

wegian-American writings, and a list of titles in the same field has also been issued by the St. Paul Public Library. Both appeared just before the centennial.

A review of Norwegian-American achievements during the century since 1825 is contributed to the *American-Scandinavian Review* for June by Lawrence M. Larson. In the same number are interesting accounts of the "Restaurationen — The Norse Mayflower," by Rasmus B. Anderson, and a selection of "Letters from the Sloop Folk," translated from the originals by Gunnar J. Malmin. "Norge i Vesterheimen" is the title of a well-written review of Norwegian-American development published by Albert O. Barton in *Sønner af Norge* for June, which also includes a complete reprint of Ole Rynning's *Sandfærdig Beretning om Amerika*. Of the original of this well-known account of the United States, which was published in Norway in 1838, only one copy is known to be in existence, and copies of the reprint of 1896 are also very rare. A translation of it may be found in the MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN for November, 1917.

#### THE UPPER MISSOURI HISTORICAL EXPEDITION

"To commemorate fittingly the notable explorations and discoveries of several distinguished pathfinders of the Great Northwest" an expedition organized by the Great Northern Railway Company and sponsored by the governors of North Dakota and Montana and the heads of the state historical societies of those states and of Minnesota and South Dakota was made from July 16 to 21 to various places in North Dakota and Montana, with St. Paul as the rendezvous. The object of the expedition, as stated in a beautifully printed invitation issued by the sponsors, was to hold "a series of memorial Celebrations . . . at Verendrye and Fort Union, in the State of North Dakota, and Meriwether in the State of Montana . . . in honor of Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, sieur de La Verendrye, French-Canadian discoverer of the Upper Missouri river; David Thompson, English geographer and surveyor; Captain Meriwether Lewis, leader of the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-6; Kenneth McKenzie, who established Fort Union and other dauntless members of the American Fur Company and the Northwest Company, who explored and made known

the Upper Missouri." In the printed program of the expedition two additional objects are indicated: "to awaken greater public interest in the historic background of the territory traversed by these hardy adventurers of an earlier day," and to commemorate not only the achievements of the better-known explorers, but also those of "that host of obscurer pathfinders who preceded and made possible the settlement of the Northwest."

The program opened with a luncheon given by Mr. Ralph Budd, president of the Great Northern Railway Company, and Mrs. Budd at the Somerset Club near St. Paul, followed by a visit to Pilot Knob, the Sibley House, and Fort Snelling, on July 16. On the following day the expedition, which included approximately a hundred persons, reached by special train a town in North Dakota, the name of which was recently changed from Falsen to Verendrye. Here on the morning of July 17 a program was held in honor of La Vérendrye and of David Thompson. An address on "The Verendryes, Discoverers of Dakota" was delivered by the distinguished Canadian historian, Professor Lawrence J. Burpee, and the memory of Thompson was honored by the presentation of a monument in his honor to the state of North Dakota by the Great Northern Railway Company. A paper entitled "David Thompson, Astronomer and Geographer" was read by Mr. T. C. Elliott, well known for his publications in the general field of the exploration of the West and especially the Pacific Northwest.

The members of the expedition motored from Verendrye to Minot, where a banquet was tendered them by the people of that city at 6:00 P.M. on July 17. An interesting program followed the dinner, with speeches on "Ties That Still Bind" by Mr. Doane Robinson, superintendent of the State Department of History of South Dakota; "Heroes of the Task" by Miss Agnes C. Laut of New York, who has done much to popularize the history of the Canadian West; "Imagination in American Life" by Mr. Lawrence F. Abbott of New York; and "The Preservation and Recording of History" by Miss Stella M. Drumm of St. Louis, librarian of the Missouri Historical Society.

On July 18 an elaborate program was carried out at Fort Union, where a reception was given the visiting party by the representatives of eleven Indian tribes. An exhibition of his-

torical objects and photographs, prepared by the state historical societies of North Dakota and Montana and Mr. L. A. Hoffman, a photographer of Miles City, Montana, added not a little to the interest of the occasion. Indian contests preceded a flag raising and a program, the principal features of which were an address by Major General Hugh L. Scott and responses by Indian chiefs on behalf of the assembled tribesmen. In the afternoon a series of Indian games and contests was held. At an evening Indian ceremony three members of the visiting party, Mr. Abbott, Justice Pierce Butler of the United States Supreme Court, and Mrs. Magnus Jenne, a St. Paul artist who has devoted much time to portraying Indian life, were officially adopted each into a different Indian tribe and given Indian names. The interest of the visit to the site of old Fort Union was considerably enhanced by the distribution of facsimile reprints — made by the Great Northern Railway Company — of three numbers of the *Frontier Scout*, a paper issued in 1864 by Company I of the Thirtieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, which was stationed at the fort. The numbers reprinted were for July 14 and 27 and August 17, 1864, numbers 2, 3, and 4 of volume 1, and they contain many vivid and interesting items of news about the life among the soldiers at the fort, the Sully expedition, the Idaho mines, national politics, and other topics. Among the special articles is one entitled "Josh Billings on Cats."

