

# ANNALS OF IOWA

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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### THE PLACEMENT OF THE ALLISON MEMORIAL.

One of the most notable provisions for the future made by any Iowa legislature is a measure known as House File 669, recognizing and regarding the necessity of the immediate and correct placement of the Allison Memorial elsewhere than "upon the Capitol grounds or any extension thereof" as heretofore provided. For a generation a trend toward the correction and completion of the grounds surrounding our State House has been developing. One by one the larger necessities of the State have been provided. Following the almost complete rebuilding of the structures of all the Iowa institutions, the replacing of temporary ill-planned buildings by those splendidly conceived and, in great part, fire-proof, the logical time for completing the landscape needs of the principal building of the State seems to have arrived. It was so stated in effect in the final message of Governor Carroll, and re-stated with emphasis in the inaugural address of Governor Clarke.

The Secretary of the Allison Commission was authorized some months ago to obtain a diagram of the location of the Capitol, the heating plant, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the State Historical Building, the other lands adjacent owned by the State, and a proposed placement of the Allison Memorial appropriate to its own value as a work of art and not detracting from existing structures.

In consequence, E. L. Masqueray, expert advisor of the Allison Memorial Commission, was directed to prepare such a sketch as would conform to the above requirements and, furthermore, would take notice of the needs in the probable development of our State throughout the remotest future, and of the natural as well as artificial elements for economical but correct final disposition of all structures in accordance with artistic principles.

Mr. Masqueray submitted his sketch and it was afterward taken by Governor Clarke as the basis of his plan for giving the Capitol adequate setting and providing against random placing of such structures as shall in future be assembled on or near the Capitol grounds, either as gifts or by appropriation.

Governor Clarke began the presentation of his policy to members of the legislature first in personal conference, then in a special message and finally in the form of a bill, which was passed through both houses on April 8, 1913, by a vote in the Senate of thirty-four to six, and in the House of sixty-nine to twenty-eight. The popular method of raising funds for large expenditures in recent years by millage tax rather than by appropriation from the general revenues was adopted in the bill. Therefore a special tax for the purchase and improvement of additional ground was required to be levied for a period of ten years commencing with the levy to be made in the year 1913. For the years 1913 and 1914 the levy required to be made is one-half mill on the dollar on the taxable property of the State, and for each of the remaining eight years a levy to be fixed by the Executive Council that will yield approximately \$150,000 annually.<sup>1</sup> On the theory that the gradual acquisition of the lands would result in gradual and enormous increase of cost, a provision for anticipating the proceeds of the tax and for immediate acquisition of the lands was devised. So that whoever has property the State will need cannot await the general rise in values nor have the rise that is inevitable from the adoption and initiation of the plan. It was further enacted that the State might condemn the land of any of whom it could not purchase at reasonable prices. As is the law in the taking of lands under the right of eminent domain, such lands are to be appraised by an impartial jury, and to insure impartiality, special provision was made, taking the appointment of the jury out of the hands of the sheriff of the county wherein the lands lie, and placing it in the hands of the Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court and requiring that he appoint no two from one county.

<sup>1</sup>H. F. 669, Chap. 14, Acts 35th G. A.

The measure provides that the general plan secured by the Allison Commission for its guidance in the placement of the Allison Memorial be followed in the enlargement and improvement of the grounds. It provides that the Executive Council serve without pay as agents for the acquisition of the grounds and as commissioners for the performance of the work. The Executive Council is granted authority to acquire any or all grounds within an area ample for a finished work unequalled in landscape value in any American capital and never excelled in economy in any public work. It is the final touch in the purpose of Gen. Grenville M. Dodge to make of the tribute to Senator Allison not only an ideal of art, but a step forward in the annals of all Iowa constructive building and business.

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#### JUDGE CALDWELL ON HENRY CLAY DEAN.

Hon. Henry Clay Caldwell communicated his thoughts as to the sketch of Rev. J. W. Cheney on Henry Clay Dean to the author of that sketch, and we have requested the privilege of reproducing Judge Caldwell's letter:

2195 West 24th St., Los Angeles, Cal.  
Nov. 28, 1912.

My Dear Cheney:

I have just finished reading your biography of Henry Clay Dean in the last number of the *Annals*,<sup>1</sup> and write to compliment you upon it. It is far and away the best biography of that wonderful man that has been written.

I esteem myself something of a judge of men and their abilities, and, in my opinion, Dean was the greatest natural orator and reasoner I ever heard—and I have heard several men who ranked among the first orators of the nation. Great genius always contradicts itself. There is no great genius without a tincture of madness. The partition between great genius and insanity is very thin in places, and at times liable to be broken down altogether. No man ever travels through life (if he lives to middle age) with an unvarying character, and least of all a great genius. Change of environment insensibly works a change of character.

<sup>1</sup>*Annals of Iowa*, v. 10, p. 320.

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