

REPORT
OF
COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION

TO THE
GOVERNOR,

From May 1, 1880, to Nov. 1, 1881.

DES MOINES:
F. M. MILLS, STATE PRINTER.
1882.

REPORT.

SIR—For your information I have the honor to submit the following report of transactions in the office of Commissioner of Immigration for the State of Iowa, from the date of the creation of the office, May 1, 1880, to November 1, 1881.

Chapter 168, laws of the Eighteenth General Assembly, creating the office of Commissioner of Immigration, made an appropriation of \$5,000 a year for two years, to be expended in showing to the people of the United States the natural advantages and resources of the State of Iowa.

Under this law I was appointed Commissioner, and entered upon the discharge of the duties of the office May 1, 1880.

The law confines the work of the Commissioner to the United States, and during the first months of my service, I was constantly called upon to explain to interested parties that drafts could not be made upon the appropriation to be used in foreign countries.

Early in the first year of my service I arranged for the holding of an immigration convention at Sheldon, O'Brien county. The convention was held June 22, 1880, and was attended by representative men of the northwestern part of the State, among whom were many directly interested in the development and settlement of the State. The proceedings of the convention were published under the title of "Information for the Home-seeker," and widely distributed.

It early became apparent that the work in my department must be conducted on the cooperative plan, and it has been my aim to interest as many as possible in spreading information in regard to Iowa, and to assist such to convenient printed matter for distribution. The real estate dealers and agents, including the land commissioners of the leading land-grant railroads, have been my most serviceable allies.

I have made two separate editions of an auxiliary sheet, two pages of which have been filled with matter in regard to the State at large, accompanied with a map, which I have furnished in quantities to suit

to such as would fill the reverse pages with matter pertaining to their localities, print and circulate. Of these papers I have furnished four hundred and twenty-two thousand, which have been furnished to one hundred and seven agents, and been widely distributed throughout the country. The chief point to be looked to in the getting out of immigration matter is to secure its proper distribution, and I am satisfied from my experience that the plan adopted by me of issuing these auxiliary sheets and cooperating thus with the interests directly concerned in attracting immigration and capital to the State is the best yet devised. Of course it does not cover all the ground, but it is an excellent means of bringing immediately to the attention of the home-seeker the information he most desires. Each party thus becoming personally interested in the circulation of the matter has his distinct channels of operation and list of correspondents, and so it would appear that their united efforts could not fail of converging wide ground.

The largest document so far issued is called "Homes in the Heart of the Continent," a document prepared with much care and covering nearly every point in regard to the history, resources and character of the State.

Thirty-six thousand copies of this document have so far been issued, in the circulation of which twenty-one different parties have united.

Other documents of less importance have been issued, swelling the total number issued to about 500,000.

My aim has been to publish nothing except as I could secure for it judicious and serviceable circulation.

The following is a summary :

Iowa as an agricultural State.....	10,000
Information for the Home-seeker	10,000
Auxiliary sheets.....	422,000
Homes in the Heart of the Continent.....	36,000
De Volksvriend.....	3,000
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	481,000

In addition to the above there have been put out a number of thousands of newspapers, circulars, etc.

I have had a short advertisement in a number of Eastern papers, proposing to send to whoever might desire information in regard to Iowa.

Detailed reports of the expenses of the Commission, made quarterly as required by law, are on file in the office of the Auditor of State.

The total expenditures from May 1, 1880, to November 1, 1881, the date of the last quarterly report are, \$5,372.25, which sum includes the salary of the Commissioner.

I have now in preparation a pamphlet that will contain the latest and fullest information in regard to the State available. It is proposed to make this pamphlet valuable for reference and worthy of preservation in libraries, to the end that real estate dealers, business men, editors and others may have a record to their hand that they can draw upon, and which may serve the State well in other States.

The progress of Iowa in the past two years has been very marked, and it is hoped that the work done by your Commissioner in such ways as have been available to him, has not been without some share in the good results.

GEO. D. PERKINS, *Commissioner*

To JOHN H. GEAR, *Governor of Iowa.*