

NOTES AND COMMENT

An index for the six volumes of the *Annals of Iowa* (3d series) is being prepared by Miss Alice M. Steele of the Historical Department of Iowa.

The formal addresses delivered on June 10, 1904, at the Semi-centennial of the Founding of Grinnell (Iowa), have recently been published in a sixty-four page pamphlet.

An Iowa History Club has been organized at the State University of Iowa by a group of students who are engaged in original research along the lines of Iowa history and politics.

The Boundaries of Colorado is the title of an eight page article by Professor Frederic L. Paxson in Volume II, No. 2, of *The University of Colorado Studies* which was issued in July, 1904.

Dean Charles Noble Gregory of the Law College of the State University of Iowa gave two of the formal addresses at the Congress of Arts and Sciences held at St. Louis during the past summer. The subject of the address delivered on September 22 was, *Some Problems in International Law*. On October 6, he spoke on *Civil Service in Municipalities*.

On September 28 and 29, 1904, there was observed at Algona, Iowa, the "Fiftieth Anniversary of the First Permanent White Settlement in Kossuth County." The program of the celebration covered two days and included the ceremonies of laying the corner stone of the new public library building. A full account of the exercises, including the papers and addresses of the occasion, is published in the "Semi-Centennial Anniversary Number" of the *Upper Des Moines Republican* (Algona) September 28 and October 5, 1904.

During September Professor Benj. F. Shambaugh served as Juror in History on the International Jury at the Universal Exposition, St. Louis.

The foundations have been laid of the Historical and Memorial Building at Des Moines, for which the Thirtieth General Assembly of Iowa appropriated \$200,000.

At a meeting of the Historical Society of Linn County (Iowa), which was held on September 22, 1904, Dr. E. R. Burkhalter read a paper on *Senator Lewis Fields Linn* for whom Linn County was named. The paper will be published by the Historical Society of Linn County.

In accordance with the recommendations of the special jury on history and the general jury in the Department of Anthropology at the Universal Exposition at St. Louis, Hon. Charles Aldrich of Des Moines, Iowa, has been awarded a gold medal in recognition of his services to Iowa history.

Little, Brown & Company have recently issued *A Short Constitutional History of the United States*, by Dr. Francis Newton Thorpe. The volume is based upon the material used by the author in his larger works—*A Constitutional History of the American People*, and *The Constitutional History of the United States*.

A new edition of Albert M. Lea's book entitled *Notes on Wisconsin Territory With a Map* is to be issued by the "Ioway Club" (Cedar Rapids, Iowa). The work will contain a reprint of the *Notes on Wisconsin Territory*, with reference to the Iowa District; a biographical sketch by Miss Lida L. Lea, daughter of Lieutenant Albert M. Lea; official reports made to the Government by Lieut. Lea; and public addresses and extracts from his personal letters. It will be illustrated with an engraved portrait; and the maps accompanying his *Notes* and his report relative to the boundary dispute will be reproduced. The edition will be printed on hand-made paper, and its circulation will be limited to actual subscribers.

At the meeting of the Congress of Arts and Sciences at the Universal Exposition, St. Louis, Judge Emlin McClain read a paper on *The History of Law*.

The Iowa Society of the Colonial Dames of America have again offered a prize of fifty dollars for the best essay on some subject in Iowa history. Last year the number of essays submitted in competition was larger than ever before. The quality of the essays has also increased with the increase in the amount of the prize offered.

At the meeting of the American Historical Society for 1904, which is to be held in Chicago during the holidays, there will be a conference or round table of local and State historical societies. The program committee has made this conference a part of the program of the American Historical Society.

Professor Walter L. Fleming of West Virginia University is preparing, for publication by The Arthur H. Clark Company of Cleveland, a collection of documents relating to Reconstruction. Professor Fleming, in connection with an extended study of Reconstruction, has for several years been collecting contemporaneous data for that period. This collection will not only include the official documents, political platforms, and speeches, thus superseding McPherson's documentary *History of Reconstruction*, but will also draw on many rare private sources for original, hitherto unpublished matter regarding the Ku Klux Klan, the White Camelia, the Union League, churches and schools during Reconstruction, the Freedmen's Bureau, etc. State laws and decisions of State courts will also be included, together with selections illustrating social and economic conditions during the period covered. Professor Fleming is still unearthing material, and has discovered many unique documents owned by private individuals; he would be glad to hear from persons having in their possession material relating to this period, and may be addressed at Morgantown, West Virginia.

