

## NOTES AND COMMENT

Provision has been made for the establishment of a Bureau of Research in Municipal Government at Harvard University.

On April 27 to 29 the fifth annual meeting of the American Society of International Law was held at Washington, D. C.

The Fifth International Congress of the International Tax Association will be held at Richmond, Virginia, September 5-8, 1911.

The next annual meeting of the Political Science Association will be held at Buffalo, New York, during the last week in December.

Professor George F. Kay of the State University of Iowa has been appointed State Geologist of Iowa to succeed the late Professor Samuel Calvin.

A Massachusetts Municipal League was recently organized. Professor Albert Bushnell Hart of Harvard University is the First Vice President.

Charles Noble Gregory has resigned from the position of Dean of the College of Law in the State University of Iowa, and has accepted a similar position in George Washington University.

Professor H. C. Fairchild of the University of Rochester is the president of a new organization to be known as the Commission Government Association of New York State, which was formed by delegates from twenty-two cities at a meeting in February.

An American International Municipal Congress and Exposition will be held in Chicago from September 18th to 30th. Delegates are expected from all of the principal cities of America and Europe. John MacVicar of Des Moines is the Commissioner General of the Municipal Congress.

An unusual method of revising the State Constitution has been proposed in Indiana. Although the Constitution provides that amendments shall pass two successive legislatures and be submitted

to the people, the General Assembly has passed a bill embodying a revised Constitution, which will be submitted to the voters at the November elections in 1912. The proposed Constitution originated with Governor Thomas R. Marshall.

A most disastrous fire occurred on March 29th, when the New York State Library was almost totally destroyed by fire. Of the splendid collection of manuscripts which the library contained only about one-tenth were saved, and there was an equal proportionate loss among the books. The legislative reference section, which represented years of labor, was also totally destroyed. Everything was practically in readiness for moving the library into the magnificent new building.

#### SAMUEL CALVIN

In the death of Samuel Calvin, which occurred on April 17, 1911, the State of Iowa lost one of its most noted scientists. Professor Calvin was born in Wiltonshire, Scotland, in 1840. He came to America in 1852 and to Iowa in 1855. He received his collegiate training at Lenox College, to which institution he returned as a member of the staff of instruction after a brief military service in the Civil War. In 1874 he was called to the State University of Iowa where he remained until the date of his death, having been for many years head of the Department of Geology. From 1892 to 1904 and from 1906 to the date of his death Professor Calvin was State Geologist and his labors in that capacity have brought the geology of Iowa to a point equalled by but few of the States of the Union. He was a frequent contributor to the various scientific publications of the country and was a prominent member of a number of learned societies. In the class room and as a citizen he was beloved by all who knew him.

#### WILLARD LEE EATON

Willard Lee Eaton of Osage, a member of the Society, died at his home on June 7, 1911. Mr. Eaton was born in Delaware County, Iowa, on October 13, 1848. In 1856 he moved with his parents to Osage, where he made his home until the date of his death, a period of nearly fifty-five years. He graduated from the College of Law

of the State University of Iowa in the class of 1872, and early attained prominence as a member of the bar of northern Iowa.

Mr. Eaton served in many official capacities. He was three times elected Mayor of Osage, and served for a period as County Attorney of Mitchell County. He represented Mitchell County in the lower house of the State legislature for three sessions, from the twenty-seventh to the twenty-ninth, and during the last session he was Speaker of the House. He served as State Railroad Commissioner for one term beginning in 1907, and during his term he wrote the opinions of the board.

In private life Mr. Eaton was a good citizen and took part in many movements for the upbuilding of the community. He was at one time Grand Master of the Iowa Grand Lodge of Masons. He was an active member of the State Bar Association, and his interest in education is shown by the fact that at the time of his death he was a trustee of Cedar Valley Seminary and of Upper Iowa University.

#### JACOB SPRINGER

On May 14, 1911, occurred the death of Jacob Springer, a member of the Society and a pioneer of Benton County. He was born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, on January 21, 1824. On March 11, 1845, he was married to Eliza Jane McCormick. Seven years later, in 1852, the family emigrated to Iowa and settled in what is now St. Clair Township, Benton County. Here he found typical pioneer conditions. To the southward of his log cabin there was only one settler between him and Cedar Rapids, while to the northward the nearest settlers were twenty-four miles away. During the sixty years which followed he witnessed the gradual disappearance of frontier conditions and the growth of a prosperous community.

In 1855 he was appointed a commissioner to organize the first school district in that region. In the following year he organized a precinct in what are now St. Clair and Eldorado townships for election and judicial purposes, naming the precinct in honor of Arthur St. Clair. He served two years as Justice of the Peace, nine years as County Supervisor of Benton County, and for twenty-six years as a member of the Board of Trustees of the College for

the Blind. In politics he was an ardent Republican. He took a deep interest in the political questions of the day, and especially in local issues, but he was not inclined toward office-holding.

Jacob Springer was a worthy representative of the pioneers of Iowa, and his quiet, unassuming good citizenship will long be remembered in the community in which he lived.

## 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. Author of *A Bribery Episode in the First Election of United States Senators in Iowa*.

CLARENCE RAY AURNER, Research Assistant in The State Historical Society of Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for April, 1911, p. 332.)

FRANK HARMON GARVER, Research Assistant in The State Historical Society of Iowa. Professor of History and Politics in Morningside College. Born at Albion, Iowa, 1875. Graduated from Upper Iowa University, 1898. Received the degree of M. A. at The State University of Iowa, 1908. Author of *Reminiscences of John H. Charles*, *History of the Establishment of Counties in Iowa*, *Boundary History of Iowa Counties*, *A Critical Study of the Definition and Alteration of County Boundaries in Iowa*, *The Story of Sergeant Charles Floyd*. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for July, 1908, p. 500.)

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