

ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

REPUBLICATION OF SOLDIER RECORDS.

Some months ago the writer in an interview printed in *The Register and Leader*, Des Moines, which was copied into many papers throughout the State, suggested the republication of the Adjutant General's Reports, with like records of the Iowa soldiers of all our wars. No accurate roster has ever been published of the men who went to Mexico. In our opinion that record can still be found by looking for it in the right place. Then, the soldiers of the Spirit Lake Expedition and of the Northern Border Brigade should be included in such a work. An impression has gone abroad that our suggestion included a biographical record at some length of our soldiers. There are objections to this: In the first place, the work would be too voluminous, and second, it is impracticable at this time to secure the requisite information. Our idea is to publish rosters of each of the companies and of the field and staff officers, together with a brief history of each regiment, with a list of the engagements in which it participated, and a summary of its casualties. This information can be obtained at the present time from the Adjutant General's old books, and from other sources. It would include the dates of enlistment and muster into the United States service, with the battles in which each soldier had participated, his casualties, whatever their result, and if living his present post-office address.

Models for this class of publications are presented in the recently published reports of Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, and some of the other eastern

states. The Vermont report, however, is a very heavy quarto, and it would take probably three such volumes to contain the Iowa rosters. The New York report was published in handsome octavos, which we should judge to be the best form. Almost daily the Historical Department is called upon to furnish information concerning soldiers of the revolutionary war, and the war of 1812. We are also occasionally asked for lists of the soldiers who went to Mexico, which up to this time we have not been able to furnish. All the accessible information touching the Iowa soldiers and regiments should be collected as rapidly as possible, carefully edited and brought out in handsome durable volumes. There is no work which would be more satisfactory to the people, or more pleasing to the coming generations. It would take some years to do all this work, and but moderate appropriations would be required. So far as we have been able to obtain the views of soldiers of the civil war the expressions have been unanimous in favor of this enterprise. The State can well afford to publish these records; it cannot afford to ignore them.

IOWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES.

Doubtless the first to take form—the pioneer—in this State was that which was organized at Chariton, Lucas county, through the efforts of Col. Warren S. Dungan. It dates from June 10, 1901. It received notice in *THE ANNALS*, Vol. V, pp. 230-1, and an article which Col. Dungan wrote concerning it may be found in *The Bulletin* of the Iowa Library Commission, Vol. 2, No. 1, and in *THE ANNALS*, Vol. VI, pp. 55-58.

In Winterset, Madison county, a Society was organized March 15, 1904, of which Mr. H. A. Mueller is the leading spirit. He was chosen its first President. This society has lately promulgated its first constitution and by-laws, though

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