The first volume of *Proceedings* of the Sioux City Academy of Science and Letters contains, besides lists of officers, reports, biographical sketches, etc., the following papers: (1) *Ventilation in the Public Schools of Sioux City*, by W. H. Clark; (2) *The Smoking Bluffs of the Missouri River Region*, by H. C. Powers; (3) *The Most Hopeful Method of Dealing with the Criminal*, by F. E. Haynes; (4) *The Equipment of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, by H. C. Powers; (5) *History of the Monona County Mormons*, by C. R. Marks; (6) *The Outlook for Constitutional Progress in the United States*, by J. H. Quick; (7) *Geology of Dakota County, Nebraska, with Special References to the Lignite Deposits*, by Ernest F. Burchard; and (8) *Bibliography of Sioux City Authors*, by F. H. Garver.

The titles of the essays submitted in the Colonial Dames' prize essay contest for 1904 in Iowa history were: (1) *The Common School in Early Iowa*; (2) *Lyceums in their Relation to the Early Social Life of Iowa*; (3) *The Underground Railroad in Iowa*; (4) *Iowa City, the Territorial Capital of Iowa*; (5) *Julius A. Reed*; (6) *Early Constitutions of Iowa*; (7) *The Territorial Roads and Highways of Iowa*; (8) *Beginnings of Dubuque, the Pioneer City of Iowa*; (9) *The Indian Land Cessions in Iowa*; (10) *The Relation of the Federal Government to the Indians of Iowa*; (11) *James Wilson Grimes*; (12) *The Negro and Slavery in Early Iowa*; and (13) *Steps in the Making of Iowa*. The essay entitled, *The Territorial Roads and Highways of Iowa*, written by Mr. Jacob Van der Zee of the State University of Iowa was awarded the prize. Copies of all of the papers have been preserved in the Library of the State Historical Society.

A *List of Books by Iowa Authors* has recently been published by the Iowa Library Commission. It was compiled by Anna Belknap Howe (Marshalltown, Iowa) and contains the titles and authors of the books collected by the Auxiliary Committee of the Iowa Commission of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition for the exhibit of

books by Iowa authors in the Iowa State Building at St. Louis. The task of compiling such a list is one of peculiar difficulties. Mrs. Howe is to be congratulated upon the success of this initial effort. The publication of the *List* will have the effect not only of stimulating a wholesome provincial pride, but of guiding public libraries in making collections of the books of Iowa authors. That the importance of such a publication to public libraries has been appreciated is evidenced by the interest which Miss Alice S. Tyler, Secretary of the Iowa Library Commission, has taken in its publication.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Volume VI of the *Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of Iowa* has recently been issued. It contains 429 pages and includes the messages and proclamations of Governor William Larrabee (1886-1890) and Governor Horace Boies (1890-1894). The seventh volume of the series which is in press will contain the messages and proclamations of Governor Frank D. Jackson, Governor Francis M. Drake, and Governor Leslie M. Shaw.

Bulletin of Information No. 3, which contains *Suggestions to Public Libraries and Local Historical Societies Relative to Collecting and Preserving Materials of Local History*, has been issued to the members of the Society.

The Society was represented by Professor W. C. Wilcox and Dr. F. E. Horack at the Conference of Historical Societies of the Mississippi Valley which was held at St. Louis on September 18 and 19, 1904, upon the call of the Missouri Historical Society.

Mr. Jacob Van der Zee continues his work as general assistant in the rooms of the Society.

At the annual meeting of the Old Settlers Association of Southwestern Iowa, held at Villisca on September 1, 1904, the Society was represented by Professor Benj. F. Shambaugh, who delivered an address on *The Pioneers*.

