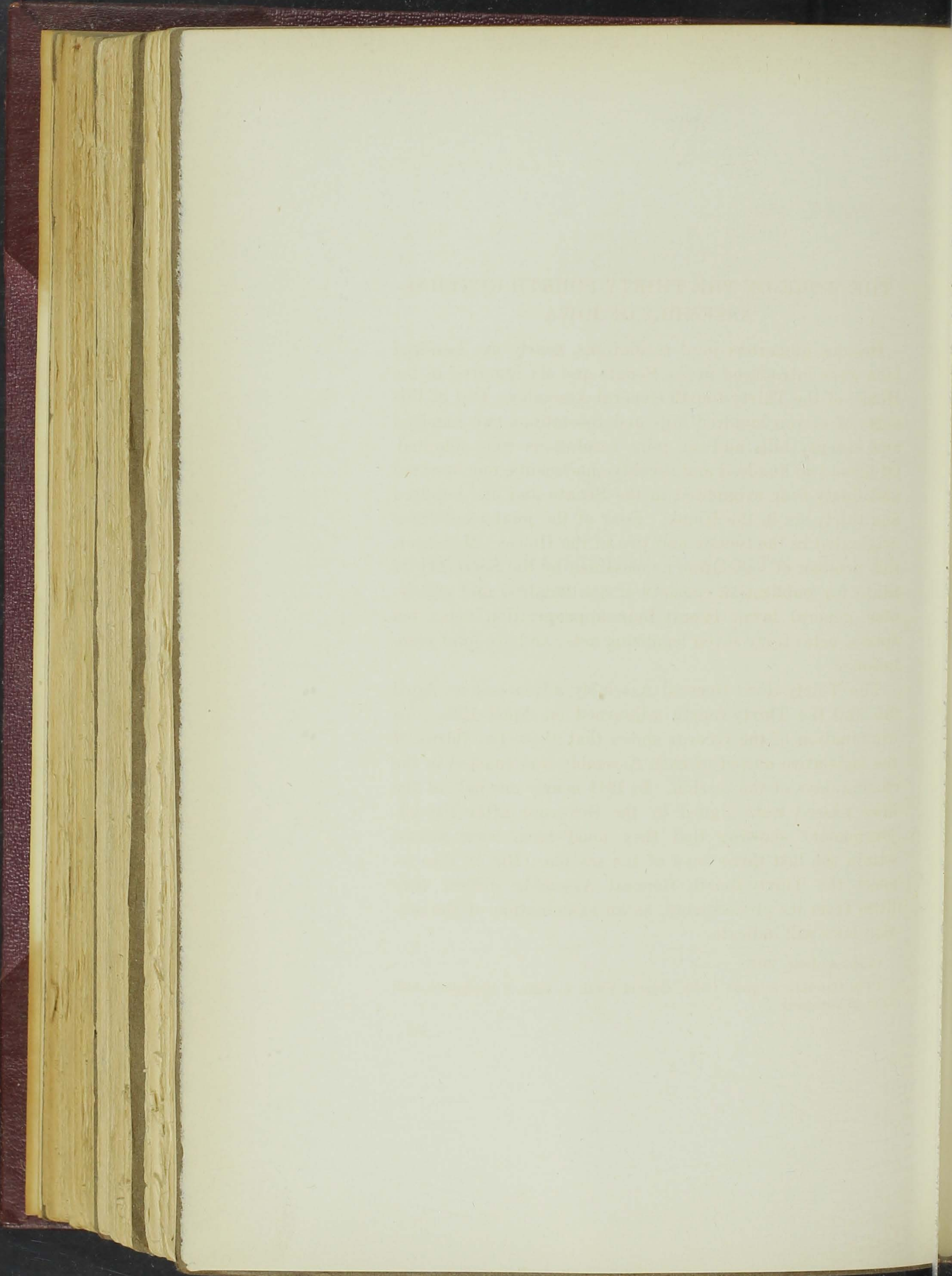


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## THE WORK OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IOWA

