

account of some of the practical results achieved by the present Board of Control in Iowa. Judge L. G. Kinne who has been on the Board since 1898 presents in this number of THE ANNALS an interesting exposition of the methods of administration that have been put into operation. It will prove a valuable source of information to all who care to study the real workings of Iowa's important administrative reform. \*

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### A SERVICEABLE CHECK LIST OF IOWA'S PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

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Students of our local and State history, our law makers, and especially our librarians in Iowa and elsewhere have good cause for congratulation over the successful issue of a "Check List" of Iowa's Public Documents, prepared by Miss Lavinia Steele, and recently authorized to be published by the Executive Council. Only those familiar with the innumerable difficulties confronting a compiler of a finding list can appreciate the dreary aggravations endured in preparing such a useful compilation. Our libraries contain no complete collections. The titles must be sought for here and there and the trials of Dr. Dryasdust were agreeable compared with those constantly undergone by the seeker after complete lists of illy preserved and fast disappearing documents but little thought of heretofore.

The arrangement is simple. Institutions, departments, offices, boards or commissions, et al, are given dictionary fashion in alphabetical order. The bulk of the titles are presented in tabular form. First comes the date when the office or institution was created by law, and other desirable information as to the first and later modes of publication. Then the tables show when the document was published, whether it appears in the "Iowa Documents," etc., etc. Besides these Miss Steele has prepared some very serviceable

tables showing the year, date of convening and adjourning of the legislature, and the place where the legislature was held (p. 27); likewise for the laws (p. 33). Another table on page 32 shows the year and volume in which any of the reports published since 1856 and included in the "Documents" appear. Besides all these there is to be found an extensive index to all names and subject titles with numerous cross references. Territorial as well as State publications and references are included in this "Check List."

As we remarked at the outset, our librarians have cause for congratulation on possessing such a compilation. It will greatly facilitate the work of the Library Commission under whose auspices Miss Steele prepared the list. \*

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#### SOME NOTABLE PORTRAITS.

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The Historical Department lately received a fine oil portrait of Hon. Frank Springer, who now resides at Las Vegas, N. M. It will be remembered that Mr. Springer is the eldest son of the late Hon. Francis Springer, who presided over the last Iowa Constitutional Convention which was held in Iowa City in 1857. Francis Springer, according to the late Judge George G. Wright, was one of the best *in si prius* judges the State has ever had. Socially and politically he was held in high esteem throughout the State. His portrait was contributed to the Historical Art Gallery some years ago by members of his family. But the portrait of which we wish to speak is that of his son, who, in addition to being recognized as a leading statesman in New Mexico, is one of the most learned and versatile paleontologists in the United States. In collaboration with the late Prof. Charles Wachsmuth of Burlington, he was the author of a work on the crinoids not only of Iowa and adjacent portions of Illinois and Missouri, but of the whole country as well, which has been accepted by scientists in Europe and

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