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PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

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EDITED BY

FRANK L. McVEY

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## The Minnesota Academy of Social Sciences

The people of a commonwealth can advance toward better conditions of government and more efficient administration only as public opinion grows more enlightened. Such public opinion is formed largely through the medium of the press, the schools, and associations organized to discuss questions of importance. With a view to providing a medium through which men may confer together upon important political, social, economic, and historical questions affecting the life of the state, the Minnesota Academy of Social Sciences has been organized.

It is believed that the influence of an organization whose members consist of persons interested in these questions would count much toward the formation of sound and rational doctrine relating to legislation and the social and industrial welfare of the people of Minnesota. It is equally certain that the publication of the papers presented at the annual meetings of the organization would stimulate thought upon these questions and that a journal would serve as a suitable means of communication between those interested in the public questions coming up from time to time in the State.

The absence of any state association dealing with these phases of social life suggests the creation of an association that would be state-wide and open to persons interested in these subjects. It needs no argument that the existence of such an organization with annual and special meetings held in the different towns and cities of the

State, and the publication of a journal devoted exclusively to matters interesting the citizens of Minnesota, would furnish a nucleus for an enlargement of public opinion on many questions.

To this end the Academy was organized in April of 1907, a constitution drafted and officers elected. The first annual meeting was held at the University of Minnesota, December 5 and 6, 1907.

The papers and discussions presented at that meeting are here embodied as the first volume of the proceedings of the Minnesota Academy of Social Sciences.

## CONSTITUTION

### I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Minnesota Academy of Social Sciences.

### II. OBJECTS

(a) The encouragement of the study of economic, political, social and historical questions particularly affecting the State of Minnesota.

(b) The publication of papers and other material relating to the same.

(c) The holding of meetings for conference and discussion of such questions.

### III. MEMBERSHIP

Any person approved by the Executive Committee may become a member of the Academy upon payment of two dollars and after the first year may continue a member by paying an annual fee of two dollars.

### IV. OFFICERS

The officers shall consist of a president, three vice presidents, and a secretary-treasurer.

### V. STANDING COMMITTEES

The committees of the Academy shall consist of an executive committee, a publication committee, and such others as may from time to time be required.