REVIEWS OF BOOKS


The Norwegian-American Historical Association, which was organized at a meeting on the campus of St. Olaf College on October 6, 1925, presents its passports for admission into the realm of historical research in the form of a volume of Studies and Records dealing very largely with the history of Norwegian immigration and of Norwegian-Americans before the Civil War. In a statement of the president of the association (p. 147-151) the reader is informed that a quarterly magazine and other volumes will be published as soon as funds permit. The personnel of the lengthy membership list gives assurance that the anticipations of the president will be realized; and if the future publications come up to the standard of the present volume, clipping bureaus will be able to stock the society's archives with a host of favorable reviews and comments.

The experience of the managing editor, Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, has disarmed the critic who delights to devote sarcastic paragraphs to inaccuracies of statement, misprints, and irregularities of style in citations to sources, in punctuation, and in capitalization; and the funds of the association have made possible the employment of a printer who has dressed the contents in a volume of pleasing format. The reviewer's cruising range, therefore, has been pretty well determined.

At the risk of seeming ungrateful to the other contributors, the present reviewer finds himself especially interested in the fifty-nine pages devoted to “Health Conditions and the Practice of Medicine among the Early Norwegian Settlers, 1825-1865” by Dr. Knut Gjerset and Dr. Ludvig Hektoen, largely because of the unique quality of the article. A fairly respectable bibliography of secondary works on Norwegian-American history could be arranged from the footnotes; and in addition the authors have examined
papers like Emigranten, Nordlyset, Demokraten, De Norskes Ven, and Friheds-Banneret; periodicals like Symra, Billed-Magasin, the Wisconsin Magazine of History, and the Minnesota History Bulletin; and medical journals, reports of boards of health, county histories, and manuscripts.

It is certain that poverty, crowded living quarters, unsanitary conditions, fatigue, worry, exposure, change of climate, crude and inadequate medical aid, and other conditions peculiar to the frontier and to the pre-war period bred disease among the Norwegian pioneers, as they did among the settlers from the older states of the Union; but the general practice of vaccination in the old country and in the new prevented the development of smallpox. Leprosy was far less prevalent than in Norway, due to the change in living conditions and the general well-being. Malarial fever took heavy toll, for the early Norwegian settlers did not dig wells. Having procured drinking water from the sparkling brooks of Norway, they depended upon the streams in America without taking into consideration the difference in climate and other conditions. In the absence of physicians, the quack and the patent medicine bottle were resorted to in order to check the ravages of ague, cholera, typhoid fever, and dysentery; but there were a few honest medical practitioners whose careers are outlined in some detail.

Gunnar J. Malmin, a young historical scholar who spent some time in Norway studying the history of immigration, contributes a translation of Bishop Jacob Neumann's "Word of Admonition to the Peasants in the Diocese of Bergen who Desire to Emigrate," published in 1837, about the time Norwegian emigration began to assume considerable volume. Mr. Malmin presents this pastoral letter as a fair sample of the attitude of mind very common among the clergymen in Norway. The bishop pays his respects to the "America letters" which praised the unlimited freedom of America, "where no authority stands in the way of their free will, where no salary is asked for ministers and teachers, where no taxes or duties encumber their earnings, where no one suffers poverty and all are richly provided for, where abundance pours in from every direction without special effort, where extensive land is bought for an insignificant price, where the soil yields
a rich crop without fertilization, where provisions cost no more
than here among us, where a day laborer can earn a dollar a day,
where a hired maid can earn from forty to fifty dollars and a
hired man up to a hundred dollars a year, and so on.” An excel­

c lent summary of a typical “America letter”!

Another interesting document is a chapter of Johan R. Reiersen’s “Pathfinder for Norwegian Emigrants to the United North
American States and Texas,” a book published in Oslo in 1844.
Reiersen traveled extensively among the Norwegians in America
and knew at first hand whereof he wrote. Mr. Ble gen, the trans­

lator, places confidence in the integrity and ability of Reiersen,
admitting that in spots his antagonism to the conservative official
opinion with reference to emigration in Norway may have dis­
torted his vision.

Mr. Albert O. Barton edits the “Reminiscences of a Pioneer
Editor” by Carl Fredrik Solberg, which is an interesting brief
statement about the ramifications of editorial management of
several early Norwegian newspapers. “An Emigrant Voyage in
the Fifties” by H. Cock-Jensen, translated by Karen Larsen, gives
an insight into the trials of voyages that thousands of emigrants
experienced. “The Norwegian Quakers of 1825” by Henry J.
Cadbury, is reprinted from the Harvard Theological Review for
October, 1925, with a few additions to the notes. The author has
sought to synthesize the various writings pertaining to the history
of the “sloop folk” which have appeared in great number in the
course of a century. The footnote references are of more than
ordinary value.

A review without a single discordant note would do violence to
the best traditions of the historical profession. So let it be
sounded to all the world that future volumes published by the
association must provide an excellent index to discomfort review­
ers still further.

GEORGE M. STEPHENSON
La mission romande; ses racines dans le sol suisse romand; son épanouissement dans la race thonga. By A. Grandjean, secrétaire général de la mission romande. (Lausanne, Georges Bridel and Company, 1917. viii, 327 p. Illustrations, charts, maps.)

