HISTORICAL COMMISSION F 561 M52 1915

Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2007 with funding from Microsoft Corporation

http://www.archive.org/details/reportmichhc03michuoft



MICHIGAN .

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT 1915



LANSING, MICHIGAN WYNKOOP HALLENBECK CRAWFORD CO., STATE PRINTERS 1916



F 561 M52 1915

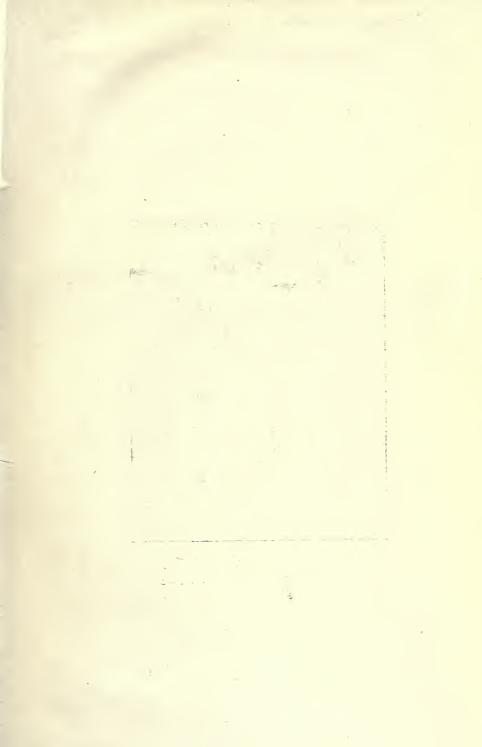
Term Expires.

HON. WOODBRIDGE N. FERRIS, Governor of Michigan, ex officio.	
RT. REV. MONSIGNOR FRANK A. O'BRIEN, LL. D., President,	
Kalamazoo	1921
PROF. CLAUDE H. VAN TYNE, Ph. D., Vice President, Ann Arbor	1918
WILLIAM L. JENKS, M. A., Port Huron.	1916
CLARENCE M. BURTON, M. A., Detroit	1917
Hon. Edwin O. Wood, Flint	1919
HON. LAWTON T. HEMANS, Mason	1920

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

CHARLES MOORE, Ph. D., Secretary and Editor, MINA HUMPHREY VARNUM, Assistant Editor, MARIE B. FERREY, Curator of the Museum.







THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION.

The Honorable Woodbridge N. Ferris, . Governor of Michigan.

Sir:—The Michigan Historical Commission respectfully submit their third annual report, in accordance with section numbered nine of Act No. 271, Public Acts of 1913, by virtue of which law the Commission exists.

During the past year the Commission has consisted of the following members:

Hon. Woodbridge N. Ferris, Governor of Michigan, ex officio, Rt. Rev. Mgr. Frank A. O'Brien, LL. D.,
Prof. Claude H. Van Tyne,
William Lee Jenks, M. A.,
Clarence Munro Burton, M. A.,
Hon. Edwin O. Wood,
Hon. Lawton T. Hemans.

In June, 1915, Monsignor O'Brien was elected president and Professor Van Tyne was elected vice-president for the term of one year. The Commission has held regular quarterly meetings in Lansing; two special meetings on the Island of Mackinac, and a joint meeting with the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

A BUILDING FOR RECORDS.

The Michigan Historical Commission are authorized and empowered "to collect from the State, county, city, village and township offices such records, files, documents, books and papers as are not less than thirty years old, and are not in current use, and are, in the opinion of the Commission valuable only for historical purposes."

While the law contemplates the collection, preservation and arrangement for the use of historical students, of State and municipal records, no provision has been made as yet for the reception of such records. The Commission is compelled repeatedly to decline to receive materials because it had no place to put them; and the systematic gathering of records and newspaper files cannot be undertaken for the lack of fireproof space in which to house them. The State Library receives, catalogues and otherwise makes available the books and documents received by the Commission, thereby rendering a service to the Commission and avoiding the unnecessary duplication of library effort. The cooperation existing between the two institutions suggests that when—as must soon happen—new quarters shall be provided for the State Library, sufficient room for the activities of the Historical Commission be provided in the same building.

OFFICES OF THE COMMISSION.

