

NOTES.

The Thirty-fifth General Assembly appointed Senator N. J. Schrup and Representative Walter F. Craig to serve on the Allison Memorial Commission.

An act submitting the creation of the county of Larrabee to the legal voters of the county of Kossuth, Iowa, passed the Thirty-fifth General Assembly. It is proposed to divide Kossuth county and form of the northern part a new county named in honor of Ex-Governor William Larrabee.

The State Board of Education in meeting of February 5th approved the naming of the women's dormitory at Iowa City "Currier Hall" in honor of Dean and Mrs. Currier. Dean Currier had been a member of the faculty over forty years and at the time of his death probably had a wider acquaintance among the alumni of the State University of Iowa than any other person.

After years of discussion by parties interested, definite arrangements have been made by the Historical Department of Iowa and the Polk County Pioneers Club for marking the grave of William Alexander Scott, who in 1856 gave to the State of Iowa the ground upon which the Capitol now stands. The grave, which is on the bluff south of the Capitol, will be marked with a granite boulder bearing a bronze tablet setting forth briefly the eventful dates of his life.

The Lincoln Memorial Commission, at a conference in the White House December 4th, accepted the design of Henry Bacon, a New York architect, for a monument to the martyred president. The design is for a marble structure in Potomac Park, 156 feet long and 80 feet wide. In the central hall will stand a heroic size figure of Abraham Lincoln. The plan calls for an expenditure of \$1,775,000, and has been approved by Congress.

The Thirty-fifth General Assembly held a memorial service for ex-Governor Larrabee in the House Chamber, March 20th, Governor George W. Clarke presiding. Prayer was offered by Rev. John L. Hillman of Des Moines. The memorial address delivered by U. S. Senator W. S. Kenyon paid fitting tribute to the character and public services of ex-Governor Larrabee. Mrs. Larrabee and family were present at the service.

The label attached to each item in a collection of newspapers in the Historical Department is as follows:

In Commemoration

The West Union Gazette was established at West Union, Iowa, by Charles H. Talmadge in 1867, and he continued as its editor and publisher until his death in 1907. He was a man of high ideals in journalism and in life, and to his unswerving fidelity to what he held to be the best interests of Iowa and the nation these volumes bear mute testimony, aside from their value as an historical record of affairs in Fayette county for a period of forty years.

Mr. Talmadge was born in Pennsylvania in 1842, but was a resident of Iowa continuously from 1856, with the exception of four years spent in the union army.

Presented to the Historical Department of Iowa in commemoration of the life of Mr. Talmadge by his son,
May, 1911.

D. H. TALMADGE.

The following Concurrent Resolution in regard to an Iowa State Flag was introduced into the senate by Senator Larrabee, April 15th:

Whereas, our State has no flag known as the official flag of Iowa,

Resolved by the Senate, the House concurring, that the governor, the adjutant general, and the curator of historical collections be and they are hereby created a commission to inquire into and report to the Thirty-sixth General Assembly upon the expediency of the adoption of an official State flag and upon the appropriateness of the design therefor if they approve of the same.

The resolution was adopted April 15th and messaged over to the House, called up by Representative Ring and adopted by the House April 16th.

Extract from Message of Governor Carroll to the Thirty-fifth General Assembly, January, 1913:

The Capitol Grounds.

A comprehensive scheme for enlarging the capitol grounds should be adopted by you and plans made for the eventual acquiring of the lands to be added to the present holdings of the State. I would recommend that the State buy all of the grounds lying between East Ninth and East Twelfth Streets, beginning at Capitol Avenue and extending to the railroad tracks at the foot of the hill to the south. The grounds thus acquired, lying south of Walnut street, should be parked and beautified, and upon them should be placed the Allison monument and such other monuments as may be erected in the future, and when the State shall build an executive mansion, it should be placed upon the high point of ground to the southeast of the capitol building. Upon the block immediately east of the State House and south of Capitol Avenue, should be located a judicial building. I would also suggest that when the time comes that it is necessary to make any considerable improvement in the State's power plant, it would be wise to consider moving it to the foot of the hill south and southwest of the State House, where it could be reached by a switch, thereby saving the large amount of money that is annually paid for hauling coal with teams and wagons, and also getting rid of the dirt and smoke and the somewhat unsightly appearance of a heating plant in front of the capitol building.

In suggesting the enlargement of the capitol grounds, I wish to say that the owners of some of the lots included in that which I have referred to, have already expressed a willingness to sell the same and some have submitted a price for their holdings. I want also to say that at two or three different times efforts have been made to secure a change of grade in some of the streets about the State House, which change would have a very material effect upon the surroundings, if additional lands are to be acquired. The council has each time objected to these changes and asked the parties interested therein to wait and take the matter up with you with a view to securing co-operation with the city of Des Moines and the State in some general plan of improving the State House surroundings, and I recommend the appointment by you of a committee to take the matter into consideration and co-operate with the officials of the city to the end suggested.

In my opinion the State might profitably dispose of Governor's Square, allowing the city to purchase it for a park if so desired, and invest the proceeds in lands above suggested for purchase.

Extract from the Inaugural Address of Governor George W. Clarke:

The Capitol Grounds.

The subject of the extension of the capitol grounds is a matter that should have consideration. The day is now here when these grounds surrounding us should be more spacious and they should be made more beautiful. They do not meet the material demands of the present and for the future they will be entirely inadequate. The future should ever be in mind. We build for those who are to come after us. We should have a vision of what Iowa is to do and be. In the extension of the grounds a regard should be had for a better setting of the capitol. The whole question of the enlargement and location of buildings and monuments should at once be placed in the hands of the best landscape artist that could be found with instructions to prepare a plan commensurate with the needs and ideals of a great, progressive and cultured people. It cannot all be done at once, but a beginning can be made. Every day of postponement only makes the realization more expensive and difficult. What is done should be done in accordance with a plan to end in both utility and great artistic beauty.

Extract from Special Message of Governor Clarke to Thirty-fifth Assembly, March 26, 1913:

Capitol Extension.

I desire to submit a word with reference to the extension of the capitol grounds. It is the need of the present—it is the imperative demand of the future. It is a matter of the very best business policy. If looked at only as an investment it would be a remarkably good one. By extending the payment for the grounds over a period of ten years it would bring no burden at all upon the people. Never again can the purchase of ground be so advantageously made as now. Iowa should do business as competent successful business men do. Advantage should be taken of the time and the opportunity. Iowa should announce that she is of age and full-grown. She should step out of the old conditions that hamper and restrain her into the new. The legislature should be unafraid. The people will sustain you. When the work is done they will ever refer to you as the legislature that was far-seeing and wise enough to extend the Capitol Grounds, * * * What man is there of you that will lose this the greatest opportunity of his life to render a great public service. Listen not to the voice of selfishness. Tolerate not the "invisible" man. For more than ten years practically all legislation and all political agitation in this country has been against human selfishness. Let it proceed. The rights of all men must be put above the selfishness of a few men. Go forward. Your duty, as it seems to me, is plain.

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