With all the vaunted annihilators of space and time which this age boasts, it is still possible for the scholars of one country or region to be entirely unaware of publications in their special field that are in progress elsewhere. An example may be cited. In the year 1917 this volume by A. Grandjean, general secretary of the Mission romande, an organization devoted to the interests of foreign missions, appeared in Lausanne, Switzerland. Despite the fact that the Minnesota Historical Society has been trying for several years to gather all available data on missions among the Sioux and Chippewa Indians of the upper Mississippi Valley, the fact that this volume includes an account of one such mission did not come to its attention until nine years after publication. Then, as a result of correspondence with another mission organization in Switzerland, a letter from the society reached M. Grandjean, who kindly forwarded a copy of his book.

The second chapter relates how the Swiss society sent out two men, Daniel Gavin and Samuel Denton, in 1834, and how stations were established at Trempealeau, at Red Wing's village, and at St. Peter's, now Mendota. The missionaries did not work together harmoniously, the Sioux became unfriendly, and in 1847 the field was abandoned to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. During the dozen years of activity, however, the missionaries sent many letters and reports to the society in Lausanne, and it is on these in large part that M. Grandjean has based the story of their work. As such manuscripts are of prime importance for the early history of Minnesota, an attempt is being made to secure copies of them. A map published in 1838, printed in chapter 2, shows the whole upper portion of the Mississippi Valley and will be of interest to Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa. The remainder of the book deals with missions in Africa and Canada and with the general history of the society.

G. L. N.
The Blazed Trail of the Old Frontier, Being the Log of the Upper Missouri Historical Expedition under the Auspices of the Governors and Historical Associations of Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Montana for 1925. By Agnes C. Laut. (New York, Robert M. McBride and Company, 1926. xii, 271 p. Illustrations, maps.)

This volume, as the title indicates, is a report of the places visited, the addresses delivered, and the monuments dedicated during the course of the Upper Missouri Historical Expedition (see ante, 6: 304-308). Under five headings — “La Verendrye and Thompson,” “At Old Fort Union,” “Chief Joseph; the Passing of the Indian,” “Lewis and Clark’s Farthest North,” and “John F. Stevens Discovers Maria’s Pass” — the principal addresses made during the expedition are published with a connecting narrative furnished by Miss Laut.

As the members of the expedition assembled in St. Paul and visited some of the places of historic interest in its vicinity, the volume opens with an account of this district and of its historic background. Naturally the tourists were attracted by Fort Snelling “for there is no spot on the map,” according to Miss Laut, “where there is more concentrated history, legendary lore, romance, adventure. This was the jumping-off place for the three centuries’ search for the Western Sea. This was the half-way house for change from canoe to horse. This was the last station before the covered wagon of the settler set off for the mountains ‘the Plains Across.’ This was where the first spike was driven for the little steel rail that was to outrace and displace canoe and saddle and covered wagon — and all in less than a hundred years.” Miss Laut relates that at this strategic point there were “seldom more than ninety-eight rank and file to maintain order and sovereignty in an area half the size of Europe.” Such, quite true, was the number of soldiers who, in August, 1819, traveled up the Mississippi to form the original garrison, but within less than a month this little group was joined by 120 additional recruits.

Of the addresses printed in this volume, perhaps those of greatest interest to Minnesotans are the account of “La Verendrye,
Discoverer of Dakota," by Lawrence J. Burpee, and the sketch of "David Thompson, Astronomer and Geographer," by T. C. Elliott. How the exploits of these explorers linked the history of the Minnesota country with that of the upper Missouri is well illustrated by a map of the routes they followed (p. 49).

The Log as a whole is published in most attractive form, and its beauty is greatly enhanced by the illustrations—a series of spirited drawings of scenes on the frontier by the famous artist of western life, Charles M. Russell.

B. L. H.
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

In June Miss Margaret Brandt, an assistant in the Luther College library at Decorah, Iowa, began a six weeks’ course of training in the manuscript division of the society under the supervision of the curator, Dr. Grace L. Nute. Among the tasks in which she was engaged were the washing, pressing, arranging, and inventorying of papers; the repairing of documents; the copying and collating of manuscripts; and the calendaring of a collection. In the absence of any formal school in the United States for the training of expert manuscript workers, it is expected by Dr. Nute that opportunities similar to that afforded Miss Brandt will occasionally be opened up to others desirous of learning the fundamentals of manuscript and archive technique.

Fifty-eight additions to the active membership of the society have been made during the past quarter. The names of the new members, grouped by counties, follow:

**BLUE EARTH**: George W. Allyn of Madison Lake; Dr. Hiram J. Lloyd, William H. Pay, and Frederick L. Searing of Mankato; and Charles V. Peterson of Judson.


**JACKSON**: Edwin H. Nicolas of Jackson.

**KANDIYOHI**: Charles H. Swenson of Atwater.

**LYON**: Mrs. Charles W. Belville of Tracy.

**MCLEOD**: Jay J. Greaves of Glencoe.

**MARSHALL**: Alfred Skarstad of Argyle.

**MARTIN**: Arthur M. Nelson of Fairmont.

**MURRAY**: Albert W. Johnson of Fulda.

**OLMSTED**: George N. Sherman of Rochester.

**OTTER TAIL**: Michael J. Daly of Perham.
Pipestone: Charles B. Howard of Pipestone.


Renville: Henry J. Otto and Gladys M. Raverty of Buffalo Lake; and John M. Freeman of Olivia.

Rice: Frederick E. Jenkins of Faribault; and Edward H. Evans and Herman Roe of Northfield.

St. Louis: William J. McCabe and Roger M. Weaver of Duluth.

