

Iowa People and Events . . .

The Speaker's Objective

For decades prior to the advent of the radio, political campaign managers deluged the electorate with pamphlet campaign speeches of the party leaders and public officials. These utterances were delivered and printed for the purpose of acquainting the individual voters with both the party record and the candidate's position upon current public questions. Legislative acts and public expenditures usually were discussed in detail. Whether these documents influenced voters or swayed public opinion may well be questioned, but they constituted the major portion of pamphlets which party workers distributed in the heated political campaigns.

One summer of the long ago, when Sen. Leslie E. Francis was a farm lad living near Spirit Lake, where later he was a prominent attorney, U. S. Sen. William B. Allison was billed to make an address at a Republican rally to be held there. Young Francis knew of Allison's high standing at Washington, and as one of the leaders of the Republican party in Iowa and the nation. Therefore, he decided to attend the rally. He wondered if an insignificant farm boy would be admitted to a crowded opera house, where the event would be staged. But, he had no difficulty in getting in and finding a seat, for aside from the senator and the county chairman who introduced the speaker, only a scant half-dozen other people were there, including the shorthand court reporter, who would take down the speech of the senator, the township committeeman, the janitor of the building and Francis himself.

He was amazed at the small turn-out, and wondered whether the meeting would be held or abandoned. He felt discomfited that an outstanding statesman like

Allison had attracted no greater attention. But, apparently, the senator gave the situation only a passing thought, for upon being introduced by the chairman, immediately plunged into a speech of over an hour, given without manuscript or notes, as was his custom. He quoted from party platforms, congressional acts, and statistical records with the readiness and assurance of the great national political leader that he was; and Francis wondered why he would waste so great an effort on so few people, but was filled with awe and gratitude that he could be there and hear it.

Weeks later his father received in the mail from the state Republican headquarters, a group of campaign documents, among which was the great Allison speech delivered at Spirit Lake, which he had heard. Seemingly it mattered little to the campaign management that few actually heard it or cared enough to attend the event, although it was a Republican community. The material gathered and presented by Allison was the Republican plea of the year, and as the "key note" of the party for the state and country at large, it likewise mattered little where it was delivered and how many people heard. Later in life Francis learned that even in congress there are many times when few members sit in the house or senate chamber to listen to set speeches by their colleagues, although debates generally bring packed audiences.

Witness a great many years later, when Governor Cummins was being hotly opposed for a third term nomination by Geo. D. Perkins of Sioux City, and a joint debate between these Iowa Republican leaders was held in the same room in Spirit Lake, also heard by Senator Francis, who now was a chairman of the assemblage. This time the opera house was packed, and standing room at a premium. People came from miles around, even from adjoining counties, to listen to the debate, so great was the interest. Daily Iowa newspapers had present their representatives reporting the speeches.

But this time, it was not just a campaign document in the making. The extemporaneous arguments and flashing sallies of the speakers, reflecting personal beliefs forcefully expressed, received the applause and approval of the supporters of the two speakers. It was an event long remembered as a turning point in a warm campaign that was quickly reaching a conclusion; and not all the discussion indulged in by the able speakers was used later in campaign documents.

The Rush for Iowa Land

Although land in the Iowa District, as the area was originally designated, was not legally thrown open for settlement until June 1, 1833, numerous white had immigrated into and settled in the Indian country. Some of these, according to Prof. R. F. Wood, had married Indian women, notably among whom was Dr. Muir. He had become very much attached to his wife and when, by order of his government he was given the option of resigning from the army or abandoning his Indian wife, he at once resigned from the army saying, "May God forbid that a son of Caledonia should ever desert his wife or abandon his child."

Until the land was legally opened for settlement, the bands of soldiers stationed on the frontier to protect the Indians and restrain unscrupulous whites from unlawful acts, were kept busy. Finally the preparations were completed and the rush for land began.

The first settlers were stalwart, brawny men, capable of enduring the hardships incident to pioneer life and confident of their ability to carve out their fortunes. Camping in the groves that fringed the water courses, our pioneers lived in cabins made of logs, uncleaned of their bark, with doors made of split clapboards, with greased paper for windows. Nothing daunted, they saw promise ahead, and willing hearts and working hands wasted no time.

Kindred circumstances begot kindly social relations, and no newcomer, when ready to raise his cabin home,

failed to find strong hands to give him the needed lift. Then followed the spread of simple, wholesome fare which was partaken of by workers whose appetites needed no coaxing to render full justice to the banquet.

Organizing for mutual protection, they pledged themselves to stand by each other. In the absence of laws protecting their claims from mercenary speculators, they organized and enacted homestead and pre-emption laws, long in advance of the legislation which was subsequently founded upon the recognition of the justice of this principle, thus first established by the necessities of the early pioneers.

