

case, we shall have embarked on the administration of a records center, a new device invented by the Federal Government and now adopted for state use in North Carolina, Illinois, Georgia and elsewhere. The primary purpose of the records center will be to provide storage for records which have ceased to be active in the daily conduct of any function of government and before they have lost their usefulness altogether. They will ultimately be destroyed, or in rare cases transferred to the Archives for permanent retention. This records service is still in its pioneering period and I am sure that we shall be put on our mettle to find solutions as the days bring new problems. Future reports will advise you how well we have succeeded.

I hope that the year's work recorded in this report will seem satisfactory to you. If we seem slow in certain fields, I would remind you that we could always go more quickly with more money—for example, the microfilming of county land records is being done more quickly in Alabama where nearly half a million dollars has been appropriated for this purpose while we have resorted to every economical device we could imagine—and we shall have to imagine others before we are through. We could publish books faster if we were able to have staff members devote their full time to it, but we are after all a small state and a small institution; and in our way and in good time we think we can do what needs to be done without asking for an undue share of the State's revenues.

Respectfully submitted,

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*Archivist and Records Administrator*