Scott: John E. Casey of Jordan.

Steele: Carl A. Peterson of Blooming Prairie.

Winona: Right Reverend Francis M. Kelly of Winona.

Wright: Frank H. Lindsley of Delano.

Yellow Medicine: Reverend Ole Lokensgaard of Hanley Falls.


The school libraries of North St. Paul and Spring Grove, and the Teachers' Training Department of Minneapolis recently became subscribers to the publications of the society.

The society lost eleven active members by death during the three months ending June 30: Francis E. House of Duluth, April 3; Henry Oldenburg of Carlton, April 17; Professor James J. Dow of Minneapolis, April 24; Dr. Harry E. Whitney of Faribault, May 2; William R. Caswell of New Ulm, May 7; James B. Ormond of Morris, May 7; Arthur H. Benton of Minneapolis, May 14; Professor John J. Flather of Minneapolis, May 15; George T. Withy of St. Paul, June 1; Paul Lehman of New Ulm, June 4; and the Reverend Jeremiah Kimball of Duluth, June 19. The death of Dr. Bernard C. Steiner of Baltimore, Maryland, a corresponding member, on January 12, 1926, has not previously been reported in this magazine.

Dr. Solon J. Buck, the superintendent of the society, who is now serving as executive secretary of the American Historical Association endowment campaign with headquarters in New York,
was a member of the Columbia River Historical Expedition which started from Chicago on July 15 for the Pacific coast. Two other members of the society's staff accompanied the tour. The curator of the museum, Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, was in charge of the expedition's special museum car. The librarian, Miss Gertrude Krausnick, joined the expedition at Minneapolis on July 16.

On April 7 the acting superintendent addressed the Minnesota Methodist Ministers' Conference at Hamline University on the subject "Interpreting Minnesota." He spoke to the women's division of the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers on April 13 on "Historical Tendencies in Minnesota Today"; to the Parent-Teachers' Association of Cambridge on April 19 on "State History and Present-day Education"; to the Women's Missionary Federation of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America at its annual convention on June 4, in Minneapolis on "Preserving Historical Records"; and to the Optimists' Club of St. Paul on May 17 on "The Winning of Constitutional Liberty in Norway." Four speeches were given by the curator of manuscripts during the quarter: a WCCO radio talk on "The Minnesota Fur Traders" on April 9; talks on the same subject before the Keewaydin chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Minneapolis on April 10 and the Mendota chapter of St. Paul on May 22; and a radio talk on April 26 explaining the work of the society's manuscript division. The curator of the museum on May 18 gave a lecture before Dr. Clarence W. Rife's American history class at Hamline University on "The Indian Policy of the United States to 1850"; and on May 30 he addressed a large Memorial Day gathering at Birch Coulee State Park.

The sites of seventy-one Minnesota fur-trade posts have been located as the result of a project directed by the society's curator of manuscripts in which various members of the staff and two outside workers cooperated. A detailed map is to be drafted and it is expected that it will be published in a later number of this magazine.

On June 7 the society's curator of manuscripts went to Alexandria, where she made a careful examination of the papers of
the late Senator Knute Nelson that were left after his death in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. Ida G. Nelson. The curator's errand was greatly facilitated by the courtesy and interest of Mrs. Nelson, whose contribution to the society's growing collection of Nelson Papers is mentioned post, p. 288.

During the month of July the bookstacks, marble floor, electrical equipment, and accessories for tier "D" in the society's library, made possible by a special appropriation of $8,500 by the last legislature for this purpose, were erected and completed.

That the idea of making trips to St. Paul to view the society's collections is gaining ground is shown by the fact that school classes have come to visit the museum recently from St. Cloud, Olivia, Stillwater, Lake Elmo, Luverne, Owatonna, Freeborn, Montrose, Le Sueur, Osseo, Delano, Mendota, and South St. Paul, and also from one city in Wisconsin, St. Croix Falls. In all seventy-two classes visited the museum during the quarter ending June 30.

The address of the acting superintendent before the Women's Missionary Federation of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America in Minneapolis on June 4 is published in the Lutheran Church Herald for June 22 under the title "Preserving Historical Records."

Mr. Roy Swanson, a graduate student of history at the University of Minnesota, who has also had experience on the staff of several newspapers, has been appointed newspaper librarian of the society in place of Mr. John Talman, whose resignation was announced in the last number of the magazine.

Miss Ruth V. Houle, the society's catalogue typist, resigned her position in June to be married. Miss Elizabeth Sergent has been promoted from the position of catalogue clerk to fill the vacancy left by Miss Houle's resignation, and Miss Dorothy Miles has been appointed catalogue clerk. Miss Agnes McBeath, who has served as a typist and research assistant in both the war records and the manuscript divisions, has also left the society to be married.
The contributions of two physicians, Dr. Charles Wulff Borup, the trader, and Dr. Thomas Williamson, the missionary, to the early history of Minnesota have long been recognized. Little recognition has been given, however, to a third physician, Dr. William Lewis, who was one of the small group of missionaries sent out from Oberlin, Ohio, by the American Missionary Association to labor among the Chippewa Indians at Red and Cass lakes. From the fall of 1843 until 1851 Dr. Lewis served the Indians there in his professional capacity as well as by attempting to teach them and to lay the foundations for civilization. "One of my earliest remembrances," writes his daughter, Mrs. Harriet L. Kinney, "was of seeing my father amputate the hand of an Indian which hand had been blown to pieces by a gun shot." Mrs. Kinney, who was born in a little log house on the shores of Leech Lake in 1845, recently presented to the society a collection of thirteen letters written by her father and mother to relatives and friends in Ohio. These letters cover the years from 1843 to 1848 and are full of detail about the manner of life of the missionaries, the trips they made, their method of traveling with horse and dog trains, the reaction of the Indians to attempts to civilize them, the neighborliness of the colonists in the Red River settlements, the customs and habits of the Indians, and many other phases of life in the remote wilderness. One of the most interesting of the letters contains two sketches and a diagram of the little log house in which Mrs. Kinney was born, with an account of the household furniture and daily routine of the two families who occupied it. A pleasant picture is drawn of long winter evenings before a fire of pine knots with one member of the group reading Bancroft's History of the United States while the others busied themselves with handiwork of one sort or another.

