



**GEORGE W. CLARKE**

State Representative, 1900-1902-1904-1906

Lieutenant Governor, 1908-10, 1911-12

Governor of Iowa, 1913-14, 1915-16

Dean Drake University Law School 1917-18

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GEORGE W. CLARKE



BY EMORY H. ENGLISH

Traditional procedure in an Iowa legislature on the opening of its first session following organization is the selection of individual desks by members. Those having impaired vision or deficiency in hearing are accorded first choice, usually choosing locations near the front. Then former members next may make selections. Names of remaining members are placed in a hat or box and desks are chosen in the order names are drawn, the less desirable locations going to those whose names are the last.

At such a desk in the rear of the house of representatives near the east side of the chamber, in the Twenty-eighth General Assembly, which convened January 8, 1900, sat a quiet, attentive, industrious new member. Even during recesses from business of the house or after adjournment, when not absent in committee meetings, he was to be observed at his desk busy with examination of documents and papers, or writing. In his youth he had acquired habits of industry and did not know how to waste time or be just a loiterer.

Seemingly, he never was disturbed by any commotion in the chamber or about him. Not often did he engage

in debate, but when he did arise to speak was given close attention, for he quickly came to be recognized as one of the able men of the house and well worth listening to in discussion of any subject. When drawn into debate or presenting an argument upon a bill, an amendment or a motion pending, he could become a whirlwind, the big room resounding with his strong voice, vigorous speech, and clear reasoning.

This man was George W. Clarke, of Adel, Dallas county, and his influence grew rapidly as the work of the session progressed. By the time the legislature adjourned, his individual vote, with the name high up on the house roll calls, influenced the action of many others later responding to their names. Thus, in this inconspicuous way, did this man early enter upon official duties for the state that later was to honor him greatly. Agreeable in manner, as well as reliable in counsel, he quickly became respected and popular among associates.

He was active in the group of Progressive Republicans of Dallas county who supported A. B. Cummins for United States senator in 1900, and as a member of the Republican caucus of the house of representatives in the Twenty-eighth General Assembly voted for Willard L. Eaton for speaker of the house, who was unsuccessful.

In the Twenty-ninth General Assembly, to which he was returned by his county, Clarke was made chairman of the house judiciary committee and rightfully considered a leader in that legislative body, his advice constantly sought by other members and his support of their measures regarded as most helpful. As his public life broadened and his acquaintance extended, his influence grew.

#### CHAIRMAN OF REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION

His alignment was well-known and definite, for in 1905 he was a member of the Dallas county delegation to the Republican state convention selected by the regular county convention, whose right to so represent the county was challenged by another delegation from Dallas county named at a rump convention attended by sup-

porters of George D. Perkins for governor. The Clarke group was seated in the state convention upon favorable report of its committee on credentials, and Mr. Clarke was made the permanent chairman of the state convention then assembled which renominated Governor Cummins for a third term.

While Dallas county was a Progressive Republican community and always behind Clarke, there came a time when every newspaper in the county was openly against Cummins, Garst and Prouty leadership. But Clarke's own personal popularity there as well as elsewhere in the state made sure it was not a strange development that this man eventually became the twenty-first governor of Iowa, for the public has its own way of discovering and making use of men of merit. Furthermore, in now listing the ten ablest governors of Iowa, few would omit the name of George W. Clarke, or even place it near the bottom of such a list.

His service in four house sessions, becoming speaker in the last two, marked him as a "comer." Then, upon the insistent urging of legislative friends and others, he reluctantly became a candidate for lieutenant governor, was re-elected and served in that station from 1909 to 1913, his election as governor being in the year that Woodrow Wilson carried Iowa, his service as lieutenant governor definitely enhancing his reputation for fairness and ability and greatly widening his acquaintance. His candidacy for governor in 1912 received strong support enabling him to receive two terms, serving from January 16, 1913, to January 14, 1917. He was strongly urged by many Iowa citizens to be a candidate for a third-term nomination, but chose to retire.

