

Iowa People and Events . . .

Book for Immigrants

In 1871 the federal government published a *Report of the Chief of Bureau of Statistics on Immigration* with detailed information concerning the prices and rentals of land, the staple products, facilities of access to market, cost of farm stock, kind of labor in demand in the western and southern states. Compiled by Edward Young, it attempted to supply the answers to questions the prospective immigrant most needed to know.

The advantages for different types of work in each Iowa county, and the amount and quality of land available were given as follows:

Lee: mechanics do well here, also small farmers; land of good quality is all occupied. Henry: good land in abundance. Jefferson: there is a large amount of land yet unoccupied which can be purchased at reasonable rates; there is also a demand for mechanical labor, but capital is needed. Louisa: there is a demand for common laborers and small farmers; no land of any considerable amount unoccupied.

Washington: as good a chance to work as a man wants; any amount of unoccupied land to be obtained if desired. Van Buren: one-third of the best land is yet unoccupied, and it is cheap; there is good hardwood in abundance; coal plenty, and water-power unlimited; mechanics wanted. Davis: plenty of land unoccupied; a fine opening for men of small or large means.

Jones: raising hogs, cattle, and corn is the most profitable business; great profits will also arise from the advance in the price of land, in consequence of the construction of the proposed railroads. Jackson: good schools and churches; plenty of timber and stone for building; lime, water-power, healthful climate, and a people who pay their debts.

Dubuque: in this county, we have a city with a population of about 20,000 inhabitants, furnishing a home market for vegetables, butter, poultry, etc.; about one-half of the land in this county is unoccupied, well watered, and of good quality. Buchanan: some very fine prairie lands yet unoccupied, and good opportunities to obtain farms at reasonable prices. Howard: any amount of unoccupied land in the hands of

speculators; we want anybody who will work; the water is excellent.

Clayton: we want both labor and capital to utilize our fine water-power, and develop the rich manufacturing advantages of our new country, but skilled labor without capital is useless. Delaware: common laborers get \$1.25 a day; mechanics, from \$2.50 to \$4 per day; plenty of land to be obtained on reasonable terms. Mitchell: as good inducements for all kinds of laborers as there are in the country.

Winneshiek: some good land unoccupied, but all held by speculators and non-residents; prices varying from \$5 to \$15 per acre; fine stock-raising country. Chickasaw: there is a very good opening for the classes of labor that are common to a farming country; farmers of small means can do well. Bremer: the same as above. Wapello: good land, well timbered, plenty of stone, and unlimited quantities of bituminous coal.

Benton: plenty of land unoccupied. Jasper: good wages and cheap living for laborers; fertile and cheap land for farmers. Johnson: a soil unsurpassed in richness; healthful climate, and an enterprising and industrious population, with easy access to a market. Mahaska: laborers, mechanics, and small farmers can always find employment at good wages; plenty of land of the best quality.

Dallas and Keokuk: the best lands in the United States inviting tillage. Wayne: land of excellent quality, and cheap. Ringgold: plenty to accommodate thousands of applicants for small farms. Clarke: the same as above. Shelby and Pottawattomie: unsurpassed inducements to settlers of limited means, and all others. Warren, Union, Harrison, and Montgomery: the same. Page: the gardenspot of the world.

Taylor: settlers with small means get the benefit of the range for cattle and all the hay they need, without fencing, with the richest of land. Dickinson: the best of land at a low price; there is also vacant Government land that may be taken as homesteads. Black Hawk: profitable employment for all who are willing to work. The healthfulness of the country is remarkable.

Boone, Greene, Carroll, and Crawford: several thousands of small farmers are wanted, and brickmakers are especially needed. Story: mechanics can find plenty of work at fair wages; plenty of improved prairie land of good quality, at fair prices. Sac: many hundred thousands of acres of farming land yet unoccupied; this county is fast filling up, and there is a demand for mechanics of every trade.

Cerro Gordo: as above; average price, \$4 per acre. Hamilton: plenty of desirable land, and abundance of coal for fuel;

all kinds of mechanics are needed here. Kossuth: a large area of cheap lands and a healthful climate; a fair demand for all kinds of labor, and superior advantages for small farmers.

