

interesting facts bearing upon the condition of Iowa money matters prior to 1858.

Some instances of the common experiences of men at that day will plainly indicate the character of the famous "red-dog" currency. Mr. Robert McNulty, an old soldier of the Fourth Iowa Infantry, relates that he once started from Des Moines, as one of four drivers of ox teams, bound for Burlington or Keokuk for merchandise for Mr. William Moore—better known about the "Raccoon Forks," where he still abides, as "Billy Moore." There were four wagons in the expedition, each drawn by three or four yokes of oxen. The party in charge, when about fourteen miles from the capital, learned that the "red-dog" money which he was taking with him to pay traveling expenses was worthless out of sight of home. The farmers would not take it in exchange for corn for the oxen. A halt was therefore called and he returned to Des Moines, where Mr. Moore furnished him with different, if not better, money. This delay caused the "expedition" to lose two days.

Maj. Sherman also states that when he went east in those days, he was compelled to carry three kinds of currency. That which was good to the Mississippi was worthless from that point east. Another lot would pay expenses from the river to the states of Ohio and Pennsylvania. From there on to New York City eastern currency alone could be used.

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### COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES.

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In THE ANNALS for July (p. 154-5) we gave a summary of the effort in Washington, Pa., to found a county historical society, heartily commending the movement. Since the appearance of that article commencements have been made in at least two Iowa counties. The pioneer in this movement is the county of Lucas, where the effort had the hearty sympathy of that good man and eminently useful citizen, Col. Warren S. Dungan, so well known as state senator and lieu-

tenant governor. This organization dates from June 10, 1901, when a constitution and by-laws were adopted and officers elected. The officers are as follows: President, Warren S. Dungan; vice-president, Thomas Gay; secretary, Miss Effie M. Dungan; treasurer, B. F. Bates; curator, Miss Margaret W. Brown. The object of the society is "to collect and purchase books, papers and records, writings and relics, legal, military and other materials, relating to the history of Lucas county, Iowa, but may include such material as is illustrative of the history of the State and Nation." This pioneer society starts out with every prospect of success. Col. Dungan is a collector of historical data, and has himself had occasion to make many researches in genealogy and local history.

The next society to perfect its organization was that of Decatur county, the location of which is the town of Lamoni. The officers are as follows: President, Fred M. Smith; secretary, Ed. L. Kellogg; assistant secretary, Carrie Judd; curators, K. C. Kellogg and P. A. Smith.

Such a society is much talked of in Boone, but as yet no action has been taken. Some preliminary steps have also been taken in Scott county.

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### IOWA SCIENTISTS.

Dr. Charles R. Keyes, of Des Moines, published a highly suggestive article in *The Arena*, New York, for July, 1901, on "Geology in the Twentieth Century," in which he sums up the progress made in the past, and outlines to some extent the problem which confronts investigators in this great and constantly expanding field of knowledge. This article was written with such wide information, and is so complete in itself, that it would not be just to attempt to copy any brief portion of it. It should be read as a whole. We mention it, however, for the purpose of stating that he enumer-

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