

THE ORIGIN OF BOARD OF CONTROL REFORM.

It has become an interesting question with historical students to trace back the movement for a Board of Control of the charitable, reformatory, and penal institutions of this State to its origin. Among others, our contributor, Mr. Frank I. Herriott, undertook this task. This work led him to a careful study of legislative proceedings for something more than thirty years back. In the Journal of the House of Representatives of (March 21) 1870, page 402, he found the following item: "Mr. Hunter (Hon. John D. Hunter, representative from Hamilton county) introduced House File No. 302. A bill for an act to create a State Board of Examiners and to define their duties. Read a first and second time and referred to the committee on Ways and Means." This bill came so late in the session, and being withal, so marked and distinct an innovation, its passage could not be secured. In answer to inquiries, Mr. Hunter wrote a full explanation of the whole matter which appears in an elaborate monograph by Mr. Herriott on "Institutional Expenditures in the State Budgets of Iowa," now appearing in the Quarterly Bulletin of Iowa State Institutions issued by the Board of Control.* His statement is so pertinent to the subject, and withal so clearly and tersely stated, that it would seem to establish "a point of history." We therefore copy it in full:

This bill, as I remember, provided for the appointment by the Governor of three men to act as a Board of State Examiners to frequently visit and inspect the condition of the various State Institutions with a view of promoting greater efficiency and economy in their management. One purpose of the measure was to inaugurate some means to do away with the biennial junketing trips of three-fourths of the members of the Legislature to the State Institutions, and to bring about a method of general supervision that would be less expensive and far more effective in correcting abuses and in promoting the welfare of the institutions. The theory was similar in general purpose to the present State Board of Control, although not so broad or definite in its scope. I conceived the idea of getting up the bill through talking with members of the House during

* See "Quarterly Bulletin of Iowa State Institutions" for January, 1902, pp. 65-66.

the absence of the visiting committees, and had the support of Kasson, Irish, Hale, Stone and others, who favored the measure, but as you suggest the bill was introduced too late in the session to get it through, notwithstanding it was favorably reported from the Judiciary Committee. The bill was a short one, simply providing for the appointment of the examiners and defining their duties, which were largely advisory; and with the definite purpose of doing away with the junketing business and having the institutions officially visited when they are not on dress parade, expecting the coming of a Legislative Committee. Could there have been action on the measure at the time it was presented, I have no doubt but that its general scope would have been widened, and that the principle of the present law governing the control and management of our State Institutions would have been largely embodied in its provisions. At least it is a fair presumption that the bill I presented in the House in 1870 was the initial effort in Iowa toward the establishment of our present Board of Control policy of dealing with our State Institutions.

ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF WORK IN PURE SCIENCE.

The utter groundlessness of much of the criticism frequently heard against the work in pure or theoretical science as carried on in some departments of our colleges and state scientific bureaus nowhere finds better exemplification than in a recent article which appeared in the *American Monthly Review of Reviews*, by Dr. Charles R. Keyes, a native of our State and long a resident of Des Moines. It may be observed in the present connection, that it is due chiefly to the energy of Dr. Keyes that the present Geological Survey of Iowa was organized. This State Institution which has already accomplished so much valuable work concerning the natural resources of our State, has been adopted as a model upon which a dozen other states, during the last ten years, have established similar organizations.

The Geological survey of Iowa, as well as the similar institution of our neighbor, Missouri, to which Dr. Keyes was called from Iowa to take the charge, conducted among many other very technical and scientific investigations, a long series of experiments upon the properties of the various clays of the region and their geological and areal distribu-

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