

The
PALIMPSEST
NOVEMBER 1945
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PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT IOWA CITY BY
THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER JULY 28 1920 AT THE POST OFFICE AT IOWA CITY IOWA
UNDER THE ACT OF AUGUST 24 1912

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE

THE PALIMPSEST, issued monthly by the State Historical Society of Iowa, is devoted to the dissemination of Iowa History. Supplementing the other publications of this Society, it aims to present the materials of Iowa History in a form that is attractive and a style that is popular in the best sense—to the end that the story of our Commonwealth may be more widely read and cherished.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

THE MEANING OF PALIMPSEST

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the records of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

PRICE — 10 cents per copy: \$1 per year: free to Members

ADDRESS — The State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa

THE PALIMPSEST

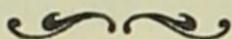
EDITED BY RUTH A. GALLAHER

VOL. XXVI

ISSUED IN NOVEMBER 1945

No. 11

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Three "No Men"

In a democracy, men in places of authority are frequently criticized for being "yes men". They may follow too assiduously the policies outlined by other men, and fail to assert their own personality and leadership. Indeed, the pages of history are replete with shortcomings of "yes men". But in Iowa, as it was one hundred years ago, there is a timely story about three "no men".

On Monday, October 7, 1844, a convention had met in what is now the Old Stone Capitol in Iowa City to prepare a constitution for the future State of Iowa. Plans had been carefully laid; able and courageous men had been selected as delegates. One of the chief issues before the convention had centered around the question of boundaries. And the venerable Robert Lucas, twice elected Governor of Ohio and later appointed Governor of the Territory of Iowa, had sought to solve the question by suggesting boundaries that would extend from the Mississippi River west-

ward along the northern boundary of the State of Missouri to the Missouri River, up that river to the mouth of the Big Sioux River, then northeastward to the junction of the Watonwan and St. Peter's (now the Minnesota) rivers, and then down the St. Peter's to the Mississippi River which was to form the eastern boundary. These boundaries would have given Iowa an area of about 60,000 square miles. After careful deliberation the so-called Lucas boundaries were adopted and the first constitution of Iowa was signed by members of the convention. But the questions of boundaries and statehood were not yet settled.

This constitution contained the provision, Article XIII, Section 6, that it should be submitted to the Congress of the United States and that it should subsequently be ratified or rejected by the people with whatever changes Congress might impose. On March 3, 1845, Congress adopted an act which changed the western boundary of Iowa so that the new State would have included an area only about two-thirds as large as the originally proposed State. Augustus Caesar Dodge, Iowa's Delegate to Congress, who had sponsored the bill for admission and had argued for the larger boundaries, now assumed a defeatist's attitude and urged his constituents to accept the proposals of Congress and permit Iowa to become a State

with the greatly reduced boundaries. He insisted that Iowa would never be able under any circumstances to obtain *one square mile more* of area.

There was much opposition to the disheartening proposal of Congress, in spite of the urgent recommendation of Delegate Dodge. Iowans had envisioned their State as a great agricultural area extending from river to river and northward to embrace part of the rich valley of the Minnesota River. They were unwilling to accept the changes proposed by Congress.

Originally the adoption of a State constitution had been favored by leaders of the Democratic Party and had been generally opposed by members of the Whig Party. But leading members of the Democratic Party now put loyalty to State interests above party affiliations and decided to reject the constitution as amended. Upon the question of accepting statehood with the lesser territorial boundaries, three young Democrats in particular — Enoch W. Eastman, Theodore S. Parvin, and Frederick D. Mills — became active and aggressive "no men".

The eldest of the trio was Enoch W. Eastman, born in Rockingham County, New Hampshire, on April 15, 1810. His grandfather had been a soldier in the Revolutionary army and his father became a lieutenant in the War of 1812. Young

Eastman was thus prepared by inheritance for difficult tasks. His father was not a man of wealth, and Enoch was obliged to rely upon his own resources to a great extent in obtaining an education. As a youth he worked on his father's farm and in a sawmill, and attended the district school. Later he taught school while he was studying law, and in 1840 was admitted to the bar at Concord, New Hampshire.