Besides numerous joint resolutions, nearly five hundred bills were introduced in the Senate and six hundred in the House of the Thirty-fourth General Assembly. Out of this mass of eleven hundred bills and resolutions two hundred and seventy bills and six joint resolutions were adopted. Of these two hundred and seventy enactments, one hundred and thirty-four originated in the Senate and one hundred and thirty-six in the House. Four of the joint resolutions originated in the Senate and two in the House. Moreover, this product of legislation as classified by the Secretary of State for publication consists of one hundred and eighty-nine general laws; twenty-four appropriation acts; ten special acts; forty-seven legalizing acts; and six joint resolutions.<sup>1</sup>

The Thirty-third General Assembly adjourned on April 9th and the Thirty-fourth adjourned on April 12th. An examination of the records shows that about two-thirds of the legislative output of each Assembly was enacted in the closing days of the session. In 1911 nearly one-half of the laws passed were signed by the Governor after the adjournment,<sup>2</sup> showing that they must have been passed within the last three days of the session. But in this respect the Thirty-fourth General Assembly differs very little from its predecessors, as an examination of the session laws will indicate.

<sup>1</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911.

<sup>2</sup> The Governor is given thirty days in which to sign or disapprove bills after adjournment.

The increased compensation of its members is the only act of importance passed by the Thirty-fourth General Assembly affecting the legislative department<sup>3</sup>—although the Federal census of 1910 occasioned some changes in the representation of counties in the lower house.<sup>4</sup> In reference to the executive department the only acts of importance were those making slight extensions of the Governor's appointive and removal power.<sup>5</sup> Several important acts were approved relating to the administrative officers, boards, and commissions, which will be considered under special headings.

Several acts were passed affecting the judicial department. In 1884 the Constitution of Iowa was amended so as to permit the General Assembly to "provide for holding persons to answer for any criminal offense without the intervention of the grand jury." No legislation, however, had been enacted in accordance with that authority until 1911, when the Thirty-fourth General Assembly passed an act providing for the prosecution of criminals to final judgment either on indictment by the grand jury or upon information by the County Attorney.<sup>6</sup> An additional judge was provided for in three different districts,<sup>7</sup> making the total number of District Court judges fifty-six. Justices of the Peace were authorized to require security for costs in cases coming within their jurisdiction.<sup>8</sup>

The primary election law was modified by two slight amendments, one of them changing the time of holding the

<sup>3</sup> The Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House will now receive \$2,000 each, that is, double the compensation of members.

<sup>4</sup> Des Moines and Lee counties are reduced to one representative each and Black Hawk and Wapello will get two representatives each.

<sup>5</sup> For instance see *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, pp. 105, 106, 126, 140.

<sup>6</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 201.

<sup>7</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, pp. 3, 4.

<sup>8</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 185.

primary from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June to the first Monday in June,<sup>9</sup> and the other relating to the nomination of persons whose names do not appear on the official ballot.<sup>10</sup>

Local government in Iowa, being dependent upon the General Assembly, offers to the legislator a fertile field for the production of new statutes. In respect to county government there is the usual biennial grist of powers vested in or denied to the Board of Supervisors. Perhaps the most important act affecting the governing board of the county was the subjecting of the Board of Supervisors to the provisions of the Cosson Law, which provides for their removal for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office.<sup>11</sup> Another act makes the removal of county seats more difficult.<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, the office of County Surveyor was abolished, and the Board of Supervisors was authorized to employ a competent person "for the purpose of making general specifications for the grading, repairing and building of roads, bridges and culverts, and to perform such other duties as the board of supervisors may determine".<sup>13</sup> The Board of Supervisors was also authorized, with the consent of the voters at an election, to levy a tax not to exceed one mill upon the dollar for the purpose of prospecting for coal.<sup>14</sup>

Except for the provisions requiring the County Attorney to appear in behalf of the township trustees in counties of less than twenty-five thousand population whenever they

<sup>9</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 42.

<sup>10</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, pp. 42, 43.

<sup>11</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 43.

<sup>12</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 15

<sup>13</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 18

<sup>14</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 22.

are made parties to litigation,<sup>15</sup> all of the laws relating to the township enacted by the Thirty-fourth General Assembly will be referred to under the head of road legislation.

