

libraries throughout the State, it will appear simultaneously as a separate and distinct pamphlet, of which an edition of several hundred has been ordered by the Board of Trustees. Dr. Pickard is to be congratulated upon his success in writing this history of our higher educational development, in which he has borne such an honorable and distinguished part.

THE BOUNDARIES OF IOWA.

In the literature of Iowa history there are many references to the boundaries of the State. They relate chiefly either to the boundary on the south or the boundaries on the west and north. The former bear upon the dispute between Missouri and Iowa over the exact location of the northern boundary line of Missouri; the latter have to do with the dispute between Congress and the people of Iowa over the western and northern boundaries of the State. The dispute with Missouri was technical and involved no great amount of territory. While the dispute with Congress was over broad general principles and involved a very large area of territory. The general historical facts connected with these two disputes are too generally known to call for review in this place.

But there are some facts relative to the dispute between Congress and the people of Iowa over the western and northern boundaries which have not generally been noted. We refer to the source or origin of the several propositions made for fixing these boundaries. The several propositions are: (1) the one contained in Article I of the Constitution of 1844; (2) the one contained in the act of Congress of March 3d, 1845; and (3) the one contained in Article I of the Constitution of 1846.

The boundaries as prescribed in the Constitution of 1844 were, we believe, first suggested by Governor Robert Lucas in his message to the Legislative Assembly in December, 1839. In support of this view of the origin of the boundaries

of the Constitution of 1844 is the additional fact that Robert Lucas was a member of the committee on boundaries in the convention of 1844. It is, therefore, proper to speak of these as the *Lucas Boundaries*, since they seem clearly to have originated with the first governor of the Territory.

As to the origin of the boundaries as prescribed in the act of Congress of March 3d, 1845, there can be no doubt. From the debates in Congress at the time the act was passed we learn that these boundaries were first suggested by Mr. J. N. Nicollet in a report that accompanied his map of the hydrographical basin of the upper Mississippi river.* It is, therefore, proper to speak of these boundaries as the *Nicollet Boundaries*.

Finally the boundaries as prescribed in the Constitution of 1846 did not, so far as we are able to ascertain, originate with any one individual. They seem to have been first proposed in a bill reported to Congress from the Committee on the Territories. This was in March, 1846. Briefly the facts are as follows: In December, 1845, Mr. A. C. Dodge, the Delegate from the Territory of Iowa, introduced a bill which proposed to fix the boundaries of Iowa in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of 1844. His bill was referred to the Committee on the Territories which reported an amendatory bill in March, 1846. In the month of May following, the Constitutional Convention of 1846 met in the Territory of Iowa. The boundaries first proposed in this Convention and afterwards incorporated in the Constitution of 1846 were practically those proposed by the Committee in Congress in March. Thus it is proper to speak of the boundaries of the Constitution of 1846 as the *Boundaries of the Committee on the Territories*.

B. F. S.

*See Document No. 52 in *Executive Documents*, 2d Session, 28th Congress, p. 74.

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