Before Horace Greeley gave young men the famous admonition, "Go West", young Eastman had already crossed the Mississippi River, arriving at Burlington in 1844. He remained in Burlington until 1847, when he removed to Oskaloosa, where he practiced his profession with renewed success until 1857. At that time he removed to Eldora, where he resided until his death on January 9, 1885.

During his professional career, Eastman occupied a leading position, and was engaged in many important legal cases in the State. In the long-to-be remembered county seat contest between Eldora and Point Pleasant, he was the leading attorney for Eldora, and he was successful in having the county seat retained at Eldora.

During his early career Mr. Eastman was a staunch Democrat. In the late fifties, however, because of his attitude against the extension of

slavery, he left the Democratic Party and became a Republican.

At one time during the Civil War there was talk of a reconstruction plan which would have left New England out of the Union. Mr. Eastman voiced a vigorous protest. In an address at Eldora on February 22, 1863, he said:

"And there is now a scheme on foot in Congress, and in some of the states, to reconstruct the government, connect the west with the south and leave New England out. I have no desire to survive the day when I cannot claim Boston, Lexington and Bunker Hill as a part of my country. No! Come war and poverty, distress and persecution, and death, come what may, I never will cut loose from my own native New England. Where it goes, I will go, where it lies, if fall it must, I will lie, and her people shall be my people, and her God my God."

Eastman aspired always to be a statesman not a politician. He never sought office, but in 1863 he was nominated for the office of Lieutenant Governor, to be the running-mate of William M. Stone, candidate for Governor on the Republican ticket, and was elected by a large majority — leading the State ticket. In 1884 he represented Hardin and Grundy counties in the Senate of the Twentieth General Assembly.

Two incidents stand out preëminently in the life and activities of Mr. Eastman. When the Washington monument was projected in Washington, D. C., the State of Iowa was invited to furnish a stone to be used therein, with an inscription indicative of Iowa culture. It was Enoch W. Eastman who supplied the chosen phrase: "Iowa: the affections of her people, like the rivers of her borders, flow to an inseparable Union." Because of limited space on the stone the phrase was reduced to read: "Iowa. Her affections, like the rivers of her borders, flow to an inseparable Union." Thus the words of Mr. Eastman live in the walls of the Washington Monument and in the minds of thousands of admiring Iowans.

The incident of greatest importance to Iowa had, however, occurred earlier in the career of Mr. Eastman. In 1844 and 1845, when many of his Democratic friends were clamoring for statehood and urging the adoption of the constitution under the federal law which greatly reduced the area of Iowa, Eastman, though a Democrat, had the courage and initiative to become a leader of the "no men". With a few of his colleagues he stumped the Territory urging the people to vote against ratification of the 1844 constitution, in the hope that larger boundaries might be obtained later. It was only because of the aggressiveness

and persistence of these "no men" that the constitution of 1844 was finally rejected.

Another of the "no men" was Frederick D. Mills, also from New England. He was born in Connecticut, graduated at Yale College in 1840, and came to Iowa the following year. He became one of Burlington's ablest lawyers — a partner of J. C. Hall, often pitting his abilities against those of David Rorer and other able attorneys of that day. Soon after the Mexican War began, Mills was given a major's commission in the United States Army and served with the Fifteenth United States Infantry. He was with General Winfield Scott in the march to Mexico City. At the battle of Churubusco, Major Mills led a detachment in pursuit of General Antonio Santa Anna and was slain on August 20, 1847, after his horse had bolted and carried him into the ranks of the Mexican army.

The federal government had his name inscribed on a mural tablet in the chapel of the Military Academy at West Point as one of the heroes of Churubusco, and the Third General Assembly of Iowa recognized his services by naming an Iowa county in his honor.

