

IOWA CONTRIBUTES TO NATION'S PROGRESS

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF STATEHOOD ATTAINED BY A
COMMONWEALTH FOUNDED ON FREEDOM

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The annual meeting of Iowa's Fairs and Agricultural convention is an altogether appropriate time to observe Iowa's Centennial. Down through the years Iowa's county fairs and agricultural shows have been a potent force in her development. The state fair has long been known as the "Show Window of Iowa." That true designation has been attested by song and story. Even the movies join in proclaiming it. The presence of Iowa's governor and officary, including especially the Iowa Centennial commission, also adds to the importance of this occasion. Many Iowa communities have already observed the Centennial in their own fitting manner. We express the hope and belief that all Iowans will, and we invite all Americans to join with us in this notable celebration. Because we have much to celebrate!

One hundred years ago this state was a prairie wilderness. It was a frontier, scarcely touched by civilization. From that sparsely settled territory along the western bank of the Mississippi river, Iowa has attained in 1946 its stature as the leading agricultural area of the world. From a territory with less than 200,000 inhabitants according to the census of 1850, Iowa is now the home of more than two and one-half million Americans. From a frontier prairie country, Iowa has become the "Beautiful Land," the habitation of a cultured and forward-looking people.

Of all her many achievements for which Iowa cherishes a proud memory, none is more significant than her contribution to the national welfare. Iowa is the legal off-

*An address delivered by Congressman James I. Dolliver of Fort Dodge, delivered at the Thirty-ninth annual meeting of the Fair Manager's association of Iowa, and the State Agricultural convention, at Des Moines, Iowa, December 11, 1946.

spring of the United States and it is fitting that she give to the whole nation her loyalty and her service.

Iowa's admission year, 1846, has been called "The Year of Decision." Our country was then engaged in the war with Mexico. It might be thought that due to the youth and immaturity of our commonwealth, Iowa could not contribute materially at that time. Yet it is recorded that from our territory approximately a thousand men served in that war.¹ Some of them went on to the southwest to help in the liberation and annexation of California. Many were with Taylor at Monterey, others joined Scott in storming the heights of Chapultepec. This contribution in the Mexican war was prophetic of her larger and more important help in later conflicts. Many of the names of Iowa's townships, counties and cities recall the heroes of the Mexican war.

CIVIL WAR

Iowa was the first free state to be carved out of the Louisiana Purchase. In 1861 when the call for troops was sounded throughout the land by President Abraham Lincoln, like the Spartans of old—Iowans rushed to the defense of the union. Gov. Samuel J. Kirkwood asked that one regiment be recruited to join in the war for freedom. History records ten times that number of volunteers for enlistment. In all—Iowa furnished the union cause forty-eight regiments of infantry, nine regiments of cavalry, and four batteries of artillery.² Our men marched with the bravest at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Pea Ridge, Atlanta, Chattanooga, and many other famous battles.

More than 76,000 Iowans fought under the stars and stripes in the great struggle for human freedom and the preservation of the nation.³ In that war between the states 13,001 Iowans made the supreme sacrifice.⁴ A greater number of Iowans gave their lives in the Civil war than in any other war, including World Wars I and

¹Adjutant General's office, Iowa.

²Iowa-Guide series, p. 54.

³76,242—Adjutant General's office, Iowa.

⁴Adjutant General's office, Iowa.

II. Of each and every one of them it can be said—"In death a hero; as in life a friend."⁵

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

Thirty-three years passed by and Iowa prospered and peace reigned in the land. But, in 1898, "wars and rumors of wars" again came.⁶ "Remember the Maine" was the cry. Iowa again took up arms in the cause of an oppressed people. Without conscription or general recruiting four Iowa regiments were mobilized to serve in the Spanish American war. Our losses were small. Of the 5,858 Iowans who served, but one man was killed in combat, although 134 died of disease in the army.⁷ Iowa volunteers fulfilled every duty creditably and with highest patriotism.

WORLD WAR I

Following the assassination of the heir apparent to the Austrian throne in July, 1914, the whole of Europe became embroiled in hostilities. The United States was then engaged in activities upon the Mexican border—in that mission during the year 1916 of the 5,000 Iowans serving, 13 died in service.⁸

Overseas war continued to rage. England, France and Russia had formed an alliance—Germany and Austria had joined forces. One country after another was drawn into the conflict. Finally German submarine warfare became unrestrained and neutral ships carrying American citizens were sunk. April 6, 1917, the congress of the United States declared war on Germany. Enlistments in Iowa had steadily increased during the threat of war. Now they soared. In July, 1917, it is estimated that more than 10,000 Iowans had volunteered for service.

Under the selective service act of May 18, 1917, more than a half a million men were registered in Iowa for possible service. This was more than one-fourth of the population of men, women, and children of the entire

⁵Iliad of Homer, Book XV, Line 758.

⁶Matthew XXIV—6.

⁷Adjutant General's office, Iowa.

⁸Adjutant General's office, Iowa.

9523,478.—"Iowa's Military Contribution to the National Defense," Cong. Thomas E. Martin.

state. More than 51% of those registered were farmers. Iowa troops were trained at about thirty different camps, and served in all units of the army. Her men shared in the splendid exploits of the American expeditionary forces.

