

At night there was an illuminated parade of *Historicus* in the "March of Progress," after which a river carnival again irradiated and blazoned the sky.

The Eighth day was Democratic Day, and the Semi-Centennial Celebration was brought to a close with an oration by William J. Bryan, of Nebraska, and addresses by other speakers, and a parade at night.

Through the whole eight days the weather was perfect. A fine enthusiasm for the history of Iowa and for the future of Iowa animated every one. A thousand grateful memories were awakened, and generous impulses were enkindled toward still better things in the coming half-century.

With the joy and happiness of the Celebration there was also distress and grief upon the first day, from the falling of the Review Stand, by which a number of persons were injured. Enoch S. Burrus, treasurer of Des Moines County, died, November 11th, from the effect of his injuries. He was a native of the County, born in Territorial times, May 31, 1840, and a credit to human nature and to the State that produced and nurtured him.

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## APPREHENDED INDIAN TROUBLES.

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UNPUBLISHED LETTER OF GOV. J. W. GRIMES.

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BURLINGTON, IOWA, January 3, 1855.

GENTLEMEN: I beg to ask your cooperation at the proper department at Washington, to secure protection to the frontier settlements of our State against the depredations of Indians now within our borders. I have written to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and to the Indian Superintendent at St. Louis on this subject, and trust that you will unite with me in pressing the matter upon their

attention, and in seeking such other relief in the premises as we are well justified in demanding. -

There are at this time large bands of the Yankton and Sisseton Sioux in the neighborhood of Fort Dodge, in Webster county in this State. I am reliably informed that there are not less than five hundred warriors of that tribe in that vicinity. They manifest no *real* hostile intention, but they are accused of stealing hogs, cattle, etc. Certain it is, they have occasioned a great deal of alarm among the settlers. The people have become impatient for their removal, and many of the most discreet men of that region of country are anticipating trouble.

I am constantly receiving petitions and letters from the people on the frontier, asking for protection. But I have no power to do anything in the matter. I am authorized to call out a military force only in cases of insurrection and *actual* hostile invasion. These Indians come within the State to winter and with no apparent hostile intent. Being within the State they have become dangerous to our peace, but such a case is not provided for by our constitution and laws. I have taken the responsibility to appoint Major William Williams of Fort Dodge, a kind of executive agent to act for me in protecting both the settlers and the Indians, and particularly to preserve the peace. I had no legal authority to make such appointment, but as there was no government agent in that section of the country, and as I was so remote from the scene of trouble and felt that there should be some one in the vicinity who would act prudently, and who could act efficiently, I knew no better course than to appoint him as I have indicated.

Should Major Williams incur any expense in preventing or in settling difficulties, there is no fund appropriated by the State from which payment could be made. To obviate all trouble on this score, I wish to suggest the propriety of securing a temporary appointment for Major

Williams as a special Indian-agent. In such official capacity he could act authoritatively and efficiently. I have every reason to believe that he will be safe in his judgment and prudent in his action. It is greatly feared that when the proposed military expedition shall march towards the Plains to chastise the Sioux for their hostilities near Fort Laramie and along the emigrant route to Oregon and California, they will attempt to seek shelter within the limits of our State. In that event, the presence of such an agent will be highly serviceable, if not, indeed, absolutely necessary.

The citizens of Woodbury, Monona and Harrison counties on the Missouri river are also importunate in their demands for relief against the Omahas and Ottoes, all or most of whom, I am informed are now east of the Missouri. The chief trouble apprehended by the Missouri river citizens, however, is from a band of the Sioux in the vicinity of Sargent's Bluffs. These Indians pretend that they have never parted with their title to several of the north-western counties of our State and avow their intention to plant corn within the State in the coming spring. I do not know who are the agents of these Indians, nor how much influence might be exercised over them, but it would seem that even at this season of the year, when they are so near the border of the state, they might easily be withdrawn within their own territory. I am assured that their presence is hazardous to their own and to the lives of our citizens.

I trust, gentlemen, you will stimulate the department at Washington to take immediate steps to remedy the evil complained of. We have just cause for complaint. The government has undertaken to protect our frontiers from the Indians with the assurance that this stipulation would be fulfilled. That frontier is filled with peaceful citizens. But the Indians are suffered to come among them—destroying their property and jeopardizing their lives.

I hope no time will be lost in allaying the apprehensions that exist in some parts of the State on this subject.

I am, gentlemen, very truly your obedient servant,

JAMES W. GRIMES.

To Hon. A. C. Dodge, Hon. G. W. Jones, Hon. J. P. Cook and Hon. B. Henn, Delegation in Congress from Iowa, Washington, D. C.

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IN 1848 an old Iowa Indian gave the following account of his tribe: "About sixty-six years ago we lived on a river which runs from a lake to the Mississippi, from the east, and on the east side of the river. Our fathers and great-fathers lived there for a long time, as long as they could recollect. At that time we had four hundred men fit to go to war, but we were then small to what we had been. Our fathers say that as long as they can recollect we have been diminishing. We owned all the land east of the Mississippi. Whatever ground we made tracks through, it was ours. Our fathers saw white men on the lakes about one hundred and twenty years ago, but we do not know where they came from. About the same time we first got guns. We were afraid of them at first; they seemed like the Great Spirit. Our fathers also at the same time, for the first time, received iron axes, hoes, kettles, and woolen blankets. We, the old men of our nation, first saw white men between forty and fifty years ago, near the mouth of the Mississippi".—*Schoolcraft*.

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