But Frederick D. Mills may, perhaps, be remembered, not so much because a county was named for him, not for his brief and courageous

military services, not even for the fact that he made the supreme sacrifice, but because as a young man he lived courageously and triumphantly in the service of his beloved Iowa. Seeing the limitations that would be placed upon Iowa if the restricted boundaries proposed by the Congress were accepted, he cut through party lines and set aside political preferment in order that the constitution of 1844 might be defeated and new and more extensive State boundaries might be obtained. In the long run of years, history may decide that in this service Major Mills made his greatest contribution to the development and welfare of Iowa.

The contributions of Theodore S. Parvin to the history and culture of Iowa were numerous and noteworthy. He served as secretary to Governor Robert Lucas, was territorial librarian, United States district attorney, secretary to the territorial council, clerk of the United States District Court, county judge, register of the Iowa land office, librarian at the State University, professor of natural science at the State University, trustee of the State University, curator and secretary of the State Historical Society of Iowa, one of the founders of the Masonic order in Iowa, grand master and grand secretary of the Masonic Grand Lodge, and founder of the Masonic Library at

Cedar Rapids. Among the "men who made Iowa", Theodore S. Parvin certainly played an important rôle.

Parvin was born in Cumberland County, New Jersey, on January 15, 1817. He attended the public schools at Cincinnati, Ohio, and was graduated from Woodworth College in 1833. In 1835 he was given a teaching position in Cincinnati and at the same time studied law — graduating from the Cincinnati Law School in 1837. In 1838 he came to the Territory of Iowa as the private secretary of Governor Robert Lucas and soon thereafter was appointed territorial librarian. In November, 1838, Parvin was admitted to the practice of law by the Supreme Court of the Territory. It is reported that his first criminal case was tried on the day after his admission. Although his client was found guilty, Parvin succeeded in reducing the sentence from "ten years' imprisonment and \$1,000 fine" to "seven days' imprisonment and \$10 fine".

Early in his career, Parvin urged the necessity of establishing an adequate system of common schools for Iowa. In 1841 he was offered the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction, but declined the appointment. He was one of the organizers of the Iowa State Teachers' Association, and was its president in 1867.

His meteorological records for Muscatine and Johnson counties are the only accurate and reliable data of their kind for the early State. He was connected with the State University of Iowa for some sixteen years, during which time he made significant contributions to the field of higher education. Leaving the University in 1870, he devoted the remainder of his years to the promotion of Masonic interests in Iowa.

But, as in the case of Eastman and Mills, the most important service rendered by Mr. Parvin to the State of Iowa, at least the most far-reaching in its consequences, was his aid in defeating the constitution of 1844. If the reader will take any map of Iowa and rule off the western one-third of its territory, he will appreciate how many counties would be lacking had the constitution of 1844 been adopted. It required "stalwart courage", however, to oppose it. The adoption was vigorously urged by the leading political influences of the Territory, sustained and supported by the administration at Washington. There were seats in the United States Senate waiting to be filled when Iowa became a State, other "choice plums" were ready to be distributed, and men who were looking for promotion were in a hurry to see the Territory blossom into a State. Only men of broader vision saw the advantages that would be

gained by a postponement of statehood until larger boundaries could be obtained.

The entire credit for defeating the constitution of 1844 as amended by Congress cannot, of course, be given to any one man nor to any small group of men. It was a democratic movement sponsored and supported by farseeing, unselfish citizens. Among the leaders in this movement were James W. Woods, Shepherd Leffler, Edward Johnstone, and many other men of like character, but a major portion of the credit for defeating the constitution of 1844 and obtaining the larger boundaries may well be given to Enoch W. Eastman, Frederick D. Mills, and Theodore S. Parvin — three "no men".