A small collection of the papers of Curtis H. Pettit has been presented to the society by his daughter, Mrs. George P. Douglas of Minneapolis. Pettit came to Minnesota in 1855 and as a miller and lumberman soon became identified with the life of the city that was growing up about the Falls of St. Anthony. He was a
state senator in 1866 and from 1868 to 1871, and a representative in the legislature from 1874 to 1876 and in 1887. The papers relate to the Civil War, to land speculation in the young Territory of Minnesota, and to conditions in Minneapolis. One letter of May 25, 1855, gives a traveler's first impressions of St. Paul, St. Anthony, the Mississippi from St. Paul to Sauk Rapids, and of the many types of settlers who were peopling the newly opened region.

A school teacher in the Minnesota of 1862 was accustomed to adapt herself to as many different modes of living as there were families of children under her charge, for she "boarded round." The results of such "diversified" living were often humorous in the extreme, as the reminiscences of one such teacher, Miss Anna T. Lincoln, reveal. They have been presented to the society by Professor James P. Bird of Carleton College, Northfield. In these reminiscences of a year of school teaching at Northfield Miss Lincoln tells of many situations and events that must have seemed tragic at the time but that have their humorous aspects sixty years later. How would the modern teacher feel if she wakened some night, as Miss Lincoln did, in a bedroom that also served as a grain house to behold in the moonlight two other occupants of the family's "spare room"—the stiff and frozen carcasses of the hogs upon which the family would subsist in large measure during the winter?

A copy of a master's thesis entitled "The Fur Trade West of Lake Michigan, 1760–1796: A Study of the Trade over the Fox-Wisconsin Route to the Region West," by Alice Smith, has been given by the author to the society.

In 1923 and 1924 a large part of the papers of the late Minnesota senator, Knute Nelson, came to the society through Governor Preus. These papers, though they filled some two hundred or more filing boxes, represented only the years from 1911 to 1923. Within the past two months two more accessions have swelled the bulk of these papers so that they now occupy some three hundred boxes and cover the years from 1870 to 1923. The great quantity of these papers precludes for the present a complete inventory of their contents, but in general they tell of state and national politics
and contain a vast amount of material reflecting public opinion on the important public issues throughout the senatorship of Nelson, particularly upon the World War. The latest installments of the papers come as the gift of Senator Nelson's daughter, Mrs. Ida G. Nelson of Alexandria.

A valuable addition to the society's museum is a Chippewa birch-bark canoe which has been presented by Mr. Frank M. Warren of Minneapolis. It is fourteen feet in length, in excellent condition, and came originally from the Rainy Lake region, where it was in use in 1897.

A beaded papoose-carrier, made recently by an Indian woman at Burntside Lake, has been deposited by Miss Kern Bayliss of Minneapolis.

A cavalry officer's uniform, with sash, sabre, and spur, worn by Captain Mortimer M. Wheeler in the seventies, and a number of Civil War articles have been given to the society by Mrs. Mortimer M. Wheeler of St. Paul. Other additions to the military collection include a Colt's revolver of Civil War type and a sword, given by Mrs. George Hurd of Redlands, California; a uniform coat and cap worn by James H. Bell of the Second United States Dragoons in the Mexican War, a small pepperbox revolver carried by him when a pilot on the Mississippi River, two army bayonets, and other pieces, deposited by his son, Mr. James H. Bell of St. Paul.

Additions to the numismatic collection include a silver medal issued by President Madison, which was found near Pine River, and has been presented to the society by Mr. C. D. Johnson of Brainerd; and a collection of Japanese and oriental coins, given by Mrs. Mortimer M. Wheeler.

The society's costume collection has received a number of interesting additions during the last quarter. Several dresses and dress accessories worn in the late nineties and the early years of the new century are the gifts of Miss Mary H. Folwell of Minneapolis. A pair of black satin button shoes has been presented by Miss Sophie J. Johnson of St. Paul, and a pair of side lace silk dress shoes by Miss Sara Alexander of Minneapolis. The Sibley
House Association has deposited a bonnet that was used by Maria Sanford upon the occasion of her last trip, made to the national capital in 1920.

A shutter fastener and a hinge from a house built in 1824 have been presented, together with several other articles of wrought iron, by Mrs. John W. Willis of St. Paul.

A hickory rocking chair made at Lake Minnetonka about 1876, and a small walnut wall-bracket of domestic manufacture, have been given to the society by Mrs. Nellie B. Wright of Excelsior.

