

torney, with apparent sincerity, tried to rebut this evidence, but all in vain. At length, despairing of success, he whispered to his client that he could not clear him; that if he wished to make his escape he would advise him how to do it. Readily agreeing to anything to save his life, he assented, and the attorney gave him the plan. Then, in behalf of the prisoner, he asked the court to permit him to step out for a moment. Permission being granted, the prisoner walked out, accompanied by his lawyer, and closely followed by the whole squad of armed men. "Now," whispered the lawyer, "run for your life, and, as you value it, never be seen in this neighborhood again." And he did run as any man would run for his life. The night was intensely dark, but it seemed to offer no obstruction to his speed. Indeed it was rather accelerated by the numerous shots that were fired behind him—not at him—and the yells of the crowd as though in pursuit. He was never seen again; but a day or two later an Indian came to town with a wallet he had found, containing nothing more valuable than a love-letter, addressed to the escaped prisoner.

IOWA: HER RESOURCES AND ATTRACTIONS.

IOWA was organized as a territory June 12, 1838, and admitted into the Union as a state December 28, 1846. In 1838 she contained a population of twenty-two thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine; in 1840, it had increased to forty-three thousand one hundred and sixteen, and in 1850, to one hundred and ninety-two thousand two hundred and four. In 1860, the population had advanced to four hundred and two thousand and forty, and in 1870, to one million one hundred and ninety-one thousand eight hundred and two. At the present time it is but little, if any, short of one million and five hundred thousand.

In extent, Iowa is about three hundred miles in length east and west, by a little over two hundred miles in breadth, north and south, and contains an area of fifty-five thousand and forty-five square miles. The two great rivers of the continent form her east and west boundaries, except that portion on the west adjoining the territory of Dakota. There the Big Sioux river marks the boundary line. The north boundary is defined by the parallel of latitude forty-three degrees and thirty minutes, and the south limit is nearly on the line of forty degrees and thirty-one minutes.

From observations made by Professor T. S. Parvin, of the State University, and others, it has been ascertained that the average quantity of rain, which falls yearly, is about forty and one-half inches, and the average of snow about thirty inches—ten inches of snow being equivalent to one of rain. The average quantity of rain and snow in Iowa is nearly the same as in Massachusetts and Connecticut, but the amount of *snow* alone in the eastern states greatly exceeds that of Iowa. Our springs perhaps are not quite so early, but our autumns are often protracted to nearly the first of December, giving ample time for the ripening and maturing of crops. The spring, summer and autumn months are delightful, and Iowa is especially noted for the glory and beauty of her autumns. Her *Indian Summer* cannot be described. Day after day for weeks, the sun is veiled in hazy splendor, while the forests are tinged with the most beautiful and varied hues, investing all nature with something allied to the enchantments of fairy-land. Almost imperceptibly, these golden days and nights merge into winter, which holds its stern reign without the disagreeable changes experienced in other climes, until spring ushers in another season of life and beauty. And so the seasons pass, year after year, in our beautiful and healthful Iowa.

Our well-drained, undulating surface and prevalent breezes, winter and summer, allow no opportunity for the stagnation of water in marshes or ponds. Iowa has no elevations that can be called mountains, and yet no considera-

ble portion of the surface is level. In this respect her prairies are quite different from those of Illinois. Rivers, draining every portion of the state, course its surface, receiving thousands of tributaries of greater or less volume, and presenting a system of drainage that could not be improved upon. The principal rivers which flow into the Mississippi, are the DesMoines, Cedar, Skunk, Iowa, Wapsipinicon, Maquoketa, Turkey, and Upper Iowa. Of these rivers, the DesMoines is the largest, and perhaps the most important, as it traverses the state not less than three hundred and fifty miles, and drains an area of ten thousand square miles. The next in importance is Cedar river, the main branch of which is two hundred and fifty miles in length. This river, with its branches, drains not less than eight thousand square miles. It affords also an abundance of excellent water power. Skunk river has two principal branches, the aggregate length of which is about four hundred and fifty miles, and they drain eight thousand square miles of surface. The length of Iowa river is nearly three hundred miles, and the area drained by it is about four thousand square miles. The Wapsipinicon (sometimes called Wapsie) is two hundred and fifty miles long, and drains, with its branches, seven thousand square miles. Maquoketa is one hundred and sixty miles long, and drains three thousand square miles. Turkey traverses one hundred and thirty miles, draining about two thousand square miles. Upper Iowa river drains about three hundred square miles, passing through a most picturesque and beautiful valley. It is a rapid stream, affording splendid water power.

