

NOTES AND COMMENT

It is expected that *The History of the Twenty-Second Iowa*, by S. D. Pryce, will soon be published.

The town of Marengo, Iowa, is making plans for the celebration of its semi-centennial on October 14, 15, and 16.

It is proposed that a Universal Races Congress be held at London in October, 1910, for the purpose of promoting friendly relations between all races and nations.

The National Civic Federation has issued a call for a national conference to meet at Washington, D. C., early in January, 1910, for the purpose of considering the subject of uniform state legislation.

The University of Illinois is performing a valuable service in the interest of western history by having copies made of documents relating to the West from 1763 to 1775, which are found in the Public Record Office in London.

Mr. Fred Moerschel, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Community of True Inspiration at Amana, died on August 19, 1909. He was born at Marienborn, Germany, and came to Amana in 1859. For a half century he has been a leader in the Community.

Mrs. Ann Dickens, who came to the Iowa country in 1833, died at her home at North McGregor, Iowa, on September 5, 1909. Mrs. Dickens at the time of her death was said to be the oldest Iowan in point of number of years lived within the bounds of the State.

A move in the direction of increasing the efficiency of our diplomatic service has recently been made by the Department of State. A School of Diplomacy has been established at Washington, for the purpose of giving instruction to new appointees in the service.

This summer has witnessed two notable and elaborate celebrations in the State of New York. In conjunction with the State of

Vermont the Lake Champlain Tercentenary was observed during the week of July 4-10. September 25 and October 9 are the inclusive dates of the more extended Hudson-Fulton Celebration.

A monument to Ansel Briggs, first Governor of the State of Iowa, was dedicated at Andrew in Jackson County on September 22, 1909. It will be remembered that largely through the efforts of Mr. J. W. Ellis, of Maquoketa, the last General Assembly of Iowa made an appropriation to defray the expenses of removing the remains of the old Governor from Nebraska to Iowa soil.

A number of old settlers' reunions have been held in Iowa during the past three months. Among them may be mentioned the old settlers' picnic at Boone on August 11; the reunion at St. Charles on August 12; the fourth annual pioneers' day under the auspices of the Webster County Historical Society at Fort Dodge on August 18; and the meeting of the Old Settlers' Association of Boone, Greene, Guthrie, and Dallas Counties near Dawson on August 18 and 19.

On Saturday, July 3, 1909, the people of Boone and Story counties united in celebrating the semi-centennial of the location of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Ames. It was in 1858 that the General Assembly made an appropriation of ten thousand dollars for the purchase of a farm on which an Agricultural College might be located. In the following year a farm was purchased in Story County, the people of that county as well as of Boone County increasing the amount of the appropriation by personal donation. The College, however, did not open its doors to students until 1868, since which time it has prospered and has become one of the largest and best institutions of the kind in the country. At the celebration Mr. Daniel McCarthy, who had charge of the arrangements for a similar celebration on the same spot fifty years ago, was President of the Day. Furthermore, John A. Hull, the Orator of the Day, is the son of the man who delivered the oration in 1859.

CONTRIBUTORS

ETHYL E. MARTIN, Clerk to the Superintendent of The State Historical Society of Iowa. Born near Decatur, Illinois, January 5, 1887. Graduated from the High School at Winterset, Iowa, in 1904. Student at The State University of Iowa.

JOSEPH W. RICH, Member of the Board of Curators of The State Historical Society of Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, for January, 1908, p. 159.)