Two important additions have recently been made to the society's collection of portraits. One is a large oil painting of the late Senator Knute Nelson, presented by his daughter, Mrs. Ida G. Nelson of Alexandria; and the other is a small framed picture of Gabriel Franchere, the famous fur-trader, presented by Miss Frances Prince of St. Paul.
NEWS AND COMMENT

By their achievements "The Children of the Pioneers" have given the lie to the prediction made in 1846 by the Reverend Horace Bushnell when he asserted that the Easterners who moved West were making a larger move towards barbarism and that a generation or two would be needed to civilize their descendants. The theme is discussed by Professor Frederick J. Turner in the *Yale Review* for July in cyclopedic fashion, for he goes into great detail in listing western contributions to the American total of ability. "In every field the children of the Middle Western pioneers have shown varied traits," he writes, "but generally speaking there runs through all of their work the Lincolnian quality — the interest in the common man, the attempt to serve him by mass production, by opening new areas, and by accelerating and cheapening communication by rail, by 'auto,' by airplane. The novelists have aimed to express realities and to portray the life of the average man; the historians have been interested less in heroes than in the masses, in economic and social history; the reformers have been 'too helpful' to suit the native Knickerbocker. There has been a breaking away from the past by the constructive capitalist with his large combinations and by socialist labor leaders."

In a day when much is being written on the subject of "Scientific and Interpretative History," few have handled the theme with more illumination than that given by William W. Pierson, Jr., in an article in the *North Carolina Historical Review* for April.

"Let us be fair to the moderns, and not fabricate an imaginary golden age in the undeveloped America of 1776" writes Dr. J. Franklin Jameson in one of the four suggestive essays published in his *American Revolution Considered as a Social Movement* (Princeton, 1926. 158 p.).

The most notable recent publication in the general field of the early history of the Northwest is Dr. Louise Phelps Kellogg's *The French Régime in Wisconsin and the Northwest*, which has
been brought out by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (Madison, 1925. 474 p.). A review of this volume will be published in a later number of the magazine.

A doctoral dissertation entitled *Contributions of the Canadian Jesuits to the Geographical Knowledge of New France* has been published by Nellis M. Crouse (Ithaca, New York, 1924. 175 p.). A review of the work will appear in a later issue of the magazine.


Professor August C. Krey of the University of Minnesota has been named chairman of the American Historical Association's committee on the teaching of history in the schools. The committee will make a survey of present methods and supply suggestions for improving them.

A strong argument for the teaching of “Wisconsin History in Wisconsin Schools” is made in an article by E. G. Doudna in the *Wisconsin Magazine* for June.
The Custer massacre, the semicentennial of which was celebrated on the site of the battle of the Little Big Horn on June 25, recently has been the subject of extensive newspaper comment. Among the articles published is General E. S. Godfrey's account of the battle, reprinted from the Century Magazine of January, 1892, in the Sunday issues of the Minneapolis Tribune during June.

One of the features of the newly published third volume of Ellis P. Oberholtzer's History of the United States Since the Civil War (New York, 1926. 529 p.) is its treatment of the Granger movement and in general of the situation in the West in the period from 1872 to 1878, the chronological limits of the volume. Popular historical accounts of decades are at present enjoying an astonishing vogue. Mr. Oberholtzer's study of the seventies, however dismal the period may seem to the reader, is an excellent example of "decade writing" at its best.

An article entitled "Missouri River Transportation in the Expansion of the West," by Edgar A. Holt, appears in the Missouri Historical Review for April.

An address on the part played by the Swedes in American history, delivered by Dr. Albert Bushnell Hart on June 7—Swedish National Day—at the Sesquicentennial at Philadelphia, is printed in the Minneapolis Journal for June 13.

The 1925 Aarbok of Numedalslaget (115 p.) contains several interesting papers on Norwegian-American history, including one on Clemet Tostensen Stabeck and the Rock Run settlement in northern Illinois.

An important contribution to the history of Norwegian immigration, particularly with reference to the transportation of immigrants, is made in a volume entitled Fra "Restaurationen" til "Stavangerfjord" et maritimit tilbakeblik, by A. Ragnv. Brackhus (Bergen, Norway, 1925. 43 p.).

A valuable discussion of "The Norse-American Centennial," with particular reference to the publications brought out on the early immigration, is contributed by Dr. Henry J. Cadbury of
Harvard University to the spring number of the Friends' Historical Association Bulletin.


The Palimpsest for May prints the diary kept by Jack London as a member of Kelly's industrial army in 1894 on the march through Iowa.

A Brief History of North Dakota, which has been brought out as a textbook by Herbert C. Fish and R. M. Black, contains numerous chapters of interest to Minnesota readers (New York, 1925. 244 p.). Among the topics discussed are "The Pembina Hunt," "The Stevens Survey," "The Sioux War," "The Sibley Expedition," and "Traffic on Our Prairies and Rivers." In the chapter on the Sibley expedition appears a picture bearing the caption "General Sibley," but the individual thus pictured seems to be in Confederate uniform, has an enormous mustache, and bears no facial resemblance to the Minnesota Sibley.

A volume of documents entitled The Early History of the Fraser River Mines, by Frederic W. Howay, has been published as number 6 of the Memoirs of the Archives of British Columbia (Victoria, 1926. 126 p.). It is an interesting volume and throws much light upon the situation at Fraser River in 1858 and 1859, but it neglects the influence of the gold rush of that period upon Minnesota. In fact it deals almost exclusively with the affairs at the mines rather than with the relation of the mines to the outer world.

