

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

and followers are deceived by their own visions of a happy ending seen through the heat, passion, and suffering of war. Whatever cause leads a country into war, the tension engendered by the war itself creates a mirage, a delusive promise of the realization of Utopias which at best are indefinitely remote from human experience.

There are often, it is true, beneficent by-products and indirect consequences of war. Either the victorious or defeated side, sometimes both of them, can make adjustments and establish reforms after the war, which were not their direct object at their entrance into the war, nor even contemplated earlier. Such gains, however, are possible only when based on actualities and when they are in line with the spirit of the times.

Wars never perfect human nature. They only exaggerate extremes of virtue and viciousness. They speed up forces and changes which are already on their way to consummation. The weak and dying are killed; oncoming forces become relatively stronger—they are given an open road. Evolution becomes revolution.

Modern world wars may be grouped severally as in the periods of the Reformation, of Louis XIV, of the Seven Years War, of the French Revolution and Napoleon, and of the Twentieth Century. What have they killed? Foremost of all, they have killed the idea and the institutions of divine right of government—the divine right of kings and priests, government of any kind based solely on the sanctification of tradition. The Holy Roman Empire passed away during the early world wars. The period of the French Revolution displaced most of royalty in the New World and gave European royalty severe jolts. The Last World War overthrew hereditary rule in most of Europe. The present World War already has made two of the remaining kings in Europe dependent on the sufferance of their allies. In the western world, hereditary royalty, and all traditional governments now remain only as symbols, as subject to popular control as any other form of government.

In the Far East, Japan alone retains the medieval or

premedieval government of a "Son of Heaven." Japan's progress toward world domination is based upon this "divine right." If the United Nations pursue a realistic policy, they will make the destruction of this Japanese government their objective along with the freeing of the countries it has conquered.

The Nazi and Fascist regimes in Europe, also, which on the overthrow of traditional governments, converted their people from civilized nations into menaces to the other countries of the Western World, will be exterminated if the latter have learned anything from their experience. Modern wars have destroyed governments and greatly changed the relative status of nations; they have not destroyed peoples. Neither the German nor the Japanese people can be destroyed as a people. The finger of history points not in that direction but to changes of government, and that only in keeping with the trend of the times.

Whatever reorganization of the world and whatever rearrangement of the world's economy is undertaken during and after the war must be undertaken with a consciousness that it will not be a new creation free from all the evils of the past. It is natural that men should deceive themselves by thinking that when the horrors of war are over, there will be no suffering or evil. Actually the process will be that of a recovery from a devastating disease which leaves the patient in worse condition than he was before. The most evident result of any war, for whatever purpose fought, is the destruction of resources, of goods, and of life. The totality of destruction far exceeds the gains made by one side or the other. In this sense, Benjamin Franklin was right when he said there never was a good war.

It is doubtful if anyone can now tell what forces and movements are thrusting themselves forward—or what the real basis and controlling forms of popular government will be. Just in proportion as the leaders of the victorious nations build the new world according to the forces which will control the future, so will the work that

they do prove permanent. The path must be charted by statesmanship of the clearest insight and the wisest counsels. Vistas of Utopias, of wishful thinking, and of human perfection cannot be pursued without losing this path.—*Indiana History Bulletin.*

The *Iowa Journal of Education*, Dubuque, May 1854, contained the following notice:

TEACHERS OF IOWA! The time has come when a State Teachers' Association should be organized, in order to advance the educational interests of Iowa. We, therefore, call upon the Teachers throughout the length and breadth of this State, to assemble for this purpose, at the Court House in Muscatine, on Wednesday the 10th of May next, at 10 o'clock a. m.

Signed by—

Burlington—Rev. G. W. Gunnison, principal and professor of Ancient Languages, Burlington university; John H. Rough, M. D., lecturer on the natural sciences, Burlington university.

Cedar Rapids—David Blakely, principal of Cedar Rapids Collegiate school.

Davenport—Rev. D. Lane, principal of preparatory and English department, Iowa college; D. S. Sheldon, A. M., professor of Chemistry and Natural Sciences, Iowa college; Rev. E. Ripley, professor of Ancient Languages, Iowa college.

Dubuque—Rev. Samuel Newbury; N. V. Bennett, teacher of a select school; R. R. & W. I. Gilbert, editors of the *Iowa Journal of Education.*

Denmark—Rev. H. K. Edson, principal of Denmark academy.

Fort Madison—Robert A. Russell, principal of Fort Madison high school.

Keokuk—Rev. H. Williams, principal of Keokuk academy.

Muscatine—D. Franklin Wells, principal of public school No. 1; G. B. Denison, principal of the public school No. 2; J. D. Bills, teacher of a select school.

Mount Pleasant—Samuel L. Howe, teacher of high school.

Oskaloosa—Prof. Geo. W. Drake, principal of Normal school.

At the meeting called a constitution was adopted; John N. Parvin, mayor of Muscatine, presided; D. F. Wells was secretary; an executive committee was appointed, and adjournment taken to meet in Iowa City Dec. 27, 1854.

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