JACOB A. SWISHER

The Business of Bees

If, on a warm summer day, one idly watches a honeybee light on a flower, linger briefly, and then wing its way into the hazy distance, it is difficult to realize that this little insect is a unit of production. Yet, according to F. B. Paddock, Iowa State Apiarist, shipments of honey from Iowa are annually worth about \$1,000,000. This is in addition to the honey consumed by Iowans. This million-dollar industry had its origin in the very beginning of this Commonwealth.

But the story of honey goes far back of the history of Iowa. In ancient times it was man's only sweet, indicating luxury; in parts of Asia people still place a bit of honey in the mouth of a newborn male child. Among the Hebrews "milk and honey" were symbols of plenty. As man advanced in his control of natural products, he was not satisfied with an occasional feast; beekeeping came to be an industry.

Honeybees were, apparently, not native to America, for colonists brought bees to New England in 1638. Now there are thousands of species of bees and numerous "races" of honeybees, many of them patented. From New England the

bees spread westward even more rapidly than the white settlers. The earliest explorers in the Iowa region noted the presence of honeybees. The Indians called these bees "the white man's flies", indicating that their coming was associated with that of the white man. No doubt the Indians in this area, although they liked honey, felt much like their fellow red men farther east. After watching the settlers take the honey from the bees one of these Indians exclaimed, "Huh! white man work, make horse work, make ox work, now MAKE FLY WORK! this Indian go away!"

At first the honeybees along the frontier were swarms which had "gone wild". Such bees found good hunting in the woods and prairies and prospective settlers were confident that wherever bees and "bee trees" were found there would be vines and flowers, fertile fields and prolific crops. Honey was a real luxury on the frontier where sugar was unrationed but usually unobtainable. A. R. Fulton, a pioneer publicity man in Iowa, recorded that the timber lands along the Skunk River "were especially noted as the paradise of the bee-hunters". Swarms of bees found trees with natural hollows in them and filled the interior space with wax comb and wild honey. These were generally known as "bee trees". Bee trees might be found by accident or by deliberate hunt-

ing. An early settler would sometimes set a container filled with diluted honey as a "bait" near the edge of a wooded area and lure the bees to it, then by following the direction of their flight he could soon locate the bee tree. In most neighborhoods some man was adept in capturing swarms of wild honeybees and, even more important, he was able to take their honey from them. Instances have been reported where "barrelful" and "tubful" were taken by these early Iowa honey hunters.

Sometimes the process of securing the honey from these bee trees in early Iowa required the aid of several of the neighborhood men and boys who resorted to various means of "smoking out the bees", even to felling some of the trees, usually old and large. Cases are on record where a local justice of the peace had to decide whether the bees and their honey belonged to the finder of the "lost swarm" or to the owner of the land in whose trees the busy honey-makers were storing their honey. Often the finder of the bee tree arranged to share the contents of the stored honey with the owner of the land where the bee tree stood.

When thousands of bees chose some big trees along the boundary line between the State of Missouri and the Territory of Iowa in which to store

their honey they had no possible inkling of their part in a boundary dispute. These trees stood in the area claimed by both Iowa and Missouri, a strip of land some nine miles wide at the eastern end and thirteen miles wide at the western end. The bees paid no attention to either side; they continued to improve each shining hour and great stores of golden honey were collected. But, alas, humans coveted the honey stored by the industrious insects, and in the autumn of 1839 "miscreants" from Missouri cut down three of the bee trees and escaped with what honey they could carry. This "act of vandalism", as well as the dispute over taxes, resulted in the burlesque "war" between the State of Missouri and the Territory of Iowa which came to be called the Honey War. Local settlers rushed to arms, carrying pitch forks, scythes, knives, or muskets. A Missouri paper published some verses on the subject which ended with this stanza:

Now, if the Governors want to fight,
Just let them meet in person.
And when noble Boggs old Lucas flogs,
'Twill teach the scamp a lesson.
Then let the victor cut the trees,
And have three-bits in money,
And wear a crown from town to town,
Anointed with pure honey.