The position of dean of the law school of Drake University, Des Moines, was tendered to him by the board of trustees of that institution, which he accepted and served in that capacity for some time before returning to the practice of law. Perhaps the ablest lawyer in Dallas county for many years, Clarke was the strongest

man in many ways who had been sent by that county into Iowa public life.

Subsequently, he was importuned to become a candidate for United States senator from Iowa, but declined to seek that position in which, had it been attained, he could have distinguished himself. As a public official he had the confidence and the affection of the people of Iowa and in every station of responsibility served them with fidelity, ability and integrity.

#### THE CLARKES CAME FROM INDIANA

John Clarke and Jane Akers Clarke, parents of George, were of English descent and emigrated to Iowa from Shelby county, Indiana, arriving in Davis county in 1856. George was a lad of about four years, born at the old Hoosier home October 24, 1852. A brother, Marshall, and a sister, Mary, also accompanied their parents, and the family settled on a farm a little more than a mile east of Drakeville. At first they resided in the log cabin on the place, but later erected a more pretentious abode, and this was the home of the governor-to-be until he was twenty-two years of age.

His earliest recollection as a lad was the despair evidenced by his mother upon the family's arrival at the Davis county place, which was to be their home. He afterward described it in detail as follows:

At the edge of "the woods" stood a little, old, two-room, two-windowed house, innocent of paint inside and out, the rooms partitioned by boards. A big fireplace was in the center of the south end. West of the house and about ten feet from it was a log structure some twelve feet square with a clapboard roof, as was also the roof over the open space from it to the house. This by and by became the summer kitchen and the table was set in the open space, weather permitting. A log stable covered with brush and straw some sixty yards away was the only other building.

#### THE MOTHER'S DISMAY

In adult life many years later, telling of his mother's reaction on her contemplation of these "improvements," Clarke related:

I have heard that mother cried when the wagons drove up to this spot and she was told that it was to be her future home.

Her parents, her brothers and sisters, all of her kinsmen, all the friends and acquaintances of her youth, had been left behind. It was not an inviting place, although very near were "the woods" in all the glory of their late October foliage. It was no want of courage or any indication of a loss of resolution to face and conquer the demands of the life immediately confronting her. The flood of emotions that momentarily possessed her was occasioned by the sense of isolation and loneliness.

As when a storm suddenly sweeps up the summer sky and is quickly gone and is followed by a refreshed world and a bright sunshine, so my mother's spirit quickly rose from the shadow that had overcast it. She directed the placing of the household goods, unloading from the wagons, soon had the children asleep in the trundlebed and a "bite set to eat." Night came on and after an hour or two in front of the fireplace, talking of the trip just ended, the new surroundings, the hopes and purposes for the future, as the embers in the fire were dying and only a fitful flicker of the blaze now and then remained, a new family in Iowa fell asleep.

During the long life of my mother which followed I never knew her for a moment to give way to discouragement, to complain, to be wanting in hope or resolution, but she was always cheerful, tremendously energetic. She had a very keen and discriminating sense of right and wrong. She was so much the very soul of honesty that she could not think aside from the truth. She did her whole duty and more. These details are referred to only because they are typical of pioneer life and of pioneer mothers, and might be related of many another family that was coming into Davis county about that time or had come before.

#### EARLY LIFE ON THE FARM

Of his father's life as a farm boy and youth, Charles F. Clarke of Adel, the governor's son, in a graphic recital tells of the hardships and experiences during those years when character and life's purpose were in formation. He says in part:

As a boy father worked on the farm as pioneer farmers had to do. There was little or no mechanization of farm work in those days. Father and his brother Marsh broke prairie with ox teams. They knew the heartbreaking toil of work on a farm in the early days—the long hours, the weary drudgery. Oxen were often stolid, stubborn brutes as well as patient beasts of burden, as they have sometimes been pictured. . . .

