

(1906.)

Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland.

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## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

For the Year Ending February 20, 1906,

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*Baltimore, February 20, 1906*

*Mr. President and Gentlemen:*

I have the honor herewith to submit the Twentieth Annual Report of this Society.

In assuming the duties of Secretary in October last, I did so with an apprehensive sense of misgivings as to my ability to meet all the expected requirements incident to the varied and important duties and responsibilities of the position, more especially when considering the singular ability marking the long and pre-eminently successful record of my esteemed predecessor, the Rev. F. Ph. Hennighausen.

DEM VERDIENST SEINE KRONE.

The following is a brief synoptical review of the Society's activities for the year 1905-1906.

### MEETINGS.

During the past year the Society held nine monthly meetings, at three of which—March, April and May—in the absence of the President the late Vice-President, Mr. Georg Wilhelm Gail, presided.

Whilst the attendance at the stated meetings left much to be desired occasionally, yet there was no indication of a loss of inter-

est, spirit and determination of purpose in promoting the object of the Society; on the contrary, the meetings were invariably of more than passing interest, in fact, there prevailed at all times an inspiration and confidence thoroughly in touch and keeping with the motto of the Society : "Ohne Hast, Ohne Rast," thus demonstrating that whilst numbers in many instances materially contribute to success, it is not always conclusive that important achievements, especially those relating to organized bodies, are solely due to numerical strength.

However, notwithstanding this temporary lull of interest, there has never been the shadow of a doubt but what the promising field of this Society for historical research, together with the exceptionally brilliant array of its active membership will, as in the past, succeed in maintaining its enviable standing among the sister societies.

#### OFFICERS.

The following changes occurred among the officers of the Society during the year: the position of First Vice-President became vacant by the death of Mr. Georg Wilhelm Gail, and Mr. J. Leonard Hoffman, a member of the Executive Committee, was elected Secretary, vice Rev. F. Ph. Hennighausen, resigned. It was deemed inexpedient to fill the two vacancies until the annual election in February.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

At this the close of the twentieth year of the Society's existence there are thirty-nine (39) active and seven (7) corresponding members on the roster of the Society.

The record shows that the Society sustained a loss during the year of two (2) active members by death—First Vice-President Georg Wilhelm Gail, and Mr. Alexander H. Schulz, which was offset, however, by a corresponding gain of two new members—Prof. Albert B. Faust of Cornell University, and Mr. Max H. Quitt; thus leaving, numerically, the active membership the same at the close as it was at the beginning of the year.

By a most singular co-incidence, both Mr. Gail and Mr. Schulz, had, by seven years, exceeded the biblical limit of three score and ten years, both being born in 1828, and both, dying in 1905, in the seventy-seventh (77) year of their respective age.

## LIBRARY.

There were received during the year, from all sources, the following additions to the library; three bound volumes by purchase; ten bound volumes by contributions from exchange list; eighteen copies of periodical publications by subscription and from exchange list; seven copies of sundry pamphlets, papers, etc., from various sources.

Notably among the valuable acquisitions to the library was the bound volume of "Gedenkblätter für das Goldene Buch der Deutschen in Amerika," presented to the Society by the President Mr. Louis P. Hennighausen; a copy of the "Festschrift der Zions-Gemeinde, zum 150sten Jubiläum, am 15ten October, 1905," presented by Mr. Robert M. Rother, treasurer; and a "History of Zions Church of the City of Baltimore, 1755-1897," presented to the Society by the vestry of said Church.

The gradual expansion of the library, with the limited space at command, had become a perplexing problem.

The purchase, two years ago, of two "Sectional Bookcases," and their setting-up in the gymnasium of the Germania Club, by the generous action of that Club, brought only temporary relief.

Acting under a resolution of the Society, a committee of one consisting of the President, Mr. Louis P. Hennighausen, was appointed to secure, if possible, some place where the bound volumes of *Der Deutsche Correspondent*, the *Baltimore Journal*, and the *Baltimore Wecker*, could be safely stored and preserved.

The President, Mr. Louis P. Hennighausen, subsequently reported that he had succeeded in concluding a most highly satisfactory arrangement with the City Librarian, Mr. Wilbur F. Coyle, whereby all the bound volumes of the various newspapers owned by the Society, would hereafter be kept in the City Library, where these valuable publications will at all times be accessible, as well as permanently safeguarded.

Through the timely and most highly commendable proffer of the Treasurer of the Society, Mr. Robert M. Rother, President of the Hopkins Place Savings Bank, one of the spacious fire-proof vaults of that Bank has been generously placed at the disposal of the Society, thereby securing a safe and convenient place of deposit for the books, publications and other property of the Society.

The president and secretary, acting under a resolution of the Society, after a careful survey, relieved the congested condition of the bookcases by transferring sixty-six(66) volumes to the vault in the Hopkins Place Savings Bank, also 251 unbound copies of the Society's publication of 1900-1901, to be followed by all the publications, books, etc., now on storage in the loft of the schoolhouse of St. Matthews' Lutheran Church by courtesy of the chairman of the Executive Committee, Rev. Edward Huber.

#### LEGACY.

By the last will and testament of our late Vice-President and charter-member, Georg Wilhelm Gail, the Society was bequeathed a legacy of \$1,000.00, being the first in the history of the Society.

The money has been paid by the administrators and is now in the hands of the treasurer.

To Col. Edward Raine, publisher and proprietor of "Der Deutsche Correspondent," and to Mr. August Gisin, General-Manager and Treasurer of "The Baltimore Journal Company," this Society is under a lasting obligation for the many years and still continued invaluable donation of their respective newspapers.

'Tis said that distinctions are invidious, more especially does this truism apply where so many have given their unstinted measure of time, service and substance; and yet, in justice to all concerned, it would savor of the rankest ingratitude were this report closed without calling attention to the inestimable benefits this Society has derived from the long and continuing enjoyment of the exceptionally generous hospitality gratuitously extended by the Germania Club, since April, 1891.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

J. LEONARD HOFFMAN,

Secretary.