

NOTES AND COMMENT

The annual convention of the League of Iowa Municipalities was held at Davenport, October 17-19, 1911.

The twenty-second annual meeting of the Iowa Library Association was held at Mason City, October 10-12, 1911.

The League of American Municipalities held its fifteenth annual convention at Atlanta, Georgia, October 4-6, 1911.

The American Political Science Association held its annual meeting at Buffalo and Toronto, December 27-30, 1911.

At the November elections in the State of Ohio delegates were elected to a Constitutional Convention which is to meet in January.

At the present time the commission plan of city government is in operation in one hundred and sixty-one cities in thirty-two States.

One of the most progressive systems of elections in force in America has been provided for New Jersey by a recent act of the legislature known as the Geran Law.

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Iowa State Conference of Charities and Correction was held at Iowa City under the auspices of the State University of Iowa, November 19-21, 1911.

Important laws on the subject of employers' liability and workmen's compensation were enacted in New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Kansas, Washington, and California, during the legislative sessions of the past year.

On December 15, 1911, historic Starved Rock on the Illinois River, the scene of Indian conflicts and early French exploits, passed into the ownership of the State of Illinois to be made into a State park. A tract of two hundred and ninety acres, embracing the historic site, was purchased by the State at a cost of one hundred and forty-six thousand dollars.

At the last session the legislature of Illinois extended the jurisdiction of the civil service commission over practically all State offices, and established the merit system for the county offices of Cook County and a number of municipal offices in the city of Chicago.

The American Society for Judicial Settlement of International Disputes held its national conference at Cincinnati, Ohio, on November 7 and 8, 1911. Among the speakers were John Hays Hammond, James Brown Scott, Theodore Marburg, and John H. Latané.

Under the auspices of the citizens of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, the one hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Tippecanoe was fittingly celebrated on November 7, 1911. There were exercises on the battle ground, consisting of a military parade, sham battle, music and addresses; as well as a number of addresses in the evening at the Victoria Theater in the city of Lafayette.

"The President's Commission on Economy and Efficiency" is the name applied to the commission provided for by Congress for the purpose of making a thorough investigation of the business organization, activities, and methods of the national government. The members of the commission are Frederick A. Cleveland, W. F. Willoughby, W. W. Warwick, Frank J. Goodnow, and Harvey S. Chase, with Merritt O. Chance as Secretary.

PUTNAM HISTORICAL LIBRARY

One of the most valuable collections of western Americana and Iowana to be found in Iowa is the historical library left by the late W. C. Putnam of Davenport to the Davenport Academy of Science. This library, which contains about 1,500 volumes, has recently been installed in a room on the eighth floor of the new fire-proof Putnam building in Davenport, where it was exhibited to a number of people on November 28th. The library will remain in the present quarters until such time as it can be transferred to a fireproof building erected for the Academy of Science. It will be remembered that the late Mr. Putnam left a large sum of money in trust for the Academy.

In the same room with the Putnam Library may be found a number of relics and papers of the pioneer settler, Antoine Le Claire, together with newspapers and valuable documents relating to the early history of Davenport and vicinity. Mr. E. K. Putnam is directing the preparation of a catalogue of the entire collection, which will be open to the public at stated intervals.

LEONARD F. PARKER

Professor Leonard F. Parker died at his home in Grinnell on December 11, 1911. Professor Parker was born August 3, 1825, at China, New York. In 1851 he graduated from Oberlin College and in 1860 he became Principal of Grinnell College, then just opening its doors. He represented Poweshiek County in the lower house of the legislature during the session of the Twelfth General Assembly. In 1870 he accepted a call to a position on the faculty of the State University of Iowa, and here he remained for seventeen years, first as Professor of Greek and Latin, and later as Professor of History, the field of study which had the strongest attractions for him. In 1887 he returned to Grinnell College as Professor of History, retiring from active work in 1898. His influence was strongly felt, however, during his later years in the capacity of professor emeritus. Throughout his life in Iowa, Professor Parker took a keen interest in local history. He was a valued member of The State Historical Society of Iowa, and he was the organizer of the Poweshiek County Historical Society. Shortly before his death there appeared from the press a history of Poweshiek County, written by him. Professor Parker was a beloved teacher and a good citizen.

CONTRIBUTOR

CLIFFORD POWELL, General Assistant in The State Historical
Society of Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND
POLITICS for January, 1911, p. 149.)

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