The streams designated as rivers in the west part of the state, are the Big Sioux, Little Sioux, Floyd, Rock, Boyer, and Nishnabotany. The last named passes into the state of Missouri from Fremont county, and empties into the Missouri river about twenty miles south of the boundary of Iowa. In this state it has three principal branches, aggregating in length about three hundred and twenty miles, and draining about five thousand square miles.

Besides the above named rivers, we have in the southern part of the state, Fox, Chariton, Platte, One Hundred and Two, and the three Nodaway rivers—East, West, and Middle. These rivers drain an aggregate of about six thousand square miles. They head in Iowa, flow through the southern counties of the state, and empty into the Mississippi and Missouri rivers in the state of Missouri. Then, in the central part of the state we have Boone, Raccoon, and Middle rivers, with many others of smaller size, tributaries of those named. These streams furnish unlimited and exhaustless water power, but little of which has yet been appropriated to use. Here are opportunities for the investment of capital in the various manufactories that can hardly remain much longer unknown and unappropriated, for Iowa is to be the future workshop of a vast empire west of her. In every emigrant that passes beyond her borders, she has a prospective interest, as in the future they will call upon Iowa for those articles for the manufacture of which she has such abundant facilities.

The great coal fields of Iowa extend along the Des Moines river and the streams tributary thereto, embracing a large extent of territory. Large quantities of coal are mined in the following counties, to-wit: Adams, Appanoose, Boone, Davis, Dallas, Guthrie, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Polk, Page, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Wayne, and Webster. Considerable quantities are mined in other counties. The coal fields of the state are sufficiently extensive to supply fuel for ages to all her inhabitants; and an immense business of her railroads will be the transportation of coal to other portions of the state and to adjoining states. Among the mineral resources, we mention the lead mines in the vicinity of Dubuque, the immense deposits of gypsum at Fort Dodge, and the various kinds of marble and building stone quarried in Jones, Marshall, Johnson, Madison, Van Buren, Lee, Henry, and other counties. In some of the northern counties, including Cerro Gordo, Winnebago, Hancock, Kossuth, and

Wright, many beds of peat have been discovered. Beds of fire-clay are abundant, while limestone, sand, and clay for the manufacture of bricks are found generally throughout the state. Iron ore has been discovered in many places, but is not yet known to exist in sufficient quantities to be of practical value. In Montgomery and other counties a species of soft red stone is found, which forms a paint that has proved to be superior in quality to many of the mineral paints in use. Other discoveries of mineral wealth are constantly being made, and we believe the resources of Iowa in this respect are only beginning to be revealed.

The soil of Iowa is nearly all susceptible of the highest cultivation. No other state has so small a proportion of waste land. The soil and climate are adapted to the production of all the cereals. Corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye and buckwheat are raised in all parts, and yield abundant crops. In grain and live stock official reports show a wonderful growth and development during the last few years. As a corn-producing state, Iowa is second only to the larger and older state of Illinois. So far as fruit culture is concerned, Iowa has born off the palm; but as yet, only the older counties have had time to engage extensively in the business of fruit-growing. Apples, cherries, grapes, and all the small fruits of the Eastern and Middle States, flourish and produce finely. In some parts of the state peaches occasionally succeed. Vegetables of all kinds grow to perfection. The soil is easily cultivated, and has a capacity for resisting the effects of long continued drought, not found in states further east. The effects of continued wet weather are also soon overcome by the tendency of our soil to absorb moisture, as well as by the process of evaporation. The state has never experienced anything like a total failure of crops, and only two or three partial failures during the thirty-five years or more of her settlement. Her cultivated fields never fail to yield their golden tribute to commerce.