There was corn planting by hand and reaping with a scythe and there was picking corn during the frosty days of fall. The boys wore leather boots in corn picking days and, becoming wet, they would be placed by the fire at night to dry. When morning came they were so hard and dry it was almost impossible to get them on. Struggling for a half hour or more would be the rule to get the boots on before going to the field. Shucking corn on frosty mornings was no pleasant occupation. Fingers became numb with cold and the wet, frosty ears of corn would cause the skin to chap and crack. Father has said that Grandma Clarke would melt tallow and rub it on the chapped hands to heal and soften them.

There were hardships as on every pioneer farm but, like Grandpa Greene when farming near Adel, my father and the rest of the family saw the great glory of the new land as it was being made ready for the human population that was to come. Shaggy woodland followed the course of Fox Creek, which flowed by the farm about a quarter of a mile south of the house. Wild flowers grew on the unbroken prairie, the grass land extended away from the creek valley. Prairie chickens thronged on those prairies and flocks of quail lived in the fields and thickets. There was a muzzle loading rifle behind the door in the kitchen of the house and on fall mornings father would take the old rifle and walk out in the fields and along the rail fences and would shoot chickens as they perched on the fences or sat on the strawstacks.

The birds were a never failing supply of fresh meat and a constant attraction to the settlers who watched them through the seasons as they nested on the prairie, and sent their booming notes over the land in springtime. Then there were the wild pigeons that sometimes filled the air with incredible numbers. They would fly in long riverlike curves, rising and falling as the leaders at the head of the flock varied from a straight course in the line of flight. Wild turkeys were sometimes seen in the woods along Fox creek and rabbits and squirrels abounded.

The youth received the customary rural schooling and later attended high school in Bloomfield, the county-seat of Davis county, often walking the four miles to and from there to his home, spending the week-ends with the family. He taught school twelve months and in 1874 became a student at Oskaloosa college, and was graduated from that institution in 1877. The following school year he went to Iowa City and entered the State University of Iowa law school from which he received his law de-

gree. Judge John F. Dillon, one of Iowa's greatest lawyers, and a lecturer in this school, left a decided impression upon the life of young Clarke, who afterward paid the great instructor many tributes to his ability and learning.

#### LOCATED AT ADEL

Immediately following his graduation and admission to the practice of law, Mr. Clarke located at Adel, the county seat of Dallas county, Iowa, where he was married on June 25, 1878, to Arletta Greene with whom he had formed an acquaintance during school days at Oskaloosa college, from which she likewise was a graduate.

During his early practice of law at Adel he was elected justice of the peace and served in that capacity four years. A law partnership with John B. White was formed in 1882, which was continued until 1912, when Clarke was selected governor. Both as a lawyer and a citizen he became a leader in the community.

A family of four children blessed the Clarke home, comprised of two sons, Fred Greene Clarke, born November 16, 1879, and Charles F. Clarke, born October 27, 1883, both of whom followed their father's profession. Fred died at his home on Mercer Island, Washington, June 11, 1945, and Charles still resides at Adel. Also, there were two daughters, Portia Clarke VanMeter, born August 7, 1886, who died at her home near Adel, February 2, 1934, and Frances Clarke Kinnick, born July 3, 1894, and now residing in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Clarkes were members of the Christian church at Adel and so strong was his religious devotion that on occasion when the pulpit was not filled by the regular minister, Mr. Clarke often led the services. While devoted to his profession, he performed duties of citizenship in community affairs, and the townspeople looked upon him as a wise and safe counselor. His friendly attitude attracted many acquaintances who came to rely implicitly upon his judgment.

#### A MAN OF MODEST TASTES

Clarke's home life was that of a man with only mod-

est income. The simple duties of upkeep and household affairs were personally attended to. The care of the yard, the building of the fires, incidental repairs, etc., were all his to perform. Eventually the family horse and buggy came as a matter of course, which delighted the children, and after the disposition of the first, a second favorite was bought, which he delighted to drive. A glimpse into this charmed home life is given by the son, Charles, in his valuable work upon his father's career, saying in part:

I have spoken of stoves that burned wood. However, as far back as I can remember we had a hard coal burner in the living room. The anthracite coal burned with a red and blue light. On winter evenings we sat around the stove and ate apples and cracked nuts as we spent the evening reading or getting our lessons for school the next day, and as father and mother read the papers and magazines.

