

ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

THE SECOND INDEX

We have just received from the printer copies of a new name and subject index of the ANNALS OF IOWA covering Volumes IX to XVI, inclusive. We are not sending it out to all those to whom we mail the ANNALS, but on request we shall be glad to send copies to persons or libraries who keep their ANNALS bound or on the shelves and available to the public. They will find the index valuable if they make use of the ANNALS in research work. The Second Index, as it is called, contains the following preface:

PREFACE

In his leading editorial in Volume I, Number 1, April, 1893, ANNALS OF IOWA, Third Series, Charles Aldrich, founder and curator of the Historical Department of Iowa, published the following concerning the origin of the First, Second and Third Series:

First Series. In 1863 they founded, and continued until 1875, THE ANNALS OF IOWA. This was a quarterly magazine of distinguished merit, and within its pages may be found more facts relating to early Iowa than can now be gleaned from all other existing sources. Its contents were made up for the most part of the recollections of leading men who had borne a part in the transactions which their pens delineated or who had known the men and women of whose good deeds they therein made a record. The regular publication of this very excellent work was suspended in 1875, solely for lack of adequate support.

Second Series. It was, however, revived in 1882, by Rev. S. S. Howe, and continued until the close of 1884. Hon. A. R. Fulton, of this city, was associated with him in its editorial management in 1883-4. Typographically THE ANNALS was a beautiful magazine. It was plainly but very neatly printed, and for the most part each number contained a fine steel portrait of some distinguished Iowa man. Volumes of this work have become very scarce and command high prices. Many of the numbers are now difficult to obtain. Some of them, indeed, are in demand at \$5.00 each. As it looks now, the policy which cramped and finally let die so excellent a work is not to be commended. It is one, however, which quickly consigns its own authors to the oblivion in which they would bury the memories of all who have gone before. Finally,

in the year 1885 a new publication, appearing quarterly and called the *Iowa Historical Record*, was projected by the Historical Society. It is carefully edited by Dr. Frederick Lloyd, and is a publication which eminently deserved a remunerative support. Each number contains fifty pages, and is illustrated with a portrait of some distinguished Iowan. But its outside support is unfortunately most meager and the state has done very little to keep it in existence.

But while pecuniary support must be had to insure the development and continuance alike of historical magazines and historical collections anywhere, it would seem that this can be secured more easily and naturally at the Capital than at any other point. At Iowa City the great University constantly needs and demands appropriations. What it asks is really a necessity of the times and of our theories and systems of public education. But such large demands in one direction tend almost invariably to silence those in every other. This we believe to have been the prime reason why the state has not adequately supported the State Historical Society and its meritorious work. It is a result of circumstances and not one to call for the censure of any man or men. We believe no one will deny that the Capital is the proper place for a historical collection. People are daily arriving here from all parts of our state. They naturally expect to see a great library, works of art throughout the edifice, collections illustrating our growth and progress, relics and mementos of our pioneers and the heroes and heroines of all our wars. Nothing more delights the average taxpayer than a magnificent Capitol building well filled with collections in these various directions. Evidence of this is a matter of everyday occurrence.

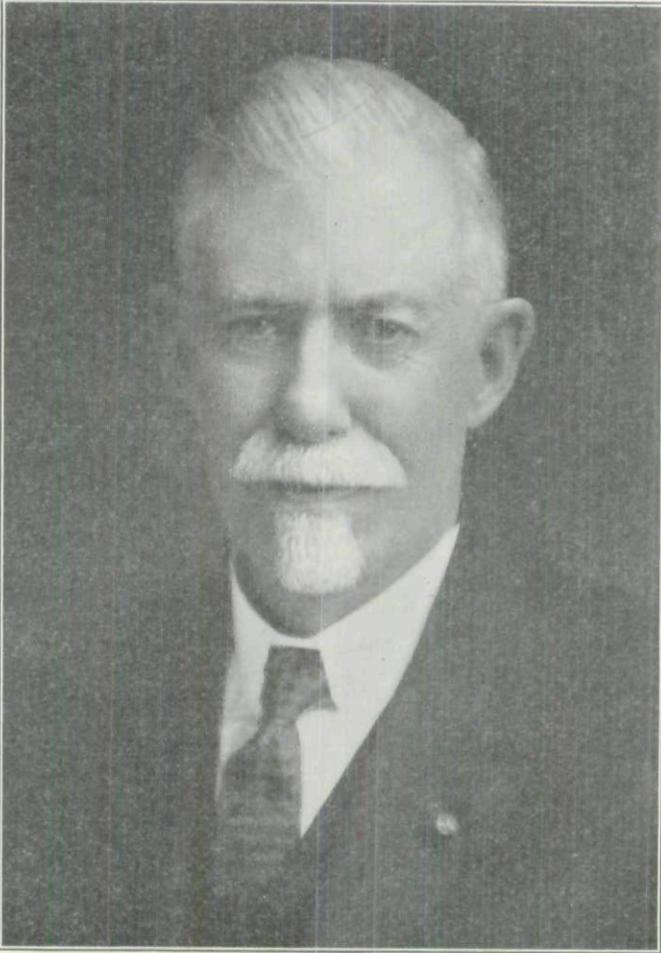
Third Series. Offers of "Our Publications in Exchange for Yours," are constantly coming to the Historical Department of Iowa; and unless some work like this should be promptly issued the state would be in the end greatly the loser. Through its pages, and by reason of its influence under proper management, it is believed that additions in value far exceeding its cost can be easily and regularly secured. These views were presented to the Board of Trustees at the last meeting. That body by a unanimous vote decided that this effort should be made, and the first number is now before the reader.

