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LOGAN ESAREY

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VOLUME V NUMBER 2

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

IN

EARLY INDIANA

BY

LOGAN ESAREY, A. M.

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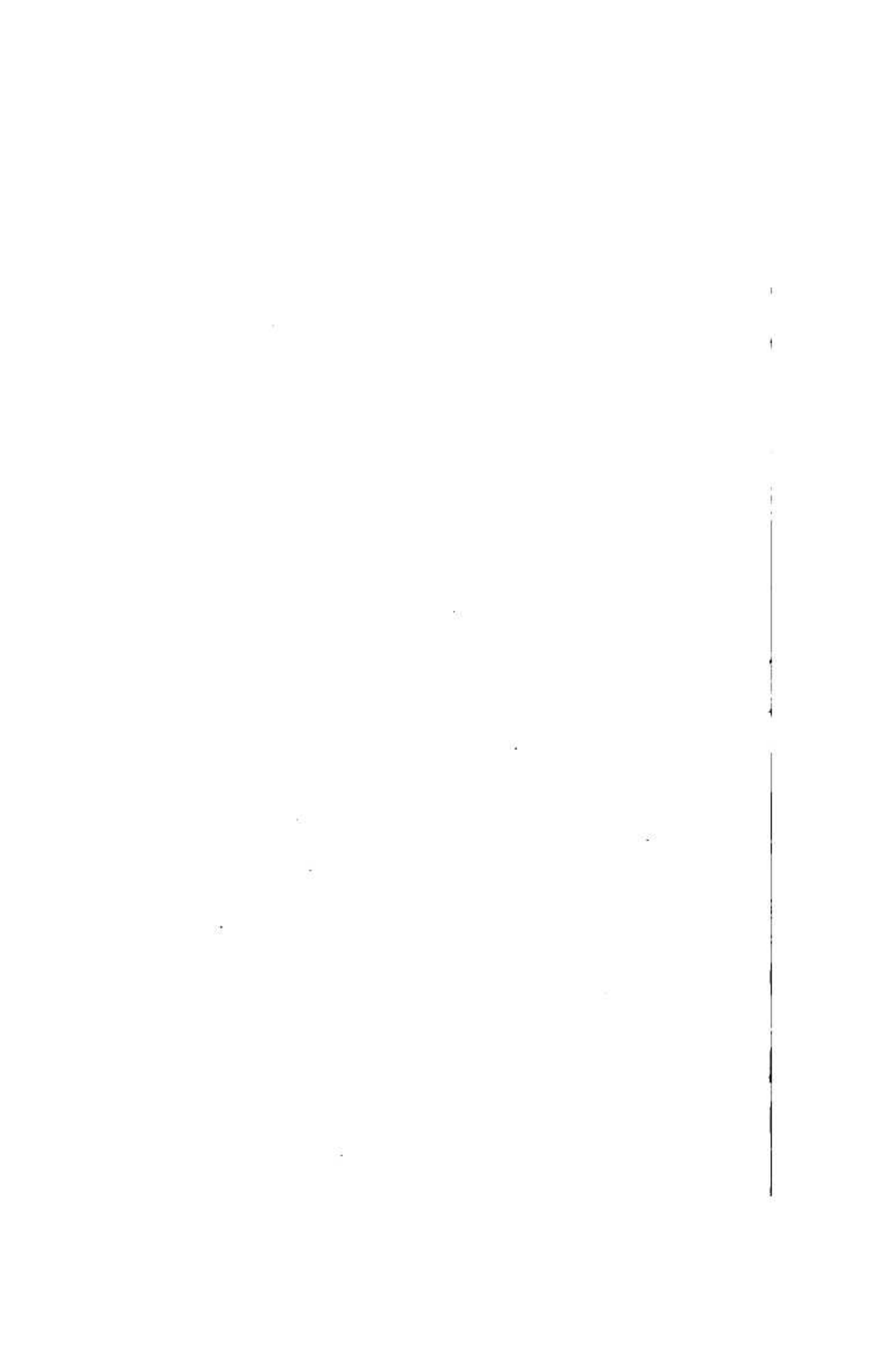
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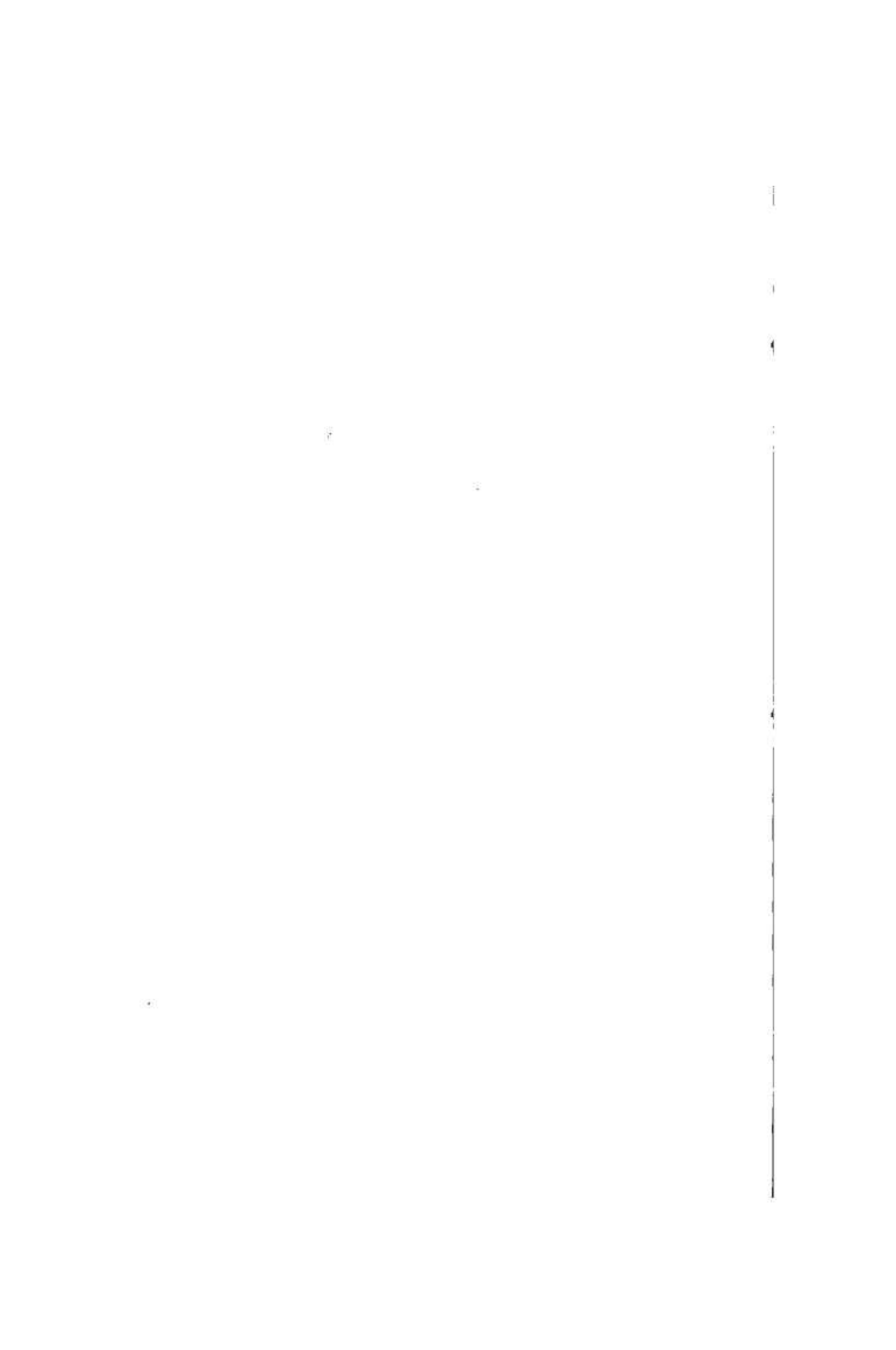