Early settlers wrote back to the friends and relatives in the east glowing accounts of the "New Eldorado," and the Iowa Territory began to become famous. So that when the new purchase was obtained in 1842 and arrangements completed to have it thrown open to settlement three years later, a swarm of homeseekers came, eager to get a title to some of this fertile land.

People of this generation who are familiar with the land openings in Oklahoma, can appreciate the conditions applied to the disposition of the Iowa lands. The eastern portion was to be vacated by the Indians April 30, 1843. For weeks previous to this, settlers with their families were squatting on the border line ready to make the rush for homes. The signal was given at midnight and then with frenzied shouts and general uproar the new land was appropriated.

A steady stream of settlers poured into this "Promised Land" from the south and east. Newspapers were filled with long drawn out accounts of this land rush. The roads were thronged with people and "prairie schooners," as the canvass covered wagons were called, dotted the landscape as far as the eye could see. Ferries over the Mississippi were worked overtime to meet the unusual demands made on them. Some of the eastern towns reported that from 550 to 1,000 im-

migrants were passing through each day. In 1843 the population of Iowa was but 43,017, while in 1855, it was 500,000.

Kossuth County's Bitter Fight

The extensive files of Iowa newspapers in the stacks of the newspaper division of the Iowa Department of History and Archives are constantly used in research by magazine and newspaper writers, authors and many other persons seeking data upon Iowa historical events. In recent months W. C. Dewell of the *Algona Advance*, in preparing material commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of that paper in 1901, spent some time in the department checking early files of that publication.

He recalled the circumstances of the establishment of the *Advance* by Geo. C. Call, it being a political venture in the interest of A. D. Clarke, a candidate for representative from Kossuth county in the Twenty-ninth Iowa General Assembly. Gardner Cowles had served in the Twenty-eighth, and there had been a long standing one-term rule in the county. Cowles was seeking a second term, which many local politicians considered a violation of the rule, and A. D. Clarke had a large following as the opposing candidate.

Harvey Ingham was then a resident of Algona and editor of the *Algona Upper Des Moines*. Then, as later, he was a friend of Cowles and supported his candidacy; hence the need of a newspaper in the field to help the Clarke forces. Mr. Dewell, then a resident of Burt, was the Republican committeeman in Burt township, and now says that being rather young he was a bit timid, for the representative fight grew very hot. Much bitterness was engendered. Liquor and money for votes were in evidence, and during this contest one county committeeman was said to have come into possession of a fine riding nag.

On the day of the precinct election of delegates to the county convention, Committeeman Dewell safe-

guarded the passing upon qualification of voters to cast ballots in that township by selecting two assistants as referees—one a Clarke man and the other a Cowles man, with understanding that two of the three should control the voting in event the right of those asking for ballots be challenged.

Oddly, there were many strangers in the county that day. In Burt township a railroad gang of about fifty track men were working and presented themselves at the polls to vote. This was an experience that Mr. Dewell feared, and consultation between the two referees and the committeeman resulted. The Clarke referee favored letting the men vote, while Dewell and the Cowles referee dissented; and the men were not allowed to vote, because of not being residents of the township. It developed that Burt township had the deciding delegate votes in the convention, and the fifty rejected votes might have been important.

It was a long time before the bitterness of that county campaign died down. Cowles was renominated and re-elected. A. D. Clarke later became one of the editors of the *Advance*, and it took a dozen or fifteen years for the paper and the people to forget the incidents of the fight and live down the rancor created by the partisans. Harvey Ingham later sold his interests there and became editor of the *Des Moines Register and Leader*, and Mr. Cowles the publisher, both continuing residents of Des Moines until their deaths.

Kenyon Vote for Vice President

A sizable group of delegates to the Republican National Convention at Cleveland, Ohio, on June 10-12, 1924, voted for Senator William S. Kenyon, of Iowa, for nomination for vice-president, on two ballots, with the nomination finally going to Charles G. Dawes of Illinois.

On the first ballot had after Calvin Coolidge had been nominated for president, the vote was quite

widely scattered, with Frank O. Loudon receiving 222, William S. Kenyon 172, Charles G. Dawes 149. On the second ballot the excitement was intense, with the Illinois delegation making a drive for Governor Lowden, whose final tabulation of votes was 766, with Kenyon receiving 68, Dawes 49 and Burton 94. The nomination of Lowden was then made unanimous.

A recess was taken by the convention and Lowden was notified by telephone at his home, of his nomination. This he declined by notice to the delegates as follows:

Though greatly appreciating the honor I hereby decline the nomination for vice-president which is tendered me.

