

ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

Biennially for ten years, in the interest of better government, a legislative committee has sent to the curator of the Historical Department, and presumably to the head of every other department of state government, a list of questions of which the following is a specimen:

Name of office or department?

Under what law do you operate?

Under what department head?

Duties of office or department and functions?

Number of employees?

Salaries of employees?

Is help adequate?

Can it be reduced?

Office space occupied?

Is it adequate?

Is office equipment adequate?

Does any of your work overlap that of any other department?

In your opinion can your office or department be combined with any other at a saving to the state and without lessening efficiency?

Comments and recommendations.

In anticipation of these inquiries the curator of the Historical Department has biennially taken up their import with the trustees of the department. He has answered the questions with their approval and to the best of his ability, and, following legislative direction, under the trustees and with their approval, has then mapped out his program for the ensuing two years.

The curator has usually reduced to writing and diagrammatic form the working organization, not as a rule or law, but as a guide. The diagram has been so arranged that all the working departments can be separately seen. Either of these could be "lifted" from this institution and set over to some other, or set off to itself. But so setting over or setting off would, in the opinion of the present curator, tend away from, and not toward, economy, efficiency and the aims of the institution.

Accomplishments of the Historical Department result from co-operative thought and effort of the curator and his board of trustees; of the curator and his subordinates; of the support and co-operation of the legislative branch of the government through appropriations; and of interested, loyal citizens who are devoted to the educational, historical and aesthetic things the department stands for.

Among the functions of the Historical Department is that of fixing in popular thought the achievements of the men and women who so well laid the foundations of our state, and of those who offered themselves in defense of the Union, and of humanity in the more recent wars. Carried out through historical, memorial and art activities made or directed by the office of the curator, this has led to the priceless collections now reposing, but for want of room only partially displayed, in the building. They illustrate by object lesson more vividly to young and old, to educated and uneducated, than could be done in any other way, the struggles through which the people have emerged from simple and crude conditions to the more complex and modern society of today. They also illustrate in the same vivid way, so far as may be done, the heroic acts of our soldiers in our different wars. Other exhibits give the student a glimpse of geological ages of the earth and of the prehistoric times of man. Indian life and history are exhibited, and wild animals and birds, many species of which have disappeared, are shown by mounted specimens. Nearly every object striking the eye of curious youth or aged person, as he passes through our great collections, has come to the department without cost to the state, and this, we believe, would not be without the supervision of so eminent a board of trustees who are the governor, secretary of state, the state superintendent of public instruction and the chief justice and the entire membership of the Supreme Court, and the tact and skill, great or small, of the curator, assisted of course, by the public spirit and patriotism of so many private citizens.

We may mention among the treasures the great collection of autographs and personal letters of many Iowa leaders, the historical and geneological library, the unrivaled collection of paintings chiefly of distinguished Iowa men and women, and the pub-

lic archives division, where over five million documents are methodically filed and indexed, while some three million in storage await case, room and handling, making so rich a field for historical research, and the thousands of volumes of Iowa newspapers, abounding in local, state and national history—all accessible to the public three hundred and sixty-five days in the year, and no less.

The policy of acquisition through the free gift of the people to such a large degree, encouraged through historical department management, is a factor but little known, never inventoried nor appraised, but highly valuable, and which the legislature and the public might properly take into account. Donors, especially when childless, as they approach the place where they consider joining "the great caravan," often leave the most priceless objects with the Historical Department when sympathetically shown the certainty that otherwise their treasures are bound to pass into mercenary channels.

The General Assembly properly asks, "Does any of your work overlap that of any other department?" If by this is meant the doing of the same work by a person in our department and a person in a different department, the answer is, no. If it is whether a person in our department does his work in the way that the same type of work is done in a different department, then it must be said that our library handles local history, that is, the histories of our counties, towns, families, etc., the way the general reference division of our great state library handles general history, but the two workers do not come into the same field nor deal with the same persons. Whether this is overlapping or not, it illustrates that frictionless contact, not wasteful, not inarticulate, nor loose-jointed. It is the harmonious arrangement, avoiding friction and waste of every kind, particularly that of disjointed or open jointed administration.

The Historical Department materially differs from the usual administrative department in that its purposes are in no sense mercenary or economic; it is educational and cultural and cannot properly be reduced from that classification; it is in the field with schools, churches and hospitals—operated not for gain, and not alone by levies against the tax payer. It is for the care of

our traditions and our history, and for the guidance and inspiration of our own and future generations. It subsists to a great degree upon gifts.

Our entire supervisory board serves without pay, its head serves for \$3,000.00 a year as curator, and without additional pay serves as a member and secretary of the Board of Conservation, establishing state parks.

The activities of the department cannot be added to any other nor can its functions be distributed at a saving of money, nor without great loss of efficiency.

A NOTABLE SPEECH OF BLACK HAWK

American annals contain many orations by, or attributed to, American Indians. Some of these efforts are among the most eloquent utterances of any time or tongue. Few readers of American history have not read and been moved by the words of Logan, the Mingo, and those of Keokuk, the Sac, and few will not accord these speeches the credit of having moved nations, both red and white, to or from war.

A speech of Black Hawk seldom to be found in Iowa historical sources is presented through the courtesy of Mr. A. N. Harbert in this number of the ANNALS OF IOWA, in the body of the reprinted copy of "Galland's Iowa Emigrant." Black Hawk was a Sac, not a chieftain, however, nor of special fame except for action in harmony with his own belief of tribal right. Yet, weighing his words by their results and by the response in our own natures as we gather their import, diminished by translation, the utterances of Black Hawk here presented must take place among the best of Indian efforts that have come down to us.

Whether Black Hawk ought to have uttered the language attributed to him, or to have remained silent, and whether he ought to have followed them up with war or have followed Keokuk's counsels for peace, is not our present question. But even white men cannot escape conclusion that from Indian racial standpoint Black Hawk was consistent in utterance and heroic in action, nor from the same viewpoint is there escape from conclusion that Keokuk was inconsistent in utterance and craven in action. From the white man's standpoint, of course, one condemns Black Hawk and commends Keokuk. But from every

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