

HISTORICAL BOOKS

Strong-minded Women by Louise R. Noun is an exhaustive study of the history of Iowa's role in the Women Suffrage Movement. A careful examination has been given each of the figures who played a part in this drama; such ladies as Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, were leaders of national movements who brought their abilities and prestige into Iowa campaigns. The contributions of Iowa's own daughters, among them, Amelia Bloomer, Annie Wittenmeyer, Mary Darwin, Annie Savery, Mattie Griffith and Carrie Chapman Catt, were an indomitable force in securing woman's right to vote.

In 1885 Carrie Chapman Catt expressed the sentiments of the woman's rights crusade:

Reforms of all kinds have grown sluggishly and public sentiment is slowly educated. No step of progress was ever made but its advocates fought dearly for victory. Such a reform as this . . . was never accomplished in a single generation. That women will have a voice in governmental affairs is inevitable.

With the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment by the Sixty-sixth Congress in 1919, the success of that reform was realized.

It is through Mrs. Noun's well-researched book, published by Iowa State University Press, that one can become easily involved in the struggles women, determined to have the right to vote, faced in Iowa and in all parts of the country. She has recorded the events of the movement from its earliest beginnings just prior to the Civil War. Iowa women — indeed, Iowa men and all readers — can appreciate this delightful story of their "strong-minded" predecessors!

Federal Wheat Commodity Programs by Don F. Hadwiger has also been recently released by the Iowa State University Press. This book "discusses the culture of wheat; reviews U. S. wheat policy over the past half-century, both in the domestic and export markets; studies the two-price plans of the 1920's; analyzes various legislation enacted during the Depression years, and describes reactions to soil conservation measures, rigid price supports, and the programs initiated by Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman." There are several accompanying maps and tables for explanation.

Of further interest to *Midwestern Annals* readers may be *The Great Platte River Road* by Merrill J. Mattes. This is an informative account of the Great Migration of 1841-1866 that traveled from the Missouri River to the Pacific Coast, crossing the trails which followed the Platte River via Fort Kearny to Fort Laramie. Mr. Mattes has artistically captured the spirit and adventure of those times as expressed by the immigrants themselves in their priceless journals. This most interesting book has been published by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Another book sponsored by Iowa's neighboring Nebraska State Historical Society is *Iron Eye's Family: The Children of Joseph La Flesche* by Norma Kidd Green and published by Johnsen Publishing Company. Based on the La Flesche family papers, the "American Indian Correspondence" preserved by the Presbyterian Church and letters from the Office of Indian Affairs located in the National Archives, this is the story of the family of "Iron Eye," Chief of the Omaha Indian Tribe.

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