The convention refused to accept the communication, whereupon the secretary read an Associated Press dispatch then received from Lowden, as follows:

I thank the convention, but I must decline the nomination. So far I have always kept my word to the public when I have given it. I shall do so now. I told the public I was not to be a candidate for vice-president. I will not go back on my word. I thank the convention, but will not accept the nomination.

When the convention proceeded to another roll call at the evening session, the result was Dawes 682½, Hoover 234½ and a few scattered votes, thereby nominating Charles G. Dawes, who was elected vice-president.

Iowa Smokestacks and the Silos

Economists say that communities with large industrial payrolls almost invariably have an increasing population and a per capita income considerably above the national average. Conversely, communities with little industry generally suffer from declining population.

Local economic experts need not go beyond Iowa's borders to establish the truth of these claims. For example, Iowa's ten top industrial counties employment-wise accounted for more than two-thirds of the total state industrial payroll in 1947. Their average per

capita income that year was \$1,401—\$108 above the national average. In only three of these counties was per capita income below the U.S. average. The 1950 census showed that these counties increased their population by an average of more than 10,000 persons per county during the decade 1940-1950.

In contrast, the ten Iowa counties with the fewest industrial employees had an average per capita income of \$796 in 1947. One of them had a per capita income of \$529, lowest in the state, and only one of the ten had a per capita income of more than \$1,000. Census figures in 1950 indicated that in these ten counties where industry was sparse population decreased an average 1,664 persons in the period between 1940 and 1950. Since the average population of these counties was 14,433 persons, the average decrease was greater than ten percent.

Citizens of the ten top industrial counties earned \$605 more per capita and the population of these communities increased an average of thirteen percent during the ten-year period.

Utterances of Speakers Censored

Not often enough, perhaps, but it is the usual rule that the speeches and writings of public men are carefully read and censored by those near them and in position to be more cautious and conservative than the speaker or writer. Defensively this custom often saves public men from imprudent or inaccurate statements, that possibly might tend to subject them to criticism or reproof because of extreme or unguarded declarations.

Not always is this responsibility well exercised by those closest to the individual giving voice to opinions through public utterances. Oftentimes the friendly critics are cloaked in the background in rendering this valuable service. As an instance that will interest Iowa people was the occasion when one of Iowa's leading orators, Nate Kendall, of Albia, later to be gover-

nor, occupied the nation's eye in delivering the nominating speech to the Republican national convention at Chicago in 1916, in which he outlined the qualities and availability of Senator Albert B. Cummins for the party's nomination for president of the United States.

Kendall's matchless oratory was acknowledged, of course, but his judgement in the statement of qualifications or recital of the record of his candidate was considered more important. Then it was that a committee from those in the Iowa delegation's headquarters was selected consisting of Judge William S. Kenyon, Ora Williams and John C. Kelly, who in advance carefully read the manuscript of the speech to be made by Kendall, scrutinizing every statement and fortunately endorsing every word. A strange group, perhaps, but a competent one, and Kendall did not question their right to the precautions taken, for they were from the Cummins inner circle. And the speech was magnificently delivered and applauded to the echo, although another man became the convention's nominee.

The Corn Belt's Plastic Buckle

If there's a buckle on the Corn Belt it's probably made of soybean plastic. Soybeans are a vital key in the fascinating new science of chemurgy, and Iowa, which ranks third in soybean production and second in soybean processing, is in the nation's vanguard.

Processing soybeans may well be Iowa's most widely dispersed major industry. There are 32 separate plants located in 26 of the Hawkeye state's 99 counties. Linn county leads with three plants. Plants are also located in Wright (2), Appanoose, Clinton, Polk (2), Grundy, Dubuque, Fayette, Webster (2), Tama, Hardin, Worth, Marshall, Muscatine, Chickasaw, Bremer, Cherokee, Carroll, Dallas, Sac, O'Brien, Woodbury, Clay, Washington, Black Hawk and Palo Alto counties.

The majority of the 32.5 million bushels of soybeans grown in Iowa during 1951 were processed into animal

feeds and soybean oil. Unlike the southeastern states, very few Iowa soybeans were cut for hay or plowed under to enrich the soil. A nineteenth century Chinese immigrant, the soybean was not exactly an overnight success in the United States, even though it had been raised for human and animal food in the Far East for many centuries.

As late as in 1924 the total United States soybean production was a mere five million bushels. Twenty-six years later the total had risen to a staggering 300 million bushels. Production increased 100 million bushels in the period from 1946 to 1950 alone.