During the session of the Legislature the Historical Commission occupied offices in a portion of the Museum room on the upper floor of the Capitol. The space available was limited and work was interrupted by the large numbers of visitors to the Museum. When the Legislature adjourned, offices adjoining the Senate were assigned to the Commission and these rooms will be available until the Legislature again convenes.

One result of occupying quarters in the Museum was the restoration of a capacious and fine desk and a number of chairs of much dignity and distinction which had come down from Territorial times. This old furniture will continue to be used by the Commission both because of its suitability and also for the purpose of preserving it.

The Board of State Auditors have placed in the Commission offices metal filing cases, asbestos lined and fire-proof, to care for the manuscripts, maps and photographs belonging to the Commission. While the filing cases are not adequate to accommodate all the manuscripts belonging to the Commission, nevertheless they enable a good start to be made. In time they will be supplemented by larger resources and the Commission will be able to provide with reasonable safety for the constantly increasing number of manuscripts which come into its possession.

THE MAILING LIST.

The mailing list, on permanent addressograph plates, comprises the following divisions: First, libraries of universities, colleges, high schools, private schools, parochial schools, and Granges in Michigan and other States and in Canada, England, Sweden and South America, which libraries contain the volumes of the Collections. Second, newspapers in Michigan. Third, members of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society. This list of members has been corrected during the past year by sending a postal card to each member named in Bulletin No. 3. The Secretary requests that he be notified of changes of address and of the death of members of this Society, in order that the list may be kept complete. Notices are also sent to State officers, members of the Legislature, and others whose names are not on the permanent list.

7

ROUTINE WORK.

During the year the work of supplying the Collections to school and public libraries, both in Michigan and in other States, as well as in several foreign countries, has gone on at an increasing ratio. The records showing the whereabouts of these volumes have been perfected and are now reasonably complete.

The correspondence of the Commission is constantly on the increase and with the aid of new filing cases this correspondence has been arranged systematically. The cuts of maps, places and individuals used to illustrate the published volumes now fill twenty-seven drawers, and have a decided historical value. It is the practice of the Commission to loan these cuts for historical purposes.

MARKING HISTORIC SPOTS.

The Commission gratefully acknowledges the receipt from various sources (notably from the chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution) of photographs of memorials and monuments erected in Michigan to mark historical places and events. These photographs, together with club papers and other records of like character, have been alphabetically arranged by counties, towns, subjects, people, and events, with sufficient cross-references to make them easily available. These papers are now in fire-proof filing cases. The Commission particularly requests that all such records be sent to their offices by the clubs and individuals interested. In this way a large body of material is being collected for the use of historical students. Many of the counties of the State are now represented, and it is hoped that in time there will be accumulated at Lansing material that will call to the capital students who find it desirable to consult original materials.

MICHIGAN HISTORY PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST.

The Daughters of the American Revolution and the Michigan Federation of Women's Clubs have arranged a prize essay contest open to pupils in Michigan schools of the eighth grade in the high school or of corresponding grade in any other school. The subject of the essays is the settlement and development of the city or town in which the essay is being written. The Daughters of the American Revolution take charge of the contest in towns where there are chapters of that organization, and the Women's Clubs have charge of the contest in towns where there are clubs but no D. A. R. Chapters. The Superintendent of Public Instruction looks after the contest in towns where there are neither chapters nor clubs. Arrangements have been made whereby the Historical Commission will have the privilege of printing such essays as contain information of value to the history of the State. The prizes are large size photographs of the statue of Lewis Cass in the Capitol at Washington and the portrait of Stevens T. Mason, first Governor of Michigan, from the oil painting in Memorial Hall, Ann Arbor.

This prize essay contest was suggested by a "History of Menominee" prepared by the Class of 1910 of the Menominee High School, under the supervision of Miss Frances D. Radford, teacher of history, with the assistance of Mrs. A. L. Sawyer. This history consists of a pamphlet of thirty-two printed pages and is a model of arrangement, research, comprehensiveness, and effective presentation.

MICHIGAN BIBLIOGRAPHY.