The use of a large store room in the basement of the Hall of Liberal Arts has been granted to the Society by the Board of Regents of the State University of Iowa.

Mr. Frank W. Bicknell, at one time a member of the Board of Curators of the State Historical Society of Iowa, has recently become the editor and manager of *The Mail and Times*, a weekly published at Des Moines, Iowa. Under his able direction *The Mail and Times* has already been very greatly improved.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Curators in October provision was made for the employment of Mr. T. J. Fitzpatrick as Collector for the Society. Mr. Fitzpatrick is a graduate of the State University of Iowa and is an experienced collector of books. He has, perhaps, the largest private collection of Iowana in the State of Iowa.

Dr. Duren J. H. Ward, who is engaged in making an anthropological survey of parts of Iowa for the Society, has been invited to to serve as the Iowa representative on a committee of the Archaeological Institute of America, which has under advisement the better preservation of the ruins of American antiquity.

Since July 1, 1904, the following have been elected to membership: Geo. W. Egan, Logan, Iowa; Jacob Ruedy, Homestead, Iowa; Margaret M. Brown, Chariton, Iowa; Alice S. Tyler, Des Moines, Iowa; Duren J. H. Ward, Iowa City, Iowa; Paul S. Peirce, Ames, Iowa; Geo. E. MacLean, Iowa City, Iowa.

The following organizations have been enrolled as Auxiliary Members since July 1, 1904: The Jackson County Historical Society; the Maquoketa Valley Pioneer and Old Settlers Society; the Old Settlers Association of Grinnell; and the Decatur County Historical Society.

THE DECATUR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On September 14, 1901, largely through the efforts of Mr. Fred'k M. Smith, the charter members of the Decatur County Historical Society met at the Herald Publishing House, Lamoni, Iowa, to adopt a constitution adapted to the needs of the Society and to effect a permanent organization. The officers of the Society elected to act until their successors are chosen, were: President, Fred'k M. Smith; Secretaries, E. L. Kelley, Jr., and (Mrs.) Carrie Judd Briggs; Curators, I. A. Smith and R. C. Kelley.

Papers have been solicited from several of the oldest settlers of the county, both from Davis City, near which Mr. Scott lived and held a slave during the early years of the State, and from Garden Grove where a company of the followers of Brigham Young stopped for over a year before resuming their journey to Utah. But as yet neither of these papers have been completed and read before the Society.

An assessment of 25 cents per capita on the members, which was levied at the first meeting of the Society, has been sufficient to meet the expenses up to the present time. Subsequent meetings have been held from time to time to elect new members and to make provisions for obtaining periodicals and materials for the Society. These meetings have been held at the Herald Publishing House in Lamoni, where a room has been obtained for the documents and collections of the organization. There are about 130 volumes in the library at present.

THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY

Article 1. This society shall be known as the Decatur County Historical Society.

Article 2. The object of this organization shall be the collection and preservation of materials of historical interest pertaining to the development of this State and more particularly of Decatur County.

Article 3. Membership shall consist of the signers of this constitution and such other persons as the Society shall deem worthy of admission. Any member who, in the judgment of the Society, becomes unworthy of retaining his member-

ship, may be expelled; and a member so expelled shall forfeit his interests in the properties of the Society.

Article 4. The officers shall consist of President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and two Curators, and of such other officers as subsequent developments demand.

Article 5. Meetings shall be held at the call of the President; each member is to receive due notice.

Article 6. No admission fee or annual dues shall be required, but all expenses shall be met by assessment or donation.

Article 7. Amendments to this constitution may be made at any meeting of this Society previous notice having been given of proposed changes.

BY-LAWS

Article 1. Reed's rules shall govern in all meetings of the Society.

Article 2. Until it becomes necessary to appoint a treasurer, the secretary shall act as such.

Article 3. Amendments to the by-laws may be made in like manner to that prescribed for amending the constitution.