In October, 1917, the new 42nd division was formed by the war department. It was later known as the Rainbow division, famous in the history of World War I. Iowa was represented in that division by the Third Iowa Infantry, later renamed the 168th United States infantry. The 168th went to France in December, 1917, and saw action first in February. When the tide of battle turned, the 168th was leading the counter-offensives. This regiment and all regiments that participated brought glory to the state of Iowa. Their records are a proud recital of bravery and of outstanding valor at Chateau Thierry, at Saint Mihiel, in the Argonne forest, on the Lorraine front, in the Champagne, and at Sedan. Decorations for Iowans were many—but the price was terrific. When the battle flags were furled, and the firing had ceased, 3,578 Iowans of the 114,223 men in service had given their lives in the cause of freedom.¹⁰

During those days of distress and sorrow, the people of Iowa who could not serve on the battle fronts were doing their full share to bring the boys safely home. The American Red Cross started its work immediately upon the declaration of war. A chapter was established in practically every village and town. In June, 1917, Iowa led all states in the number of active chapters.¹¹ Iowa's women gave unstintedly of their time and devotion to duty.

I think all present here remember the joyous November 11, 1918, Armistice day. At last the war was over—the boys were coming home! Even those whose homes would be empty, whose hearts were broken and whose spirits were crushed with a great loneliness and sorrow, rejoiced that no further sacrifice would be sustained.

¹⁰Adjutant General's office, Iowa.

¹¹112 Chapters—"Iowa's Military Contribution to the National Defense," Cong. Thomas E. Martin.

Iowa had paid a great price but she held her head high, even though her heart was bowed down with grief in the loss of so many of her sons.

WORLD WAR II

In the World War II, finished a little more than fifteen months ago, Iowa played a notable part. December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked. Iowans knew that fathers, husbands and sons must take up arms again. Records of the office of the Adjutant General of Iowa show that more than 275,000 Iowans were in the armed forces in the greatest of all wars.¹² About nine percent of the population of the United States was in the military service, but Iowa sent about fourteen and one-half percent of her population against the enemy.¹³ Seven men born in Iowa were honored in this war by the highest American military decoration, the congressional medal of honor.¹⁴ Many other decorations attest to the courage and fidelity of Iowa's sons. But the price of war as always was terrific. With deep and abiding sorrow we pay tribute to the 7,789 Iowans who died in World War II that freedom might live.¹⁵

In serving their country, Iowa women also have been in the fore. In addition to 781 of Iowa's registered nurses, a total of 5,896 Iowa women entered the military service of our country.¹⁶

Fort Des Moines was the principal training center in the United States for the WAC's. Iowa is proud to have furnished the greater part of training of this meritorious organization.

Our schools and colleges made an outstanding contribution to the cause in training our men. In a score or

¹²Adjutant General's office, Iowa.

¹³Figures based on War department and Census reports received July, 1945.

¹⁴War department record:

Captain Arlo L. Olson, Greenville, Iowa.

2/Lt. Paul F. Riordan, Charles City, Iowa.

Captain Darrell R. Lindsey, Jefferson, Iowa.

Pfc. John F. Thorson, Armstrong, Iowa.

S/Sgt. Herschel F. Briles, Jasper County, Iowa.

Sgt. Ralph G. Neppel, Willey, Iowa.

Cpl. Arthur O. Beyer, Mitchell County, Iowa.

¹⁵Adjutant General's office, Iowa.

¹⁶Women in WAC 2709; Navy, Coast Guard, Marines—3,187, War and Navy Department.

"Iowa's Contribution to the National Defense," Cong. Thomas E. Martin.

more of Iowa's educational institutions young men learned the necessary techniques of modern warfare.¹⁷

Iowa scientists through her colleges and universities rendered aid in research and development of secret weapons. The development of the VT proximity fuse which was the United States number two secret weapon was perfected chiefly through their efforts.

Much assistance was also given in the development of the atomic bomb. Iowa State college at Ames was awarded the Army-Navy "E" flag with four stars for the development of a method for the production of uranium metal in large quantities. This award to an educational institution is believed to be unique. We know of no other school so honored.

Our men and women served well. All Iowans are proud of their record. Every man and woman who served will be forever a part of the great contribution that Iowa has made in defense of our nation—we pay tribute to them—each and everyone.

In her patriotic loyalty to America, Iowa yields to no one. In her fervent devotion to our common country, Iowa has given without limit of her sons and her resources.

Within the space of these remarks, it would be quite impossible to name all of the military, political, civic and religious leaders who have contributed to the life of our nation. Suffice to say that both in civilian life and in military life, Iowa has given more than her share of those

¹⁷The Navy training program was carried on at:

Iowa State college at Ames, Iowa.
St. Ambrose college, Davenport, Iowa.
University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa.
State University at Iowa City, Iowa.
Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

The pre-flight training was later transferred from the University of Iowa to the large naval base at Ottumwa.