During the past year a considerable amount of work has been done on the Michigan Bibliography, which is one of the chief projects undertaken by the Commission. The Michigan titles in the State Library have been furnished through the courtesy of the State Librarian. The Michigan titles in the Library of Congress have been purchased. The librarians of Michigan University, the Agricultural College, and the Detroit and Grand Rapids Public Libraries, have furnished the cards pertaining to their respective institutions or cities. A considerable number of separate cards have been made and the work of collating the cards has progressed as rapidly as possible under present service conditions. The bibliographical cards are now filed in such manner that they are of constant use in answering correspondence.

MICHIGAN CHRONOLOGY.

A chronology of leading events in Michigan history from the earliest times to the present has been created and is now in working order. This chronology is added to from time to time, and is regarded as one of the regular divisions into which the work of the Commission falls.

The necrology of Michigan is reasonably complete for 1915. This is supplemented by newspaper notices of noted people still living, of historic characters, places and events from May 1915. These records are available in the offices of the Commission.

NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN.

During the past year material has been gathered and in part prepared for a bulletin showing the location and condition of files of newspapers throughout the State. Circular letters have been sent to all Michigan

newspapers and libraries and every effort has been made to secure information. This list, although at present incomplete, is valuable to historical students who desire to locate the files of Michigan newspapers. It is intended to publish a bulletin on the subject in the near future.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.

The Census of 1820. The United States census for Michigan of 1820, which was discovered by Mr. C. M. Burton in going through the old papers at the Capitol, has been placed in a fire-proof cabinet and is now available to students. A copy of this census has been furnished to the Census Bureau in Washington by the Commission.

The Schoolcraft Papers. The Schoolcraft Papers copied from the originals in the Library of Congress have been arranged and as soon as they can be edited will be published.

The Peter White Papers. Among the more notable acquisitions during the past year are the addresses and public papers of the late Peter White, of Marquette. The collection includes upwards of 130 items: and it contains probably the most comprehensive records of the development of the iron region of Michigan ever gathered. All of this development Mr. White saw, and of much of it he was a constituent part. He came to be regarded as the representative citizen of the Upper Peninsula; his public spirit and generosity brought him in contact with popular movements of various kinds; and his good-fellowship and abundant humor caused him to be sought after as a speaker at celebrations and social gatherings throughout the State. He had been a staunch churchman, a State Senator, a Regent of the University and a member of various commissions. All of these activities are represented in his papers and letters. He was a business man and a banker; and the characteristic forms of financing adopted in a region remote from financial centers but having large pay-rolls can be studied in his records more fully and more satisfactorily than anywhere else.

The Peter White Papers comprise addresses and memoranda concerning the Saint Mary's Canal Celebration of 1905, including letters of Charles T. Harvey, the constructing engineer of the canal; the Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary dispute; the University of Michigan, while Mr. White was a member of the Board of Regents; the creation of the Marquette diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church and the appointment of the first bishop; the history of Ishpeming, of Marquette, Escanaba, of the Mission Church at Mackinac, of the Lake Superior region; the discovery of iron and the development of iron mining; the establishment of mail service in the Upper Peninsula; the Northern Normal School; churches in Northern Michigan; the murder of School-

9

craft at Sault Ste. Marie, (two versions); vessels on the Upper Lake before the building of the Canal; mining taxation; the creation of the Presque Isle breakwater and harbor of refuge; Presque Isle Park; the Lake Superior Iron Company; the Marquette and Western, the Marquette and Mackinac, the Lake Superior and Ishpeming, the Duluth and Iron Range and the Marquette and Mineral Range Railroads. There are manuscript dialect poems of the late William H. Drummond, letters of Hiram A. Burt, Alfred Meads, Samuel Moody, S. P. Elv and many other early settlers: a petition for the creation of the State of Superior, a project now being revived; and descriptions of the Pictured Rocks. The collection contains materials for a complete account of what was known in the Upper Peninsula as "Iron Money," including the part played by it in the Hayes-Tilden campaign, and in the defeat of Senator Chandler. There is scarcely a topic relating to the history of the iron region that is not touched upon in these valuable papers. To Mr. Morgan W. Joplin, of Marquette, a grandson of Mr. White, and one of his executors, the Commission is indebted for this valuable material.

The Chandler Port aits. Twelve portraits of Zachariah Chandler and members of his family, copied from miniatures, daguerreotypes and photographs in possession of his daughter, Mrs Eugene Hale of Ellsworth, Me., have been added to the collections. These portraits represent the young manhood, the early senatorial period and the maturity of Senator Chandler; and there are portraits of his father and mother as well. Supplementary to the portraits are photographs of Mr. Chandler's birthplace, the schoolhouse where he was taught and where James F. Joy was once a teacher, and a genealogy of the Chandler family.