The Manitoba Historical Society, which was established in 1880 and was active until 1913, was reorganized at a meeting in Winnipeg on May 6. Dr. C. N. Bell of Winnipeg is the president of the organization.
The most notable recent contribution in the press to Minnesota history is an extended biography of the late Senator Knute Nelson which is appearing by installments in the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune* beginning with the issue of March 28. The author is Mr. Martin W. Odland of Robbinsdale, a former newspaper editor and member of the Minnesota state legislature. The biography is to appear in book form after its publication in the newspaper, and it will therefore be reviewed later in the book review section of this magazine. The first four installments or chapters deal with Nelson's career before he came to Minnesota — his earliest experiences in America, his schooling, his Civil War record, and his brief participation in the state politics of Wisconsin. Chapter 5, entitled "From Koshkonong to Alexandria," tells the story of Nelson's migration to Minnesota in 1871. Two chapters cover the period from 1871 to 1882. For this period the author has used assiduously the newspaper sources, particularly the Alexandria papers. He writes that the country editor "is the faithful historian of his community. From day to day, from week to week, he records the events that seem almost ridiculously trivial at the time, but which decades, generations and centuries hence will be searched with eager interest by future historians and investigators. And the historical societies, like that of our own state, are giving an invaluable service to posterity by preserving copies of all these papers and keeping them accessible to all." The next three installments in the biography deal with "The Historic Kindred-Nelson Campaign," which the author regards as the strategic turning point in Nelson's career. By the use of unpublished contemporary letters dealing with this campaign Mr. Odland makes some interesting new contributions to Minnesota history, especially touching on the Scandinavian factor in the campaign. Chapter 10 is entitled "The Third Interlude." The author explains that Nelson's career resembles a drama "in which there were three interludes. The first was from 1869 to 1872 — from his retirement as a Wisconsin assemblyman to his election as county attorney in Minnesota. The second began with his retirement as state senator, in 1878, to his election as congressman in 1882. The third and last was from
1889 to 1892 when he entered the campaign for the governorship of
Minnesota.” In dealing with the Farmers’ Alliance the author
shows that he is familiar with the studies of Dr. John D. Hicks in
this field. He does not appear to have drawn especially upon the
rich Donnelly Papers, however. After telling of Nelson’s election
to the governorship and of his administration, Mr. Odland takes up
Chapters 14 and 15 deal respectively with “Pictures and Epi­sodes,” and “Party Guide and Mentor,” and gather up incidents
from many phases of Nelson’s life. These chapters are followed
by a detailed study of Nelson’s senatorial career under the head­
ing “Senator and Statesman.” The author is to be congratulated
on his performance. He has given us what is perhaps the most
thoroughgoing account that we have of any political figure in Min­
nesota history, with the possible exception of Sibley. He has
drawn his materials from a variety of sources, speeches, manu­
script letters, books, articles, interviews with people who knew
Nelson, and newspapers. The most notable contributions in the
study are those based upon contemporary newspapers. Probably
the chief handicap under which the author has labored has been
the inaccessibility of the main body of Nelson’s own letters and
papers. One suspects that there is still much to be told about the
career of Knute Nelson, but Mr. Odland has done an admirable
piece of pioneer work and all students of Minnesota history owe
him a debt of gratitude. This note may fittingly close with a word
of praise for the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, which for almost
a half a year has been devoting a full page each week to this his­
torical contribution.

Under the title “Gopher Trails,” a series of articles about lo­
calities throughout the state has been appearing in the St. Paul
Dispatch. Local history is the theme of many of the sketches.
Sioux-Chippewa conflicts at Mille Lacs, where a trading post is
now conducted for the victorious Chippewa, and at Battle Lake
are described in the issues for June 3 and 28; the story of the sup­
posed encampment of Radisson and Groseilliers near Mora is re­
lated on June 17; an account of the trading post established one
hundred years ago by Alexander Faribault on the site of the
town which bears his name is published on June 25; the story of
the Northfield bank robbery in 1876 is retold on June 19; and certain phases of the early histories of Bemidji, Cloquet, and Wasi-oja, "the deserted village of Dodge County," are described on June 8, 16, and 24.

September 23 has been selected as Minnesota Day at the Sesquicentennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The date is chosen as the anniversary of Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike's treaty with the Sioux Indians in 1805.

A reprint of the article in the June number of Minnesota History on "Minnesota Pioneer Life as Revealed in Newspaper Advertisements" appears in the Minneapolis Journal for June 13 under the sprightly title "Life When Tallow Candles Lighted St. Anthony Revealed by Newspaper Advertisements of 1850."

The Minnesota Territorial Pioneers' Association held its annual reunion at the Old Capitol in St. Paul on May 11, the sixty-eighth anniversary of the admission of the state to the Union.

The story of the blazing of the trail to the Falls of St. Anthony in 1680 by Father Hennepin is retold in a feature article in the Minneapolis Journal for June 6. Attention is called to the celebration in 1880 under the auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society of the two-hundredth anniversary of Hennepin's arrival.

A brief "History of Hamline University," by Mrs. Winifred M. Milne, is printed in the Hamline University Alumni Quarterly, volume 22, number 3. Mrs. Milne is a daughter of William Pitt Murray, who took a prominent part in securing the enactment of the charter of the college by the territorial legislature in 1854.

