

PREFACE.

In presenting the Blue Book of 1883, the twenty-second annual edition, to the legislature, the compiler trusts that it may be received with the same confidence in its reliability, that has been given to his previous work. The book is not as large as that of last year, but it is believed that, with the exception of the census by towns, everything that has heretofore appeared, will be found fully complete, with the addition of several new features. No very important features, however, have been added. In fact the book now embraces about every subject in the political or financial condition of the state. . The book is already too large, and any emphatic additions would make it cumbersome and expensive without materially increasing its value. The difficulty of obtaining information, moreover, will prevent the Blue Book from becoming what it might be under other circumstances. The compiler can use only such material as he finds before him, and this is utilized to the utmost. Should he go beyond this and seek information from county and town officials, the chances are that he would get but few returns so long as no compensation is allowed for that work.

The Secretary of State thought best to use the old stereotype plates for the Constitution and the Manual, instead of purchasing new plates as the law of 1882 would have allowed, since the change in state printer would have necessitated the purchase of new plates again, with the issue of the next volume, in order that there might be uniformity in the type, throughout the work.

The compiler has given the vote for each town and election district, for President in 1880, Governor in 1881, and for member of Congress in 1882. Thus the vote of any town for three successive years is given in full on the same page, a feature that will commend itself to those who have frequent occasions for such comparisons.

A map of the state, showing the congressional districts in colors, and a picture of the state capitol as it will appear when the extensions are completed, are valuable additions to the number of illustrations.

The annually increasing demand for the Blue Book, particularly from the public schools, shows that the information it contains is of special value to the student and the teacher as well as to every citizen of our state.

J. E. H.

MADISON, February 1, 1883.