But calmer heads prevailed. The disputed boundary line was finally settled in favor of Iowa by a ruling of the United States Supreme Court. The bee trees, however, could not be restored, even by the Supreme Court.

The swarms of wild bees taken from the "bee trees" in earliest Iowa were usually kept somewhere near the owner's home in "bee gums". The common forms of these bee gums were broad, hollow logs, any diameter, and from one to two feet in length. About midway in this bee gum two cross sticks were placed as a support for the honey comb. The log was often placed in an upright position, and a broad board was fastened over the top for a roof with an opening left at the base as an entryway for the bees.

In pioneer times the common method for "settling" a swarm when it took to the air was to make a din by beating tin pans, metal scoop-shovels, steel plowshares, or any other portable noise-making equipment at hand that could be carried on the run in the chase after the bees. The noise thus produced was supposed to induce the bees to settle down as quickly as possible. Probably a more efficient method was to throw by hand or shovel a spray of fine earth (sand or loam) up through the swarmers. Bombardments of this miniature flak sometimes brought the desired re-

sults, or, perhaps, the bees were ready to settle down anyhow.

The early dark bees of Iowa had excitable temperaments, and at times had strong impulses for fight! An amusing account of early Iowa bee culture gives this description:

"The methods pursued by the bee-keepers of former years were very primitive. . . . To get at the honey, the bee-man took the family ax, and with its edge pried up the cover sufficiently to blow smoke into the hive. As soon as the smoke reaches a bee it capitulates, but before this stage of the attack, the farmer expected to get stung a half-dozen times at least, for the slightest jarring of the hive will bring a horde of intrepid warriors from out the hive. He did not seriously object to their stinging him if they did it in a satisfactory way, but they would never do that; — they would invariably crawl up his pant-legs, and, before getting in their work, strike terror into the heart of the farmer by a premonitory humming. The agony of this suspense was further increased by the sensation produced by the bee climbing slowly up his bare leg. A man with a strong heart and iron nerve could sometimes stand this; but when a bee got into his whiskers, he grew panicky and his iron nerve ran riot. . . . until with a wild yell he broke for some neighboring shrubbery, fol-

lowed by a train of winged pursuers. Sometimes he never ventured back to replace the cover on the 'gum.' "

If he did succeed in subduing the bees, "he spoiled the honey in digging it out of the hive with a knife and spoon, and usually drowned half the bees in the torrents of honey flowing from the lacerated comb. Honey in this condition was, of course, unfit for market; and he only aimed to produce enough for home consumption."

These so-called "black" bees had little competition from other races of bees in Iowa until after Civil War days. Italian bees were first brought into this country in 1860.

Few early county histories of Iowa relate much of the beekeeping industry in this State, but Frank Hickenlooper, historian of Monroe County, records a progressive pioneer beekeeper who began his large apiary in the year of 1872 when the State of Iowa was only twenty-six years old. This account says of beekeeping in Monroe County:

"C. H. Clark, a son of the late Wareham G. Clark, and who resides five or six miles southwest of Albia, has no doubt pursued the [beekeeping] industry with the most conspicuous success of any bee-keepers in the county. He has at present [1898] from 40 to 60 colonies, but intends to increase the number to at least 100. He has his api-

ary on 88 acres of land, and estimates that on an area of 6 square miles 100 colonies of bees could be successfully maintained. He uses a nine-frame hive, and his experience has evolved some very important facts. He uses a square frame instead of one rectilinear in form. His reasons for adopting this form of frame are: the queen bee invariably builds her cell in the center, and for some reason, best known to the bee itself, bees build their supply of honey above the queen's apartment, and leave the lower portion for brood-cells and bee-bread. When Mr. Clark finds the upper half of the frame filled with honey, he removes the frame and turns it upside down, and by thus shifting the position of the frame until all four sides have been in their turn changed, the bees are forced to build in the boxes above, when they would otherwise have selected the frames.