The Army training program was offered by:

Coe college, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
Drake university, Des Moines, Iowa.
Grinnell college, Grinnell, Iowa.
Iowa State Teachers, Cedar Falls, Iowa.
Iowa State college, Ames, Iowa.
State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.
Iowa Wesleyan, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.
Morningside college, Sioux City, Iowa.
Marshalltown Junior college, Marshalltown, Iowa.

who have led the way in the public affairs of the last one hundred years. Perhaps the historians of Iowa's second century will evaluate their contributions in a more effective way than can be done at this first centennial. In education, politics, business, military life, culture, arts, and religion, Iowa has stood in the fore-front. She has produced many notable men and women in every field of human endeavor, and they have added immeasurably to the sum total of human well-being.

EDUCATION

A most significant reason for Iowa's cultural advancement and production of leaders is her system of education. Its establishment antedates the admission of Iowa as a state. From the very beginning our people have known the desirability and utter necessity of illuminating the human mind and developing the God-given intelligence of our youth. It is noteworthy, too, that the public school system of Iowa was planned by the most outstanding educator of his day—Horace Mann.

It is also important that a large number of institutions of higher learning were established in Iowa during the territorial and early statehood years.¹⁸ The tolerance and good will of our Iowa people led them to establish

¹⁸Loras college in Dubuque was established in 1838 by Bishop Mathias Loras, the first Roman Catholic bishop consecrated bishop in Iowa. In 1843 Iowa Wesleyan college was established under the auspices of the Methodist church at Mount Pleasant. Just one hundred years ago in 1846 Grinnell college was founded by a group of young missionaries who came to Iowa in 1843 from New England representing the Congregational and Presbyterian churches. It was established originally at Davenport and was known as Iowa college, but was moved in 1859 to Grinnell. The Lutherans founded Luther college at Decorah in 1861. Others which began their long careers early in our history—1843 Clarke college, Dubuque, Catholic; 1852 University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Presbyterian; 1857 Upper Iowa, Fayette, Methodist; 1876 Parsons college, Fairfield, Presbyterian; 1860 Simpson college, Indianola, Methodist; 1882 St. Ambrose college, Davenport, Catholic; 1890 Western Union, LeMars, Evangelical church; 1894 Morningside college, Sioux City, Methodist; 1895 Graceland college, Lamoni, Latter Day Saints.

Established first as Oskaloosa college, Drake university of Des Moines was founded early in our day (1881) by the Disciples of Christ; Central college at Pella, by the Baptists; as was Cornell college at Mt. Vernon by the Methodists; Downing college, Catholic; and Buena Vista college at Storm Lake, Presbyterian.

The Wartburg Seminary at Dubuque is one of our early church schools. It is strictly a theological school for graduate students for the Lutheran ministry. Some of the more recent schools which are playing an important role in our educational program are Trinity college at Sioux City; Waldorf college, Forest City; Briar Cliff, Sioux City; Marycrest, Davenport; and Wartburg at Waverly. Each and every one of these schools gave generously of their facilities during the recent war, and was deserving of honorable mention.

Iowa-Guide series; "The State of Iowa Welcomes You"; "Early School and Churches", Cong. Karl M. LeCompte; Guide to Dubuque and vicinity—Federal Writers Project.

many schools of college grade supported by various religious groups. Each is giving to our youth the best background possible for a cultured and well-ordered life. These institutions have been founded in every nook and corner of Iowa.

It is therefore not a matter of chance that Iowa stands in first place in literacy.¹⁹ Statistics show that illiteracy in our state is but eight-tenths of one per cent. There are practically 12,000 public schools in the state, as well as a goodly number of parochial schools of several denominations.²⁰ Because the law makes school attendance compulsory between the ages of seven and sixteen years, all children are given the rudiments of elementary learning.²¹ Education in our public schools is free until high school graduation to all persons between the ages of five and twenty-one.²²

STATE INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING

Realizing the necessity for higher learning and scientific research it was with foresight and wisdom that the first general assembly established the State University of Iowa in 1847.²³ Located on the banks of the Iowa river in the first capital of Iowa, at Iowa City, the university opened its doors to male students in 1855. Women were allowed to attend beginning in 1858. In 1869 the university consisted of colleges of liberal arts, medicine, law, dentistry, engineering, and others. Approximately 400 acres are occupied by the fifty buildings necessary for carrying on the work of the university. The administration building on east campus affectionately known to all Iowans as "Old Capitol", is a structure of classic architectural beauty and perfection. Its simplicity of line and quiet dignity are an inspiration. Its walls cast long

¹⁹Census: "Early School and Churches", Cong. Karl M. LeCompte.

²⁰"The State of Iowa Welcomes You," page 12.

²¹General Assembly—1902: Iowa-Guide series; Later legislation requires 24 consecutive weeks annually for children 7 to 16.

Legislature 1919 provided for part time schooling 14 to 16 if students employed.

Iowa Code—Chap. 228-4410.

22Iowa Code—Chap. 215, 4268-4273.

²³⁻²⁴"Early School and Churches", Cong. Karl M. LeCompte.

shadows of tradition over all the campus. On the western bank of the Iowa river stands the university hospital. Of modern design, it is one of the outstanding medical units in the United States.

The State University of Iowa, however, is but one of the three state supported institutions of higher learning. The general assembly meeting in 1858 again gave its attention to academic matters. A law was passed which provided for the establishment of the Iowa State college.²⁴ This school was located at Ames, and for many years was referred to as "Ames College."

