

I am satisfied, from my two years' observation and experience, that it would be found to work to the advantage of both the State and the institutions.

The Normal school should be placed in charge of the Regents of the University. The Agricultural College, being an institution of peculiar character, should be left as it is. The Reform School, being to a degree penal, should be placed under the supervision of the Executive, as are the penitentiaries. By adopting this system, there would be secured direct responsibility, simplicity of administration, and the elimination of influences which must necessarily grow up, owing to the fact that the various eleemosynary institutions are scattered around the State, instead of all being located at one place, which should have been the policy from the first. The purchase of supplies, such as fuel, groceries, etc., in large quantities by public bids, would be made at the minimum market rates; the keeping of the books of the institutions in a uniform simple manner, would work results which would in their economy save thousands of dollars annually to the State, and at the same time be beneficial to the institutions. The proposition is further commended by the additional fact that there would be but three boards with which to make settlements in place of ten which we have under the present system.

Hon. John H. King introduced in the house, in 1880, a bill for the creation of a board of control, which was reported from the committee without recommendation, and no action appears to have been taken on the measure.

Governor Sherman, who succeeded, renewed the recommendation for a board of charities, expressing himself as firmly in favor of the separate board system, but urging the establishment of what he denominated a State supervisory board, repeating the recommendation in both his messages to the General Assembly. Governor Sherman was enthusiastically in favor of this mode of supervision.

The next recommendation came from Governor Boies to the legislature of 1892, which was to the effect that a board to control all the institutions should be established, or a supervisory board with extensive powers. Two years later, he renewed the former recommendation, emphasizing it. Attempts were made in the legislature, at different times, to enact a board of control law, but the time had not come for it, nor did it come until the legislature had before it the report of the committee appointed by the Twenty-sixth General Assembly to investigate the workings of the several institutions. That report settled the matter, and the measure got a decided majority in each of the houses.

IOWA IN THE WAR WITH MEXICO.

The following "points of history" relating to this subject were compiled by Mr. E. L. Sabin, from the newspapers of that period on file in the Historical Department:

When, in the spring of 1846, war between the United States and Mexico broke out, Iowa Territory was on the eve of becoming a State. James Clarke was Governor.

With the beginning of war, the President was authorized by Congress to call for 50,000 volunteers. When he did this he asked for a regiment from Iowa Territory.

June 1, 1846, Governor Clarke, from the executive office at Burlington, issued a proclamation to Iowa people, stating that a regiment of volunteers was wanted. This proclamation is to be found in the papers of that pe-

riod; among others in *The Bloomington Herald*. Bloomington is now Muscatine.

The Territory was aflame with excitement, and in Bloomington a mass meeting was held, at which resolutions supporting the government were adopted. A patriotic song is published in one of the June issues of *The Herald*.

On June 26, *The Herald* states that already twelve companies have been raised—two in Des Moines county, two in Van Buren, two in Lee, one in Muscatine, one in Louisa, one in Washington, one in Dubuque, one in Johnson, and one in Linn. Only ten companies were wanted. *The Herald* remarks that probably the first ten applications will be the ones granted.

There, so far as *The Herald* appears to show, the record of the twelve companies ends. Reasonably careful investigation of the data of the times does not throw any further light on the subject.

Niles' Register for 1846 says that Governor Clarke offered, or at least paid a visit for the purpose of offering, the command of "the Iowa regiment" to Ex-Governor John Chambers, but that the former Territorial executive was too feeble to accept. This seems to be the only mention Niles' Register makes of "the Iowa Regiment."

However, Niles' Register of about this time says that an independent company of volunteers has been mustered in at Fort Atkinson, Iowa Territory, and will probably be stationed there. This company roll is given in the first volume of *The Historical Record* (Iowa City, 1885). The company was mustered in July 16, 1847, having enlisted, like a regiment, for twelve months unless sooner discharged.

The names of the organizations of troops that took part in the operations on Mexican soil, and published in one of the histories of the war, in the library of the State Historical Department, have no representation from Iowa, save the Mormon Battalion, and Company K of the Fifteenth United States Infantry.

While the Mormons were crossing the Territory, Capt. James Allen, of the First Dragoons, was sent by the government to enlist a battalion from them. He appeared at Mt. Pisgah, a Mormon station, in June, 1846. From there he went to the site of the present city of Council Bluffs. Having conferred with the Mormon leaders, he not only secured their consent to the enlistment, but obtained even a warning from Brigham Young to the Saints, that if they desired to worship God as they pleased, they must furnish a battalion for the war.

Five hundred men were speedily enrolled, and July 20, they left the Missouri river for Fort Leavenworth. This Mormon battalion did good work in the war.

The Fifteenth United States Infantry was recruited from the Central United States. Ohio furnished six companies, Michigan two, Wisconsin one, Iowa one. The Iowa Company was Co. K. Edwin Guthrie of Fort Madison was its Captain. Isaac Griffith—"Old Churubusco"—lately of Des Moines, but then of Fort Madison, was a sergeant. The company reported at Vera Cruz, July 10, 1847, and served in a number of engagements. Capt. Guthrie died from wounds received. Fredrick D. Mills, of Burlington, was Major of the regiment, and was killed in the attack on San Antonio Jacinto, Mexico, August 20, 1847. Sergeant Griffith lost an arm in the Battle of Churubusco.

These queries now naturally arise: What became of the twelve companies that rushed to form the regiment asked by the president? Was the regiment ever organized?

The regiment was never organized. The following letter from the then Secretary of War shows that the Iowa volun-

teers, like those of these later times, were eager to be organized and go to the front, but that they were not needed. Iowa had then but a small population, and doubtless Capt. Guthrie's company was its full quota:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, NOV. 25, 1846.

His Excellency James Clarke, Governor of Iowa, Burlington, Iowa:

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 19th instant, stating that the regiment of Iowa volunteers are anxious to be called into active service, and to inform you that their patriotic wishes cannot now be gratified consistently with the claims of other States.

Very respectfully, your Obt. Servt.,

W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

Part of the Mormon battalion was mustered out at Los Angeles, California, in July, 1847, and the remainder at San Diego the following March. This battalion never took part in any battle. The record of its losses shows but nine deaths, under the heading—"Ordinary"—something quite unusual with a body of men on such a long march. It is a matter of regret that the letters of Gov. Clarke have not yet been found in the War Department. U. S. Senator John H. Gear has lately asked that careful search be made for them.

THE DEATH OF DR. ELLIOTT COUES.

This widely known author died at the hospital of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore on Christmas day, 1899. He was widely known as a general naturalist, but his most distinguishing works were in the direction of ornithology. The most important was "The Key to North American Birds," an elaborate work which has passed through several editions and is still in demand. His "Birds of the Northwest" and "Birds of the Colorado Valley" come next in importance. The cyclopedias give a list of thirteen important works of which he was the author, in addition to several hundred monographs and scientific papers. For a time he edited the zoological department of the *American Naturalist*, and was also connected with several other natural history periodicals. He was the compiler of the natural history definitions in "The Century Dictionary," a work which employed his time for several years. He had also edited editions of the travels of Lewis and Clark, Gen. Pike, and several other western explorers. He had taken an especial interest in this magazine and intended to write for it an article on the origin and meaning of the word "Iowa." In editing the books of travel he journeyed up both the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, making a careful examination of the regions traversed by the early explorers. He told the writer of these lines that he could locate every camp made by Lewis and Clark and Pike. He was a man of the most extensive learning, not only in the direction of natural history, but also in languages and general literature. His death at the early age of 57 is a distinct loss to scientific and historical literature.

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