

will be denied and no authority will be exercised over them other or different from that which the Secretary of State, for instance, might or should have exercised while the materials derived from him were in his possession, except as the statute recently enacted directs. As the reason for their existence is primarily an official one, and although as time passes the volume of official use may diminish and that of other uses may increase, yet however small the one or great the other, they shall forever be reserved as the original records of government rather than exploited as the source materials for the student, and whenever demands justify, we will publish such as have public interest.

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### THE NEW IOWA ARCHIVES STATUTE.

*Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Section 1. That sections twenty-eight hundred eighty-one-j (2881-j), twenty-eight hundred eighty-one-k (2881-k), twenty-eight hundred eighty-one-l (2881-l), twenty-eight hundred eighty-one-m (2881-m), twenty-eight hundred eighty-one-n (2881-n) of the Supplement to the Code, 1913, be and they are hereby repealed and the following enacted in lieu thereof:

(a) That for the care and preservation of the public archives the curator of the historical department of Iowa is hereby given the custody of all the original public documents, papers, letters, records and other official manuscripts of the state executive and administrative departments, offices or officers, councils, boards, bureaus and commissions, ten years after the date or current use of such public documents, papers, letters, records or other official manuscripts. Provided, that the executive council shall have the power and authority to order the transfer of such records or any part thereof at any time prior to the expiration of the limit of ten years herein before provided or to retain the same in the respective offices beyond such limit according as in the judgment of the council the public interest or convenience may require.

(b) That the several state executive and administrative departments, officers or offices, councils, boards, bureaus and commissioners, are hereby authorized and directed to transfer and deliver to the historical department such of the public archives as are designated in Section 1-a, of this act, except such as in the judgment of the executive council should be longer retained in the respective offices.

(c) That the curator of the historical department is hereby authorized and directed to receive such of the public archives and records as are designated in section 1-a of this act and provide

that the same be properly arranged, classified, labeled, filed, calendared and indexed, all under the direction of the board of trustees of the state library and historical department.

(d) That for the care and permanent preservation by the curator of the historical department of the public archives herein before designated, the executive council is hereby authorized and directed to furnish and equip such room or rooms in the historical, memorial and art building as may be deemed necessary for the purpose of this act, and the room or rooms thus provided for shall be known as the division of public archives.

(e) Upon and after the receipt by the historical department into its division of public archives of any such public archives, copies thereof may be made, certified and authenticated by the curator in the same manner and with the same validity as the officer from whom the same were secured. The curator shall have and exercise the same custody and control over said public archives as had theretofore been exercised by those from whose offices they were received, but they shall not be removed from the historical department except by the consent of the curator and upon the subpoena of a court or the order in writing of the person from whose office they were originally derived. Said curator shall charge and collect for certified copies the same fees as are allowed by law to the secretary of state for certified copies which fees shall be turned into the state treasury. Such certificates signed by the curator shall have the same legal effect as like certificates issued by the secretary of state.

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#### THE CARE AND USE OF DOCUMENTARY MATERIALS.

One of the valuable papers presented at the recent meeting of the American Historical Association at Chicago was that read by Mr. Lawrence J. Burpee, of the International Joint Commission, Ottawa, Canada, entitled "Restrictions on the Use of Historical Materials." The discussion and exhibits are particularly interesting to many here in Iowa immediately charged with the administration of Departments or Libraries containing extensive collections of public archives and documentary materials; for he presents not only the problems, perplexities and practices of the custodians of documents but he assembles the opinions and suggestions of numerous archivists and librarians.

Preservation, publicity and prudence seem to be the grand objectives and the grand perplexities. Shall the custodian

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