

NOTES AND COMMENT

In two cities of Iowa, namely Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, the Des Moines Plan of City Government has received a favorable vote and will be given a chance to prove its efficiency. Davenport and Sioux City have each voted down the proposition to institute such municipal organization.

The Board of Trustees of the Historical Department of Iowa has appointed Mr. E. R. Harlan as Acting Curator to perform the duties formerly devolving upon Mr. Charles Aldrich. Mr. Harlan has during the past year been acting as assistant to Mr. Aldrich.

During the summer of 1907 Harlan I. Smith was engaged in archaeological research in the State of Wyoming, visiting ancient stone quarries, and examining and photographing pictographs and petroglyphs.

A lecture on the *History of the West* with stereopticon illustrations from early Iowa history was delivered by Professor Benj. F. Shambaugh of The State Historical Society of Iowa, on March 2, 1908, under the auspices of the Davenport Academy of Sciences at Davenport, Iowa.

Mr. J. A. Doyle, whose death occurred in August, 1907, succeeded in preparing for publication in his last years the fourth and fifth volumes of his work on *English Colonies in America*. These latest volumes deal with *The Middle Colonies*, and *The Colonies Under the House of Hanover* and appeared in the year 1907.

On the site of Fort Boonesborough, the first permanent settlement in Kentucky, a monument was unveiled October 5, 1907. The commemoration of this historic spot where in 1775 Daniel Boone first planted Kentucky civilization has long been neglected and has now been accomplished through the instrumentality of

the Boonesborough chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution.

The first annual meeting of the Iowa Tax Revision Association was held January 21, 1908, at the Savery, in Des Moines. The Association was organized in March, 1907, for the purpose of investigating the subject of the taxation laws of the State and adopting a comprehensive plan of reform. A State tax commission is much needed in Iowa.

A dictionary of the Navaho language is being prepared for publication by the Franciscan Fathers of St. Michaels, Arizona. The work will contain a series of articles on the religion, ceremonies, arts, and industries of the Navaho Indians together with lists of Navaho terms used in connection with these interests. Lists of Navaho names for persons, stars, plants, animals, places, etc., will also be included.

A manuscript purporting to be the original Ordinance of Secession of the State of South Carolina has come to light at the town of Norway, Iowa. During the Civil War it was found by a Union officer in an abandoned building used for headquarters of a Confederate officer in South Carolina and it has since been in the possession of his family in Iowa. The manuscript will be placed in the care of the Historical Department at Des Moines, Iowa.

The *Register and Leader* of Sunday, March 1, contains an account of the annual Hawkeye picnic held in Eastlake Park, Los Angeles, California, on Washington's birthday. On that day ten thousand former Iowans, with their friends, gathered at the beautiful park for this annual reunion. There were headquarters for each of the counties from Adair to Wright, and thus in groups the people gathered and talked of olden times in Iowa. There were speeches by Ex-Governor Horace Boies and other men who have been prominent in this State.

The last General Assembly of the State of Iowa provided for an educational commission for the purpose of revising and codifying the school laws of the State. The commission was to consist of one

educator of the State and two practising attorneys, to be appointed by the Governor. The law gives the commission "power to rearrange, revise and codify the existing laws relating to the public schools, and recommend additional needed legislation." A complete report is required to be made to the Thirty-third General Assembly and to be filed with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction on or before November 1, 1908. The commission, as appointed by Governor Cummins, consists of Professor Frederick E. Bolton of The State University of Iowa, Mr. Arthur Springer of Wapello, and Mr. William H. Baily of Des Moines.

The Iowa Society of New York held a social reception at Dur-yea's Hall, West 72nd Street and Broadway, New York City on February 5, 1908. All Iowans in the city of New York or within a hundred miles of the city were invited to this occasion. A program was given opened by remarks from Grenville M. Dodge, President of the Society. Some of those who appeared on the program were Hon. Leslie M. Shaw, Mr. Henry Frank, Mrs. Ret Clarkson, Dr. Woods Hutchinson, Mr. Trumbull White, and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt. The annual banquet of the Society was announced for March 21, 1908, at which time Governor Cummins, Senator DOLLIVER, John S. Runnells, and Congressman Frank O. Lowden were scheduled to speak. The Society also has planned for two other social functions during the year, one of a literary character and the other a fishing picnic to be held in May or June.

CHARLES ALDRICH

In the eightieth year of his life and after fifty years of service to the State which now mourns his departure, Charles Aldrich passed away at Boone, Iowa, on the morning of March 8, 1908. He was a man who lived with a purpose, who followed his ideals with an intense persistence and who accomplished much—more than will be realized until the retrospect of years shows the value of his ideals. He was born at Ellington, New York, October 2, 1828. In that State he was educated and began his work in journalism, the primary occupation of his life. In 1857 he removed to Iowa and founded the *Webster City Freeman* and from that time

forward his name is inseparably linked with the history and politics of the State. In 1860, 1862, 1866, and 1870 he was Chief Clerk of the Iowa House of Representatives. At the time of his country's need he entered the Union Army, and served from 1862 to 1864 with the Thirty-second Regiment of Iowa Volunteers, acting as First Lieutenant and Adjutant. At various times he was connected with the *Dubuque Daily Times*, the *Marshall County Times* and the *Chicago Inter Ocean*. He served on numerous important commissions, was a member of the House of Representatives in 1882, made three trips to Europe, and for sixteen years was Curator of the Historical Department at Des Moines. But a mere recital of positions and deeds gives no adequate conception of the life of a man like Charles Aldrich. His life was dominated not by duties but by ideals.

As a legislator he advocated legislation against passes a quarter of a century before the State saw the wisdom of his contention sufficiently to put it into law. All his life he was an enthusiastic, indefatigable, and eminently successful collector of historical material. His collection of autographs, gathered during years of extensive acquaintance on both sides of the water, was donated by him to the State and formed the nucleus of the Historical Department. Since the organization of the Department in 1892, Mr. Aldrich has been its Curator. He has been the cause of its growth from insignificant beginnings to a splendid institution. In spite of insufficient support, of hostility that dared not meet him openly, and of apathetic indifference, he persisted in his work until the State began to realize that here was a man and an institution which deserved the best the State could give. In his last days he saw the material evidence of his years of hoping and planning built into the Historical Memorial and Art Building at Des Moines, and as the finishing work drew to a close his indomitable spirit passed away. But when the material structure has given way to the ravages of time, the work which he has accomplished for the history of the State and above all the influence which he left as a man among men will still be unforgotten.

CONTRIBUTORS

LOUIS PELZER, Research Assistant in The State Historical Society of Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for January, 1908, p. 159.)

JOHN CARL PARISH, Assistant Editor in The State Historical Society of Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for January, 1908, p. 159.)

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