

# ANNALS OF IOWA.

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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### SUSPENSION AND RESUMPTION OF THE ANNALS OF IOWA

The Annals of Iowa, like many another excellent enterprise, has depended from its beginning upon great effort and sacrifice by the curator of the Historical Department. Extreme effort and expenditure of time, talent and energy by Charles Aldrich, the founder of the Historical Department of Iowa, and the founder and editor of the third series of the Annals of Iowa, drew exhaustively upon the frail strength of his last years. From its first issue in April 1893, until January, 1908 (the last number containing his work) his friends and associates volunteered for his use their strength and zeal. His successor, with fewer natural and acquired talents than Mr. Aldrich, took up and prosecuted the work to the best of his ability, holding to the same lines. He bound himself to the same considerations and aimed at the same results, as he understood them, as the founder.

With the publication of the Annals goes the direction of the great collection of newspapers, the portrait gallery, the great natural and political history museum, the priceless collection of local historical books, manuscript, etc., and the public archives of the state of Iowa. Thus is formed the task and thus supported the distinction of the curatorship succeeding that of the lamented founder.

The war which distorted the passions, the zeal, the demands of service, the purchasing power of money, and practically all the elements entering into the direction of an institution such as the Historical Department interfered especially with the publication of the Annals. Our board of trustees, therefore, on January 12, 1918, adopted the following:

RESOLVED, That the publication of the Annals be suspended until the close of the present war, and that at that time such action be taken as shall be deemed expedient.

Throughout the fighting the great heart of Iowa beat up to and beyond the full of its every obligation. The Thirty-eighth General Assembly substantially added to the curator's responsibilities, for it gave heed to an appeal in which the Historical Department had joined, for authority and means wherewith to establish and bring forward the work of conserving as public state parks such areas in Iowa as are suited to the use of the people for scientific, scenic, historical and recreational purposes. A more extended treatment of the latter subject is given elsewhere in this issue of the Annals. The editorial responsibilities and labor of the curator were doubled thereby. He, therefore, submitted to the Board of Trustees of the Historical Department, the Executive Council, and the legislative committee on Retrenchment and Reform, in substance, the following request:

It is proposed that since the curator was made by law a member, and by selection the secretary, of the Board of Conservation, with the resulting responsibility of establishing and maintaining an office with proper records, preparation of reports and carrying on the innumerable details of a new institution, in addition to doing his share of inspecting areas, and public speaking, he requests that an editorial assistant be engaged, who shall be assistant secretary of the Board of Conservation, and assistant editor to the curator, by way of compensating the time and talent subtracted by the curator from the Historical Department.

The proposal was agreed to by the legislature, authority and means for such assistant provided, and the resumption of the publication of the Annals of Iowa made possible. The curator thereupon reported to the Board of Trustees his belief that notwithstanding the continued distortion in the cost of printing and supplies and pending adjustment of our support to these and all other demands, the publication should be resumed, and in response the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees:

RESOLVED, That Mr. Harlan's recommendation that the revival of the publication phases of the department work, including the issues of the Annals of Iowa, be undertaken within the present year, be adopted.

The field of the Annals is ample, and the repository of resources upon which to draw for its matter has increased and continues to expand. Neither the writer nor those who follow him need ever fear they will find themselves without the most ample and valuable sources of materials in the collections of the department and productions of others of the type and character the Annals produces, which will register and reveal the aims and attainments of those who laid the foundations or continue in the construction of our commonwealth.

The Annals therefore returns to its place of service. The work it did has been resumed.

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#### THE IOWA BOARD OF CONSERVATION

Theodore Roosevelt attributes the enactment of national legislation to conserve national resources to the energy and foresight of Mr. Gifford Pinchot. Papers in the Historical Department reveal that two notable Iowa men contributed a very great part. They were W. J. McGee and John F. Lacey.

The Iowa legislature in its Thirty-seventh General Assembly, stimulated by the foregoing and similar influences, enacted two measures, aimed at the preservation of Iowa areas worth while for scenic, scientific, historical and recreational use. Numerous Iowa institutions of learned character, and associations aimed to promote recreation or sportsmanship, had for years directed the thought of the public to our rapidly disappearing forests, the decimation of wild animal and plant life, and the destruction of mounds and works of prehistoric men.

Chapter 333, Acts of the Thirty-seventh General Assembly, empowered the curator of the Historical Department to accept gifts as trustee of the people, of lands and property of historic interest.

Chapter 236 of the same session directed the division of the fish and game protection funds into halves, one part to be expended in improving lakes and acquiring public state parks

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