Taylors Falls” by “one of the early settlers of our village who has at his disposal old newspaper files.” The story, which opens with the year 1837, is of a fragmentary nature.

The experiences of a settler who came to southern Minnesota in 1855 are related in an unsigned article entitled “Pioneering in Freeborn County,” published in the *Community Magazine* of Albert Lea for February.

Two valuable histories of Norwegian Lutheran congregations in Minnesota which have not previously been mentioned in this magazine have been published by the Reverend E. M. Hanson of New London. One, entitled *Nordland Menighet, Kandiyohi og Meeker Counties, Minnesota, 1868-1918* (Minneapolis, 1918. 56 p.), tells the story of an important church in Kandiyohi County. The other deals with the Chippewa Norwegian Lutheran Church in Brandon, Douglas County, and was issued in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of that church (Minneapolis, 1921. 42 p.).

The battle of a trapper, Edward Orr, for his life in one of the severe blizzards of the late sixties in the prairie country of Jackson County is described by Edward J. Orr in the *Jackson Republic* for March 13.

An editorial advocating the establishment of a county historical society for Lake of the Woods County while some of the men who remember important events in its history are still alive is printed in the *Northern News* of Spooner for February 13.

The first two installments of a series of articles on the early history of Le Sueur County are published in the *Le Sueur News-Herald* for March 11 and 25.
A contribution to local history annals of unusual interest is the series of "Letters from a Pioneer Woman: Britania J. Livingston," edited by her daughter, Nora Livingston Heermance of New Haven, Connecticut, which is appearing in the Saturday issues of the Fairmont Daily Sentinel. After beginning with a brief introductory sketch of her mother on January 24, Mrs. Heermance publishes selections from the letters on such subjects as a frontier neighborhood (February 14), prairie fires (February 21), blizzards (March 7), and prairie cabins (March 14). Remarkable pictures of frontier social conditions and of life at Tall Oaks, the Livingston farm in Martin County, are thus presented. In one letter, evidently written to a prospective settler and dated May 25, 1870, Mrs. Livingston describes Minnesota as "the land of log cabins and liberty; of ragged men, dirty children and of over-worked women, but also the land of broad acres, bright hopes and better health." Then she goes on to say "If you have ever studied Geometry, it will help you about your cabin keeping. . . . A woman here needs to understand surveying and general-ship and many things not taught females in schools." This pioneer woman seems to have had a vision of modern scientific farming when writing "Minnesota wants farmers . . . men of talent, scientific men, who understand books and chemistry and the nature and composition of the soil, but farmers all the same. Send us men of brains; and Minnesota will soon bring up farming to the other honorable professions."

The seventieth anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Shakopee, which was founded by Samuel W. Pond, was celebrated on February 22. The principal address, entitled "Reminiscences of an Elder," was delivered by Mr. E. Judson Pond of Bloomington, a son of the missionary.

The first of a series of articles on "Sibley County's Early History," published under the name of Win V. Working and furnished by a feature service organization, appears in the Winthrop News for March 12. Some of the early installments are based upon the recollections of William R. Kahlow of Okanogan, Washington, who lived at Henderson from 1854 to 1868.
At a meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society on March 2 at Duluth papers were read on the "History of Banking in St. Louis County," by Richard L. Griggs; "The Home Front in St. Louis County during the Great War," by Mrs. J. R. McGiffert; and "Historical Recollections," by the Reverend Charles W. Ramshaw. The meeting was held under the auspices of the St. Louis County chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

About two hundred people attended the forty-first annual meeting of the Lake Pepin Old Settlers Association at Lake City on February 5.

At a meeting of the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club of St. Paul on February 9, Mr. Herbert P. Keller gave an address on "Dayton's Bluff 50 Years Ago."

An interesting illustration of the local museum possibilities in the older communities of the state was given by the success of a loan exhibition of historical material staged in the St. Paul Public Library from March 11 to 18 by the Ramsey County Historical Society. Many objects of distinct historical interest were brought together from various sources and large numbers of people viewed the display. The occasion for the exhibition was the seventy-first anniversary of the incorporation of the city of St. Paul.

The bell used by the St. Paul fire station at Delos and Clinton streets from 1886 to 1924 has been presented to the Ramsey County Historical Society.

The passing of forty years since a charter was granted to Summit Masonic Lodge, No. 163, of St. Paul, was celebrated by its members on February 6. An account of the early history of the lodge, which had its origin in the transportation difficulties encountered by Masons in attending downtown meetings, is published in the St. Paul Pioneer Press for February 1.

An early street railway transportation project, the building in 1887 of St. Paul's first cable line, which "extended from St. Albans street down Selby avenue to Third street, down Third to Fourth, and on Fourth to Broadway," is the subject of a feature
article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for March 22. Among the illustrations are pictures showing the installation of machinery along Selby avenue and portraits of Mr. E. T. Abbott of Minneapolis, the engineer who had charge of the construction of the line.

Among the speakers at the fiftieth anniversary services of the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Minneapolis on January 25 was its founder, the Reverend H. G. Stub, now president of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. The twentieth anniversary of the Holy Trinity English Lutheran Church of Minneapolis was marked by a week of celebration beginning January 25.

The development of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts during the decade since its opening on January 7, 1915, is described and the “Growth of Collections” during the same period is outlined in two articles in the institute’s *Bulletin* for February. The first article, which dwells especially on the institute’s educational work among Minneapolis school children, is reprinted in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for February 1.