

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-

tion. It has, no doubt, appeared foreign to the purpose of a state bureau to either enter into such purely technical phases of a clay examination, as the determination of the causes of plasticity, the critical temperatures of vitrification, the chemical compositions, the fusibility, the character of the shrinkage, and many other factors that might be mentioned. Equally foreign to the subject may seem some phases of the purely geological investigations relative to the clays. The practical bearings of either one of these two distinct lines of technical inquiry when taken alone might have long remained unutilized. But by working them along parallel and dependent lines the usefulness of both is made immediate. By combining the results we get, not only one of the fairy tales of science, but a story of vastly useful import.

The beauty of it all is the extreme simplicity of the practical application of the principles established. These are briefly outlined in Dr. Keyes' article which we copy elsewhere. The main point to be impressed is the fact that in those innumerable swales and shallow prairie drainage basins, with which the entire surface of Iowa abounds, and in which, during a part of the year, the roads are simply impassable, there exists the very material to render them, the year around, and at very slight expense, equal to the best and most expensively paved streets of our cities.

A proposition so simple, so universally applicable, so enduring, must appeal strongly to every one interested in the improvement of our country roads. The wide interest awakened by the article is amply demonstrated by hundreds of letters of inquiry received by Dr. Keyes, from all parts of the country. In our own State, when some such system of improvement is fully begun a new chapter will have been added to our historical record.

MARRIED—Near Bloomington, on the 17th inst., by Rev. Mr. Stocker, Dr. Wm. L. Smith to Miss Susan, daughter of Ex-Governor Lucas.—*Davenport (I. T.) Gazette, October 27, 1842.*

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