The Iowa State college opened its doors in 1868 following the close of the Civil war. This college followed the plan of the legislature, specializing in agriculture and engineering. It was a pioneer in home economics training, offering such a course as early as 1871. It was a pioneer also in the establishment of the agricultural experiment stations. Since 1906 an extension service from the United States department of agriculture has been a part of its educational program.

Graduates of Iowa State college are known the world over for their outstanding contribution to all phases of agricultural development, engineering, and conservation.

To the men and women of vision it soon became apparent that we could not continue our educational institutions without 'educators' to staff them. This realization brought fruit. In 1876, by enactment of the state legislature, a State Normal school was established at Cedar Falls.²⁵ The name of this school was changed in 1909 to the Iowa State Teachers college, and at that time a full four years course leading to a degree of bachelor of arts in education was inaugurated. At the present time it is a school of scholastic reputation throughout the entire country in the field of education. It has contributed a constant stream of trained educators to enrich the national life.

²⁵Iowa Guide series p. 111. "Early School and Churches", Cong. Karl M. LeCompte.

AGRICULTURE

Since our state is in the heart of the great central valley of the Mississippi river, the foundation of Iowa's prosperity is her soil. The Creator was very good to the area between the Mississippi and the Missouri rivers.²⁶ During the glacial age nature laid down a coverlet of fertile soil in Iowa five different times.²⁷ Geologists assure us that these glacial epochs are easily distinguishable in our soil and rocks. It is from that source that Iowa procures her greatest wealth. It is on that resource that Iowa people depend for their livelihood and for their material achievements.

Of the land area of nearly 56,000 square miles, ninety-nine percent is relatively fertile soil. More than ninety-five percent can be cultivated. Iowa has 211,577 farms, with a total acreage of thirty-five million.²⁸ The average area of an Iowa farm is 164 acres. With but three and forty-five hundredths per cent of the farm land in the United States, Iowa produces eight per cent of the nation's cash farm income.

It has been estimated that Iowa soil produces more wealth each year than all of the gold mines in the world. The record for 1943 shows the valuation of Iowa's crop and livestock to be a billion and a quarter dollars.²⁹ One-tenth of all the food produced in the United States is produced in Iowa, and the per capita income is said to be the highest in the world. Our state has never had a complete crop failure and has been long recognized as the area of greatest productivity in the whole country at the heart of the nation's food supply.

²⁶Iowa has wet springs, warm summers, long growing seasons and favorable winters. The temperature ranges from 25 degrees below zero to around 100 degrees above in the summer. The average winter is 21.6. Lowest temperature on record is 47 degrees below zero, Washta in Cherokee county on January 12, 1912. The highest temperature registered 118 degrees above reported near Keokuk on July 20, 1934. The temperature has known to vary as much as 50 degrees, in one day. In 1930 Webster City temperature rose from 34 degrees below zero on February 15th to 70 degrees above on February 24th, the difference of 106 degrees in nine days. Hailstorms sometimes occur in the summer months. Iowa-Guide series; Federal Writers Project.

²⁷Iowa-Guide series, p. 23.

²⁸"Iowa, the Banner Agriculture State," Cong. Charles E. Hoeven.

²⁹\$1,270,399,000.00, Department of Agriculture; "Iowa, the Banner Agriculture State", Cong. Charles E. Hoeven.

Iowa ranks first in per capita agricultural production—in cash farm income—in value of her farms—in value and in number of cattle produced on farms—in value and number of hogs, chickens, horses produced—in the number and value of eggs produced. She stands first in grain crop production—in the production of oats, red clover seed, timothy seed, and soybean hay. No state surpasses Iowa in the production of creamery butter.

Iowa's corn crop practically defies statisticians.³⁰ She ranks first in the annual production of maize, and her yield is nearly one-fifth of the total production of the United States. The use of hybrid seed corn increased the corn income yield in Iowa during the five years from 1939 to 1943 by nearly \$500,000,000.

During recent years Iowa has greatly increased her soybean acreage in order to supply the much needed oils and protein food provided by this legume.

For the past fifty-five years Iowa has lead all states in pork production. 1943 set an all-time record for gross number of swine ever produced by a single state in the history of America.

The present world demand for meats, fats and cereals is unprecedented. Iowa farmers play a vital part in supplying these essential foods. We are justly proud of the agricultural achievements of our state. We are willing to produce and will continue to lead the nation in the great task of feeding needy humanity in a starving world.