THE CONFERENCE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AT ST. LOUIS

Upon the call of the Missouri Historical Society a conference of the historical societies of the Mississippi Valley was held at St. Louis on September 16, 1904. An informal meeting of the representatives of these societies was held at the Missouri State Building, World's Fair grounds, at eleven o'clock on the day of the conference. The formal meeting was called to order at the Cabildo (Louisiana State Building) at eight o'clock P. M. The presiding officer of the conference was Judge Walter B. Douglas of the Missouri Historical Society. The following were present at the conference: Judge Walter B. Douglas of the Missouri Historical Society; Professor Alceé Fortier, President of the Louisiana Historical Society; Mr. Jas. S. Zacharie, Vice-President of the Louisiana Historical Society; Dr. F. E. Horack, Secretary of the State Historical Society of Iowa; Professor W. C. Wilcox, member of the Board of Curators of the State Historical Society of Iowa; Dr. W. J. McGee, Chief of the Department of Anthropology, World's Fair; Professor F. A. Sampson, Secretary of the State Historical Society of Missouri;

Mr. Warren Upham of the Minnesota Historical Society; Mr. Reuben Gold Thwaites of the Wisconsin Historical Society; Miss Alice C. Fletcher of Harvard University; Professor G. G. McCurdy of Yale University; Mrs. Zelia Nuttall of Mexico; Mr. Thos. B. Thompson of New Orleans; Dr. Geo. B. Gordon of Philadelphia Free Museum; Dr. A. Hrdlicka, U. S. National Museum; Hon. L. Bashford Prince of New Mexico; Mr. C. T. Soniat of New Orleans; Mr. Pierre Chouteau of St. Louis; Mr. William Beer of the Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans; Messrs. Geo. M. Block and C. A. Peterson and Misses May Simonds, Katherine T. Moody and Mary Louise Dalton of the Missouri Historical Society.

The following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Representatives of the historical societies of the states and territories formed out of the Louisiana Purchase and the neighboring states and territories, have this day assembled in the Louisiana State Building at the World's Fair, are of the opinion that in order to preserve the history of these states and territories and its historical records and monuments, a closer union of all the societies should be formed;

Be It Resolved, That a federation of the historical societies of the states and territories of the Louisiana Purchase and the neighboring states and territories, consisting of one representative of each society be formed, who shall meet from time to time and foster the objects as herein set forth, by the publication of historical documents, the encouragement of historical research, and the urging upon their respective legislatures such legislation as may be necessary to preserve the history of the early settlements, the history of the Indians, all historical monuments and names, and the record of the country as it develops.

During the course of these meetings Professor Fortier and Mr. Zacharie told of the discovery of some fifty odd volumes of documents in Paris relating to the old Province of Louisiana, and of documents in Spain and Cuba relating to the Louisiana Purchase. A function for the proposed federation of historical societies was, therefore, apparent in promoting the publication of documents relating especially to the Mississippi Valley.

Professor Fortier, Judge Douglas, and Mr. Thwaites constitute a committee of three to organize the association of societies, and arranged for another meeting.

The formal program of the conference consisted of a paper by Mr. Warren Upham, of the Minnesota Historical Society, on *The Progress of the Discovery of the Mississippi River*; an address by Professor Alcéé Fortier, of the Louisiana Historical Society, on *The Expedition of Governor Galvez Against the British*; and an address by Mr. Reuben Gold Thwaites, of the Wisconsin Historical Society, on *The Duties and Purposes of Historical Societies*. On the Sunday following the conference a trip to the Cahokia Mounds was made by the members of the conference under the guidance of Judge W. B. Douglas and Dr. C. A. Peterson, both of the Missouri Historical Society.

CONTRIBUTORS

LOUIS PELZER, Principal of the High School, Colfax, Iowa.

Born near Atlantic, Iowa, 1879. Graduate of the Iowa State Normal School. Principal of the Public Schools at Marne, Iowa, 1902-1903. Assistant Principal of the High School at Griswold, Iowa, 1901-1902. Student at the State University of Iowa, 1903-1904.

FRANK EDWARD HORACK, Instructor in the State University of Iowa, and Secretary of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

(See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for April, 1903, p. 272.)

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SHAMBAUGH, Professor of Political Science in the State University of Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for April, 1903, p. 272.)