

BOOK REVIEWS

JOURNAL MISSOURI CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1875 WITH AN HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION ON CONSTITUTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS IN MISSOURI, by Isidor Loeb, Ph. D., LL. B. and a Biographical Account of The Personnel of the Convention by Floyd C. Shoemaker, A. M., Editors, Two Volumes: A Missouri Centennial Publication by The State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, 1920.

After forty-six years of peaceful slumber in the State Archives, the manuscript journal of the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of 1875, has now for the first time been made accessible to the public by the above publication. It would seem to be a duty which the State owes to its citizens, to publish the proceedings of a convention which frames the organic law of the State as soon as practicable after the adoption by the people of the work of the Convention. It is a severe reflection upon legislative procedure and methods in Missouri that that duty was never discharged by the State, and that the printing of this Journal, after the lapse of nearly half a century, is due entirely to private initiative. It is to be hoped that the proceedings of the convention which frames a new constitution for Missouri, will not meet a similar fate.

In view of the selection of delegates in the near future to draft a new constitution for the State, this publication comes at a most opportune time. Dr. Loeb's Historical Introduction on the earlier State Constitutions and Constitutional Conventions is very interesting and instructive and should be carefully studied by all the delegates to the coming Convention. Mr. Shoemaker's Biographical Account is a valuable study of the personnel of the convention, and comparison thereof with that of the prior conventions. Mr. Bull Leopard has contributed individual biographical sketches of the delegates, which are both instructive and interesting.

One is impressed by the high and lofty character and great and varied abilities of the delegates to the Convention of 1875, and becomes apprehensive that the next convention will not measure favorably in comparison with those men. As to the work of the Convention of 1875, it is well to bear in mind that the Constitution it gave us, has long been regarded by the most capable judges as a model in its essential features; and it is to be hoped that the next convention will not attempt any radical change in those particulars.

J. H. Z.