

Iowa People and Events . . .

In Her Stocking Feet

As previously experienced, the long sessions of the Republican and Democrat national political conventions in Chicago this year became most tiring for those in charge upon the speaker's platform. As nearly always, both the speeches and the demonstrations were prolonged unduly, and the roll calls, with individual polling of so many delegations, actually were tiresome as well as tiring, the officials being on their feet most of the time.

In the Democrat convention engineers sought to improve the sound facilities and television arrangements, but with scant success. They used smaller mikes and lowered them somewhat from the speaker's faces; also they banned the camera used by one network in the Republican convention, from above and behind the platform—the one that caught the Republican committee secretary in her stocking feet.

Years ago, the wife of a Republican governor wore a pair of new shoes at the inaugural reception at the statehouse. She was Mrs. Belle Kendall, one of the most fashionably dressed women who ever graced the governor's mansion; likewise one of the most popular and attractive. During the handshaking with the almost endless line of well-wishers, and standing all evening by the governor, the first lady's feet began to torment her mightily, and finally she kicked off the offending slippers.

Later in the reception she whispered to one of her friends in the line that she had been standing in her stocking feet over half an hour. Were she alive today she would sympathize with the gal on the Republican convention platform who likewise sought ease and comfort by discarding similar instruments of torture.

A Des Moines photographer recently covering one of the June weddings has exhibited a shot behind a reception line, showing the carpet dotted with bridesmaids' castoff slippers, as they stood in stocking feet facing the line of guests, with whom they shook hands following congratulatory greetings to the bridal couple, and like the governor's lady and the convention secretary, relieving their distressed tootsies.

Iowa Television Broadcasting

The role in the television field that WOI broadcasting station at Ames so acceptably has sustained, and the substantial part educational material has played in its introduction of this entertaining and valuable service in Iowa, is worthy of historical note. Since this station was the first and practically the only one available for residents of the central Iowa area using television receiver sets during the pioneering period, the educational aspect of their programming has been important, being the primary function for which this station was set up.

Following the freezing of stations established by limitation to those already authorized, many other educational institutions throughout the country have filed for station applications after viewing the successful operations of WOI, the pioneers in this field, thereby emphasizing the success of the venture. However, while the new applications for future consideration are based on non-commercial operation, WOI has a commercial license and can use advertiser-sponsored programs.

Since TV is a new and rapidly expanding media of communication, its development in all fields has been of great interest to everyone, and particularly in the adding of its educational opportunities to those affording general information, entertainment, and also relating to public affairs and sports, through balanced programs of merit and value.

The Consent of the Governed

The closing of the port of Boston after the famous colonial "Tea Party" brought from the pen of George Mason, of Virginia, the famous Fairfax Resolves of July 18, 1774, which expressed forcefully the American view of the relationship between the colonists and the British government, equal in clarity and portent to the Declaration of Independence, later fashioned therefrom.

The colonists had settled in Virginia at private expense under the protection of the Crown. They had brought the principles of the British constitution with them and, therefore, were entitled to the rights of Englishmen living in England. Most important among these was the right of the people to be governed only by laws to which they had given their consent through their elected representatives.

The Fairfax resolutions were carried to Williamsburg by the county delegates to the Virginia convention which met there in August, 1774. Mason's well-reasoned argument became a basis for resolutions passed by the convention. Later that year, the Continental Congress in Philadelphia drew upon the Fairfax Resolves in the final adopted draft of the Declaration of Independence, originally outlined by Thomas Jefferson's committee.

In the convention of 1776, which framed a government for the state of Virginia, Mason did his most significant work. George Washington's diary reports frequent interviews with him. The letters of Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, younger men who later formed the "Virginia dynasty," all testify to the influence upon them of conferences and discussions with Mason.

The assembled Virginia representatives had voted on May 15 to instruct the Continental Congress to declare the colonies free and independent states. The Declaration of Rights drafted by Mason was adopted with very few changes on June 12. Its first provision stated the inherent right of all men to life, liberty, and the means of acquiring and possessing property, and of

pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety. The specific rights of individual citizens were then proclaimed. The plan of government, as well as the Declaration of Rights, is attributed largely to George Mason. Adopted on June 29, it was the first permanent written constitution for an independent American state, and it remained in effect until 1830.

Deception in Phrasing

Slogans and phrases repeated over and over may create wrong impressions, points out the *Centerville Iowegian*. This country was founded as a Republic, not a Democracy. We express the true idea in the oath of allegiance to the flag when we say, "And to the Republic for which it stands." Our people rule through representatives and not by direct individual action. The *Norristown (Penn.) Times-Herald*, in a recent editorial, tells why we live in a Republic and why we should call it by its right name. It says:

"The American form of Government is that of a Republic. We seem to have forgotten that. It no longer seems to be taught in the schools. The National Education Association, for example, no longer refers to Republican form of government in its literature. It never refers to Americanism. It refers only to democracy and uses the word in a manner to imply that Americanism and true democracy are synonymous, or that the latter is an objective of the former.

"In Washington, in state capitals, political leaders prate of democracy. There is no talk of the Republican form of government or what it means, little talk of Americanism except for the effort to imply that we can forget it if we seek democracy.

"Actually, democracy, in its ultimate end, becomes socialism, which is a step in the direction of communism, though the actual philosophies of each differs from the other. In the end, democracy means mobocracy, which can be solved only by dictatorship. We have been following that course too much of late; the

pretense to the public that this is a democracy in which each person is a ruler, but with an authoritarian overall rule seems essential to maintain the fallacy.

“. . . it is time to get rid of the word and to understand its meaning in its modern practical application, as well as in its original meaning. There is no reason to substitute the word 'democracy' for 'Americanism' even though there were unanimity of thought that we would apply the full and true meanings of 'Americanism' to 'democracy.' What's wrong with 'Americanism' either as a word or as a philosophy?"

Human Corn Consumption

The observant *Story City Herald* is authority for the statement that the average consumption of corn by a person is greater than that of a hog. Rather a startling comparison, for the consumption of corn by Iowa porkers makes for a large portion of Iowa farm income.

Elucidating the statement in a more definite way Editor Paul A. Olson says that a man uses the production of one-half acre of corn per year. The bulk of this, he points out, is in the form of meat, milk, eggs and other animal products having origin in corn.

Directly from corn man gets his breakfast foods, corn meal, starch, oil and numerous other edible products, as well as adhesives and upwards of 100 other things used in industry, summarizes the editor.

The Public Conscience

Theodore Roosevelt: A dull public conscience, an easygoing acquiescence in corruption infallibly mean debasement in public life, and such debasement in the end means the ruin of free institutions. Freedom is not a gift which will tarry long in the hands of the dishonest, or of those so foolish or so incompetent as to tolerate dishonesty in their public servants.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.