

Iowa People and Events . . .

Placed Executive Visitors at Ease

Prior to 1902, Gov. Leslie M. Shaw and previous Iowa executives occupied the large central room in the executive suite in the west wing of the Iowa state capitol. He sat at a walnut cabinet desk, the forerunner of the roll-top, or maybe a dignified variety of the covered business desk. At his side was a comfortable rocking chair having a wicker back and bottom in which visitors were seated when conferring with the state's chief, a procedure he had perfected in his Denison law office, no doubt. A coat room, lavatory and a vault were accessible from the room, and staff members occupied a room to the south.

Succeeding Governor Shaw, in January, 1902, Gov. Albert B. Cummins moved the private office of the executive to the large reception room at the west side of the suite and procured the mammoth mahogany desk that since has graced that office, but retained the comfortable rocker for use of executive visitors.

Just when the rocking chair disappeared is not recalled, but it was Gov. Nathan E. Kendall, who in 1921, placed the row of stiff-backed chairs to his left on the north arranged with military precision for occupancy by visitors. This plan was evidently imported from Washington, where Nate previously had served as congressman from the Sixth Iowa district and doubtless many times had sat out interviews with U. S. department heads when making official calls for constituents.

The long table in the corner of the room, at which meetings of the state executive council usually were held, is a time-honored institution in the governor's office. The meetings there always hold up other work of the executive, who cannot excuse himself from its

deliberations without absenting himself from his own office. In later years many meetings of the executive council have been held in the suite of its secretary.

Iowa Farmers Need Market Outlets

Since the modern transformation of the old familiar Iowa family farm home by consolidation with other like farms into the big industrial production areas of farm grains and the raising of vastly larger herds of cattle and hogs, over-production has served to greatly reduce the sale price of farm products as the support of same by the government has been gradually withdrawn.

Recognizing that this amazing growth in production mostly has been responsible for farm ills not only in Iowa but in all the great midwest area, the National Planning Association now insists that government agricultural scientists spend too much time trying to devise new ways of making "two blades of grass grow where one grew before."

In a study by its agricultural committee, that association charges that agricultural research has taught farmers how to expand production, but not how to enlarge markets enough to take the increased output. As a result, it holds that farm production on the new commercial operator basis now persistently outruns markets, with resulting depressed prices and incomes.

"Unquestionably, the top problem in American agriculture today—over-production—should be given much greater attention in publicly supported agricultural research," the association asserts. It pointed specifically at research by the agriculture department and by land-grant state agricultural colleges, such as Iowa's great agricultural institution at Ames.

The commission believes a change in emphasis in the research field is essential because the country's "farm plant is over-extended" and "production and demand are out of balance." It said further that prospects appear dim for bringing about a balance in the next 10 years.

The association says that future research—while not abandoning work in the production field—should concentrate on ways of bringing about adjustments in farm production to market needs, of improving distribution of farm products and of helping uprooted farm families as well as adversely affected communities adjust to new conditions. "More emphasis should be given," it insists, "to research on the characteristics of consumer purchase patterns and on ways and means of increasing the consumption by low-income groups of high-quality foods, especially meat and dairy products."

Moreover, more attention should be given to the "social and economic costs" borne by families uprooted or bypassed by the technological changes in agriculture. To quote further, "The public is spending large sums to introduce new technology and new capital into agriculture. What is the public responsibility for relocation and adjustment costs of displaced families?"

Suggestion is made that greater public aid be afforded in finding and developing economic opportunities for those forced out of farming. Lauren K. Soth, editor of the editorial pages of the *Des Moines Register* and *Tribune* is chairman of the committee that prepared the study.

Long State Fair Board Service

With the death of Harold L. Pike of Whiting, last spring, another of the long-time members of the Iowa State Fair board brought to a close a remarkable service. He went on to the board December 10, 1902, and died April 10, 1957, still a member of the body, the longest period served by any other member.

Perhaps the excellence of the great Iowa agricultural exposition and fair through the years has been occasioned by the most valuable service over long periods by the individuals responsible for its management. Only one of the several strong men comprising the able

management the past forty years remains in the person of Frank E. Sheldon of Mount Ayr, who now past 91 years old has been a temporary resident of California the past year.

Among many other excellent and qualified men serving on this important board, the group having longest service, many during the same period or lapping over terms were Charles E. Cameron July 4, 1900 to 1931, Charles W. Phillips Dec. 12, 1900 to 1916, Edward J. Curtin Dec. 9, 1908 to 1925, Chas. F. Curtiss Dec. 13, 1905 to 1937, John P. Mullen April 4, 1911 to 1947, F. E. Sheldon Dec. 14, 1910 to 1946 and H. L. Pike Dec. 10, 1902 to 1956.

Other capable men likewise served well the fair board for long periods. Also, three well-known secretaries, John C. Simpson, Arthur E. Cory and Lloyd B. Cunningham each for many years ably managed details of these Iowa agricultural expositions.

Governmental Economy

Notwithstanding the tremendous governmental expenditures that total unbelievable sums, there comes evidence of economy practiced in certain U. S. departments. This develops here in Iowa by the close of the Federal census office at Des Moines, which transpired at the end of January this year.

The shutdown of this branch of the census activity makes only a small dent in Federal spending, of course, but those responsible for the saving are entitled to modest credit. The action comes after the branch had been open three and one-half years. The manager was transferred to Detroit and the assistant manager to the Chicago office as an assistant there. The other five employees of the office decided to remain in Des Moines and seek other employment.

The work formerly handled by the Des Moines office was split between Kansas City and St. Paul offices.

The shutdown is part of a reorganization that has resulted in the cutting of regional census offices from

68 to 34 in 1952, and now to 17. The next Federal census will be taken in 1960.

Oskaloosa Bandstand Honored

The old wooden bandstands that once graced the lawns upon the courthouse squares in Iowa or rivaled as attractions in the city parks the popcorn bars and the animal cages are only a memory, being largely extinct. But occasionally one attains notoriety in these later days. One even found usefulness down at Washington in becoming the model from which was designed a huge sign appropriately carried on a 40 foot float of the musician's union in the inaugural parade this year. Passing the reviewing stand it attracted the especial attention of President and Mrs. Eisenhower and Vice-president and Mrs. Nixon, stopping long enough for its 20-piece band to play a special number for the president and his party.

The replica had been sturdily constructed upon the large float at a cost of \$10,000, duplicating in every detail the old bandstand so familiar many years ago to residents of Oskaloosa, being copied from an old picture of the stand taken in 1892 found in the New York public library.

Religious Zeal Pictured

They set forth on foot, sometimes as far as two hundred miles, to attend a protestant fellowship meeting; next, they took to the path by horseback and when there were roads and bridges they rode in their wagons, singing and praying, stopping at log cabins, unannounced, for entertainment, refreshment and overnight accommodations. In the language of an old timer, quoted from the "Home Missionary," 1874, the observer says reverently, "The best part of all was to see them after the meeting, shaking hands with each other."—*Pilgrims of Iowa*.

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