It was, however, deemed judicious to retain the name, ANNALS OF IOWA, and accordingly the right to use it was secured from the owner of the copyright at Iowa City.

Mr. Aldrich was the editor of the Third Series from its beginning in April, 1893. He suggested titles for articles to many of his contributors but the most accurate and trustworthy writers were sometimes by him gently but firmly challenged and often corrected both in

facts and in language. Until his health failed, not a word or line passed to the printer without his approval.

Miss Mary R. Whitcomb became assistant curator in 1894. She



David C. Mott

placed her loyal spirit, fine education and marvelous industry wholly under the direction of Mr. Aldrich, and was a most valuable editorial assistant. Thus it was that the first eight volumes of the ANNALS, Third Series, were edited, and indexed in the First Index.

During Mr. Aldrich's last year he had planned to edit and publish the first general index covering the first eight volumes. Miss Whitcomb having passed away about one year after Mr. Aldrich, and the direction of the ANNALS having passed to the present editor, Miss Alice M. Steele became assistant curator and began assembling the material for the first index. She labored valiantly in addition to her other duties, until she retired in November, 1910. Miss Alice Marple then took over the work and completed its compilation and editing, and it was accordingly published in 1912.

This present index to Volumes IX to XVI inclusive, of the Third Series, ANNALS OF IOWA, may therefore properly be called the Second Index. The first index published in 1912 covered Volumes I to VIII, 1893 to 1909, and the present is for Volumes IX to XVI, 1909 to 1929, the eight volumes that have since been published.

The ANNALS covered by the prior index spans the service of the founder, Charles Aldrich.

The present index (except for four years when the publication was suspended owing to the World War), is of the first twenty years of the work of the present editor as assisted generally by Miss Alice Marple, Miss Ida M. Huntington, Mrs. Ellen D. Spaulding, and, after July 15, 1919, by David C. Mott.

The style of the first index was that of Charles Aldrich, which was followed out in detail successively by Miss Whitcomb, Miss Steele, and Miss Marple. That of the present index is an adaptation in a general way by Mr. Mott, of the style of the *New York Times* Index with suggestions of Miss Marple.

The editor acknowledges the fine, loyal industry of David C. Mott in the day by day work upon the index, the text and all the details of the publication of the ANNALS OF IOWA. Since his young manhood he labored in the newspaper field, first as editor and publisher of the *What Cheer Patriot*, then of the *Tipton Advertiser*, of the *Audubon Republican*, and finally of the *Marengo Republican*, making twenty-five years of newspaper editing. He served during that period, in 1904 and 1906, as a member of the House of the General Assembly from Audubon County. In 1910 Governor Carroll appointed him to a vacancy on the State Board of Parole. Governor Clarke reappointed him, so he served until 1919. He came to the Historical Department from that position.

Mr. Mott has combined with a fine historical interest a good memory of persons and events, and the readiest of methods of reaching reliable sources of fact and opinion both from persons and documents. Thus from the resources of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa, Mr. Mott has suggested selections for publication, has prepared manuscripts from his own research, and otherwise indispensably contributed to the value of the ANNALS throughout the period of his active association as assistant editor.

EDGAR R. HARLAN,
Curator and Editor.

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