"When Minnetonka Was Southerners' Summer Resort and Crowds Came up River on 'Diamond Jo' Boats" is the title of a feature article by Randolph Edgar in the Minneapolis Journal for May 23. It deals particularly with the passenger service of the Diamond Jo Line between St. Louis and St. Paul during the last third of the nineteenth century; and it is based for the most part on recollections of this service and of Joseph Reynolds, the owner of the line, by Captain Fred A. Bill of St. Paul, who was in its employ for more than twenty years. Pictures of some of the old river boats and a portrait of Reynolds appear with the article.
Some of the exploits as a river pilot of the late Captain George Winans of St. Paul are described by Captain George B. Merrick in a sketch printed in the *Burlington Post* for March 27. The author tells how “In July, 1901, Capt. Winans with the steamer ‘Saturn’ and bow boat ‘Pathfinder,’ left Reed’s Landing, Minn., with a lumber raft . . . containing 9,152,000 feet of sawed lumber. . . . This was the largest raft ever taken down the Mississippi . . . and to ship by rail this cargo would have required 900 cars. The raft area was about 6 acres.” A picture of this gigantic raft and a portrait of the man who piloted it safely through narrow channels and over rapids to St. Louis appear with the sketch.

The inauguration of regular air mail service between the Twin Cities and New York is the occasion for an editorial in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for June 7, in which the history of the St. Paul mail service by stage, dog sled, steamboat, and rail is surveyed.

A bust of James J. Hill, “Empire Builder,” was unveiled at Central High School in Superior, Wisconsin, with appropriate ceremonies on May 29.

The discovery and development of the vast iron resources of Minnesota are described in a narrative by Carlton Miles published in five installments under the title “The Romance of the Range” in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Journal* during May. The story opens with an account of the Lake Vermilion gold rush, which is here described as a prelude to the opening of the mines of the Vermilion Range. After this, according to the author, “The ’80s went into the ’90s. The Mesaba range was discovered and the towns of Virginia, Eveleth and Hibbing came into existence.” The founding of Hibbing is discussed in some detail, and many spectacular episodes in the experiences of the men who made and lost fortunes on the ranges are related. The account closes with a survey of present-day life and activity in the district. Among the illustrations are some interesting views of range towns during the early years of their development.

“Men’s Suits Were Selling for $9.75 in Local Store, Upholsterers Were on Strike for $15 Weekly Wage When Labor Re-
view Was Born” is the title of an article by Budd L. McKillips in the “Twentieth Anniversary Edition” of the Minneapolis Labor Review, issued on April 9. The greater part of the article is devoted to a description of the first issue of the Review, though something of its history also is given. An interesting illustration shows Emmet Hall, “where the first union meeting was held in Minneapolis in 1877.”

Some of the Civil War recollections of Judge Ell Torrance of Minneapolis, related to the students of Washburn High School of Minneapolis as part of the Memorial Day exercises, are printed in the Minneapolis Journal for May 28. In the same paper for April 29, the charge of the First Minnesota at Gettysburg is recalled by C. S. Durfee of Minneapolis.

Professor Oscar W. Firkins’ Cyrus Northrop, a Memoir, which was published by the University of Minnesota in 1925 (634 p.), will be reviewed in an early number of the magazine.

Some phases in the career of Henry H. Sibley are described in the installments for May 7 and 28 and June 25 of the series of articles by E. Dudley Parsons entitled “Little Bits of History,” which has been appearing in the Minneapolis Labor Review.

Forty Years in the Ministry is the title of a pamphlet of reminiscences by Dr. Andrew B. Meldrum, whose career has taken him to many states of the Union, including Minnesota. Here he was a pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church of St. Paul from 1895 to 1902 (Cleveland, 1924. 14 p.).

A pamphlet containing a brief biographical sketch of Mrs. John J. Ellis, who came to St. Paul in 1881 and was active particularly in church work until her death in 1926, has been compiled by Mrs. W. J. Ward (St. Paul, 1926. 21 p.).

An oil painting of the Falls of St. Anthony by Henry Lewis, the author of Das illustrirte Mississippithal (see ante, 5:446-448), has recently been brought from Germany by Mr. Alva M. Drake of Minneapolis. According to a brief account in the Minneapolis Journal for May 23, which appears with a photograph of the picture, Lewis painted it in 1855 from a sketch made while he was on the upper Mississippi in 1848.
A promising event is the recent organization of the Renville County Birch Colee Memorial Association. A great Memorial Day celebration was held at the Birch Coulee State Park, with Mr. Robert K. Boyd of Eau Claire, an old soldier who participated in the battle, and Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum for the Minnesota Historical Society, among the speakers. The president of the new association is Mr. R. S. Quehl of Morton.

An account of "Pioneer Days" at Sauk Rapids, by William A. Fletcher, who went there with his parents in 1859, is published in the Sauk Rapids Sentinel for April 15. The narrative includes a section devoted to the "Chippewa-Sioux Battle of 1860" near Sauk Rapids. Before settling in Sauk Rapids Mr. Fletcher lived for a time at St. Anthony, and one of his memories of that place is "of crossing the bridge one evening bearing a torch in a long procession of 'Enthusiastic Advocates' for the passage of a five million loan bill to aid in the construction of railroads."

A brief note on the history of Windom Institute at Montevideo, which has been closed since 1921, appears in the Minneapolis Journal for April 26.

An old hotel register in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society — that of the Carimona House at Carimona, where travelers by stage coach between St. Paul and Dubuque stopped for the night during the fifties — is the subject of an article in the magazine section of the St. Paul Pioneer Press for April 18. Many of the entries here reproduced are of more than passing interest, revealing the profession, the place of residence, the destination, and even the political affiliation of the guest.