Father loved apples and nuts and greatly enjoyed eating them on those occasions. He was a most temperate man. Those apples and nuts were the only things I ever knew him to eat besides the food at regular meal times. He never ate candy, except an occasional peppermint drop or lozenge or a piece of old fashioned stick candy. He never smoked a cigar in his life, never used tobacco in any form, never drank a drop of liquor, and never used profane language. He retired early at night (nine or ten o'clock) and was almost always up at five o'clock in the morning. The habits learned by him on the farm remained with him and all his life he was an early riser. . . .

Father always built the fire in the kitchen range in the morning. Being up at five he did the necessary thing—got the fire going in the kitchen stove, carried out the ashes from the hard coal burner and "shook down" the stove, manipulating the grates to get the ashes into the ash pan and new coal from above down to the live coals that had kept the fire from going out during the night. He was a master fire builder. I think he rather liked the job. He never asked me or Fred to get up and build the fire. He would clean the ashes out of the kitchen stove and then crumple up a newspaper and put it at the bottom of the firebox. Then he would take his pocket knife and whittle shavings on the edges of small, thin pine boards and lay the boards and shavings on the paper. On the boards and shavings he would place small sticks of split wood and on top of all one or two larger sticks. Then

he would touch a match to the paper (poking the match through the grates to do so) and would soon have a good fire blazing in the stove. He never used kerosene to start a fire. He would fill the reservoir on the back of the stove with water and then go to the living room, where he would read until breakfast was ready. He was nearly always at the office at eight o'clock and sometimes at seven.

#### NO EARLY POLITICAL AMBITIONS

Clarke usually had to be urged to become a candidate for any political office. He seemed to have no real ambition for official distinction, and it was only when he became a member of the state legislature that wider avenues of service beckoned, which were not afforded by local affairs in the county-seat community. Official life at Des Moines broadened his opportunities and gave him a much wider acquaintance with state affairs and people in every county.

Details of his state contests for nominations for both lieutenant governor and governor were revealing. In 1908, when he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor, he won in the first primary election in the history of the state. His competitors were Bernard Murphy and James H. Wilson. He won at the general election over his Democratic opponent, D. A. Ray. This was the year B. F. Carroll defeated Warren Garst for the nomination for governor, and Sen. Wm. B. Allison won a renomination over Albert B. Cummins. For re-election as lieutenant governor two years later Clarke had no opposition for the nomination and was re-elected over his Democratic opponent, Parley Sheldon.

In 1912, he became a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor and met with the aggressive opposition of a group including Harvey Ingham, Harry C. Wallace and E. T. Meredith, all of Des Moines, and Judge C. G. Lee, of Ames, who put forward Prof. Perry G. Holden of Ames. Then Governor Carroll induced Aaron V. Proudfoot of Indianola to become a candidate, Clarke winning in a decisive contest. At the polls Woodrow Wilson carried Iowa in the general election,

but Clarke was elected governor over Edward G. Dunn, Democrat, and John L. Stevens, Progressive, his plurality over Dunn being 1,699. For re-election as governor in 1914 he won the nomination over C. G. Lee and John W. Rowley, and in the general election defeated John T. Hamilton, Democrat, and George C. White, Progressive, his plurality over Hamilton being 25,845.

Some opposition to Clarke no doubt was genuine in character, but much was inspired by misrepresentations of leaders opposing him who had ulterior motives. The Republican party in Iowa had been rent by factionalism, both sides being conspicuously represented in Dallas county. While Clarke was a Progressive Republican and never equivocated as such, that was never an issue there when his preferment was at stake.

The state came to have the same respect for his ability and integrity that prevailed in his home county where he knew almost everyone by the first names and his law firm was an institution. Although by nature modest and quiet in manner, he was aggressive in handling details of matter in his hands, and when aroused by the plight of helpless people subjected to injustice or inequalities he could be determined and devastating in seeking their relief against what he deemed unworthy or unfair.

