

## Executive Council

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## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The branch of the state government now known as the Executive Council was formerly entitled the Census Board. It was established in 1851 and discontinued in 1873. The membership consisted of the governor, secretary of state, auditor, and treasurer as members ex officio. In 1873 the titular head was changed by the Code of that date to Executive Council and the same membership and qualifications were provided for. The Code of 1897 provided for the election of a secretary by the Executive Council but they failed to elect one until Dec. 5, 1898, when they elected A. H. Davison, E. A. Shipley having served as "acting secretary" until that time. The Code of 1924, by the addition of secretary of agriculture as a member, increased the membership to five.

The secretary of state acted as secretary of the Census Board and Executive Council from 1851 to 1897, and practically all of the records of that period are to be found in that department.

The volume of business transacted by this branch of the government has increased very rapidly. This was caused by the natural growth of the state and from the further fact that the General Assembly at various times increased the powers and duties of the council. At the present time it requires an office force of from twelve to fifteen persons for the regular routine work.

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 FIRST BICYCLE WEST OF MISSISSIPPI
 

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Velocipedes: We learn that our fellow townsman, B. F. Allen and C. P. Luse, have each ordered a velocipede for their own use. All right! Des Moines being the fastest city in the state, ought to have the first bicycle; and we did have a little ambition of our own to live in history as being the first chap who brought a bicycle west of the Mississippi, but we haven't got it now as bad as we had. Anyhow we don't envy you fellows the bumps and tumbles and laughs you'll get.—*Daily State Register*, Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 20, 1869. (Thought to have been written by Ret Clarkson.—*Ed.*) (In the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department.

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