"From Mr. Clark's experience, he has determined that 100 colonies will produce 6,000 pounds of honey in a season. . . .

"Mr. Clark has two varieties of bees, the Italian and Carinolia. He thinks the Italian is the best, because it can reach the honey cavity in a large proportion of the red field clover bloom. The Carinolia is a bee imported from Austria, and he considers this variety next best, having in his apiary about 20 colonies."

During his fifty years of beekeeping in Iowa this pioneer in bee culture developed in his own apiary many of the scientific practices later endorsed by the best of Iowa's scientific research workers. He operated his own shop and produced all of his own supplies of hives and equipment and the wax combs.

"Know your bees!" was one of his mottoes. During the warm weather when it was safe to open the hive to the elements he would visit his many colonies weekly. With his small scalpel in hand with which to loosen the parts sealed by the bees' propolis (glue), he would kneel quietly beside each hive on clear, warm, middays and open each hive to study the condition and temperament of the workers.

He could in this way quickly diagnose the condition of each colony, and learn whether its workers were busy or sulky; whether honey production was up to standard or if the bees were dawdling while "ideal honey-making weather" was swiftly passing. Room for rearing broods was provided and carefully controlled. "The swarming problem can cut honey production in half!" he would say. So the chance to swarm was cut to a minimum by his diligent watch of every colony in his three apiaries, to eliminate hatching unnecessary queens.

His hives were placed in the most desirable locations, amid fruit trees and near clover fields, on a south slope, with protection from wind and sun, and with plenty of water nearby. His home apiary, established in 1872, was officially named and later recorded as the Plum Grove Apiary Farm, for the large native plum grove that bordered a basswood acreage. Both were havens for his bees. His apiary was later enlarged to three widely separated locations. An all-glass beehive was located in the office room of his home. Three sides of this hive were visible from the interior of the room. The fourth side of the hive was set against the outside wall where a small entrance permitted its winged occupants to go and come at will. Visitors were always interested in the well organized "household" characteristic of all colonies of bees. The long-bodied queen could be seen occasionally; the fat-bodied drones were easier to locate through the glass sides of the unique beehive. But most interesting of all were the literally thousands of active "workers".

It is said that no bee ever tries to assume the rights and duties of another, and apparently none of these energetic workers ever went on a strike. Their duties included making the honey comb, care of the young, developing new queens, gathering honey, and making beebread and propolis. In

addition there were "house cleaners", "door men" or guards that stood by the hive entrance and admitted no bees except those with the home-hive odor, and the interesting "air-conditioners", the squad stationed near the entrance of the hive to fan their wings rapidly in order to keep the air in motion inside the hive to produce ventilation and to promote the desired evaporation of the flower nectar in the wax cells. When the first cool days of autumn came, their "vigilance committee" could be seen killing and dragging the extra drones out of the hive in order to preserve their food supply for better uses during the approaching winter.

This pioneer Iowa beekeeper sold queens from his "Choice Italian and Carinolia Bees" at prices that ranged from seventy-five cents to three dollars each. He stressed the use of the "best of queens" and the replacement of a queen whenever production fell below the average for the apiary. In this way he avoided the annual loss of ungathered honey that poor queens usually incurred. His "rule of four" for obtaining best results in bee culture was: (1) secure improved stock; (2) avoid winter losses; (3) reduce swarming; (4) cleanliness to avoid waste and disease. This fourfold formula has been approved and used largely by all successful Iowa beekeepers. Honey from the Clark apiary was sold in the leading stores of the

county where it was displayed in large glass showcases displaying the name "PLUM GROVE APIARY, C. H. CLARK, PROPRIETOR".