³⁰"In 1928 and since then, Iowa has produced 600 million bushels of corn. * * * How much corn is 600 million bushels? * * * Visualize a wagon train forming at the crib (one mile long, one mile wide holding 600 million bushels) to move this crop. Assume a wagon and team every 30 feet (this would leave a space of about 10 feet between them) and with 50 bushels of corn in each wagon. The first wagon is loaded and moves off to the west headed for San Francisco, and another load to follow every 30 feet. When the wagon train has moved across the plains of Nebraska, over the Rockies, across the great Pacific ocean they are still loading corn * * * . When it has wended its way through all of Russia across northern Europe, crossed the Atlantic Ocean and rumbled up Broadway they are still loading; after this long cavalcade has climbed the Alleghenies, crossed Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and finally returned to where it started they are still loading. On it goes, now a double row of wagons and retraces its tedious journey entirely around the world a second time. Yet there is a third of it left in the crib and not until there are three rows of wagonloads entirely around the earth at the 40th parallel is the last shovelful taken. If you filled and started a 50 bushel load every ten seconds, night and day, 24 hours of every day without a hitch or delay of any kind and the wagon train was moving 30 feet every ten seconds, on a paved highway on a direct line, every inch of the way and without a curve or a grade, it would take 3 years and eight months to move the corn crop that Iowa grows in one year."—Centennial speech, Burt Thompson at Garner, Iowa, August 19, 1946.

Even the by-products of agriculture such as corn-stalks, straw, oat hulls, and others are most important in the manufacture of synthetic materials, plastics, lumber, paper, clothing, medicines, and other items so critically needed at all times.

INDUSTRY

In quoting the records in our agricultural achievements, however, we do not forget the important contribution Iowa has made to the national welfare in the industrial and commercial fields. Great as is our agricultural output, it is virtually equalled by our industrial production.

The largest oatmeal factory in the world is located at Cedar Rapids. The capacity of this factory is 9,000 barrels a day.³¹ The meat packing industry in Iowa is topped by only three other states, and we rank second in the production of plaster, tile, plaster of paris, and cement.³²

The number of wage earners employed in Iowa factories was nearly 100,000 in January, 1945.³³ The farm machinery industry is prominent and several large companies have factories in Iowa. There are also a considerable number of smaller plants turning out agricultural equipment of all kinds.

Ten percent of the nation's doors are made in Iowa. She leads in the production of sash, and the chief products of her planing-mill industry are windows and doors. Large quantities of crates, butter tubs, baskets and furniture are made.

Newton has the largest washing machine factory in the world, with a capacity of 2,000 machines a day.

Iowa's coal mining industry is of substantial importance, and over a period of fifty years has exceeded an annual average output of 6,000,000 tons, the peak having reached as much as 9,000,000 tons in a single year. Second to coal is the cement industry.³⁵ Limestone and clay,

³¹"Industry and Commerce," Cong. John W. Gwynne.
Iowa-Guide Series.

³²Iowa-Guide series, p. 94.

³³93,240—"Industry and Commerce," Cong. John W. Gwynne.

the basic parts of cement, are found in many parts of Iowa. There are large cement plants located in Cerro Gordo, Polk, Scott and Jackson counties.

Clay which is admirably suited to the manufacture of tile and brick is found particularly in Cerro Gordo, Webster, Polk and Dallas counties, although found in numerous other places. The value of production in a peak year amounts to about \$10,000,000.³⁶

Iowa ranked third in the nation's gypsum production in 1939, and in peak years more than 6,000,000 tons are produced.³⁷ Webster county has contributed heavily to this production. Sixty-eight of Iowa's counties reported the production of limestone in 1939, and our northern counties are rich in sand and gravel deposits.

Another outstanding industry in Iowa is the pearl-button industry. The annual production has been valued at more than \$6,000,000.³⁸

Iowa has excellent transportation facilities. She is crossed by several transcontinental railroads, and several large railway shops employ a great many of our citizens. No place in Iowa is far from a shipping point; and under the carefully planned and executed program of hard surfaced roads, transportation is easily accessible. Iowa now has five and one-half thousand miles of paved highways.³⁹ More than a thousand miles of bituminous surface, commonly known as "blacktop",⁴⁰ and fifty-one and one-half thousand miles of gravel or crushed stone roads.⁴¹ Three and one-fourth thousand miles are built to a finished grade but have not yet been surfaced.⁴² This accomplishment in the few years that our road program has been under way is most gratifying. We have successfully "taken Iowa out of the mud."

³⁶ "Industry and Commerce," Cong. John W. Gwynne.

³⁷⁻³⁸ "Industry and Commerce," Cong. John W. Gwynne. Iowa-Guide series.

³⁹ 5,542.9

⁴⁰ 1,197.7

⁴¹ 51,573.5

⁴² 3,246.2

Fred White, chief engineer,
Iowa State Highway Commission,
January 1, 1946

NATURAL BEAUTY OF IOWA

To Iowa's economic resources we must also add her resources of beauty that are abundant within her boundaries. One need but go across the state of Iowa at any season of the year to be amply convinced that here is a land not only of plenty but of majestic natural design. Fields of growing corn and waving grain are planted on the prairies next to lakes and rivers of surpassing grandeur. Wild flowers of many hues bloom profusely along their banks and in the open fields. A poet's tongue and pen or a painter's brush and palette are needed to do justice to the beauty of our state.

It is a great credit to our people that many of these spots have been preserved in the state park system,⁴³ containing as they do scores of lovely vistas in magnificent natural settings. A tour of these parks will convince anyone that Iowa is a leading state not only from the standpoint of her agricultural and economic resources, but that her beauty is unsurpassed by any other state or like area in the world.