Municipal legislation must ever be a patchwork of statutes as long as the present scheme of municipal organization maintains. Therefore each successive General Assembly grinds a full hopper of laws relating to or affecting cities and towns. Twenty-six acts were passed in 1911 giving cities and towns power to act in matters where they ought to be able to act without special legislative authority. To make valid actions where authority has been wanting or where doubt has arisen thirty-three legalizing acts were passed for the relief of cities and towns.<sup>16</sup> In addition several other acts of minor importance affecting cities as well as the other grades of local government were passed.<sup>17</sup> The commission plan of city government was amended by four different acts, the most important of which was the re-writing of the provisions relative to the civil service.<sup>18</sup>

From the standpoint of city "boosting" the act providing for the creation of a department of publicity in cities is deserving of special notice. The purpose of this department is declared to be "collecting and distributing, by correspondence, advertising and other means, information relating to the industrial, commercial, manufacturing, residential, educational and other advantages and resources of such city."<sup>19</sup>

Of the two hundred and seventy acts of the Thirty-fourth General Assembly not many can be said to be of general public interest. Minor statutory changes, acts dealing with

<sup>15</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 23.

<sup>16</sup> Out of forty-seven legalizing acts passed.

<sup>17</sup> Laws relative to taxation, etc.

<sup>18</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 38.

<sup>19</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 41.

technical subjects or the various state departments not of general interest will not be considered. Most of the laws passed which are of general interest may broadly be classed as "Social and Economic Legislation"—the field of legislation which has furnished every State legislature its most difficult problems. This class of legislation, which is frequently called "freak legislation" by the special interests affected, will be considered under special headings.

## TAXATION

The subject of taxation received more attention from the Thirty-fourth General Assembly than it had received in many years. A temporary tax commission was created for the purpose of securing information looking toward a complete revision of the tax laws.<sup>20</sup> An act exempting moneys and credits from more than nominal taxation was passed,<sup>21</sup> and may be regarded as an invitation to capital to remain in and come to the State. In connection with this act mention should be made of the act prohibiting the employment of tax ferrets to discover moneys and credits which the assessor has failed to locate.<sup>22</sup> The former assessment of moneys and credits at the ordinary rate of taxation, together with the employment of tax ferrets, has been held to be one of the influences responsible for the marked decrease in the population of the State.

The collateral inheritance tax law was completely rewritten, and covers fifteen pages in the printed laws.<sup>23</sup> The act exempts estates of less than one thousand dollars after deducting debts. The old soldiers' tax exemption was increased from \$800 to \$1,200.<sup>24</sup> It is also of interest to note

<sup>20</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 229.

<sup>21</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 45.

<sup>22</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 48

<sup>23</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, pp. 50-64.

<sup>24</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 44.

that the Thirty-fourth General Assembly by joint resolution ratified the proposed income tax amendment to the Constitution of the United States.<sup>25</sup>

## LABOR LEGISLATION

Among the laws enacted by the Thirty-fourth General Assembly is a long act of fifty-two sections entitled "Mines and Mining", which codifies and strengthens the former provisions relative to safety and sanitation in mines. The new features of the act relate largely to protection against fire.<sup>26</sup>

Another act of much importance is one looking toward a more comprehensive code of labor laws. A temporary commission, known as the Employer's Liability Commission,<sup>27</sup> was created to "investigate the problem of industrial accidents and especially the present condition of the law of liability for injuries or death suffered in the course of industrial employment as well in this state as in other states, and shall inquire into the most equitable and effectual method of providing compensation for losses suffered". The work of this commission, like that of the tax commission, is limited to investigation and recommendation.

## THE PUBLIC SAFETY

Before January 1, 1913, all street cars will be required to have power brakes other than hand and equipment for sanding rails.<sup>28</sup> The construction of caboose cars was regulated by a law which will be in effect after January 1, 1912.<sup>29</sup> Passenger boats for which certificates of inspection are issued must carry in view and within easy reach of

<sup>25</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 301.

<sup>26</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 105.

<sup>27</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 230.

<sup>28</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 28.