Simpson College Festival

The fifth annual Christian Liberal Arts Festival was held on the Simpson college campus at Indianola, October 12th and 13th. This increasingly significant cultural event had as its theme, "The Root of Man's Trouble—And Man's Hope." Several distinguished guests participated in the program contributing much to its success. They included the eminent American historian, Dr. Avery O. Craven, who is an alumnus of Simpson college; Dr. Richard J. Neutra, one of the world's leading architects; General Alfred M. Gruenther, former commander-in-chief of NATO; and His Excellency, Dr. Charles H. Malik, recently elected present of the United Nations General Assembly.

The sessions were well attended by students, and visitors from throughout the state. The stimulating intellectual fare provided by the guest speakers was a rewarding experience appreciated by all. President William E. Kerstetter and the administration are to be congratulated for making possible such enrichment of college life and the citizenry of Iowa.

Agricultural Hall of Fame

An Iowa site could be chosen for a projected five million dollar agricultural Hall of Fame. Plans call for the acquiring of a 400-acre tract on which will be constructed, a museum, library, and other facilities for preserving the story of American agriculture and the men who pioneered in its development. The executive committee of the Hall of Fame Association, a non-profit private corporation, is currently considering the environs of Kansas City, Springfield, Illinois, and the Des Moines-Ames area.

The idea of a historical institution devoted to such an important aspect of America's economy originated about

a year ago with Howard A. Cowden of Kansas City, president of the Consumers Co-operative Association. Widespread support for the project grew rapidly. Members of the executive committee are Charles B. Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation; Herschel Newsom, national master of the Grange; James Patton, president of the National Farmers Union; Dr. O. S. Willham, president of Oklahoma State university; Dean J. H. Longwell of the University of Missouri; Ed Hoyt, Nebraska commissioner of agriculture; Harry Darby, former senator from Kansas; and J. S. Russell, farm editor of the Des Moines *Register*. Several outstanding leaders in the business world have been added to the board of governors.

It is hoped this agricultural Hall of Fame will be located in Iowa, the nation's leading farm state. Iowans on the Association's board of governors include Mr. Russell, Edgar Hovey of Badger, Rt. Rev. Msgr. L. G. Ligutti of Des Moines, and Mrs. Raymond Sayre of Ackworth. But the public officials and leading citizens of the other areas under consideration have shown a strong desire to cooperate with the Association and it is questionable whether there is sufficient interest here to influence the committee in favor of Iowa. The proposed institution should in any event contribute much to our knowledge and appreciation of the historical growth of farm life in this country.

Tour of Historic Sites in Iowa

The Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks held its third tour of historic sites in Iowa this year, October 11th. Charles Chappell of Keokuk, president, Mrs. R. B. Engelbeck of Des Moines, secretary, and members were the guests of Otha D. Wearin at his Nishna Vale farm near Hastings, inspecting his fine collection of early American glass and Iowana. Mrs. Neva Bowen graciously conducted them through Hoyt House, a major station on John Brown's underground railroad, a mile southeast of Hastings, and they visited

his former headquarters and drill ground on the old Tabor college campus.* The tour ended with Mr. Will C. Rathke showing the party through the interesting Mills county court house at Glenwood. It was built 101 years ago and is soon to be razed.

Previous tours have been taken to the birthplaces of Herbert Hoover at West Branch and the covered bridges of Madison county. Further trips are being planned for next year. The physical remains of Iowa's early history are disappearing rapidly, and the Society's efforts to preserve and stimulate interest in these important sites should be encouraged and supported.

* The Rev. John Todd's *Early Settlement and Growth of Western Iowa* (Des Moines 1906) describes some of John Brown's activities in and around Tabor, Iowa.

Mesquakie Indian Portraits

The Department has been pleased to accept a fine collection of Indian photographs from the works of Josephine M. Wallace of Tucson, Arizona. They were taken several years ago on the Tama reservation and consist of a number of large prints and negatives picturing many of the leading men and women of the Mesquakie tribe. They have been exhibited in salons in Canada, Australia, and France, as well as in this country.

Philippine Insurrection Pictures

Charles H. Johnson of Des Moines recently donated to the Department many interesting snapshots taken by his father, John E. Johnson, while a member of the 32nd Infantry during the Philippine Insurrection in 1898-99.

Member of the 1902 Iowa Legislature

The recent death of William G. Kerr of Grundy Center leaves Emory H. English of Des Moines, former editor of the *Annals*, the only survivor of the 100 members of the house of representatives in the Twenty-ninth General Assembly in 1902.

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