Autobiography of Austin Blair. Among the papers left by Governor Blair was a sketch of his life. While it is not as extensive as could be desired, it is much more full than anything now in print; and, moreover, it contains much information in regard to political affairs in Michigan. Governor Blair was a man of strong convictions and the fact that he followed those convictions resolutely led to many political changes in his career and to much misunderstanding as to his motives. The autobiography throws light on these matters. It is hoped that the remaining papers of Governor Blair will be deposited with the Commission by Mrs. Charles Blair, who has made the gift of the Autobiography.

Journal of Bela Hubbard. Through the good offices of Hon. R. C. Allen, State Geologist, the Commission has secured from Mr. Bela Hubbard the original journal and notebook of his grandfather, Bela Hubbard, describing the latter's geologic field journeys and investigations while employed on the first Geological Survey of Michigan under Dr. Douglass Houghton. Mr. Hubbard's lively curiosity, his industry, the charm of his style, and his broad cultivation have given to his writings relating to the early days of this State a value surpassed by those of no other man. Any new material from his pen is in the nature of a rare find.

St. Joseph County Statistical Records and Pioneer History; compiled by Abiel Fellows Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Dr. B. M. Haines, Regent; Miss Sue I. Silliman, Editor. This volume consists of county clerks' records of 1622 marriages in St. Joseph County between 1832 and 1852; newspaper notices from the News Reporter, 1860 to 1869, and from the Western Chronicle from 1858 to 1859; marriages in records of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches of Three Rivers and St. Edward's Church, Mendon; baptismal records from the same churches; church membership records, death records taken from cemeteries, historical sketches of churches, societies and institutions, and the text of the Three Rivers first historical pageant. These records are in excellent form, and are a rare example of patient and intelligent research.

PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION.

The following manuscripts are in hand for publication at an early date:

John Nicolet. Exercises at the unveiling of the tab'et commemorating the discovery and exploration of the Northwest, on Mackinac Island, July 12, 1915, under the auspices of the Michigan Historical Commission and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. (In press)

Lewis Cass. Exercises at the unveiling of the tablet commemorating the services of Lewis Cass as Governor of Michigan Territory and Explorer of the Northwest, August 11, 1915, under the auspices of the Michigan Historical Commission and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

Names of Paces of Interest on Mackinac Island, Michigan, as established, designated and adopted by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission and the Michigan Historical Commission; and descriptive and explanatory notes by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Frank A. O'Brien, LL. D., President of the Michigan Historical Commission, 1915. (In press)

The Life of Stevens Thompson Mason; by Lawton T. Hemans. A study of political conditions in Michigan during later Territorial and early Statehood days.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

University Series.

Economic and Social Beginnings of Michigan; a study of the settlement of the Lower Peninsula during the Territorial Period 1805-1837; by George Newman Fuller, Ph. D. About 800 pages of text; 24 plates and 25 illustrations. A thesis submitted at the University of Michigan. (In press)

The Public Life of Zachariah Chandler, 1851-1875; by Wilmer C. Harris, Ph. D. A thesis submitted to the Department of History of the University of Chicago. This monograph presents Mr. Chandler as the representative in the United States Senate of the radical spirit dominant among his constituents during the epoch of the War of Secession and the Reconstruction period.

The Michigan Fur Trade; by Ida Amanda Johnson, Ph. D. A thesis submitted at the University of Michigan. This study gives an account of the fur trader's regime in Michigan; shows the trading policy of the various nations which successively held sway over her territory and its results; relates the story of the rise and growth of the various posts and out-posts within Michigan borders; the influences to which they were subjected and their fortunes in peace and war; depicts the life of the traders, their relation to the Indians and to each other.

The Historical Geography of Detroit; by Almon Ernest Parkins, Ph. D. A dissertation submitted to the faculty of the Ogden Graduate School of Science, University of Chicago, in candidacy for the degree of doctor of philosophy. Mr. Parkins has made a study of the geographic influences that led to the establishment of Detroit and its development from a trading-post to the manufacturing and commercial metropolis of today.

