

NOTES AND COMMENT

A list is being compiled of all persons over fifty years of age who have lived all their lives in Ringgold County. It is hoped that the list may be published when completed.

The Iowa State Conference of Social Work held its annual meeting at Des Moines, October 17-19, 1920. Plans for a five year program of social work were discussed.

The American Political Science Association held its sixteenth annual meeting at Washington, D. C., December 28-30, 1920. Leo S. Rowe was chosen president of the Association and Frederic A. Ogg was reelected secretary.

A granite marker has been erected at Brittain's Grove in Van Buren County, locating the first over-night stop of the Mormons after leaving Nauvoo. The grove is also of historical interest because of the public meetings held there on various occasions.

The State park at Keosauqua, Van Buren County, was dedicated on October 26 and 27, 1920.

The twenty-ninth annual meeting of the Iowa Library Association was held at Des Moines, October 12-14, 1920. J. B. Weaver gave the opening address on the subject "Back to the Old Farm". A pageant "The Legend Bearers' Gift", by Esse V. Hathaway, was presented, followed by a talk on "Practical Pageantry". A speech on "Literature and Changing Standards of Life", by J. D. Stoops, and the reading of his poems by Carl Sandburg of Chicago were other features of the program. The following officers were elected for the coming year: president, C. W. Sumner; vice presidents, Callie Wieder and C. V. Findlay; secretary, Mary E. McCoy; treasurer, Jessie Swem; and registrar, Annie Allen.

JAMES M. PIERCE

James Melville Pierce was born in Richland County, Ohio, on May 9, 1848, and as a boy became a printer's apprentice in a news-

paper office in Mansfield, Ohio. In 1866 he moved to northern Missouri, where he engaged in farming and later became the editor of a newspaper. This work he continued after his removal to Iowa where he published the *Taylor County Republican* at Bedford and the *Osceola Sentinel* at Osceola. In 1885 Mr. Pierce became the publisher of *The Iowa Homestead* at Des Moines and a few years later he added two other farm papers — *The Wisconsin Farmer* and *The Farmer and Stockman*. This work he continued until his death on November 1, 1920.

In addition to his interest in agricultural matters, James M. Pierce was influential in politics and took an active part in many of the national and State campaigns, though he never held an office.

CONTRIBUTORS

JOHN FAIRFIELD SLY, Instructor in Political Science at the State University of Iowa. Born in New York City, February 7, 1893. Received the degree of B. A. from the Iowa State Teachers College, 1917.

JOHN EDWIN BRINDLEY, Professor of Economic Science at the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. Received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the State University of Iowa in 1911. Author of *History of Taxation in Iowa* and *History of Road Legislation in Iowa*. (See also THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for January, 1909, p. 176.)

FRANK EDWARD HORACK, Professor of Political Science at the State University of Iowa. (See THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS for October, 1915, p. 615.)

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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1892

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W. PENN. CLARKE

BENJAMIN F. SHAM

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WELLS SLY, Instructor in Political Science at the University of Iowa. Born in New York City, February 1870. Received the degree of B. A. from the Iowa State College, 1917.

W. BRINDLEY, Professor of Economic Science at the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. Received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the State University of Iowa in 1911. Author of *History of Tarzation in Iowa*. (See also *The History of Road Legislation in Iowa*. (See also *The Journal of History and Politics* for January, 1909, p. 615.)

WARD HOBACK, Professor of Political Science at the University of Iowa. (See *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for October, 1915, p. 615.)

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Members of the Society shall be entitled to receive the quarterly and all other publications of the Society during the continuance of their membership.

Address all Communications to

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IOWA CITY IOWA

TABLE IV

NUMBER OF REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICES, THE ORDER OF THE OFFICES ON THE BALLOT, AND THE RANK OF THE OFFICES ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF VOTES FOR EACH										
OFFICE	ORDER ON BALLOT		1ST PRIMARY 1908	2ND PRIMARY 1910	3RD PRIMARY 1912	4TH PRIMARY 1914	5TH PRIMARY 1916	6TH PRIMARY 1918	7TH PRIMARY 1920	AVERAGE
Governor	1st	Number of Candidates	3	2	3	3	4	1	4	
		Rank in Votes Cast	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	2nd	1st	1st
Lieutenant Governor	2nd	Number of Candidates	3	1	2	2	3	1	4	
		Rank in Votes Cast	2nd	2nd	3rd	2nd	2nd	4th	2nd	2nd
Secretary of State	3rd	Number of Candidates	1	1	3	1	2	4	2	
		Rank in Votes Cast	5th	3rd	2nd	4th	4th	1st	3rd	3rd
State Auditor	4th	Number of Candidates	2	1	4	5	1	1	4	
		Rank in Votes Cast	3rd	5th	4th	3rd	6th	3rd	5th	4th
State Treasurer	5th	Number of Candidates	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	
		Rank in Votes Cast	6th	6th	5th	5th	5th	6th	6th	6th
Attorney General	6th	Number of Candidates	1	3	1	1	6	1	3	
		Rank in Votes Cast	7th	4th	6th	6th	3rd	7th	4th	5th
Superintendent of Public Instruction	7th	Number of Candidates	2	7	1			4		
		Rank in Votes Cast	4th	7th	7th			5th		