<sup>29</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 92.



the passengers, life preservers equal to one-half the number of passengers that may be carried by such boat.<sup>30</sup>

Following the example of many other States the office of State Fire Marshal was created.<sup>31</sup> The incumbent is an appointee of the Governor, holds office for four years, and receives an annual compensation of \$2,500. It is the duty of the State Fire Marshal to keep a record of all fires occurring in the State, showing the name of the owners and the name or names of occupants of the property at the time of the fire, the sound value of the property and the amount of insurance thereon, the amount of insurance collected, together with the cause or origin of the fire. He is further authorized to enter and inspect buildings for the purpose of determining whether they are especially liable to fire or are so situated as to endanger other buildings. And he is required to see that all teachers in buildings of more than one story conduct at least one fire drill each month and keep all doors unlocked during school hours.

#### THE PUBLIC HEALTH

Governmental interference with private individuals to maintain public health has grown by leaps and bounds in the last quarter of a century, and Iowa has not been backward in enacting such legislation. The Thirty-fourth General Assembly included infantile paralysis among the diseases subject to quarantine, and passed an act requiring disinfection in cases of death from tuberculosis.<sup>32</sup> An antitoxin department was established in connection with the State Board of Health to furnish antitoxin to the people of the State "at the reduced rates established by the board."<sup>33</sup> The sale of cocaine and other injurious drugs

<sup>30</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 125.

<sup>31</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 140.

<sup>32</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 134.

<sup>33</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 136.

is prohibited "except upon the original written prescription of a registered physician or veterinarian or licensed dentist".<sup>34</sup> The practice of optometry is further regulated by a very material increase in the qualifications for a license.<sup>35</sup> Nurses must obtain certificates from the State Board of Health to entitle them to practice in this State.<sup>36</sup>

The title of the State Food and Dairy Commissioner was changed to that of State Dairy and Food Commissioner. His salary was increased and he was given more assistance. Under the new act "no person, firm or corporation shall sell milk or cream . . . without being licensed by the state dairy and food commissioner", and numerous penalties are provided in cases of the sale of impure, skimmed or adulterated milk.<sup>37</sup> Two other pure food acts were passed: one defining what shall constitute misbranded and adulterated foods,<sup>38</sup> and the other defining ice cream.<sup>39</sup>

An act evidently for the benefit of Des Moines, disguised under the heading of general laws, provides that "the emission of dense smoke within the corporate limits of any of the cities of this state now or hereafter having a population of sixty-five thousand (65,000) inhabitants or over, including cities acting under the commission plan of government is hereby declared to be a public nuisance."<sup>40</sup>

#### THE PUBLIC MORALS

Two new liquor laws were enacted by the Thirty-fourth General Assembly and two of those already on the statute

<sup>34</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 139.

<sup>35</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 139.

<sup>36</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 135.

<sup>37</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 126.

<sup>38</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 189.

<sup>39</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 191.

<sup>40</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 27.

books were amended. The penalties for the violation of the act prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors were increased.<sup>41</sup> Druggists holding permits to sell liquor are now allowed to fill out the application blanks themselves;<sup>42</sup> whereas, under the old law the applicant was required to fill out the blank. Wholesale druggists in this State are permitted to sell intoxicating liquors to registered pharmacists and licensed physicians.<sup>43</sup>

An act relative to the liquor traffic, which is perhaps of greater importance than any of the preceding, is one directing the County Attorney in each county to secure quarterly and file with the County Auditor for public inspection a list of the names of persons holding Federal liquor licenses. The holding of a Federal liquor license is declared to be *prima facie* evidence of violation of the liquor laws of the State, unless the holder of such license has also complied with all the terms and conditions of the Mule Law or is a registered pharmacist.<sup>44</sup> This act is expected to close up all club and private bars and illegal saloons, since the County Attorney is subject to the provisions of the Cosson Law in case he fails to prosecute the holders of such license.

Another act clearly in the interest of public morals prohibits the exhibition of "any deformed, maimed, idiotic or abnormal person or human monstrosity".<sup>45</sup> Surely the fat lady and the living skeleton as attractions of the side show and the dime museum are gone from Iowa forever.

It was also made an offense<sup>46</sup> to be in possession of "any roulette wheel, klondyke table, poker table, faro or

<sup>41</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 101.

<sup>42</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 101.

<sup>43</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 102.

<sup>44</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 104.