IOWA'S PEOPLE

As our thoughts linger fondly on the history of our state during the first century, we have a feeling of solemn pride in her accomplishments. We are mindful of the fact that one hundred years ago most of the territory of Iowa was a prairie wilderness interspersed by lakes, streams, deeply wooded fields following the water courses. The transformation of this lush prairie land into the home of more than two and a half million people has taken place in the past century. And the magic of that transformation has been brought about by Iowa's people.

It can be truly said that the early history of Iowa is not marked by the tumult, disorders, and violence that sometimes characterized frontier life in these United States. Rather, the vast development of our commonwealth has come to pass because our people came to this state to found homes for themselves and not to exploit

⁴³"The State of Iowa Welcomes You,"—June, 1943.

the natural resources of the area and to carry those resources away. Our forebears lived frugal and hardworking lives, taming the prairie land—making it habitable. Many tales could be told of the self sacrifice and devotion of those early days. Stories of the rigors of the cold, the dangers from exposure, the hazards of crop failures, insect pests, and drought cause our hearts to swell with admiration for those hardy pioneers.

They produced all the necessities of their lives; they provided their own homes, food, and clothing. Their homes were often made of logs or sod. Food was sometimes scarce and simple, but there never was famine in Iowa. Clothes were often spun and woven from wool and flax raised on the early farmsteads.

Thus they set an example for us of sturdy self-dependence. They relied on themselves and their own efforts to carve from the untamed wilderness pleasant farms and towns where the children might live in peace and plenty. All honor to those early citizens who prepared so well for their successors!

The people of Iowa like her industry and agriculture are varied and of many origins. In earlier times Iowa was the home of the "Red Man." Many Indians, including the Ioway, Pottowatomie, Chippewa, Omaha, Sac, Mascouten, Sioux, and other tribes roamed our plains.⁴⁴ The coming of the first white men was in 1673 when the French explorers, Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet, passed down the Mississippi river. Their exploration brought other Frenchmen to this new area. They set up fur-trading posts and in the course of time intermarried with the Indians. The oldest specified territory in Iowa established after the Louisiana Purchase was the tract set up for the French and Indian descendents—this tract including Keokuk, Montrose and Fort Madison.

In 1833 white settlements really began to materialize. By 1838, five years later, the area was rapidly becoming populated and was organized as the Iowa territory.

⁴⁴"The People of Iowa," Cong. Ben Jensen.

In 1846—100 years ago—when Iowa was admitted to the union as the twenty-ninth state, there was a great influx of people into this area. The southern states of Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia, as well as others, furnished many of these pioneers and from them came our early governors.

In 1850 the New England influence began to be felt. Many of these pioneers settled in Chickasaw county. This is the location of "The Little Brown Church in the Vale,"⁴⁵ famous in song.

Pennsylvania also was prominent in contributing the Quakers who settled in central Iowa. These liberty loving people played an important part in the "underground railroad" during pre-civil war days. It is from them that Herbert Hoover, the only Iowa born president, is descended.

As communities sprang up all through the state, immigration from abroad began. The Irish, Germans, and Scandinavians were among the first to come. It is inspiring to note that after a generation, these people have fused into the general population with little evidence of group segregation.

The Irish first arrived in 1840 and were outstanding in the building of our railroads, roads, bridges, and many other types of construction. These men and women brought with them their love of song and laughter—their gift of faith and warm hospitality. They settled first in Dubuque and Clinton counties but later moved westward into the state.

After the 1848 unrest in Europe, the Germans began to arrive in great numbers. The first settlement was established along the Mississippi but later spread westward across the state to the western boundary where Council Bluffs stands. These sturdy people brought with them thrift and conservative living, and today their descendants form a larger percentage of our Iowa population than the descendants of any other nationality.⁴⁶

⁴⁵Dr. William Pitts, organizer of singing school in Bradford, Iowa, 1864.

⁴⁶Iowa-Guide Series, p. 78.

"The People of Iowa," Cong. Ben Jensen.

Many Scandinavian settlements appeared early in our history. The Danes constituted more than half of these immigrants and settled in many places with the Norwegians. The largest settlements were established in Audubon and Shelby counties. The Swedes more generally established their own communities, although there is a large Swedish population at Burlington and also in East Des Moines.

As early as 1847 the Dutch immigrants coming from Holland, settled in Pella. The well-kept farms and clean, orderly appearance of the community emphasize Dutch characteristics. To this day they hold an annual tulip festival. The descendants of these hardy immigrants appear in Dutch costume and wooden shoes, dance folk dances, sing Dutch songs and eat Dutch food.⁴⁷ There are also many people of Dutch descent in the northwestern part of Iowa.

In 1850 a small group of English settled at Village Acres near DeWitt. This village was later known as Welton, and although the settlement was finally abandoned, there are descendants of these immigrants still to be found in that part of the state.⁴⁸

Later on the Czechs or Bohemians settled in Winne-shiek county. It was there that Anton Dvorak, the great Czech composer spent his time in securing inspiration and material for his well known "New World Symphony." These song loving citizens have brought us folk dancing and music that have become Iowa's own. In Cedar Rapids in 1938 there were 18,000 persons of Czech origin. Webster county claims a substantial number of these fine people, and a considerable number are found in Pocahontas county.