find that office ranking first in the number of votes received in all except one of the Republican primaries (see Tables IV and V). The exception was in the year 1918 (which was a war year) when political interest was at its lowest ebb. In the seven primaries other State offices, though subject to fluctuations, rank in the order of their positions on the ballot, with the exception of the offices of State Treasurer and Attorney General — the latter ranking fifth in number of votes cast although it stands sixth on the ballot (see Table IV).

The office of Secretary of State is the only office outside that of Governor to have obtained first rank in the number of votes received in a primary election. Although the office of Secretary of State is third in order on the ballot (see Table IV), in 1908 when the nomination was uncontested it fell to fifth place. In 1910, however, a single candidate ranked third, thus maintaining his ballot place. In 1912 when there were two candidates for the office of Lieutenant Governor and three for that of Secretary of State, the latter ranked second in the number of votes received. In the years 1914 and 1916 the office of Secretary of State ranked fourth in the primary. In 1914 there was but one candidate for the nomination, and in 1916 there were two; at the same time in these two primary elections there were lively contests for the nomination of Governor and Lieutenant Governor. In 1918 the office of Secretary of State ranked first in the primary (see Table IV). In this year, however, there were four contestants for the nomination of Secretary of State; while the nominations for Governor and Lieutenant Governor were uncontested. In 1920 the office of Secretary of State resumed its ballot rank of third place.

Nomination for the office of State Auditor has brought forth many candidates, ranking in this respect next to that of Governor. The office of Auditor of State holds fourth

TABLE V

VOTE OF EACH PARTY AT THE PRIMARY COMPARED WITH VOTE OF THE PARTY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION, GIVEN BY PERCENTAGE									
		1ST PRIMARY 1908	2ND PRIMARY 1910	3RD PRIMARY 1912	4TH PRIMARY 1914	5TH PRIMARY 1916	6TH PRIMARY 1918	7TH PRIMARY 1920	AVERAGE PER CENT
Governor	Rep.	71	86	98	69	72	66	41	72
	Dem.	25	25	31	41	40	21	11	28
Lieutenant Governor	Rep.	67	75	91	61	68	57	33	65
	Dem.	25	25	32	42	41	27	15	30
Secretary of State	Rep.	62	72	92	57	66	62	32	63
	Dem.	25	29	31	45	42	25	14	31
State Auditor	Rep.	66	71	89	59	64	56	32	63
	Dem.	24	26	30	42	42	29	15	30
State Treasurer	Rep.	62	71	88	57	66	55	31	62
	Dem.	25	29	31	43	41	27	15	30
Attorney General	Rep.	62	75	77	55	69	54	32	61
	Dem.	25	21	30	40	41	27	15	29
Superintendent of Public Instruction	Rep.	63	72	75			58		
	Dem.	23	28	30			27		

place on the primary ballot, and its rank, determined by the number of votes received in the primary election, has varied with the number of contestants. With but one exception the larger the number of contestants the higher the office has ranked above its ballot position; and the lowest rank the office has attained below its ballot position has, with one exception, been when the nomination was uncontested (see Table V).

It has already been stated that the nomination for the office of State Treasurer has been the least contested of any State office here considered. Twice, when the nomination was uncontested, the office ranked below its ballot position, while even three contestants for the nomination in 1916, the largest number ever offered, did not result in raising the office above its ballot rank in the final count (see Table IV).

The office of Attorney General ranks in importance and influence next to that of the Governor; and so, one would think that the nominations for this office would arouse a wide-spread interest at the primaries. In the number of contestants for the nomination, this office is third. In spite of the low position which it has been assigned on the primary ballot (being sixth, see Table IV), the voters have manifested an unusual interest in this office whenever it has been hotly contested. In the first primary of 1908, with only one candidate for the nomination, the office fell one place below its ballot rank in the count. In 1910 when there were three candidates in the field, the office ranked fourth in number of votes. In 1912 and 1914, with only one candidate on the primary ballot, the office ranked sixth in the count. But in 1916, when there were six candidates for the nomination, the office ranked third, which is the highest rank it has attained in the seven primaries. When there was but one candidate in 1918 the office dropped to seventh place in the count. In 1920 when there were three candidates in the field the office again ranked fourth.