<sup>45</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 193.

<sup>46</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 194.

keno lay-outs", except in pursuance of proceedings to destroy them.

THE DEFECTIVE AND DEPENDENT CLASSES

The most important act passed under this heading, and one of the most important laws of the whole session, is an act to prevent the procreation of habitual criminals, idiots, feeble minded and insane persons.<sup>47</sup> By this act Iowa takes a long step forward toward checking crime.

A number of other acts affecting the defective and dependent classes was passed. All children received in the Soldier's Orphan's Home are made wards of the State and may be placed with persons or families under contracts providing for their custody, care, education, maintenance, and earnings.<sup>48</sup> An act similar in character was passed relative to the placing of boys and girls committed to the industrial school.<sup>49</sup> Provision was made for the commitment of girls to "any reputable institution within this state devoted to the detention and reformation of wayward and fallen girls", instead of to the industrial school.<sup>50</sup> In like manner an act was passed providing for the commitment of females adjudged guilty of the violation of any law, ordinance, or police regulation, to the care of benevolent or charitable institutions instead of to the county, city, or town jail.<sup>51</sup> The law providing for the commitment of boys and girls to the industrial school was also strengthened.<sup>52</sup> The better regulation of inmates of the State Hospital for Inebriates was provided for,<sup>53</sup> and an act defining vagrants was enacted.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>47</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 144.

<sup>48</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 150.

<sup>49</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 152.

<sup>50</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 155.

<sup>51</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 200.

<sup>52</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 153.

<sup>53</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 97.

<sup>54</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 108.

## ECONOMIC LEGISLATION

Three of the most important measures passed by the Thirty-fourth General Assembly may be classed under this heading. A new office was created in connection with the Board of Railroad Commissioners for the purpose of making the work of the Board more effective in the matter of uniform and equal rates to shippers. The new official is known as the Commerce Counsel. He is appointed by the Board of Railroad Commissioners, with the approval of two-thirds of the members of the Senate, for a period of four years at a compensation of \$5,000 per year. His duties are "to diligently investigate the reasonableness of the rates charged, or to be charged for services rendered, or to be rendered by the railroad companies, express companies, and all other individuals, parties, or corporations, subject to the jurisdiction of the said board of railroad commissioners", and to prosecute all violations of law before the Board of Railroad Commissioners or the Inter-State Commerce Commission according as they affect intrastate or interstate business.<sup>55</sup>

An elaborate act entitled "Uniform Bills of Lading", embodying fifty-seven sections, describes and defines negotiable bills of lading. The act defines also the rights and duties of common carriers and of all persons issuing and receiving such bills of lading.<sup>56</sup>

The Bulk Sales Bill received quite as much publicity as the famous Five Mile Bill. It was defeated in the middle of the session, but was reconsidered and finally passed in the closing days. It prohibits anyone from selling his stock of merchandise in bulk without giving his creditors proper notice of his intention to sell.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>55</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 93.

<sup>56</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 169.

<sup>57</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 165.

An act of considerable interest to the householder provides that wherever flour is sold in quantities of more than one pound the actual number of net pounds must be plainly designated on the package.<sup>58</sup>

An act regulating "the marking of articles of merchandise made in whole or in part of gold or silver or their alloys" and prohibiting the false marking of such merchandise was passed.<sup>59</sup> The State Dairy and Food Commissioner was empowered to make inspection of scales, weights, and measures, and penalties were provided for keeping false weights and measures.<sup>60</sup> In order to encourage the business of manufacturing in Iowa an act was passed conferring upon the Iowa State Manufacturers Association the right to designate who may use the trade mark bearing the words "Made in Iowa".<sup>61</sup>

#### ROAD LEGISLATION

In the matter of highway legislation much disappointment was felt by the people, in spite of the fact that several important acts were passed. The bridge companies were charged with being the great stumbling block in the way of good roads legislation. Three measures affecting roads were passed by the Thirty-fourth General Assembly. One abolishes the office of County Surveyor and permits the Board of Supervisors to hire an engineer to aid in road building and authorizes the levy of a two mill tax to create a good roads fund. The township trustees are directed to meet the first Monday in February and "select a superintendent of dragging and employ a road superintendent".<sup>62</sup>

<sup>58</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 195.

