

NOTES AND COMMENT

The Iowa Department of the G. A. R. held its annual encampment at Fort Dodge, June 8-10, 1909.

A Bureau of Municipal Research, modelled after the one in New York City, has been established at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration was held on May 19-21, 1909.

A movement has been inaugurated to commemorate the three-hundredth anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims by a World's Tercentennial Exposition at Boston in 1920.

Professor James A. James, of Northwestern University, has returned from a several months' sojourn in Europe, where he gathered material relative to certain phases of western history.

Professor Frederick J. Turner, of Wisconsin University, delivered the Phi Beta Kappa address during commencement week at The State University of Iowa on the subject of *Pioneer Ideals and the State University*.

The thirty-sixth annual meeting of the National Conference of Charities and Correction was held at Buffalo, New York, during the week ending June 19. Miss Jane Addams, of Chicago, was chosen President of the Conference for 1910.

The workings of tax commissions may be seen in two western States — Wisconsin and Minnesota. The commission in Wisconsin has recently made its fourth biennial report, while in Minnesota the commission is of more recent establishment and made its first report to the last legislature.

The Thirty-Third General Assembly of Iowa appropriated the sum of one thousand dollars to defray the expenses of disinterring the remains of Iowa's first State Governor, Ansel Briggs, and of removing them to his former home at Andrew, Jackson County,

Iowa. The disinterment took place on May 21, and the remains of the old Governor now rest in Iowa soil, beneath a suitable monument. It was chiefly through the efforts of Mr. J. W. Ellis, of Maquoketa, that the appropriation was made.

On Friday, June 11, 1909, the thirty-seventh annual reunion of the Oregon Pioneer Association was held at Portland, Oregon. This association consists of persons coming to, or born in, the original Territory of Oregon prior to the close of the year 1859. Especial interest attaches to the reunion this year in view of the fact that it is the year of the semi-centennial of Oregon's statehood.

The Old Settlers' Association of Cedar County held its annual meeting at Tipton on June 10, 1909. The principal address was given by Mr. B. L. Wick, of Cedar Rapids. This association numbers among its members some of the oldest of the Iowa pioneers. During the past year death took away a large number, some of whom came to the Iowa country while it was yet a part of the Territory of Wisconsin.

The past few months have witnessed the unveiling of a number of monuments in the Mississippi Valley. The service rendered by George Rogers Clark in saving the Old Northwest received recognition recently at Quincy, Illinois, in the erection of a monument. At Chicago on May 16, a tablet in honor of the explorers Marquette and Joliet was unveiled. Among the many Lincoln monuments perhaps the most interesting is the one unveiled at the martyr President's birthplace in Kentucky, on May 31. These instances have been selected among many because of the influence which the men in whose honor the monuments were erected had on the history of the middle west. Within the State of Iowa may also be mentioned the monument to Governor Briggs at Andrew, one to Chief Mahaska at Oskaloosa and one to Company H, 31st Iowa Infantry, at Monticello.

Beginning with the present year the Iowa Society of the Colonial Dames of America will offer three prizes, instead of one as hitherto, for the best essay in Iowa history, written by a student in an Iowa college or university. The first prize is seventy-five dollars, the

second fifty dollars, and the third twenty-five dollars. All of the essays submitted this year were of an unusually high order and the markings were close. Mr. Clifford Powell, a student at the State University of Iowa, won the first prize with an essay entitled, *Contributions of Albert M. Lea to the Literature of Iowa History*. Miss Beulah May Garrard, of Cornell College, came second with an essay on *The Development of County Government in Iowa*. The third prize was won by Miss Ethyl E. Martin, of The State University of Iowa, who wrote on *A Bribery Episode in the First Election of United States Senators in Iowa*. The remaining essays ranked but little below the prize winners, and are worthy of much praise. The Iowa Society of the Colonial Dames is to be congratulated on its success in arousing an interest in Iowa history, and in stimulating the production of so many worthy essays as were submitted this year.

President Roosevelt exhibited a wise foresightedness when he directed the Committee of Department Methods to appoint an assistant committee to make recommendations concerning documentary historical publications of the United States Government. This committee which was composed of some of the most eminent historians in the country has made an extended report covering forty large pages. By way of introduction there is a review of the course pursued by the Government hitherto, showing the lack of method and the extravagance which have prevailed; and a survey of the field of United States history with special reference to the gaps to be filled in official publications. Then follow the recommendations, ending with suggestions for a permanent Commission on National Historical Publications and a draft of a bill creating such a commission. It is sincerely to be hoped the recommendations of this report will be adopted.

SAMUEL WALLACE DURHAM

Samuel Wallace Durham was born on March 7, 1817, at Vallonia, Jackson County, Indiana. He moved to Iowa in 1840; and, with the exception of three years spent on a farm, he made his home at Marion, in Linn County. He was a delegate to the Constitutional

Convention of 1844, of which he was the sole surviving member at the time of his death. From 1843 to 1855 he occupied the office of United States Deputy Surveyor. He made the first plat of the city of Cedar Rapids and laid out the town of Marion, besides surveying a number of the western counties of the State. He held the office of Sheriff in 1846-1847; and at intervals from 1841 to 1895 occupied the position of County Surveyor. Mr. Durham was a Democrat in politics, and from 1841 to 1855 took an active part in political campaigns. He died at his home in Marion on Sunday, May 2, 1909.

MARY R. WHITCOMB

Miss Mary R. Whitcomb, who for several years has been Assistant Curator of the Historical Department of Iowa, passed away on April 8, 1909. Miss Whitcomb was born at Grinnell, Iowa, on April 4, 1860. After leaving Iowa College she taught school for many years until her health failed. In 1894 she was appointed to the position of assistant in the State Library, where she remained until 1896, when she was offered the position in the Historical Department which she held at the time of her death.

Since the death of Curator Charles Aldrich probably no one was so thoroughly acquainted with all phases of the work of the Historical Department as was Miss Whitcomb. She was faithful, efficient, and enthusiastic in her work. Not only did she have charge of the library of the Department, but she contributed a number of articles on subjects of Iowa history. She will be greatly missed, not only by those who were associated with her in the work, but by all those who have ever had occasion to experience her kindly helpfulness.

AMOS NOYES CURRIER

On May 16, 1909, Dean Amos Noyes Currier, who for over forty years was a member of the faculty of The State University of Iowa, passed away at his home in Iowa City. In his death the State loses a patriotic citizen and an educator beloved by all who knew him.

Dean Currier was born on October 13, 1832, near Canaan, New

Hampshire. After preparatory work at Kimball Academy he entered Dartmouth College, from which he graduated at the age of twenty-four. In 1857 he came west to accept the position of Professor of Ancient Languages in Central College at Pella, Iowa. In 1861 he entered the army and served until the close of the Civil War. Then after two more years spent at Central College he began his long career at the State University. He was Dean of the College of Liberal Arts from 1887 to 1907, when at the completion of forty years of faithful service in the one institution, he retired from active work on the faculty. Up to the time of his death, however, he continued to take a keen interest in all the affairs of the University.

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.)

JACOB VAN DER ZEE, Research Assistant in The State Historical Society of Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for April, 1909, p. 328.)

FRANK HARMON GARVER, Professor of History and Politics in Morningside College. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for July, 1908, p. 500.)

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