Honest in purpose always and straightforward in attitude, Clarke's mind was completely free from schemes or stratagems of any kind. The writer enjoyed his intimate acquaintance for many years, associated with him in official life, and can say that George Clarke never had a plan or even a thought of taking advantage of anyone—a fairer, more unselfish man I never knew. Controversies were not of his seeking, but when involved he met them fairly, frankly and usually effectively. Courageous in advocacy of principles and policies, he was even a daring man, not afraid of the correctness of any position he might have determined upon, but he never sought to outwit, mislead or deceive any individual.

It may be noted that Clarke served the public at a considerable personal sacrifice, as do so many unselfish public servants. During the period he was lieutenant governor and executive of the state, salaries were much lower than since provided, and Clarke's contribution to the state in time and effort was a distinct sacrifice in a financial way.

#### JUDGEMENT QUESTIONED ON CAPITOL EXTENSION

As governor especially, Clarke made a decided impression upon the people of the state and there came an almost universal realization by Iowans that they had as their executive an able, a fair, honest and economical man in charge of state affairs, and they trusted him. Strange it was that a single policy, questioned in some quarters, caused criticism of the soundness of his judgment, for upon one conspicuous issue only was he strenuously opposed by any formidable group of Iowa voters. His position upon public questions was usually popular. The one questioned was his recommendation for the extension of the state capitol grounds at Des Moines to the present boundary limits to afford ample setting for state building necessary for transaction of its business.

Competitors for the Republican party nomination for the second term granted to him, as well as Democrat opponents, sought to defeat him on that issue, but he sturdily supported his action, as well as that of the legislators who voted for the extension bill, and was re-nominated and re-elected. Clarke immediately and voluntarily assumed the entire responsibility in that campaign for the extension legislation enacted by the Thirty-sixth General Assembly that authorized the purchase of the several city blocks now included in the state capitol grounds. He vigorously defended and supported for re-nomination and re-election the members of the General Assembly who were attacked and opposed because of their votes for the extension act, speaking in their home communities with fervor and force, saving from defeat a number who had been attacked upon that issue. He really staked his position in public life in an all-out ef-

fort to save for member candidates their seats in the assembly of 1915.

In speeches all over Iowa, Clarke counseled irritated individuals to vent their anger upon himself rather than lose able and worthy representatives in the assembly. Many voters did just that; but fortunately, however, he was re-elected governor, and it was these men with whom Clarke associated in many sessions of Iowa General Assemblies and others in the legal profession who knew his integrity and singleness of purpose, who regardless of political lines, voted for and saved him from defeat in the Capitol Extension controversy.

Time has overwhelmingly demonstrated the need of this land by the state and the accuracy of Clarke's judgment in the matter. But, inflamed by designing political detractors of the governor and attributing to him wrongful motives, the state narrowly escaped becoming the victim of a great injustice, as well as misconstruing the motives of an honest and farseeing public official.

In the succeeding assemblies, the Thirtieth and the Thirty-first, Mr. Clarke had been elected, in the last un-animously, and served as speaker and afterward two terms as lieutenant governor from 1909 to 1913, becoming especially fitted for executive duties, having acquired an intimate knowledge of state affairs and its institutions. Then came his two terms of efficient and acceptable administration as the state's executive, with discriminating judgment exercised in the appointment of citizens for administrative and judicial service in the state government. Few public men of the state have left official stations carrying with them a higher regard of associates and universal commendation.

#### CHARACTER OF APPOINTEES PRAISED

When his judgment was challenged, it was upon an economical matter, not political or partisan. During his incumbency as executive, Clarke sought to allay political differences that had been rife in the state. Although a "Progressive" Republican, he appointed Standpatters as well, his appointments being determined by merit

and personal knowledge of qualifications. Before he retired as governor, a group of these appointees, all of whom he had known more than a score of years, assembled in the executive suite in the capitol, headed by State Librarian Johnson Brigham, who voiced the sentiments of those in the group in expressing admiration for his qualities and record in public life and wishing him boundless success in other avenues of endeavor upon his retirement from the high position he was relinquishing.