PREFACE

The following paper was prepared while the writer was teaching at Vincennes. The materials from which it is written were collected at Vincennes, Indianapolis, Ft. Wayne, and various other places. The chief sources were the legislative records, consisting of the *Laws of Indiana*, the *Senate Journal*, the *House Journal*, and the *Documentary Journal*. These have been supplemented by the newspapers, the most valuable of which were the *Western Sun*, the *Indianapolis Journal*, and the *Indianapolis Sentinel*. The writer was not permitted to use the *Madison Courier*, which has since been acquired by the State Library. The official reports of the various agents, engineers, and boards have been used in all cases. Secondary materials, such as county histories, biographies, and memoirs, have been examined, but their unconfirmed statements have not been used.

The subject is much too large for this limited paper. In the effort to reduce it to the required length the paper has been made more sketchy than otherwise would have been necessary.

This study of Indiana history was begun at the suggestion of Dr. James A. Woodburn, and it has been continued under his direction. Dr. Samuel B. Harding has improved the paper with kindly suggestions, and, if it has any formal excellence, it is largely due to his patient criticism. Ernest V. Shockley, a fellow-student with the writer in the History Seminary of Indiana University, and an authority on the historical geography of the State, prepared the map. It is scarcely necessary to mention the kindness and attention shown by the State Librarian and his assistants. That is their business, and they do it with courtesy not always found among public officials.



INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS IN EARLY INDIANA

I.

INTRODUCTION.

§1. ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES, 1816-'20.

After the Napoleonic Wars had ceased and European trade had settled back into its customary channels, it became necessary for the American people living along the Atlantic seaboard to find a new field for the capital and labor that had been employed in maritime commerce. Everything pointed to the West as the new field. Soon the waves of emigration, that Burke had seen in vision lapping over the crests of the Alleghenies, grew into a deluge that swept down the western valleys, overwhelming the wild animals, the Indians, and the primeval forest. This was no ordinary movement of population. It was almost a national migration to this American "hinterland." We are accustomed to think of these pioneers as moving along four routes: up the Hudson and Mohawk rivers, across Pennsylvania, through Cumberland Gap, and along the Wilderness Way. This is true in general, but it is not an adequate picture. They came by all roads and by every means of conveyance.

The great obstacle in the road to this western world was the Allegheny mountains. In the first era of internal improvements it was the problem of surmounting the Alleghenies that had to be solved. There were many attractions beyond these mountains. For the laborer, there was free land, a chance to become wealthy, and to win for himself