The Kandiyohi County Old Settlers' Association held its annual reunion at Willmar on June 22.

A monument in memory of the Norman County soldiers who died in the World War was dedicated at Ada on May 30.

The story of Northfield's first municipal flag was revealed recently when an old ledger of Skinner Brothers was turned over
to the Rice County Historical Society, according to an account in the *Minneapolis Journal* for May 2. On one of the pages of the old volume was discovered the record of the purchase of quantities of bleached muslin, "Blue Delaine," "Turkey red," and findings for the manufacture of a "Town Flag" by the "church ladies" of the town.

The importance of transportation in the development of Duluth was reviewed by Mr. Fred W. Sargent, president of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, in an address at a luncheon sponsored by the Duluth Chamber of Commerce on May 25. His talk is outlined in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for May 25.

Reminiscences of pioneer life in Severance Township, Sibley County, by A. A. Gulbranson appear in three installments in the *Gibbon Gazette* for April 2, 9, and 16. Social conditions in 1868, when the author's father settled in Severance Township, are described, and notes on many of the early settlers are included. Among the interesting topics touched upon is the first creamery in Gibbon.

A number of contributions to local history annals are published in a "Progress Number" of the *Kerkhoven Banner* issued on April 27. These include an account of "The Norway Lake Community in Pioneer Days," by Gabriel Stene; recollections of "Early Days in the Kerkhoven Community," by O. E. Hogue; a review of "School History and Progress," reprinted from the issue of May 31, 1912; and sketches of the Catholic and Lutheran churches of Kerkhoven.

The visit of the Swedish crown prince to Minnesota was the occasion for the publication of a number of newspaper articles about the history of Vasa, the little Swedish colony which was founded by Hans Mattson in 1853. The *Minneapolis Tribune* for June 20 contains a good sketch of the village and its early settlers; and a series of pictures illustrative of its early history are published in the *Minneapolis Journal* for June 18.

The Children's Aid Society, a charitable organization which was founded in 1901 at Winona and now has its headquarters in Minneapolis, celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on June 6.
The Hennepin County Territorial Pioneers' Association held its twenty-first annual meeting at the Godfrey House in Minneapolis on June 1.

A "35th Anniversary Number" issued by the East Side Argus of Minneapolis on June 18 contains a number of articles about the history of East Minneapolis and old St. Anthony. "The Settlement of St. Anthony," the suspension bridge over the Mississippi which was opened to traffic in 1855, the ferries that were used before the bridge was built, the government sawmill erected at the falls in 1821, the alarm when the falls threatened to "go out" in 1869, the little school conducted in a log house by Miss Electa Backus in 1849, and the great university which has grown up on the banks of the Mississippi are among the subjects touched upon in these articles. A history of the Argus, which was founded in 1892 by Arthur S. and Herbert Dukinfield, also is included.

How half of the village of St. Anthony "with generous slices of Hennepin and Bottineau islands in the Mississippi below thrown in for good measure, sold for a mere $25,240" in 1853 is told by Walton Streightiff in the Minneapolis Tribune for May 23. The story is based upon "records tucked away for safe keeping in a file in the Minneapolis Bar association's law library," which reveal that Franklin Steele was given the right by the courts to purchase the land from Arnold Taylor for that sum.

The Memorial Day celebration of 1868 in St. Anthony, as recalled by Mrs. Effie S. Barwise of Minneapolis, is described in the Minneapolis Tribune for May 6. As a little girl of eight years, Mrs. Barwise marched in the parade and helped to decorate the soldiers' graves.

A pamphlet entitled Making Minneapolis, by E. Dudley Parsons (Minneapolis, 1926. 79 p.), is intended as a text for local history courses. It will be reviewed in a later number of the magazine.

Conditions in pioneer Minneapolis are recalled in the Minneapolis Tribune for June 20 by Mr. Samuel W. Farnham, who was born on the site of the present city in 1850.
The changes which the Reverend Marion D. Shutter has watched in Minneapolis and the history of the Church of the Redeemer are reviewed in the *Minneapolis Journal* for April 4 in an article commemorating the fortieth anniversary of Dr. Shutter’s connection with that church.

In commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of its founding, members of the congregation of the Augustana Lutheran Church of Minneapolis attended special services and meetings from April 16 to 19. Among the speakers were the Reverend C. J. Petri, the pastor, who outlined the history of the congregation; and Mrs. August Johnson, a member of the original congregation, who told the story of its first meeting.

The activities of the old Publicity Club of Minneapolis, which was organized in 1907 and which since has been supplanted by the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association, are reviewed at length in the *Minneapolis Journal* for April 25.

Members of the Minneapolis Elks’ Lodge No. 44 gathered at the Nicollet Hotel on the evening of April 24 to celebrate its fortieth anniversary. With an announcement of the meeting in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for April 18, a view of one of the early clubrooms occupied by the lodge is published.

Clippings on the Hamline district of St. Paul, collected by the late Mrs. J. E. Rounds from 1883 until her death in 1925, are being arranged in scrapbooks for preservation, according to an announcement in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for May 17. The books, which will constitute an interesting record of Hamline history, are to become the property of the Hamline branch of the St. Paul Public Library.

A celebration at Harriet Island by members of the Pioneer Civic League of St. Paul and St. Paul city officials on May 19 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the island as a public park and honored Dr. Justus Ohage, who donated the site to the city.