

The Essex Institute and Business Records

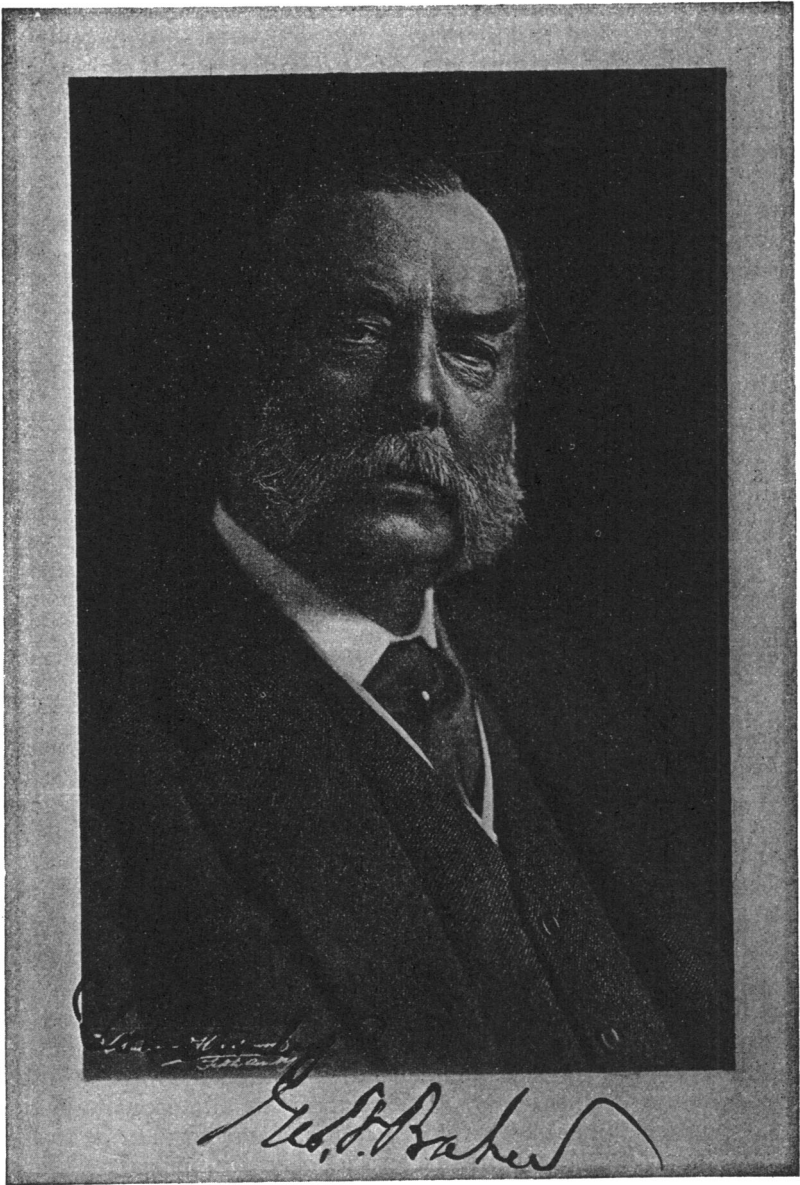
THOSE who have been in any way interested in the Essex Institute, or have used their already valuable collections of shipping papers, will welcome the addition of this important institution to the group of libraries and similar collecting agencies that are endeavoring to accumulate and preserve the materials for business history. Announcement of this new step on the part of the Institute has recently been made, and we can perhaps do no better than to reproduce part of the statement of Mr. Henry Belknap, the secretary of the Institute, as revealed in the January 17th issue of the Salem Evening News.

“To widen its scope of usefulness to students of business history, the Essex Institute is seeking to enlarge its collection of records of Essex County business activities. In making its appeal for old business books and papers, Mr. Belknap said: ‘The record of these industries, some of which had their beginning with the founding of the first settlements on this continent, trace not only the business history of Essex County but the economic development of other sections of the country. Surplus capital made here financed expansion of new areas and this material is extremely valuable to students of economics and to writers on economic subjects.’”

The Institute library already has considerable documentary material on the early business history of the country, but it is most anxious to widen the scope of its collection and hence add to its value to the student of economic conditions. The Institute, like the Business Historical Society, is only too glad to be consulted when manuscripts and records are to be discarded, in order to save them from destruction and to make them available for study and research.

In Memoriam

IN the passing of George Fisher Baker, this Society has suffered a great loss. The quiet, serene man who had directed and guided American finance for over half a century, finished his work on May 2, at the age of ninety-one. Mr. Baker's vision of a great business and industrial philosophy will perpetuate his memory in the world of business; his endowments to educational institutions and philanthropic movements will be enduring memorials to his devotion to ideals.



GEORGE FISHER BAKER

1840-1931

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Mr. Baker became a Life Member of the Society in October, 1929, and in December, 1930, was unanimously elected its Honorary President by the Board of Councillors.

It is with regret that the Business Historical Society records the death of another of its members, Edgar Dwight Shaw. Mr. Shaw, a Harvard graduate of the class of 1893, and a widely known newspaper executive, died in New York on April 13. After his graduation he began his career as a reporter on the Springfield Union, and in a few years became managing editor of the old Boston Journal.

He edited various Hearst newspapers from 1919 to 1927, including the Washington Times, the Detroit Times, the Boston American and the Boston Advertiser. He has also been managing editor of the Boston Herald and the Boston Traveler.

After thirty years of journalism, Mr. Shaw became associated with Arthur Brisbane and W. J. Fawcett in bank advertising in New York. The Business Historical Society joins with Mayor James M. Curley of Boston in saying that Mr. Shaw's death is a "national loss to American journalism."

Secretary's Column

ACQUISITIONS

During the few weeks which have elapsed since the publication of the last Bulletin, the Society has received and gratefully acknowledges the following acquisitions:

From George S. Godard, State Librarian, Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Government documents and miscellaneous material.

From George S. Mumford, President, Atlantic National Bank, Boston, Rents and Taxes, Union Building, 1896-1909; Treasurer's Account, Current, Union Building, 1896-1909; Trustees of the Union Building Association in Account with T. R. Lee, Treasurer, 1868-1896.

From H. Snowden Fairchild, Secretary, Wellington Chamber of Commerce, Wellington, New Zealand, Reports of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce, 1912-1920; 1922-1924; 1926-1929.

From Dr. Kaegbein, Hamburg-Amerika Linie, Hamburg, Advertising and Historical Publications.

From James Kell, Governor, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Sydney, Australia, Faulkner, C. C., *The Commonwealth Bank of Australia . . .* 1912-1923; Aggregate Balance Sheet of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, 1912-1930.