Clarke was visibly affected, and with tears streaming down his face, responded with feeling to the presentation of a gold watch and chain. Chief Justice Charles Wennerstrum of the Iowa supreme court speaking before a session of the Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa in 1947, in presentation of an oil portrait of the governor to the state department of history, told of this incident, saying:

One of the outstanding qualities of Governor Clarke was his evaluation of men in his selection of appointees to state offices. His rule in the matter of appointments was whether the one suggested was the best available person in the state for the position to be filled. Because of the general feeling that an appointment received at the hands of Governor Clarke was a distinct honor a number of appointees called upon him near the conclusion of his second term as governor and presented him with an appropriate gift of appreciation.

In accepting this gift he spoke from his heart and clearly set forth his conception of the duty of the chief executive in selecting men for public office. He there said:

"It was not easy for me to appoint a single one of you men. In nearly every case you were chosen from a group of applicants, or those urged as especially fitted for the place, or deserving as a supporter or friend. But, disregarding political pressure or ties of personal friendship, I carefully canvassed the qualifications of the men available for every single appointment, and named the man that I believed was best qualified to render the highest order of service to the state of Iowa in the particular position under consideration. It is not praise, especially, but a plain statement of fact, that each of you was the best man I could find to render the service the state is entitled to receive in the position you are filling.

"It has been my rule of procedure in every instance to ap-

proach the selection of men to be appointed by me to places of public responsibility, with care and deliberation, and I exercised the best judgment of which I am capable. As a group I have no hesitancy in saying that it is my belief you are the finest, best qualified men that I was able to find in the whole state of Iowa for the individual tasks for which you have responsibility, and I commend the fidelity you have brought to your tasks, as well as the success you are demonstrating in attending to the affairs of the state."

#### AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT

Justice Wennerstrum commented further upon the sterling qualities and high-mindedness of Governor Clarke, as these further excerpts from his address will indicate:

Governor Clarke was an outstanding public servant. He was a man of conscientious courage and a man of vision. His qualifications can be best summarized by saying that he was a good citizen. He made a most worthwhile contribution to the life of this state. . . . He was an individual whose policy in public office was to do that which he felt was the right thing to do. He was also farsighted in his ambitions for his state. This was particularly manifested in his support and advocacy for capitol extension. To him, perhaps more than any other man, may be given the credit for the beautiful grounds which now surround our capitol building. . . .

In his campaign for reelection in 1914 he encountered most strenuous opposition from people who claimed that the appropriation for capitol extension was most extravagant. He did not avoid this issue or its political dangers. He did not seek to pass the responsibility for Capitol extension to the legislature which had passed the necessary legislation but went out over the state in support of the cause which he felt was for its best interest.

In an address in a southern Iowa community when he was justifying the program for a more suitable and beautiful setting for our capitol building, he made this statement: "When the battle is over and I may be listed as a casualty, it will never be said of me that any bullets entered my back." This spirit of courage and forthright statesmanship appealed to the citizens of Iowa and in part resulted in his reelection in 1914.

There is no monument on the capitol grounds honoring Governor Clarke. He needs none. Fittingly if such a monument were erected might it have inscribed upon it the words placed on the tomb of Sir Christopher Wren in Saint Paul's

cathedral, London, "If you would see his monument look about." . . .

#### A TRIBUTE TO CLARKE'S SERVICE

Upon many occasions of importance other Iowa men of prominence have spoken in similar vein of Governor Clarke, voicing admiration of the man and pride in his record of accomplishment as the state's executive. At one noteworthy event when former Senator and Attorney General George Cosson paid tribute to Clarke's qualities upon the presentation of a life-sized bronze bust of him to the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, he said in part:

As speaker of the House and lieutenant governor, George W. Clarke had few equals and no superior as a presiding officer, but it was as governor where the acid test was applied and the bigness and greatness of Governor Clarke were disclosed. In the history of Iowa he is referred to as a forward-looking man. He affiliated with that faction of the Republican party known as Progressive, but he always kept his feet on the ground.