The Evolution of the Counties of Michigan; by William Henry Hathaway, M. A., head of the History Department, Eastern Division High School, Milwaukee.

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS.

During the past year Volume 39 of the Michigan Historical Collections has been published, besides the records of the origin of the Michigan Historical Commission and of the meetings of that Commission and of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society. The volume contains papers on historical topics relating to Michigan and a list of articles, authors, and illustrations in the thirty-nine volumes of the series thus far published. This latter work covering 124 printed pages forms a much needed guide to the Collections and will serve as a finding-list until a consolidated index can be prepared. Materials for

Volume 40 have accumulated; among the more important articles are Mr. Edward G. Holden's personal reminiscences of Carl Schurz during the year he spent as editor of the Detroit Post. Mr. Schurz himself does not cover this period in his autobiography. Mr. Holden was associated with Mr. Schurz on the editorial staff of the Post and then began a friendship that was continued until the death of the former. Mr. H. Bedford-Jones has been led to check up Alexander Henry's account of the massacre at Fort Michilimackinac in 1763, with the result of finding such discrepancies between the account and the facts as to throw a new light on Henry's veracity as an historical writer. There are papers by Mrs. Lillian Drake Avery of Pontiac, and Miss Mary A. Goddard, assistant professor of Natural Sciences in the State Normal College, which discuss the underground railroad in Oakland and Washtenaw counties, respectively, both contributing valuable information in a field almost uncultivated. The entire period of the War of Secession has received in the Collections scant and inadequate attention on the historical side, and the attention of writers on Michigan history is called to this very fruitful field of research and exploration. Prof. John Cutler Shedd, of Olivet College, contributes a paper on Manassah Cutler's relations to higher education in the Northwest; Andrew B. Dougherty, Esq., Deputy Attorney General, discusses early State cases in the Supreme Court; Mr. John Fitzgibbon, of the Detroit News staff, tells the story of the Government operations in surveying and charting the Great Lakes from the beginning of the work in 1841 to the present time; Hon. G. J. Diekema of Holland has a paper on the Holland emigration to Michigan; Mr. Raymond Wyer, Director of the Hackley Art Gallery, Muskegon, contributes a paper on Mr. Hackley's benefaction.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER HISTORICAL COMMISSIONS.

Under the direction of Dr. J. Franklin Jameson, director of the department of historical research of the Carnegie Institution, a calendar of the documents relating to the region of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley is being prepared by Mr. Waldo Leland, Secretary of the American Historical Association. Mr. Leland has pursued his researches among the archives of France; and his work was nearly completed when it was interrupted by the war in Europe. The calendar, however, is in such shape that it can be consulted by historical students.

The Michigan Historical Commission possesses in the Margry papers a considerable portion of these original documents. The Illinois Historical Society has been at work in the same field and has another important fraction of the original material. By combining the papers in the Michigan and Illinois Collections, and by using the Carnegie Calendar to indicate the extent and nature of the omissions, publication of the papers in the possession of the two societies can be made to contribute largely to genuine historical work in connection with the old Northwest. It is proper to say that the Historical Societies of the Middle West contributed to the preparation of the Carnegie Calendar; so that it represents the co-operative work of these societies.

The combined efforts of the Historical Societies of Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Michigan are now being directed to the preparation of a calendar of papers relating to the Middle West in Washington. When this calendar has been prepared each State will be able to locate and have reproduced for the use of its historical scholars the papers in which it is particularly interested. Meanwhile Mr. C. M. Burton, at his own expense, has had photographed and has placed in the Burton Library of the Detroit Public Library some eight thousand copies of papers in the War Department relating more or less directly to the history of Michigan. These papers are available to students of history.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The Mid-winter meeting of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society was held in the Hackley Art Gallery, Muskegon, in February. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Clarence E. Bement, President of the Society, and several representatives of the Commission were present and took part in the proceedings. The historical activities of the Daughters of the American Revolution were presented by Mrs. William H. Wait, State Regent, and those of the Daughters of the War of 1812 by the President, Mrs. James H. Campbell of Grand Rapids. The hospitality of the people of Muskegon was shown in a reception given to the members of the Pioneer and Historical Society at the Hackley Gallery, and in the particularly interesting music, both choral and orchestral.

