

The Cowboy and His Interpreters. By DOUGLAS BRANCH. New York and London. D. Appleton and Company, 1926, p. XII, 278. \$2.50.

This is a story of the cowboy from early times, paying most attention, however, to the American cowboy as he appeared in the West and as he is interpreted by the writers and moving picture shows of today.

There are many books written upon this subject, most of which the author has reviewed. Some few he thinks good but most of them have been adversely influenced by the movies.

The best part of the book and it alone justifies the existence of the book, is the latter half, which points out the effect of the cowboy upon modern life and shows the differences between the real cowboy and that of fiction.

On the whole the book is well written and may help to stem the tide that threatens to carry away entirely the historic cowboy. The illustration by Will James, Jose de Yong and Charles M. Russell are characteristic of cowboy life. The author goes into minute detail and it is a valuable addition to the library of any one who is interested in this field.

R. B. FOSTER.

A History of Minnesota. By WILLIAM WATTS FOLWELL. Published by the Minnesota Historical Society, 1926, p. 605. In Four Volumes, Volume III.

Doctor Folwell was formerly president of the State University of Minnesota, retiring in 1907. In this volume are fifteen chapters and nineteen appendices, covering the period from 1865 to the present. The first chapter deals with Reconstruction after the Civil War. Minnesota had lost some of her best men and more were needed to develop her vast resources. Immigrants from the Scandinavian countries were invited to come to Minnesota. The next four chapters are a discussion of the railroad problems, the political development and economic difficulties, the latter due to the grasshopper invasions. In chapters six to fifteen, inclusive, the author has attempted to solve the recent problems of the state by doing as most all other historians have done; that is, by a discus-

sion of the regime of different governors. Any one especially interested in Minnesota history will read them carefully.

The appendices are interesting and instructive. In these the author has endeavored to explain in detail some of the more important episodes in the later development of the state. Appendix fourteen, The Pine Timber Investigation, gives the reader an insight into the peculiar manner by which the timber companies acquired title to Minnesota State lands. Large areas were stripped of timber and the land left covered with stumps. There is a bibliography connected with each of the appendices.

ROBERT CLAUDE KENNEDY

Annals of Benton County. By ELMORE BARCE, The Benton Review Shop. Fowler, Indiana, 134 pp., 1925.

This little book is the first of a series of articles on Benton county, Indiana, by one of its leading citizens, Elmore Barce, an attorney of Fowler. While the title is somewhat misleading, and the work is distinctly more literary than historical, the author has attempted a very worthy purpose; namely, a contribution to his own county. Since he could scarcely hope for its circulation very far beyond the limits of the county, the work evidently is not undertaken primarily for profit.

The first part of the volume is pure history, cleverly written in a unique and individual style, with acknowledgment and reference to source material throughout; the latter part is a picturesque treatise of the early agricultural development of the county. As the work progresses the author apparently has some trouble in staying with his avowed purpose, at times approaching the sentimental and the dramatics; for example, in the dialogue between Annie Ellsworth and Professor Morse.

In general, the work is a sympathetic treatment of the subject by one who is singularly fitted for the task, and the writer heartily recommends the little volume to every reader in Benton county, indeed, to all those who reside in that section of the State known as "The Grand Prairie."

CLARENCE A. HOFFMAN