On the next day, July 19, the party visited Havre and made an automobile trip to "Chief Joseph Battlefield," scene of battle in 1877 between the Nez Percé Indians and United States troops commanded by Nelson A. Miles. At Meriwether on July 20 the Great Northern Railway Company presented to the state of Montana a monument in honor of Meriwether Lewis. A paper prepared by Mr. Olin D. Wheeler of St. Paul on "The First National Exploration of the United States of America" was read, and an address on "Captain Lewis' Marias River Expedition" was given by Mr. Sidney M. Logan of Kalispell, Montana.

The last formal program of the expedition was held at Marias Pass, on the continental divide, where a statue was unveiled in honor of Mr. John Frank Stevens, a civil engineer who in 1889 while on a reconnaissance for the Great Northern Railroad

explored Marias Pass. Among the speakers were Mr. Robert Ridgway, president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Justice Butler, who gave an address on "John F. Stevens and Marias Pass," and Mr. Stevens himself, who made a modest response. The informal discussions, in large or small groups, throughout the entire expedition were scarcely less interesting than the formal, and added much to the pleasure of the trip. Noteworthy were the vivid accounts by the wife of General Scott of her experiences as the bride of a young army officer on the frontier a generation ago.

Special mention should be made of a number of pamphlets printed by the Great Northern Railway Company for distribution among those who accompanied the expedition. One, entitled *An Important Visit, Zebulon Montgomery Pike, 1805* (10 p.), is an illustrated account of Pike's upper Mississippi expedition drawn chiefly from his own narrative. It contains an excellent map showing the location of Pike's Island, Fort Snelling, the Sibley House, Mendota, Pilot Knob, and other places of historic interest. Other pamphlets printed for the expedition bear the following titles: *Chief Joseph's Own Story* (29 p.), reprinted from the *North American Review* for April, 1879; *The Story of Marias Pass* (23 p.), and *A Glance at the Lewis and Clark Expedition* (29 p.), both by Grace Flandrau; *Fort Union and Its Neighbors on the Upper Missouri, a Chronological Record of Events* (36 p.), by Frank B. Harper; and a *Library List* for the expedition (8 p.), giving the titles of the books in the library of the expedition's special train. An interesting souvenir of the expedition, furnished by the Great Northern Railway Company, was a reproduction of the famous La Vérendrye plate, the original of which was found at Fort Pierre in 1913. A vest-pocket booklet was also printed (23 p.), telling the story of *The Verendrye Plate*.

The Upper Missouri Historical Expedition attracted wide attention. Large throngs of people forgathered at the open meetings, many prominent persons participated in the proceedings, several permanent monuments of imposing appearance were set up, and the press and the moving picture interests did not fail to give due attention to the entire affair. That the expedition served effectively to stimulate popular interest in the historical backgrounds

of the regions traversed can scarcely be doubted. It has been announced that plans are being made for similar projects in 1926 and the two following years. The next expedition will be to the Oregon country.

#### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

*James Watson Webb's Trip Across Illinois in 1822*, by Frank E. Stevens (Sycamore, Illinois, 1924. 16 p.), is a story of a ride made by a young lieutenant in the United States army in February, 1822, from Fort Dearborn to Fort Armstrong with dispatches which were forwarded to Fort Snelling. The occasion for the sending of the dispatches is indicated in the following account by Webb, quoted from his story originally published in 1846: "Early in February, 1822, the principal chief of the Potawatomies, one of the most friendly tribes west of Lake Michigan, reported to the Indian agent (Kinzie) at our post that his tribe had received an invitation from the Sioux Indians to unite with them in cutting off the garrison at St. Peter's, at the Falls of St. Anthony; and, as evidence of his truth, produced the tobacco, said to have been sent to them by the Sioux, and which generally accompanies such propositions for a war league. As no doubt was entertained of the truth of this report, the commanding officer directed me (the adjutant) to make an arrangement with some of the voyageurs connected with the Indian trading house near the fort, to carry the intelligence to Fort Armstrong, situated on Rock Island, in the Mississippi, near the mouth of Rock River, thence to be forwarded to Colonel Snelling."

An elementary account of the *Geography of Minnesota*, by C. E. Huff, originally prepared for inclusion in a Minnesota edition of a general geography textbook, has been brought out as a separate publication (New York, 1923. 52 p.). Although historical geography is given comparatively little attention, the work is a distinctly useful compilation for teachers and students of Minnesota history.

Articles in the series entitled "Rediscovering Minnesota" continue to appear each day in the *Minnesota Daily Star* of Minneapolis (see *ante*, p. 216). The subject matter of the sketches has



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