Iowa production, meanwhile, climbed from 120,000 bushels in 1924, to more than 42 million bushels, valued at more than \$112 million in 1950. The reason for the soybean's rise in universal consumption was the discovery by scientists that the vivid green plants were a source of raw materials unsurpassed in nature.

Among the unusual products made from soybeans are beverage flavorings, breakfast food, flour, health foods, spaghetti, meat substitutes, cooking oil, sausage binders, soups, seasonings, vitamin pills, cream whipping agents, margarine, insecticides; as also are glue, protective coatings for fabrics (oilcloth), leather dressings, lubricating grease, paint, soap, wallpaper coverings, plastics, putty, floor tiles, resins, protein used in making synthetic wool and the foam used in many popular fire extinguishers.

Combating the Moral Breakdown

That most excellent new book entitled "Moral and Spiritual Values in Education," provides a competent guide to the teaching of values in public schools without violating the separation of church and state. William Clayton Bower, professor emeritus of the University of Chicago, is the author. The book is published by the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

The signs of moral breakdown in the nation today, Mr. Bower points out, are traceable directly to the

failure of educators to fill the gap left when the secularization of American public schools removed the religious content from curricula. He examines the various attempts to restore the teaching of values without religion, concluding that the only practical, sound plan is based on the philosophy that values appealing to children are present within the school community and need only to be made vivid to them by sensitive teachers.

A program of emphasis of values as they arise in classroom and playground situations, Mr. Bower writes, has a double advantage. Any school with a competent staff can introduce it without added expense or reorganization of teaching schedules. Furthermore, such a program will not arouse opposition of church groups nor violate recent court decisions excluding religion from public school curricula.

Mr. Bower has not set forth a blueprint for an idealistic program, but rather he has drawn general principles from his experience as adviser to a Kentucky movement, now in its third year, to introduce moral and spiritual education into the state's schools. Supervised by Kentucky's six teacher-education institutions, an experimental program was set up in selected public schools. This year the results of the experimentation were included in the State Department of Education's "Curriculum Guide" for use in every primary and secondary school in Kentucky.

Burlington Railroad Officials

The C. B. & Q. railroad, popularly known in its area as "The Burlington," has prepared a photograph of its officers through the past years, consisting of its presidents and chief engineers.

The presidents and their terms of office include these: S. F. Gale, 1849-1851, 1852-1853; E. S. Wadsworth, 1851-1852; C. Mason, 1852-1853; J. M. Brooks, 1853-1855, 1864-1865; A. W. Saunders, 1855; J. C. Hale, 1855-1856; W. F. Coolbaugh, 1856-1857; F. L. Baker, 1857-1864;

J. F. Joy, 1865-1871, 1853-1857; George Tyson, 1869-1880; John Van Nortwick, 1857-1864; J. M. Walker, 1871-1876; Robert Harris, 1876-1878; J. M. Forbes, 1878-1881; C. E. Perkins, Sr., 1881-1901; George B. Harris, 1901-1910; Darius Miller, 1910-1914; C. E. Perkins, Jr., 1918-1920; Hale Holden, 1914-1929; F. E. Williamson, 1929-1931; Ralph Budd, 1932-1949; H. C. Murphy, 1949-.

The chief engineers: John W. Brooks, 1850-1853; Han Thilsen, 1853-1869; Max Hjortsburg, 1867-1871; S. H. Mallory, 1871-1873; Thomas Doane, 1869-1873; Warren Beckwith, 1873-1879; R. J. McClure, 1878-1883, 1883-1889; George C. Smith, 1883-1889; E. J. Blake, 1889-1899, 1899-1905; W. L. Breckinridge, 1900-1905; T. E. Calvert, 1905-1917; A. W. Newton, 1917-1937; F. T. Darrow, 1937-1943; H. R. Clarke, 1943-.

Blessed His Alma Mater

An old man (name not known) called at the State University of Iowa at Iowa City on November 12, 1884, looked about the campus, entered the Old Capitol building, and after strolling into various rooms, remarked to a group who observed him:

"Tis over twenty years since I last stood here, and now it is my privilege to once more look upon these surroundings and through the rooms where the legislature of one of the proudest states in this Union used to sit and debate upon the questions concerning the life and welfare of this state and the nation; and for this privilege I thank God. I now recall some of those days that have gone in the eventful history of this state. None of the faces that I used to see here at that time are here now, and no doubt the most of them are hidden beneath the sod. I see you now use the old hall as the law lecture room and I hope it is turning out many young men to be useful and profitable citizens to take part in the administration of our government. Young gentlemen, I am glad to have met and see that you are preparing for the future. As I must take the next train west, I will bid you good-day."

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