<sup>59</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 195.

<sup>60</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 168.

<sup>61</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 178.

<sup>62</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 18.

The second good roads act is entitled "Dragging of Public Highways", and provides that the township trustees shall at their April meeting "divide the public roads of the township into permanent road-dragging districts", and shall "from time to time designate what districts shall be dragged".<sup>63</sup>

The third act, entitled "Registration of Motor Vehicles", is probably the most important act of its class, as it will furnish the means for much permanent road improvement.<sup>64</sup> It is a long act containing thirty-five sections which repeals the chapter dealing with motor vehicles in the *Code Supplement* of 1907. It defines the status of motor vehicles and regulates their use upon the highways of the State, and provides for an annual registration fee, varying with the horse power of the vehicle, which fee is in lieu of all taxes general or local. Eighty-five per cent of the fund thus created is divided among the counties to be used for the improvement of roads.

Commenting upon the good roads legislation of the Thirty-fourth General Assembly *The Register and Leader* declared that "the state has not accepted the road legislation of this session as settling anything. At best all this legislature has done has been to patch an old harness. Some compulsory dragging has been provided, which may amount to more than our compulsory weed cutting. . . . A dry summer will assist greatly in diverting public attention. But after all the problem remains and will remain until Iowa goes about it as other states are doing."<sup>65</sup>

SCHOOL LEGISLATION

Besides the rather liberal appropriations for the educational institutions of the State, four acts for the promotion

<sup>63</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 65.

<sup>64</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 69.

<sup>65</sup> *The Register and Leader*, April 10, 1911.

of education were passed. An act entitled "Training of Teachers for Rural Schools" provides that such four year accredited high schools as the State Superintendent may designate shall receive State aid to the amount of \$500 per year for the introduction of "normal courses of study and training in the eleventh and twelfth grades". The act also provides for "an inspector of normal training in high schools".<sup>66</sup> Children living in a district where there is no accredited high school are permitted to attend an accredited high school in another district, the expense of tuition being borne by their home district.<sup>67</sup> Another act provides for the issuance of life certificates to teachers.<sup>68</sup> Finally, provision was made for the consolidation of independent school districts and for the transportation of children to and from school.<sup>69</sup>

What was said above relative to road legislation may also well be said of the school legislation of the 1911 session: it is mere patchwork. A thorough revision and codification of our schools laws has yet to be made. In 1907 an educational commission was appointed to recommend legislation looking toward the unifying and coördinating of the entire school system of the State, but unfortunately the legislature did not enact the recommendations of the commission into law. Too frequently such commissions are created only to divert public attention and delay action. It is to be hoped that the recommendations of the tax commission and the employer's liability commission will not meet the same fate as that of the educational commission.

#### IMPORTANT BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

In conclusion a few words relative to what the Thirty-

<sup>66</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 148.

<sup>67</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 163.

<sup>68</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 145.

<sup>69</sup> *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 158.



fourth General Assembly did not do may be of interest. The Public Utilities Bill, which was defeated in the legislature in 1909, passed the House in the Thirty-fourth General Assembly, but was defeated in the Senate. The reasons for its defeat may be said to be, first, the fact that the relations between the city and the State had not been completely worked out; second, the fact that the corporations favored the bill led many to look upon it with suspicion; and third, the attitude of the author of the bill on the subject of prohibition, and particularly the Five Mile Bill, which aroused opposition on the part of the prohibition element.

The Whitney Good Roads Bill, designed to centralize the administration of the road laws by enlarging the powers of the State Highway Commission and creating the office of County Engineer, met with three powerful sources of opposition, namely, the bridge companies, the companies manufacturing road machinery, and the County Supervisors. It is estimated that at least half of the money spent upon our roads annually is worse than wasted because of the undoubted existence of graft in connection with bridge and road work.

An important bill which passed both houses, but was defeated by the Governor's veto, was the Oregon plan of electing United States Senators. In spite of the fact that Governor Carroll declared the act to be unconstitutional, the legislature of Minnesota passed a similar bill shortly after the adjournment of the Iowa legislature and it was signed by the Governor of that State. Commenting upon the action of the Governor of Minnesota in signing the bill, *The Register and Leader* sarcastically remarked:

When the constitution has been driven from pillar to post in every legislature and by every governor, it can still turn to Iowa for refuge.

