Document of the Month: Annual Report of the Department of Statistics

In 1878 the State Legislature passed an act which created the Indiana Bureau of Statistics. The first annual report was published in April, 1880. Before this Act was established no one had statistical data relating to the State, its resources, and its economy. During this time, nearly most of the States of the Union had Department of Statistics to keep up with the demand for facts and statistical data from other territorial states as well as Europe. It is interesting to note that they felt they ‘outgrew’ the Census in 1881! This resource contains interesting facts about Indiana and other States and Territories in the Union such as meteorological statistics, agricultural statistics, education statistics, vocations of women, etc. This document can be found in the Indiana collection, I 310 I, 1879-1916 and 1924-1967. Later editions are compiled by the State Board of Accounts (I 310 I385r) and are not as comprehensive, but give an interesting fiscal picture of Indiana and various cities and counties.