

President Welch. For more than thirty-two years that institution has grown with the progress of the state until it has become a great industrial university surpassed by few in America.

Pioneer Salesman for Iowa

By M. M. MORRIS

The correspondence of J. S. Whittlesey, an Iowa pioneer at Durant, expressed a glowing confidence in the state's future. A letter dated May 19, 1856, and quoted in the Hartford, Connecticut, *Courant*, for May 31, 1856, advised his relatives in the East that there was no occasion to fight or steal in order to get any more territory.

"Iowa," he said, "has room for 17,378,600 people and there is room on each farm for at least 25 people." Indeed, he went on, there is enough room for all the idle people in the East. Idleness, of course, is unknown here for "he who comes to Iowa must work or starve."

Iowa is the 'beautiful land' according to the writer. The beauty of Iowa is beyond all description. "You might as well try to describe the glories of a beautiful summer's day to one who had never seen the light. If you can conceive of the vast waves of the ocean becoming stationary and turned into a deep, rich soil covered with green turf and everywhere black soil as rich as a Wethersfield onion garden—that is Iowa."

He ended his letter on a more serious note concerning land values. Land, he warned, was rising from one dollar twenty-five cents to two dollars per acre unless located close to towns where it was rising rapidly to ten dollars. The land speculation was a great game. "Very few," he advised, "can play it with safety. It is probably as demoralizing as any other species of gambling."

"If Uncle Sam now," he concluded, "would give every man a farm of one hundred acres on condition that he live on it, he would save thousands of his neighbors from moral and secular bankruptcy."

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