The Welsh settled chiefly in Mahaska county. Their musical talents are inherent and many music instructors

⁴⁷Iowa-Guide series, p. 78, 79, 81.

⁴⁸*Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, October, 1946.

"English Immigrants in Iowa," p. 406-413.

History of Clinton County, Iowa (1879), p. 642.

in our schools are descendants of these early Welsh immigrants.⁴⁹

The first Italians came to Iowa in 1879. The largest Italian population is now concentrated in Des Moines. Madrid also has a considerable number of Italian descent. We are indebted to these people for their colorful contribution in music and the arts.

There are numerous Greeks and persons of Hellenic descent in Iowa. They play a part in public affairs and enjoy the confidence and respect of their fellow citizens.

Approximately one-third of Iowa's negro population live in Des Moines. 17,000 negroes are now citizens of this state. Many came here from the south and east after World War I, seeking higher wages. These men and women did their full share of duty both in the first war and in World War II, and are to be commended for it.

More recently, Mexicans have become a part of our population. They are concentrated for the most part around Davenport and Des Moines. They engage themselves chiefly in the sugar-beet industry and railroad work.

All through the years, the children and the children's children of these early pioneers and immigrants have gone on together in schools, in churches, and in social and business activities. We have all come together into a distinctive group of Americans. From all the "tribes of the earth" have come Iowa's people, becoming an amalgam of good citizens.

Iowans are particularly fortunate in that we have no wide extremes of wealth and poverty. Our people are industrious, and are blessed with a rather uniform distribution of material goods. Neither does Iowa have any large concentration of population in any great city in our state. Rather, our people are uniformly scattered on farms and in communities clear across from the Missis-

⁴⁹Iowa-Guide series, p. 79.

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sippi to the Missouri. Well educated and intelligent, Iowa's people and others like them, form the strength of our nation.

In every crisis our men and women have met the test. In war and in peace they have contributed more than their share and have borne the burdens of peace and war with valiant courage.

Our men and women have served on every front—our farmers have produced the food without which we could not have succeeded. Those in industry and business contributed the materials without which we could not have prosecuted our national defense. In military service Iowans have suffered and died on every battle line, on every battleground, in the air and on the sea. Our doctors, dentists, nurses, priests and ministers, all were outstanding in their contribution. Our educators are the finest in the land.

Iowa is blessed with large natural resources. The wise and provident use of such resources has brought progress, and success. In this year of 1946 at the end of 100 years of statehood Iowa can smile benevolently on her most prized possession—her people. It is they who have made Iowa great. It is Iowa's people who will build the second century of her history—a century of continued progress and advancement.

Since the first prayers were offered on Iowa soil by Father Marquette, Christianity has been a part of our Iowa life. Through practically a century of wilderness, missionaries served our territory. In the early years of our Iowa, churches of practically every faith⁵⁰ were built and were the moving force within our growing communities.

⁵⁰(1) Father Marquette held first Christian services in Iowa, June 17, 1673. For sixty years the only missionaries who visited in Iowa territory were Roman Catholic. Marriages were performed, masses said and baptisms performed in homes. In 1833 preparations were made for the first church to be built at Dubuque. In 1835 there were six hundred Catholics. In 1839 another Catholic church was completed at Davenport. Bishop Mathias Loras was the first bishop of Iowa. In 1857 the first cathedral was built, and Dubuque for many years has been the home of an Archbishop. The well known Melleray-Abbey was established by the Trapist Monks at Dubuque in 1849. The report made in 1938 shows that practically one-fourth of the church membership of Iowa were Roman Catholics.

(2) The Methodists came into Iowa early, building their first church in July, 1834. It was a log cabin and the amount contributed for its completion was

Iowans need never apologize for the spirit of faith that carried our forebears through the hard days of pioneer life. That faith has brought good living, well being, and righteous thinking to the citizens of our great State. We again proclaim that faith to the world. We will ever hold fast to it. The individual citizen is decreed by God Himself to possess inalienable rights. These rights we have vigilantly defended. Our governmental structure, our ideals, and our safeguards for protecting these rights are generations old in America. One century of Iowa statehood has proven that the American way of life is built from the things of the spirit. The dignity of man under the Fatherhood of God carries us always forward. Rank, caste, exclusions are unknown. The right of every man to his own personality, freedom of choice, freedom of will and judgment; the right to believe, to think, to

\$250.00. It was dedicated by two days of celebration. Membership consisted of twelve persons, seven men and five women. Barton Randle was the first circuit rider of the Dubuque area, and exerted a strong influence. The Methodists continued to establish societies and under the guidance of Barton Cartwright, cousin of the notable Methodist preacher, Peter Cartwright, were successful in their expansion. Methodists with three conferences are the largest Protestant group.

(3) The Disciples of Christ, or Church of Christ, or Christian church, were among the pioneers in the first settlements in southeastern Iowa, particularly at Old Augusta in Lee county, in 1832. The earliest religious service of this group was held in the cabin of Joshua Owen, conducted by David R. Chance, a Disciple or Christian preacher. Out of this grew the Church of Christ at Lost Creek, which was organized the first Lord's day in July 1836. Another of the oldest Christian churches was at Columbus City, established in 1840. "The People of Iowa," E. R. Harlan, Vol. II, p. 440-41.