Calvin Coolidge's observation would apply to the Governor. "He was as conservative as the multiplication table and he was as progressive as science." No one more than the Governor appreciated the beauty, the grandeur and the glory of the sunset in the western sky, but he was wise enough to know what so many of our great men have failed to perceive, that this beauty and glory and grandeur fully represent not only that which is, but that which was. He knew that the Star of Hope first appeared in the East and that we must look toward the East for the light and the beginning of a new day, and that the glory and the grandeur and the beauty of that which was should never prevent us from seeing and realizing the possibilities of that which is to come. . . .

. . . He was especially interested in the school system of the state—from the rural school to the university. His work paved the way for permanent roads in Iowa. He was much interested in public health and conservation, but above all he recognized that agriculture was the basis not only of the well-being of Iowa and the Middle West but of every true civilization. . . .

His great courage was shown in furthering the Capitol Extension Act and defending the act after it was passed against persons who opposed it, either for selfish, political, or honestly mistaken economic reasons.

In the Governor's first inaugural he referred to the great Keokuk dam as one of the greatest engineering projects ever undertaken. In this connection he said: "At Keokuk the great Father of Waters which for unmeasured ages has wasted his vast energy as he swept on to the sea has been harnessed and his power captured for the lighting and heating of cities and for giving power to manufacturing plants." . . .

His breadth and courage were shown by the fact that while he was quick to condemn wrongdoing in public places, he was equally as prompt to condemn unmerited criticism of public officers. In his second inaugural he said: "It is one of the most unfortunate things of our American life that a large part of our citizenship assume to speak of state legislatures, and the Congress of the United States as well, with at least poorly disguised ridicule. Men who have never given any time at all to the consideration of public questions and who have seldom, or never, seen any bad effects of the completed work of the legislature, will begin and have already begun, to discount your work."

And calling for courage from the members of the General Assembly he said: "There has never been a great, constructive piece of legislation where the loss of political heads did not follow and in every case time has vindicated the value and wisdom of the law." In defending the good road program he said: "Could there really be left anything to contend about when the roads themselves demonstrate the wonderful improvement under the Highway Commission, when 15,000 permanent bridges and culverts speak with eternal voice in approval of methods, when an annual saving to the people of four million dollars is realized by the commission and when only by the retention of it can the more than two million dollars be secured from the (Federal) government and when the wisdom and efficiency of the law is appealing to other states as a model?"

Some passages in his state papers reach the point of the classic. In his special message to the legislature on March 26, 1913, he called the Capitol Extension an imperative demand of the future. Said the Governor: "It is a matter of the very best business policy. Iowa should announce that she is of age and full grown. She should step out of the old conditions, that hamper and restrain, into the new. The legislature should be unafraid. . . . Listen not to the voice of selfishness. Tolerate not the 'invisible' man. For more than ten years practically all legislation and all political agitation in this country has been against human selfishness. Let it proceed."

. . . Never were there so many highly organized pressure groups descending upon Congress and lower legislative bodies as well as executive and administrative officers. Social, political and economic philosophies, as divergent as the poles, are contending with each other and the people, for the mastery. Political death is threatened to the public man who does not agree to comply or who courageously takes a stand upon any of the highly controverted questions.

As Thomas Payne said, there are times which try men's souls. This state and this nation need men like Governor Clarke as never before, men who not only think right but who are willing to fight for the right. George W. Clarke was a man in the best sense of the term, whether we refer to his public life or his private life. As father, husband, citizen of his local community, public servant of the state, or as a private lawyer engaged in his private profession with his business associates, he displayed courage and kindness, high fidelity to public duty and personal generosity and magnanimity, an appreciation of the stern realities of life coupled with a genuine sense of humor. . . .

May I express my feeling of personal satisfaction and gratitude that I have the honor to present the bronze bust of one who has played such a conspicuous part in the affairs of this state and nation, with the knowledge that this bust of George W. Clarke will forever remain in the Historical Building among the portraits and statues of the great men and women who brought honor and distinction to themselves and likewise honored their state.

