

In 1673 this Iowa was discovered by the French traders and became French territory. When in 1803 it was purchased by the United States, the flag of France was the tri-color banner—our own national colors reversed. France had painted these colors upon Iowa's page of history, and they are so arranged in the design of Iowa's proposed banner, since the French flag was the first banner to float over the "beautiful land."

We next study the great seal of Iowa for inspiration in working out a design for the emblem, and select therefrom the soaring eagle, our national bird, bearing in its beak flying streamers on which in letters of white is painted Iowa's state motto, "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain." This is placed upon the white portion of the field of the proposed Iowa banner.

Does this finished design reflect Iowa's history—of the past, of the present? Does this proposed little banner suggest Iowa's story? Does it tell it simply, does it make it more clear, more dear? Is the proposed Iowa design too small an arc of the circle of events as pictured in Iowa's history? Can the morrow add to its glory more than living up to its wondrous past?

Long ago the scruples that had delayed adoption of a state banner were pushed into the background. The state not only legalized the banner and its design, but caused to be made and displayed many of them; and everyone soon came to agreement that the banner is not only appropriate and attractive but has a real place in all public affairs.

The motto on the Iowa banner is that which appears on the state seal which was adopted by the First General Assembly.

THE IOWA SUPREME COURT

The portraits and biographical sketches of twenty-four additional former justices of the Iowa Supreme Court appearing in this number of *THE ANNALS OF IOWA* comprise most of those serving on the bench who were better known to recent generations of Iowa people. Also, among those likewise of more recent service, presented in the October 1944 issue, were Justices Deemer, Ladd, Waterman, Sherwin and McClain, all of the latter having ascended to the supreme bench near the end of the century, while those appearing herein assumed the high

judicial positions during the thirty years subsequent to 1902. There remain fifteen more portraits and sketches to be presented in the April 1945 number, completing the seventy-one in total who have served as territorial and supreme justices.

The political changes occurring in Iowa in the thirties served to retire all Republican officials, as their terms expired, regardless of the length of their service. Then, as the ascendancy of the Democrats receded, they likewise failed of re-election. These political reversals, and the consequent short tenure in office of many of the later justices, increased the total number of those serving upon the Iowa supreme bench, besides summarily ending the official service of some who by reason of their superior talents might have continued longer as justices, possibly even rivaling in length of official tenure several who approached a quarter of a century upon the bench.

While the biographical sketches accompanying the portraits have been necessarily brief they constitute valuable historical data, and are an authoritative addition to the wealth of important material appearing from year to year in the pages of THE ANNALS.

MIRAGES IN WAR.

Men traversing a desert often have visions of lakes and trees. Whether the vision is of objects which do not exist anywhere or whether the extraordinary refraction of light through the hot desert air makes far-distant objects seem near, the scene gives every promise of hope and fulfillment.

Men and nations undergoing the strain of war often see visions of the future as delusive as mirages in the desert. Contemporary records of all great modern wars show that men in the midst of them have visions of a world transformed by victory. Leaders who hold these visions before their countrymen are afterwards denounced as using false hopes to spur their followers to greater efforts. For the most part, however, both leaders

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