(4) Asa Turner, a student from Yale Divinity school in 1838 established the first Congregational church in Denmark, Iowa.

(5) The Presbyterian church joined the Congregational church in sending out through a home missionary system young missionaries who were to establish churches of either denomination. Their influence was felt in the temperance movement and the abolition of slavery. "The Little Brown Church in the Vale," the old Bradford church near Nashua, is the Congregational church made famous by Doctor Pitts' song of the same title.

(6) The Lutherans since the time of the great migration of Germans and Scandinavians in 1850 and 1896 began to settle in Iowa. They started with four churches in 1840 and in ten years they had thirty-seven. The first church was built in Van Buren county. Jacob Scherer was appointed as missionary to work among the Lutherans in 1848 when the first church was built in Van Buren county. Lutherans hold third place in church membership exceeded only by Catholics and Methodists.

(7) The English Evangelical Synod of Iowa was formed in 1855.

(8) Early Presbyterian churches were established. In 1834 at Ion in Allamakee county and in Des Moines county in 1836.

(9) In 1834 a Baptist church was organized near where Danville is now located in Des Moines county. Presbyterians and Baptists rank next in number of membership.

(10) First Quaker settlement was located at Salem in 1835.

(11) The Protestant Episcopal church came in 1837 and held its first services outdoors at Davenport. In 1854 the Rev. Henry Washington Lee was made first bishop of this church.

(12) The Universalist, Unitarians, Christian Scientist and Jewish congregations are found largely in the cities, especially Des Moines and Sioux City.

a. Guide to Dubuque.

b. Iowa-Guide Series.

c. "Early Schools and Churches," Cong. Karl M. LeCompte.

have faith, to speak, and to write; these are God-given. These rights come not from the state—but rather, it is the duty of the state to guard them jealously. In this Iowa has not failed. She has proclaimed her faith. She has maintained the rights of her people. The hand of the Almighty will bring to her future years continued freedom—continued understanding and protection of man's inalienable liberties.

IOWA CENTENNIAL COIN

The seventy-ninth Congress of the United States provided for the coinage of an Iowa Centennial one-half dollar. There is a symbolism on that coin which is worthy of our thought and memory. On one side of the coin appears the facsimile of the "Old Iowa Capitol" at Iowa City. Underneath that facsimile is the word "Liberty;" and above the dome and spire of the capitol appear the words, "In God We Trust."

How truly symbolic of Iowa's foundations and her aspirations are these words appearing on the Iowa Centennial coin!

Iowa was founded upon freedom. Iowa was the first free state to be admitted to the union from the Louisiana Purchase. How expressive of Iowa's political growth is the word "Liberty"—because it is the foundation of her political beliefs and has been the highest good sought for by her people. Iowans have hoped, lived, fought, and prayed for the cause of liberty. "Our Liberties We Prize." We Iowa people are believers in freedom. We are free men.

And our aspirations are expressed in the words "In God We Trust"—the people of Iowa are a people of profound religious faith. We believe in the supreme authority of the Deity, the Architect of the Universe, and we reverence the faith under which we seek to achieve those ideals of a good life as expounded by Him who gave the "Sermon on the Mount."

We can offer to our successors in the second century of Iowa's history no better foundation than "Liberty"—and no finer ideal than "In God We Trust."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My gratitude is due to my colleagues in the house of representatives for much of the material in the foregoing speech. On July 15, 1946, the Iowa congressmen delivered Centennial addresses in the house of representatives as follows:

- "The People of Iowa," Ben F. Jensen,
Seventh Dist., Cong. Record, p. 9160.
- "Iowa, the Banner Agricultural State," Charles B. Hoeven,
Eighth Dist., Cong. Record, p. 9162.
- "Early Schools and Churches," Karl M. LeCompte
Fourth Dist., Cong. Record, p. 9163.
- "A Century of Banking in Iowa," Henry O. Talle,
Second Dist., Cong. Record, p. A4483-85, Appendix, July 18,
1946.
- "Industry and Commerce," John W. Gwynne,
Third Dist., Cong. Record, p. 9165.
- "Organizations of Labor, Business, and Veterans," James I.
Dolliver, Sixth Dist., Cong. Record, p. 9166.
- "The Political History of Iowa," Paul Cunningham,
Fifth Dist., Cong. Record, p. 9167.
- "Iowa's Military Contribution to the National Defense," Thomas
E. Martin, First Dist., Cong. Record, p. 9170.

I borrowed freely from their statements on that occasion.

I am also indebted to the library of congress, and to officials of the state of Iowa for their substantial aid in gathering the statistical material.

Miss Marguerite Mullen, my secretary, has been very helpful in collecting and arranging the material for this speech, and her assistance has been invaluable.

BANK OF NEBRASKA

The Bank of Nebraska has been sold by Messrs. Allen, West and Sypher to a company residing in Omaha. The retiring bankers avow their individual responsibility for the paper now in circulation, and announce their purpose to withdraw it as soon as circumstances will permit. New plates are to be secured and new officers will sign the bills. There will be no difficulty in distinguishing between the new and old currency—*Iowa Citizen*, Des Moines, January 12, 1858.

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