

Reorganization of the State Historical Society

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REORGANIZATION OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

IN another place will be found the law enacted by the legislature last winter reorganizing the Historical Society. The Board of Curators of the society, at their first meeting after the passage of this law, appointed a committee to amend the constitution of the society in agreement with the new statute. At a subsequent meeting of the Board, the committee's report was heard and adopted, and a special meeting of the whole society arranged for. The society therefore held a special meeting in Iowa City, on June 14th, at which the action of the Board of Curators was confirmed, their recommendations adopted, the constitution of the society changed so as to harmonize it with the new law, and the act of the legislature accepted as the organic law of the society.

The Board of Curators refrained from exercising the authority granted them in the act, to select the nine curators on the part of the society; consequently, in accordance with the provisions of the law, the nine members of the board having the longest time to serve under the former organization became the members, on the part of the society, of the new board. They are all residents of Iowa City, and are Rev. Wm. Emonds, Hon. Wm. G. Hammond, Hon. Thos. Hughes, Robert Hutchinson, Esq., Hon. John P. Irish, Geo. E. Kimball, M. D., Hon. S. E. Paine, Col. S. C. Trowbridge, and A. C. Younkin, Esq. The governor appointed as members of the board, on the part of the state, the nine elective members of the Board of Regents of the State University, who are Hon. C. W. Slagle, of Fairfield, Hon. John McKean, of Anamosa, Hon. Austin Adams, of Dubuque, Hon. A. T. Reeve, of Hampton, Hon. James Wilson, of Buckingham, Hon. A. K. Campbell, of Newton, Hon. P. M. Casady, of Des Moines, Hon. Wm. W. Merritt, of Red Oak Junction, and Hon. J. F. Duncombe, of Fort Dodge.

This new Board of Curators held their first session at the Historical Rooms in Iowa City, on the 26th of June, and organized by electing as their president, Hon. William G.

Hammond, chancellor of the law department of the State University, who had served in the same capacity in the previous board. H. S. Welton, Esq., was unanimously elected treasurer of the society— Mr. Silas Foster having resigned the office of librarian, and removed to Colorado, George Fracker, Esq., was unanimously elected librarian. Capt. Wm. C. Gaston, the recording secretary, having vacated his office by removal to Oregon, F. Lloyd was elected in his place, and also charged with the duties of corresponding secretary. The board devoted the rest of its session, which was held in the presence of Gov. Carpenter, Col. Abernethy, superintendent of public instruction, and other state officials, to the general business of the society.

It is hoped that this division of authority and responsibility in the management of the society's affairs between officers selected immediately from, and by, the society itself, and others chosen by the governor, will advance its prosperity, by bringing the society, without changing its voluntary character, into closer and more fostering relations with the state government than it occupied under its former organization; and the happy selection of the nine elective University regents as the state's representatives in the Board of Curators, representing, as they do, the nine congressional districts of the state, will remove any suspicion of its being a *local* institution, while it will fulfill the requirement of the act passed by the legislature, in 1857, organizing the society, and providing that it should be "in connection with, and under the auspices of, the State University."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

— WE have received the first number of the "*Western Life Boat*," a large monthly periodical published at Des Moines, and devoted largely to the biography of prominent Iowa people. This first number is profusely illustrated with engravings of faces and places of interest. The business tact of Mr. A. C. Edmunds, its principal manager, and the merits of the work itself, have already, as we understand, secured it a vast popularity throughout the country.

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