On this occasion it would seem to be entirely proper to emphasize the value of a few weeks in the law on the part of prospective public officials. If Governor Eberhart had taken a night course he would not so readily have made himself a party to this insidious attack upon the citadel of our liberties.<sup>70</sup>

Among the other important measures which failed to pass may be mentioned the Five Mile Bill, prohibiting the sale of liquor within five miles of any educational institution of the State, the bill to abolish the office of School Treasurer, and the Woman's Suffrage Bill. The much needed revision of the game laws was not even attempted.

The Thirty-fourth General Assembly was no more conspicuous for what it did not do than were most of its predecessors. Legislation to-day is a compromise of conflicting interests in which it is impossible to satisfy the full demands of all; and in reviewing the work of the Thirty-fourth General Assembly it should be borne in mind that half a loaf is better than no loaf at all. The legislature had before it some new and difficult problems, and if it hesitated to act upon incomplete or imperfect information it should be congratulated. The Senatorial deadlock overshadowed all else in the eyes of the public and the General Assembly received a great deal of abuse for not doing sooner what was finally accomplished at the close of the session.

Perhaps no better estimate of the work of the Thirty-fourth General Assembly could be made than is to be found in the following editorial comment in a leading Iowa newspaper:—

The test of the Thirty-fourth general assembly will come when the Thirty-fifth general assembly convenes.

Matters of importance have been attended to in the Thirty-fourth, and a great many needless and vicious bills have been indefinitely set aside. But the session as a whole has been prelimi-

<sup>70</sup> *The Register and Leader*, April 24, 1911.

nary merely — a sort of unfinished sitting. What has marked it has been the breaking up of old alignments, the entrance of new men, and the general promise of something to be realized in the future.

The Thirty-fourth marks a transition period. For the past ten or twelve years there has been a compact leadership. Such names as Funk, Healy, Garst, Cheshire, Maytag, Perry, suggest themselves. The board of control law, the anti-pass law, the Blanchard law are readily recalled. But with the exception of Senator Smith these men are out of public life.

It would be easy to name the men who have stood in opposition during this "Iowa idea" period. They, too, have passed. With the standpatters as with the progressives this legislature has been in the hands of new men. And among the new men standpatters and progressives have crossed lines in a way to make any definite new alignment hard to locate. As with men so with measures; it is a period of transition.

With the opening of the Thirty-fifth general assembly the definite alignments for the coming decade will form. Men will seek their natural affiliations and natural leaders will appear. With leadership issues will arise and forces will be marshaled. The next legislature will be a legislature of definite alignments. For these alignments the men who are to determine the future course of events are getting ready.

There will never be a larger field for constructive statesmanship than will be offered to the Thirty-fifth general assembly. Iowa herself is in a transition period. She is just where the old days of the frontier, with its volunteer road work, and volunteer school, and volunteer railroad, and volunteer water company, must go with the volunteer brass band and volunteer hose cart. She has not yet entered fully upon the new period of intensified farming on \$200 land, the public service no longer a doubtful speculation but an established monopoly, when the school and road, and telephone, and everything else must be made to contribute very definitely to the prosperity of a people, who must make every step count.

The public discussion of the next two years is going to be largely about state affairs. This in the face of a national campaign. There is nothing vital in national politics to monopolize attention, and

there is something vital now in the new life that is stirring in Iowa. We shall hear more about what Iowa needs and what Iowa ought to do in the coming two years. There will be more favorable publicity for Iowa; more encouragement of new industries for Iowa; more call for investment of Iowa money in Iowa ventures; more Iowa talk all along the line than in any other years. All of this will lead to an insistent demand upon the Thirty-fifth general assembly for adequate plans for the future.

There are men of brains in this legislature who will be members of the Thirty-fifth to work a revolution in this state. It will be the measure of their service now what they do then. The two sessions will be taken together. They can easily be made a turning point in the progress of the state.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> *The Register and Leader*, April 13, 1911.