The forty-first annual meeting of the Society was he'd in the Senate Chamber, Lansing, June 2 and 3, and besides the papers presented, one session was occupied with a conference on the methods of cooperation on the part of public libraries, patriotic societies and county historical societies, with the Michigan Historical Commission, in gathering and publishing materials relating to the history of the State. More than twenty persons, representing county and local historical societies, patriotic societies and public libraries, participated in the Conference. The Michigan Federation of Women's Clubs was represented by the president, Mrs. R. H. Ashbaugh, and the Daughters of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 took part. The papers

presented at these two meetings, together with the report of the proceedings will appear in Volume 40 of the Collections.

'CO-OPERATION WITH THE MACKINAC ISLAND STATE PARK COMMISSION.

The Michigan Historical Commission accepted the invitation of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission to participate in the unveiling of a tablet to Jean Nicolet, which tablet was erected on Mackinac Island near Arch Rock. At the exercises which took place on July 13, the orator was the Rev. T. J. Campbell, S. J., of New York City. The address on the unveiling was made by Mgr. O'Brien on behalf of the Michigan Historical Commission. The acceptance on the part of the State was made by Hon. Lawton T. Hemans, and Hon. Edwin O. Wood responded to the address of welcome made by the Mayor of Mackinac Is'and.

On July 12, a joint meeting of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission and the Michigan Historical Commission was held at Mackinac and the two Commissions visited the site of the Fort of 1763 and made suggestions looking toward the restoration of the old lines of the fort. They also visited the building set apart for a historic museum on Mackinac Island and arranged for co-operation in furnishing materials for the museum. The list of names and places agreed upon by the two Commissions was presented at the meeting by Monsignor O'Brien, was approved and ordered printed as a bulletin of the Historical Commission.

On August 28, the Historical Commission again co-operated with the Park Commission in the unveiling of a tablet to Lewis Cass. At this meeting Hon. Edwin O. Wood presided; the principal address was made by Hon. Edwin Henderson of the Detroit bar, and addresses were made by Governor Ferris, Senator Atlee Power of Ohio and Monsignor O'Brien.

THE HISTORICAL MUSEUMS.

The Museum continues to grow in its usual desultory way. The first need of the Museum is an expert-made catalogue, and until this shall have been achieved the Museum will minister rather to the curiosity than to the information of visitors. The Museum is supposed to represent pioneer conditions in Michigan, but it is impossible to devise any means adequately to represent those conditions in the corridors of the Capitol. The Commission has recommended to the patriotic societies of Michigan that they undertake to build in Lansing a log-cabin, wherein may be arranged the furniture and utensils used by the pioneers of Michigan. In no other way can the materials now collected be made to yield a value commensurate with their cost and care. The Mackinac Island State Park Commission has set apart for a museum a historic and commodious building situated where it overlooks the Straits of Mackinac, and the Historical Commission has agreed to co-operate with the Park Commission in the gathering and arrangement of collections for the museum. This new museum has an opportunity to illustrate in chronological order the history of Michigan, beginning with prehistoric times as represented in the works of the Ancient Miners of Lake Superior and the makers of the Garden Beds of Kalamazoo County; the life of the Indians at the time of the discovery of this region by the whites; the French and the English periods at Michilimackinac; the methods of the fur trade; and the life at a frontier Army post.

FINANCIAL.

The Legislature of 1915 increased the appropriation of the Commission from \$5,000 to \$6,000, the latter amount becoming available July 1, 1915. Of this increase \$400 has been used to pay to B. F. Stevens & Brown of London, England, the remainder of the amount due them for transcribing and translating the Margry papers.

The receipts and expenditures paid from the appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, are as follows:

Salaries of staff officers, clerks and extra service	\$4,085	30
Travelling expenses	635	41
Office supplies	139	41
Express, freight and cartage	2	75
Telephone and telegraph	53	77
Miscellaneous	57	55
-		
Total disbursements	\$4,794	19
Deficit from preceding year	6	89
-		
Total	\$4,981	08
Balance from appropriation of \$5,000.00 to be carried over to		
coming year	\$18	92

F	Michigan.	Historical	Commission
561	Report		
M52			
1915			

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE CARDS OR SLIPS FROM THIS POCKET

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARY

