

Annals Addenda . . .

THE VANISHING IOWA COAL MINE

Strip mining of coal in Iowa remains as almost the last vestige of an industry that once employed thousands in the Hawkeye state, and fast is approaching the vanishing point. While the coal fields of the state more largely were centered in the Des Moines river valley and the southeastern section, mining was once an active industry in many counties where now no mines are operated and only here and there drift and strip work goes on in a desultory sort of way.

In the Appanoose, Monroe and Mahaska county area, where so many years the mining of coal was a leading industry, there has been an awakening to the fact that it was lost to them and towns like Centerville, Albia and others must need depend upon something else to employ the people. In Polk and Boone counties coal mining long ago largely slipped into the discard. The encroachments of fuel oil and gas supplanted need for the soft coal of this area excepting for use in stokers, and many of them are using eastern treated coal since the close of the war. Uncertain production occasioned by labor troubles have likewise limited the output in other states and there is little hope that the industry soon may be revived, at least not in the volume once enjoyed; although there are many untouched veins in areas heretofore not mined, that must wait the needs of future generations.

And now over in Dallas county the life of the big mine at Waukeez has become history to be written in the annals of the state, after twenty-eight years of mining there. Operation of this huge mine has become too expensive, although some of the leases are yet unworked. Over five hundred miners will retire from these operations as soon as the mine is finally closed, after its long course as one

of the largest in the state. The equipment and machinery has been taken out, but what its use can be put to is a problem.

WAUKON'S MASTERLY REPLY

By the terms of a treaty made by the U. S. government with the Winnebago Indians September 15, 1832, at Fort Armstrong, now Rock Island, the eastern forty miles of the "neutral ground" in Iowa was allotted to the Winnebagos for a new home, in part consideration for their surrendering their possessions on the east side of the Mississippi river, south and east of the Wisconsin river. This action was deemed necessary by the government in order to open for settlement the Illinois tracts of land. A portion of the tribe reluctantly entered this territory during the following year, the other members of the tribe remaining in the vicinity of Fort Winnebago. Under the terms of this treaty a school and farm were established for their benefit on the Yellow river, which came to be known as the "Old Mission".

It is related that in the spring of 1833 Father Lowrey, who was appointed to take charge of this school, explained the plans and purposes of its establishment to a council of Winnebago chiefs, and called for an expression of their views upon this subject; whereupon Chief Waukon arose and expressed his sentiments as follows:

The Winnebagos are asleep, and it will be wrong to awake them; they are red men, and all the white men's soap and water cannot make them white.

In a treaty at Washington, November 1, 1837, the Winnebagos ceded their lands east of the Mississippi river. They agreed, further, to relinquish the right to occupy, except for the purpose of hunting, that portion of the "neutral ground" included between that river and a line twenty miles distant therefrom to the west; and to remove to the west such line within eight months after the ratification of this treaty. In accordance therewith, in 1840-41,

the government erected a fort in the southwest corner of the present Winneshiek county, on Turkey river, calling it Fort Atkinson, honoring the general who conducted the war against Blackhawk. In 1842 a mission house and school were built nearby, and a farm opened, to which the Rev. Lowrey and Farmer Thomas were transferred. The Yellow river mission was abandoned, and the Indians received their annuities thenceforth at this post until they were removed to Minnesota in 1848.

Long exposed to the greed and the vices of the white man, from their contact with him since the appearance of the first traders and their whisky, the Winnebagos unfortunately yielded readily to these influences, and their annuities from the government were an additional cause of increasing profligacy and idleness, notwithstanding the endeavors of Father Lowrey for their welfare. An officer of the United States army was appointed to treat with them as to a removal farther away from these influences. A council was held with their chiefs November 1, 1844, at which the purposes of the government were outlined by its representative. The principal chief and orator of the Indians was Waukon, who said in reply:

Brother, you say our Great Father sent you to us to buy our country?

We do not know what to think of our Great Father's sending so often to buy our country. He seems to think so much of land that he must be always looking down to earth.

Brother, you say you have seen many Indians; but you have never seen one yet who owns the land. The land belongs to the Great Spirit. He made it; he owns it all. It is not the red man's to sell!

Brother, the Great Spirit hears us now! He always hears us. He heard us when the Great Father told us if we would sell him our country on the Wisconsin, he would never ask us to sell him another country. We brought our council fires to the Mississippi. We came across the great river, and built our lodges on the Turkey and the Cedar. We have been here but a few days, and you ask us to move again. We supposed our Father pities his children; but he cannot, or he would not wish so often to take our land from us.

You ask me, Brother, where the Indians are gone who crossed the Mississippi a few years ago. You know, and we know, where they are gone. They are gone to a country where the white man can no more interfere with them. Wait, Brother, but a few years longer, and this little remnant will be gone, too—gone to the Indians home beyond the clouds, and then you can have our country without buying it.

Brother, we do not know how you estimate the value of land. When you bought our land before, we do not think we got its value.

Brother, I have spoken to you for our nation. We do not wish to sell our country. We have but one opinion. We never change it. We are in a hurry to get off on our winter hunt. The sun is going down. Farewell.

The chiefs refused to hear anything further from the commissioner, and abruptly broke up the council. But the territory of Iowa was now soon to become a state. The Indian population must give place to the hand of industry, the hunting grounds receive the farmer and his plow, and the forces that make for civilization must control and occupy this fairest spot of the earth's surface. Hence it was that by another treaty, made on October 13, 1846, at Washington, the Winnebagos were persuaded to cede all claim to the "neutral ground," the United States agreeing to give them a tract of not less than 800,000 acres north of St. Peter's river in Minnesota, and the sum of \$190,000, of which \$85,000 was retained by the government in trust, and five percent interest payable annually to said tribe. But this was temporary also, and by a later treaty, in 1855, this tract was ceded for a smaller one on the Blue Earth river. In 1859 and 1863 this in turn was sold by the United States and the proceeds held in trust for the Winnebagos, and the president authorized to set apart for them in Dakota an eighteen square mile reservation, to which they were moved. They were greatly dissatisfied, and in 1865 were permitted to occupy a tract ceded to them by the Omahas, in Nebraska, though many returned to their old haunts in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

THE MOTHERS OF WARRIORS

Abraham Lincoln paid a never-to-be-forgotten tribute in his letter of condolence to Mrs. Bixby, of Boston, on the death of five sons on the field of battle in the Civil war, which has come to be regarded as a classic. It will be recalled he said in part:

How weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming . . . I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours, to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Outstanding in the annals of the wars of the American republic also may be mentioned the sacrifice of the Waterloo, Iowa, mother, Mrs. Thomas F. Sullivan, whose five sons lost their lives in World War II, on the old cruiser Juneau in November, 1942, in the South Pacific.

The above is recalled because another Iowa mother, Mrs. Catherine Desart, likewise entitled to sincere homage, became the object of sympathy and concern because of the service and sacrifice from her large family circle in the Civil war, which was the subject of legislative resolutions adopted by the Eleventh Iowa General Assembly on February 7, 1866. Representative D. G. Goodrich, of Fayette county, offered the following resolution, which was adopted by the house:

Whereas, Mrs. Catherine Desart, now a resident of Fayette county, state of Iowa, is the mother of nine sons, all of whom enlisted in the army of the United States as volunteers in the late war against the rebellion; two of said sons were killed in battle, and one died of disease while in the service; five of these nine sons re-enlisted as veterans, making fourteen regular enlistments from this family of nine sons; and

Whereas, The said Catherine Desart, now being sixty-one years of age and in very poor health, has at this time a daughter who is a cripple depending entirely on her mother for support, the said Catherine Desart being a widow and in very indigent circumstances, being obliged to live in a log cabin hardly fit for a stable, and

entirely unable to build a better tenement for herself and her crippled daughter; therefore,

Be it resolved, by the House of Representatives, That in consideration of the said Catherine Desart having furnished fourteen enlistments into the army of the Union from her own sons, thereby having rendered great and special service to her country; and further, in consideration of the low circumstances of the said Catherine Desart and of the absolute dependent condition of herself and her crippled daughter;

Resolved, That a select committee be appointed on the part of this house to investigate the circumstances in connection with the facts herein set forth, with instructions to report at any early day by bill for the relief of the said Catherine Desart and her crippled daughter.

In the house journal of the Eleventh General Assembly, from which the above resolution is obtained, it is shown that

Mr. Goodrich, from the special committee to whom was referred the resolution providing for the relief of Catherine Desart, submitted the following report:

Your committee, to whom was referred the resolution provided for the relief of Catherine Desart, have instructed me to report the accompanying bill. Goodrich, Chairman.

The bill, House File No. 268, "A bill for an act for the relief of Catherine Desart" was read a first and second time and passed upon the file.

The legislative record shows no further action upon this bill, either reference to the appropriation committee, report from such, or consideration by the house. Apparently no appropriation was made as contemplated by the resolution adopted, and without doubt Mrs. Desart and her crippled daughter languished in so far as any provision for state aid.

AN IOWA CONSULATE COAT OF ARMS

And now comes the word that England may need to give up the strategically important Falkland Islands. This is an angle of the relations with Argentina involved in the recent trade treaty concerned mostly with England's

meat supply. At present Great Britain maintains five bases within the Falkland islands dependencies. The bases are maintained primarily for meteorological purposes, but there may be undisclosed reason for their long occupancy.

Meager rations in Britain recently brought her to a canvass of avenues of trading what she has to meet the immediate needs of her people. Years ago Iowa had passing interest in these far-away islands, located 260 miles east of the southern tip of South America—one of the unusual places in the world.

Near the close of the century an active and picturesque figure served effectively in the Iowa state senate in the person of the Rev. John E. Rowen, of the Wright-Hamilton-Hardin county district. He had been a minister of the United Presbyterian church, editor of the *Belmond Herald*, and an insurance man—a sufficiently wide range of activities to qualify him in securing enactment of laws upon subjects in which his district was interested. In this he was successful and made a creditable record as a legislator in the three sessions served.

This Connecticut-born Yankee, a resident of Iowa over sixty years, then entered the U. S. consular service, becoming consul at Port Stanley, down in those Falkland Islands. He remained in the consulate there ten years and is now remembered through residence there still of a granddaughter, Mrs. A. G. Barton, at Teal Inlet, twenty-five miles distant. She has preserved the consulate's coat of arms given to her by her grandfather, he being the last U. S. consul to serve at that post.

Port Stanley claims residence of at least half the population of the islands. Because of the bleak weather and temperature which seldom, even in summer time, rises above sixty degrees, peat fires are burned the year round. Only a dozen buildings have central heating and nearly all these belong to the colonial government. The islands

are swept by gales, rains and snowstorms, except for a brief period in the summer. Senator Rowen always said that they had but three seasons—December, January and winter.

He was finally transferred to the consulate at Punta Arenas, Chile, where he continued in the consulate service four years more, though longing to remove from the antarctic climate. In 1911 he gave up that position and returned to Clarion, but eventually removed to the old farm northeast of that place where he spent the remainder of his life, passing away May 1, 1914.

MAKING KNOWN A COUNTRY

Jan Struther: To visit a new country for the first time is great fun; but it is even greater fun to introduce somebody else to a country that you know. To play the courier or to be the runner of personally conducted tours satisfies some deep-seated craving in the human soul. It makes you feel proud and powerful and protective—a superior being who has Been There Before.

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