Four lines of railways cross the state east and west, and two north and south. Other lines are projected and will be

completed soon. On the first of January, 1872, the state had over three thousand miles of railroad track, and eighty of her ninety-nine counties had one or more railroad lines within their borders. The roads traverse the state so as to afford admirable transportation facilities to nearly every portion. These roads form connections with the grand trunk lines that lead to the great commercial centres of the country—the cities of the Lakes, the Atlantic, Pacific, and the Gulf. With the Union Pacific railroad starting from our western borders, and all these lines connecting with it, the position of Iowa on the map of our great Republic is surely an enviable one. Is there an acre of tillable land in a state so situated that is not worth at least five dollars? It does not require the gift of prophesy to foresee the prosperous development of Iowa in the near future, as the result of her magnificent and rapidly expanding railway system.

One of the glories of Iowa is her grand common school system, which affords a free education to all the youth within her borders, high and low, rich and poor, white and black. There is now an available common school fund, amounting to nearly three million dollars, which will still be increased as sales are made of school lands yet unsold. This fund is derived from the sale of the sixteenth sections, from the sale of five hundred thousand acres of land granted by congress to the state for school purposes, from the proceeds of five per cent on the sales of the public lands in the state, and the proceeds of the sales of lands escheated to the state. The money derived from these sources constitutes the permanent school fund, the interest of which is apportioned by the state auditor semi-annually to the different counties in proportion to the number of persons in each between the ages of five and twenty-one years. In addition to this, the counties also levy an annual tax for schools, which is apportioned to the different townships, in proportion to the number of persons in each between the ages of five and twenty-one years. A district tax may also be levied for the same purpose. The interest on the permanent school fund,

with such county and district tax as may be levied, constitute the support of the public schools. There are nearly eight thousand public schools in the state, each required by law to be in session at least six months each year. The general character of our school houses is good, many of them being edifices costing from ten thousand to seventy-five thousand dollars each.

In addition to the public schools, we have many of a high grade, including several colleges and universities. We have a state university, located at Iowa City, which is magnificently endowed, and under the fostering care of the state, is taking high rank among the educational institutions of the country. The Iowa Agricultural College at Ames, in Story county, is another educational institution under the patronage of the state; it is also liberally endowed from the proceeds of land granted to the state by congress for that purpose. Then, there are many excellent institutions, conducted by various associations, as the Iowa College, at Grinnell; Iowa Wesleyan University, at Mount Pleasant; Iowa Central University, at Pella; Des Moines University, at Des Moines; Cornell College, at Mount Vernon; Bishop Lee Seminary, at Dubuque; Upper Iowa University, at Fayette; Centennial College, at Indianolia; Fairfield College, at Fairfield; Baptist College, at Burlington; Humboldt College, at Springvale, and many others scattered throughout the state. It will thus be seen that Iowa is not behind her sister states in making a liberal provision for education.

It is a fact, worthy to be kept in mind, that Iowa is out of debt, with money in her treasury to meet all demands, although now engaged in carrying on several magnificent state improvements, including a new state capitol, to cost not less than a million and a half dollars. She has provided liberally for her state benevolent institutions, and has paid for them all. Her hospital for the insane, at Mount Pleasant, is scarcely second to any other in the United States. Her asylum for the blind at Vinton, is provided with a mag-

nificent edifice, and is one of the best managed institutions of the kind in the west. She has erected an asylum for the deaf and dumb at Council Bluffs, and is erecting another magnificent asylum for the insane, at Independence. She has liberally provided for the care and education of the orphans of her soldiers, who sacrificed their lives for the union in the great rebellion, by establishing and maintaining three Orphans' Homes. In connection with her Agricultural College, in Story county, she has also a Model Farm in successful operation. Her State Agricultural Society is one of the best managed and most successful in the union; and its annual exhibitions are attended by thousands of wondering spectators from our own and other states. Nearly all the counties have agricultural and industrial societies in successful operation. The war record of Iowa is written in the history of the rebellion from Wilson's Creek, where the gallant Lyon led her noble First, to Appomattox. Eighty thousand of her sons marched to the field at the call of their country, and twenty thousand of her noblest gave their lives to the cause. There is no Iowan but loves the name of Iowa, and is proud of her record and position among the states of the Union.—*Iowa Progress.*

PIONEER ASSOCIATION OF VAN BUREN COUNTY.

KEOSAUQUA, IOWA, May 25, 1872.

ON this day, in pursuance with a call of the President, a quorum of the Board of Control of the Pioneer Association met in the court room.

Present: The President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Messrs. Rutledge, Clafin, and Dr. Shepherd, Directors.

A code of by-laws was submitted to, and adopted by the Board.

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.