

the Mississippi was believed by the red men who lived there when the first white trappers and traders visited them. These traditions were corroborated by Black Hawk, who stated that for many centuries this had been one of the chief villages, as far back as tradition reached.

A MONUMENTAL WORK.

Capt. Frank E. Landers, of Webster City, has become quite well known to people who have transactions at our Capitol involving action by the Executive Council, of which body he has been the clerk for the past five years. As such officer it is his duty not only to arrange all papers and documents to be acted upon by the Council, but to keep the record of its proceedings, check over and record and transmit to the Auditor of State the original copies of claims allowed, and perform innumerable other duties as may be required. This work would seem to be sufficient to fully employ all the powers and capacities of an ordinary man; for in his way he must have to do with questions of revenue and assessments, as well as of all incidental State expenditures. He must know pretty much everything that pertains to the business of the State. In fact, it would seem that such a busy man, such an untiring worker, would have little time to devote to any "hobby." But such a conclusion would be far from correct. "At the close of the day's occupations," the passer-by may see "a light in the window" of his den on the west side of the Capitol, where it often burns until the small hours of the night. This state of things has existed for some years, and his task will most likely occupy these "spare hours" for a year to come.

The special work which is thus occupying the thoughts and so much of the time of Capt. Landers is the preparation of a Historical Geographical Atlas of our entire country. It is known to well-informed people that the boundaries of Colonies, Territories and States, have undergone numberless changes. Boundaries have been thus fixed or changed by grants from.

European potentates, treaties of foreign governments in early times, conquests, negotiations with Indian tribes, laws of Congress and enactments by State Legislatures. Information concerning these ancient boundary lines is to be found in a multiplicity of books and maps, most of which have been long out of print, and only to be found in large public libraries. In some instances it has been a work of months, involving much correspondence, to learn the whereabouts of some book containing desired and indispensable information. It is very amusing to see the shapes of some of these old boundaries. For instance, South Carolina at one time—with a frontage on the ocean not essentially differing from that of to-day—terminated on the west in a strip about thirty miles wide, and this strip extended to the Pacific Ocean! The territory now comprised within the boundaries of our own State was under the jurisdiction or claim, in whole or in part, of England, France and Spain, before its final cession to the United States. From that time until its creation into a State, it was under no less than eight different jurisdictions. With each of these changes of jurisdiction there was a change of boundary lines of the territory of which it formed a part. The work of Capt. Landers consists of making a series of maps showing all the political features and changes of boundaries of the present territory of the United States. Every grant or patent, whether made by some foreign government or king or by proprietary authority, and every district, territory or state of the United States, is clearly shown, its boundary traced, and the history of its origin given. The explanatory text is to be printed upon the margins, and will be full enough for all ordinary purposes of reference. Besides the marginal notes, a more extended history is given by means of reference notes. Much care is being taken to preserve the true text of all patents, legal enactments and descriptions of boundaries.

This work will comprise something like fifty maps, which will exhibit the political features of the country, in every stage of its growth. These maps present the boundaries or political divisions and the rivers, but no effort is made to show towns, cities or other physical features, the object being clearly and

correctly to delineate the origin and growth of the States. As an historical text-book in schools and colleges, it will be invaluable and indispensable—a work which will at once be unique in scope and character. When it is completed and published it will become one of those standard authorities which it is scarcely possible to set aside or supersede. The work has already been copyrighted under the title of “Historical Geographical Atlas of the United States of America, etc.”

THE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT IN LEGISLATION.

It is deemed a matter of public interest, as well as of convenient reference, to present in these pages all enactments which refer to the Historical Department of Iowa. The first provision relating to anything now contained in this Department occurs in section 20 of the general appropriation bill of 1888, and reads as follows:

SECTION 20. For a contingent fund to be used by the Executive Council in liquidating such expenses as may arise from the acceptance by said Council of valuable gifts to the State, in the domain of literature, science and art, for exhibition in the Capitol, the sum of \$1,000 for the biennial period, being \$500 per annum.

We print the law of 1890 in full:

HISTORICAL RECORDS.

AN ACT providing for the collection and preservation of historic records and other valuable material pertaining to the history of Iowa and making an appropriation therefor.

Whereas, The Aldrich Collection of autograph letters, manuscripts and portraits, now in the State Library, is of great value to the State, and it is important that it shall be increased—

And Whereas, The time, labor and money, necessary to this work are more than any individual can afford to give without compensation—

And Whereas, Also, it is believed that many valuable documents, relating to the earlier days of our territory and state have been destroyed, mislaid or misplaced, or are in danger of destruction or loss—Now therefore—

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. That there be and is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of three thousand dollars, to be expended under the direction of the trustees of the State Library, for the accomplishment of the work of adding to said Aldrich Collection, and that of searching:

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