

THE INDIANA CENTENNIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM BUILDING: TWO DOCUMENTS.

1. The statement of the case. A circular issued by the State Librarian and the Indiana Historical Society.

A PLEA FOR AN INDIANA STATE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM BUILDING AS A PERMANENT MEMO- RIAL FOR THE CENTENNIAL OF INDIANA'S STATEHOOD — 1816-1916.

WHY NOT?

Indiana ought to celebrate the centennial of her admission as a State in 1916. Everybody admits that, but how? Expositions are overdone, and nearly every recent one has been a costly failure. Moreover, they are temporary only—a sensation for a few weeks, and then only a memory. Why not celebrate by a permanent memorial monument of some kind?

The State Capitol is badly overcrowded by its permanent occupants. The Legislature is hindered in its work by want of committee rooms. This trouble increases yearly as the State grows. Why not make the centennial memorial monument a building that will relieve the pressure on the Capitol?

The two things in the State Capitol most easily removed, and least connected with the business offices, are the State Library and the State Museum. They occupy more room than any other departments, and yet they are so crowded that they have been forced to refuse donations. They are devoted to the preservation of the history of the State—one its written history, the other its battle-flags, historical relics of war and peace, etc. Why not make the Centennial Memorial Building a place for these two, and build up a great free historical museum for the people of the future?

By adopting this plan we shall always have something to show for our money, instead of having a legacy of debt to wrangle over, as has been the case with most recent expositions. We will have something that will be a perpetual source of pleasure and profitable information to all visitors to the State's capital. Can

you think of anything that would be more lastingly popular? Then why not?

RESOLUTIONS OF THE INDIANA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY.

Whereas, There is a general feeling of the citizens of the State that Indiana should appropriately celebrate the centennial anniversary of her admission to the Union, and the great significance of this event is historical; and

Whereas, The State's chief agencies for the preservation of her history are the State Library, in which are preserved the printed and written records of her history, and the State Museum, in which are preserved the battle-flags and other mementoes of the deeds of her people in war and peace, the specimens of her native flora and fauna, and other historic material of great interest to the people of the State; and

Whereas, In the overcrowded condition of the State Capitol both of these institutions are impeded in their proper work, and in some cases have been obliged to refuse donations, on account of lack of space for their care, of material that is liable to be lost for lack of place of keeping;

Resolved, That the General Assembly be requested to prepare for such centennial celebration by provision at its coming session for an adequate permanent building, on grounds adjacent to the State Capitol, for the housing of the State Library and State Museum, and other agencies devoted to the preservation of historical material.

Resolved, further, That all citizens of the State who believe that Indiana has a history in which her people may take a just pride and who feel that it should be carefully preserved and handed down to all future generations, be requested to use their influence now to have such preparation made that said proposed Centennial Memorial Building may be erected and prepared for dedication by December 11, 1916.

THE STATE GEOLOGIST.

Indiana is replete with natural resources such as attract the man with limited capital. Indiana has invited investment in

brick, tile, stone, cement, coal and pottery plants, all drawing their raw materials from our State's inexhaustible store, and, with few exceptions, these investments have given good returns.

The advertising encouragement and impetus given these investments are largely the work of the Department of Geology and Natural Resources of the State of Indiana. Along with the economic phase of the work, a proper balance has been maintained with the scientific or scholastic demands of the State. Extensive surveys of the natural history of the State—the fauna and flora—have been maintained, and there are now in progress exhaustive surveys of soils and water-power sites of the State, which will be completed in the next two to four years.

The soil survey will be of greatest importance to the farming interests of the State, and the water-power problem, when completed, will be of inestimable value to the people generally.

With all of this, the Department of Geology, and the State Museum—the people's greatest advertising mediums for its natural resources—are inadequately supplied with room for the proper conduct of its work. Hundreds and thousands of dollars' worth of maps, charts, plates, records and specimens, that should be properly displayed or made a part of the State's permanent history, are now stored in the basement of the State House for want of room and space where people can see and examine them.

For the above reasons and many others we could give, there is an imperative necessity for a suitable building adjacent to the State House for the housing of the Department of Geology and the State Library. From an economic standpoint, if from no other, the State can well afford to invest in additional room for these departments, and we urge the present Legislature to appropriate the means to bring this about.

EDWARD BARRETT.

WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Resolved, That the Wayne County Historical Society heartily concurs in the movement for the erection at Indianapolis of a suitable building, at the State's expense, for the accommodation of the State Library, and the the several educational, historical and scientific associations of the State; and

That we deem the time opportune and the need urgent enough to demand its immediate and careful consideration by the General Assembly.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY.

The History Club of Indiana University passed the following resolution:

As an appropriate method of celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of Indiana's admission to the Union, a Memorial Building should be erected by the State in Indianapolis, which will serve as the Library Building and Historical Museum, for the sake of preserving all the documents, papers and materials relating to the history of Indiana that may come into the possession of the State. Such a building, with its library equipment, would be a valuable educational center and a resort for students engaged in research.

Similar resolutions have been passed by the Indiana Library Trustees' Association, Indiana State Federation of Women's Clubs, Indiana Library Association, Indiana State Board of Education, and many others of the historical and scientific societies of the State.

Indiana is behind other States in the preservation of its history and in the care of its valuable relics and specimens of its natural resources. Other progressive States have already erected buildings for this purpose. Wisconsin has spent more than a million dollars on its State Historical Library Building; Connecticut has a new State Library Building; the New York State Library and Educational Departments will soon move into a \$4,000,000 building; Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa have either finished or are now finishing similar structures; the Pennsylvania State Library and Museum now have possession of the former State Capitol. The time is opportune for Indiana to provide for its Library and Museum. To do this by 1916, the present Legislature must take action.

DEMARCHUS C. BROWN,
State Librarian.

C. B. COLEMAN,
J. P. DUNN,
C. W. MOORES,

Committee of the Indiana Historical Society.

2. The law providing for the first step toward the building.

SENATE BILL No. 228.

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Celebration of the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the Admission of the State of Indiana into the Union by the Construction of a State Educational Building.

[Read the third time in the Senate and passed, February 7, 1911; ayes 37, noes 6. Passed with amendments in the House, passed as amended in the Senate, and signed by the Governor on March 1, 1911.]

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That there is hereby created a commission composed of five members as follows:

One holdover Senator appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor; one Representative appointed by the Speaker; the State Librarian, and two members appointed by the Governor. This commission shall be known as the Indiana Centennial Commission.

The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed their necessary expenses while engaged in the business of the commission.

Any vacancy occurring in the commission shall be filled by appointment by the Governor, and any member may be removed by the Governor for cause.

Sec. 2. Within sixty days after this act takes effect, the commission shall meet, on the call of the Governor, at the State Capitol, and shall organize by electing a chairman and a secretary from among their number.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the commission to formulate plans for the celebration of the centennial of the admission of Indiana into the Union by the erection of a State building and its dedication in 1916, to be known as the Indiana Educational Building. The plan of such building shall provide for the proper housing of the State Library and Museum, Public Library Commission, and the educational and scientific offices of the State.

Sec. 4. The commission shall have the power to determine upon a site for such building; to take options upon the property necessary for the location of the building, and for the necessary

grounds surrounding such building, and bind the State for the payment of such options.

Sec. 5. The commission shall invite the competition of architects in the formulation of plans, and shall for that purpose advertise the fact that the commission is considering plans for a State Educational Building, in at least two newspapers of general circulation, for a period of two weeks, specifying the maximum cost of such building. The commission is empowered to employ such clerical assistants as may be necessary.

Sec. 6. The commission shall report to the General Assembly at its session in 1913, setting forth in detail the location of the proposed building and the cost of the grounds for such location, and the plans which may have been submitted for such building and the approximate cost thereof, together with recommendations as to the choice of the plans for such building, the ways and means for its construction, and such other matter as may aid the General Assembly in making the necessary appropriations and providing for the construction thereof by the commission, and its dedication in 1916 on the occasion of the centennial of the admission of Indiana into the Union.

Sec. 7. When the plans shall have been approved by the General Assembly and the necessary appropriations therefor have been made, the commission shall proceed to purchase the necessary grounds and to construct such building in such a manner and under such conditions as may be prescribed by the General Assembly.

Sec. 8. Said commission shall consult with the board of park commissioners of the city of Indianapolis, and the board of commissioners of the county of Marion, as to the purchase by the State of Indiana, the city of Indianapolis and the county of Marion of any real estate for such educational building and grounds, and accept, subject to the approval of the next General Assembly of the State, tentative proposals as to the proportional share of the cost of such property and the ownership thereof when so purchased, and shall report the same to the next General Assembly for its ratification or rejection.

Sec. 9. The sum of \$1,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to carry out the provisions of this act.