

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Professor Joe B. Frantz in "The Mercantile House of McKinney & Williams, Underwriters of the Texas Revolution" deals with the work of a firm of merchants in supplying funds and materials for the troops of Texas in its war of independence from Mexico. The large collection of original manuscripts of the firm of McKinney & Williams, preserved in Galveston and in the Archives of the Texas State Library, presents an opportunity for the study of the mercantile capitalist on the American nineteenth-century frontier. It is to be hoped that Professor Frantz will make a full-length study of this firm's history.

Dr. Nancy P. Norton's "Labor in the Early New England Carpet Industry" is a segment of a history of the Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Company being written at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration by Miss Norton and Mr. John S. Ewing. In this paper Miss Norton deals with the question of obtaining an adequate labor supply and managing labor in the hand-loom phase of the early carpet industry and with the changes that came with conversion to power looms.

"Werner Sombart's Contribution to Business History" deals especially with the contribution of a famous German historian and economist of the past generation to that stream of development which led to the present work in the study of the history of the administration of business. Since Werner Sombart was a prolific writer and most of his works have not been translated into English, the article should prove useful to students or others who are interested in the work of this very imaginative and influential German scholar. The author of the article, Professor Vincent P. Carosso of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, began his study of Sombart while studying with Professor Gras at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration as holder of a Business Historical Society Fellowship in Business History.

The articles appearing in this issue were presented as papers at the joint session of the Business Historical Society and the American Historical Association held in New York on December 28, 1951, in connection with the annual meeting of the American Historical Association. The chairman of the session was Dr. Charles W. Moore,

author of *Timing a Century: History of the Waltham Watch Company* (Cambridge, 1945).

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has recently acquired a notable collection of original business records, the unique McCormick Collection, containing more than 1,000,000 manuscripts. This collection, largely built up by Dr. Herbert A. Kellar for the McCormick Historical Association, established by the children of Cyrus Hall McCormick, records the history of the development, manufacture, and sale of the McCormick reaper and other farm machinery from the beginnings in Virginia in the 1830's to about the time of the merger of the companies concerned in the International Harvester Company in 1902. The larger portion of the manuscript and business records contained in this collection is made up of correspondence and other papers of the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, but there are also segments of records of other companies. The collection also contains a great deal of supplementary material on the business and agricultural setting of the McCormick operations and models and replicas of the original reaper and other farm machinery.

The manuscript and supplementary material will be housed in the Society's building in Madison and will be available for study and research as soon as it is arranged and shelved. The machines will be added to the farm museum which the University of Wisconsin and the State Historical Society are gathering for the campus area at Madison.

The acquisition of the McCormick Collection by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin means the preservation for the use of scholars of records valuable in the study of American business development. In doubling the already large and distinguished collection of manuscripts in the possession of the Society, this acquisition places the Society in the forefront as a depository for materials for research in the history of business.

Evidence of the quality of the work that is being done in the history of business is the recognition that several studies in the field received in the past year. Dr. Robert W. Twyman's "History of Marshall Field and Company, 1865-1906," a doctoral thesis presented at the University of Chicago, received honorable mention with provision for publication under the Albert J. Beveridge Memorial Award. Professor Joe B. Frantz of the University of Texas was given an award by the Texas Institute of Letters for his *Gail Borden, Dairyman of a Nation* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1951) as the best book of the year on Texas. Professor Ralph W. Hidy of New York University

received honorable mention for *The House of Baring in American Trade and Finance* (Harvard Studies in Business History, Cambridge, 1949) under the Robert Livingston Schuyler prize for the best book written by an American citizen and published in the United States over a five-year period. The prize, or first place, was awarded for a history of the British Post Office.

A CORRECTION: In the December, 1951, issue of the Bulletin an error was made in inserting on proof additional information sent by the author. Will the reader please substitute the following for footnote 1, which appears on page 257:

¹ November 1, 1859, p. 235. This periodical itself is an example of good intentions. Written by members of the employing class, it was to a large extent given away by them to their employees. W. & R. Chambers, Limited, publishers in Edinburgh and London, today (1951), can claim a descent from the W. & R. Chambers's Establishment of this article. The present firm publishes the *Chambers's Journal*, one of several periodicals issued by the firm a hundred or more years ago. (See J. L. and Barbara Hammond, *The Age of the Chartists*, London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1930, p. 314.)