May it be an inspiration through the ages, not only to the youth who may visit this building, but to public men as well holding high office. May it forever evidence the fact that fidelity to trust and great courage in the performance of public duty are their own reward which time will vindicate.

#### OFFICIAL EXPOSITION VISIT

Perhaps the more pleasurable events of Clarke's administration were his official visits to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition at San Francisco in 1914 and 1915. Iowa was officially represented by a committee of delegates selected by various commercial organizations of the cities of the state and appointed by the governor. With members of the committee, the executive left Des Moines March 31, 1914, for San Francisco and selected the site upon which was erected by the Greater Iowa Association the attractive Iowa building,

located advantageously within one block of the bay. W. W. Marsh, of Waterloo, chairman of the commission, presided at the dedicatory exercises held on March 10, 1915. The Iowa Day ceremonies of the fair on June 25th centered at the Iowa building and the address of Governor Clarke was one of the best of his career, expository of the resources of the state, its institutions and people. Great throngs of Iowa people residing in California augmented the crowd and the governor's ringing praise of the state cheered to the echo. His daughter, Frances, further enlivened the occasion by singing in good voice the Iowa song, accompanied by the Iowa band. The Clarkes loved Iowa for what she is. Many speak of the state's future, but Clarke always lauded her accomplishments, her record of things done, the quality of her people, their ideals and the great institutions here located. It was the Iowa of now that challenged his admiration and approval.

Upon another occasion Johnson Brigham described the qualities and stability of Governor Clarke, as well as his influence as an Iowa statesman, and leadership, as follows:

Governor Clarke has the qualities of leadership. His public-spirited devotion transcends partisanship and with him patriotism far o'ertops self agrandizement .He is approachable and his unfeigned cordiality works for popularity, while his strongly marked personal characteristics win for him high regard. His position is never an equivocal one, yet he does not possess the aggressiveness that antagonizes. There has been in his career none of those dazzling meteoric qualities which sometimes characterize the record of the political leader. On the contrary, he possesses the more stable elements of statesmanship and his study of the science of government and of vital and of significant political problems has made him a power in molding public thought and action in the state.

An accurate summation of the public record of George W. Clarke, his characteristics and his qualities as a man and an official was made by the late David A. Mott, a former member of the Iowa General Assembly and a competent editor, who wrote of him in a biographical sketch, saying in part:

As a member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Clarke at once took high rank as a man of judgment and knowledge. Both as speaker of the house and as president of the senate when lieutenant governor he won encomiums for his fairness and skill as a presiding officer. In the office of governor he exhibited the qualities of statesmanship and courage. The reorganization of rural schools, the development of permanent roads, workmen's compensation, and the Capitol Grounds extension were outstanding subjects and achievements during his administration.

His urgent recommendation to the General Assembly of 1913 resulted in the passing of an act providing for the levying of a small special tax extending over several years to provide for the cost of the extension. During Governor Clarke's campaign for re-election in 1914 he was severely criticized for his part in increasing the state tax to pay for the extension. He acknowledged he was to blame, if any one was, and argued it out on the public platforms, and won.

He constantly called in each official he believed was aware of conditions intended to be corrected and those to be accounted for, in the phases of finance, legislation, litigation and construction. Thus came about a series of conferences with the secretary of the Executive Council . . . attorney general . . . and legislative leaders, bankers and business men, and with all of them he devised plans he was convinced were wise. He carried his own conviction into the minds of those he consulted and so created his most conspicuous contribution to his state of his time. He was a man of strong convictions, high ideals, a lover of nature and of the beautiful, and a lover of his fellow man—a clean, conscientious, Christian gentleman.

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### Electric Rail Car Now a Relic

The last electric interurban car on the old Waterloo, Cedar Falls & Northern Railroad was conveyed to Centerville in December, a gift to the Iowa chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society.

The car, presented to the society by the successor company of the W.C.F. & N., will be used by railroad fans with other old electric cars on the Southern Iowa Railroad Co. tracks from Centerville to Moravia.

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