

ANNALS OF IOWA

VOL. XVI, No. 8

DES MOINES, APRIL, 1929

THIRD SERIES

PIONEER LAWMAKERS ASSOCIATION

By DAVID C. MOTT, Secretary

The Twenty-first session of the Pioneer Lawmakers' Association of Iowa met in the Portrait Gallery of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department, Des Moines, on February 13, 1929. Owing to the death of the president, H. W. Byers, the vice president, George W. Clarke, presided. Invocation was offered by Rev. Charles Blanchard of the Christian church, at present a research worker in the Historical Department. Justice Truman S. Stevens then delivered an address of welcome in which he spoke of the progress and growth of legislation as viewed from the bench. He said he had often thought he would greatly enjoy a term in the legislature for the experience and pleasure of it as well as to bear his part of the burden. His address was greatly appreciated by the members of the association and we regret we are unable to give the complete text here. It was responded to by former Representative Van Houten.

RESPONSE TO ADDRESS OF WELCOME

By GEORGE H. VAN HOUTEN

Mr. President and Members of Pioneer Lawmakers' Association: I am sure we appreciate the kindly words of welcome of Judge Stevens, not only as to the welcome extended but also we are appreciative of the remarks made.

It is pleasant to receive the words of commendation he has given, for they are in contrast to denunciations of many people and some of the papers, especially the daily papers, for they insist that too many laws are on the statute books and that laws should be repealed, rather than more laws enacted. Some go so far as to say that each legislator should be empowered to repeal at least one law, and yet laws for repeal are not singled out, but such papers criticise unsparingly; and yet in most cases such papers have certain pet measures that they insist should be enacted into laws, and seem very anxious and earnest that legislators should pay attention to the measures advocated.

But we as legislators in the past are not the only ones that are held

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.