

**AMERICAN TERRITORIAL
DEVELOPMENT;
SOURCE EXTRACTS**

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American Territorial Development; Source Extracts by Howard W. Caldwell

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HOWARD W. CALDWELL

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American Territorial Development

SOURCE EXTRACTS

BY

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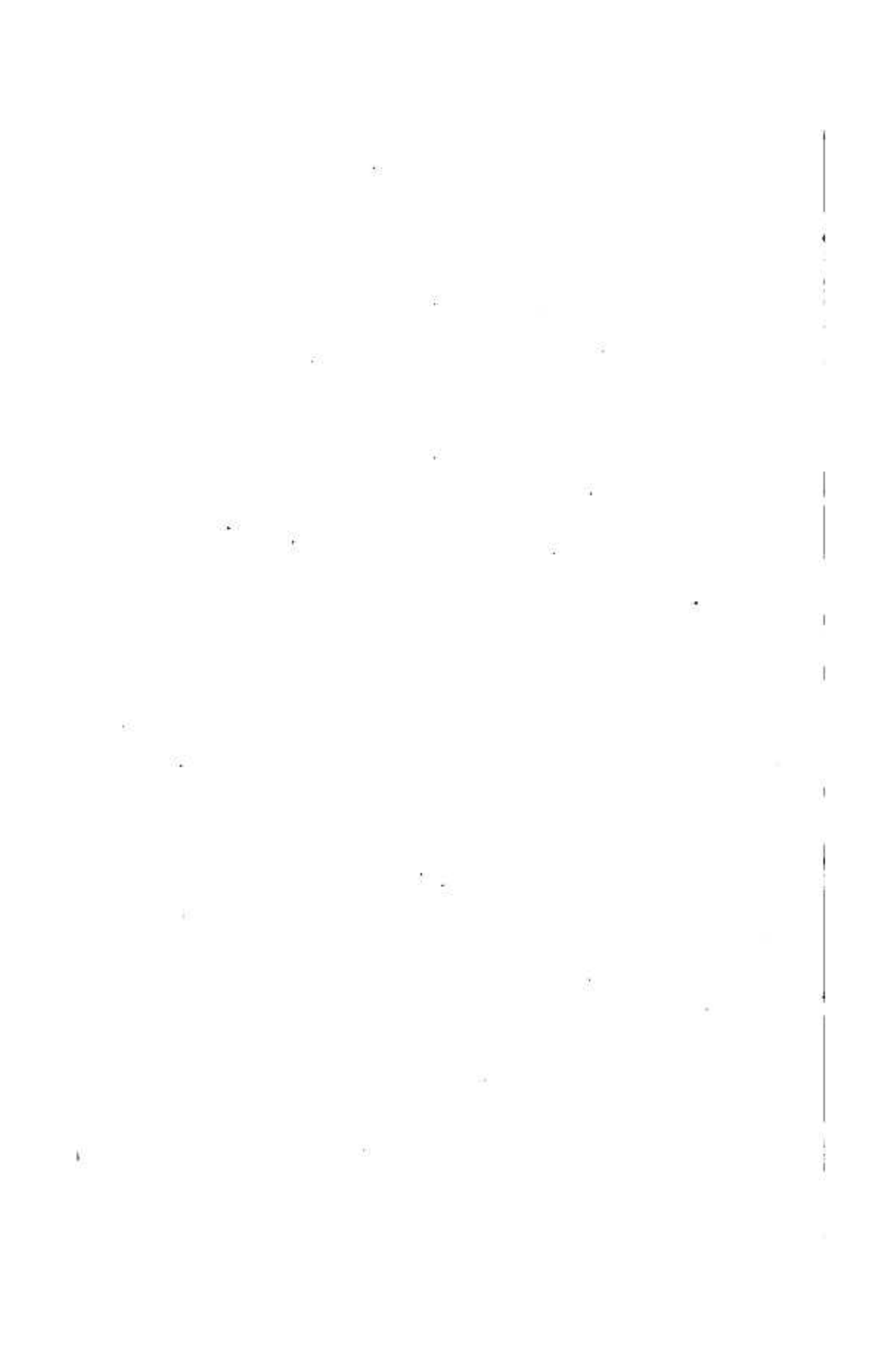
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PREFACE

FEW questions have been more fundamental in American history than those connected with its territorial development. Some of the most exciting debates that ever took place in Congress were connected with this subject. In fact it will perhaps ultimately be found that nearly all the great political, social, industrial, and economic questions of our history may be unified more perfectly by connecting them with the frontier and the territorial development of the country than from any other point of view. Professor Von Holst has made us almost believe that the grouping should be around the question of slavery. However, much may be said in favor of another view. It may be found that slavery itself was only an episode in the opening up of a new country to habitation and civilization. Certainly slavery only became a national question when it became connected with the territorial issue. The admission of Missouri in 1820 was fought over so strenuously because of the existence of a vast empire of unoccupied country. Other illustrations of a similar nature might be

drawn from other periods of our national history, but space does not permit calling attention to them in this connection.

Now if we turn to other important questions in our history we find even more conclusive proofs of their close and intimate connection with the territorial problem. Nearly the whole of the contests concerning internal improvements may be directly connected with the territorial acquisitions. The recent annexations promise to lead to a new application of this principle in the way of building up a great marine, and the construction of great Inter-Oceanic canals. Many phases of the tariff discussions may be found to be directly involved in this subject, and just at the present moment the political campaign of the year hinges in part on this aspect of the question. The money problem has always been to a greater or less degree connected with an east and a west, an old and a new section, a well-settled and a frontier region. But the frontier has ever been advancing westward by the annexation of new territory.

These suggestions are perhaps enough to arouse a further interest in this subject if there be any need to increase its intensity. The real danger, if there be one, lies not in a lack of interest, but in a failure to appreciate its fundamental character. Precedents will be cited without due investigation to determine whether the cases are similar. Conclusions

will be drawn from false or imperfect data. Then if it be true that the very basis of all American life may be said to be found in its territorial development, does it not become us as American citizens to get as much light on the subject as possible?

The following studies on the first boundaries of the United States, and then of the origin of the National territory, and of its development by acquisition from time to time do not claim to be a complete presentation of the subject. For the investigator who desires to go to the bottom of the idea, they will be of value only as a suggestion. They were not prepared primarily for such. They were made with the high school and lower classmen in college in mind. It is believed that these studies may be used either as a basis for work supplemented by narrative texts, or they may themselves be made supplementary to the text placed in the hands of the pupil. In this connection I desire to make one suggestion to my fellow teachers, or perhaps rather to ask them a question. Do you believe it wise, and do you consider it pedagogically sound, to go over the work in the high school in the same way and from the same point of view as in the grades? Now, if the grade work has been from a narrative text in whole or in the main, why not vary the plan by using, very largely, source extracts when the course is repeated in the high schools? The general reader has also