In addition to the stores in the county seat, Albia, showcases were kept filled in the flourishing mining towns of Buxton, Hocking Valley, and other places. They attracted much attention. On one occasion two half-grown girls in Buxton were heard spelling out the names as they pointed to the glass with the beautiful translucent honey behind it. A pudgy finger traced the letters, "A-p-i-a-r-y, what am dat?" "Dat say, let me see, dat say 'Apery'!" explained the older of the two. Puzzled, the inquiring companion repeated, "Apery! What am dat?" "Doan you all know nuffin?" scornfully replied the older one, "An 'Apery' is where dey raises apes, dat's what an 'Apery' is!"

For many years Iowa has had as many bees as any other State of equal area and produces more honey than many States of larger area. The production of honey is not a matter of chance, though the unit of work is very small. It is estimated that it would take 1000 bees working their full lifetime to gather the five pounds of nectar required to make a pound of honey and that the bees must visit and revisit from 50,000 to 75,000 blossoms to gather this nectar. When the work is done, one may step into a grocery store and purchase a

pound of amber-colored sweetness, one of Mother Nature's most delectable contributions to the food of man, for a few cents — and the bees get nothing for their work, except the twenty-five or thirty pounds of honey usually left for their use during the winter.

Iowans have not neglected the study and nurture of the bee, the only insect which makes any direct contribution to the food of man. Scientific apiarists of Iowa have diligently searched for ways and means to develop Iowa's industry of beekeeping. The Iowa Academy of Sciences, formed in 1875 for the purpose of making scientific research for the development of the State, made its contribution to better beekeeping. The present Iowa Beekeepers' Association formed in 1911-12 (an earlier one had been formed in 1875) has done much in promoting this industry. Some of its many important accomplishments have been the development of improved beekeeping methods, increased production, and breeding bee strains that are resistant to foulbrood and other diseases. The ninth annual meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science, held in Des Moines in December, 1894, reported, among other things, on a chemical study of honey, "With Some Interesting, Illuminating Facts Concerning the Food Elements of Honey Made From Various Iowa Trees and Plants".

This was well before the knowledge of vitamins of which honey is said to contain a goodly number. Honey was then described as a "predigested sweet" and was recommended as the desired sweetening instead of sugar in modifying milk for infants and invalids.

A Women's Auxiliary of the Iowa Beekeepers' Association was formed in 1935 with twenty-two charter members and, according to the *Proceedings* of the twenty-fifth annual convention of the Iowa Beekeepers' Association, one of its major projects has been more and better honey cookery. The aim of these women beekeepers is to interest homemakers and others in the uses of honey by improved exhibits at fairs and by convenient cookery recipes.

The Thirty-seventh General Assembly of Iowa passed a bill in 1917 providing for the appointment of a State Apiarist whose duties were to be primarily educational but who would have responsibilities for the control of bee diseases. This procedure was endorsed by the Iowa Beekeepers' Association which had secured the passage of a bill establishing bee inspection in Iowa as early as 1912, under a State Bee Inspector. The State Apiarist has worked in close connection with the State Agricultural College of Iowa where material assistance has been given in the development

of the bee industry of this State. In the Pellett Honey Plant Gardens at Atlantic hundreds of different plants have been under observation by Frank C. Pellett. Valuable bulletins, books, and pamphlets have been issued. At least two bee journals have made their debut in Iowa. *Bee Pep* made its first appearance about 1915, and the *Beekeepers' Buzz* appeared in 1941.

During Iowa's first century of beekeeping the housing of bees came a long way from the earliest straw skeps of European countries, the mud huts or hutches of Palestine and Egypt, and the native log "bee gums" of early America. Scientifically planned, frame beehives, perfected in 1851, and adaptations of these gained universal usage in Iowa. Each beehive houses an individual "colony" of from about 10,000 to 90,000 bees each with a specific task to perform in making 60 to 80 pounds of honey annually. This is the average production for an Iowa colony, although demonstration apiaries established in Iowa have produced as much as 156 pounds of honey in a year.

Iowa's present honey-makers are mostly the larger yellow-brown Italian and Carniolan bees and the gentle grey Caucasians. These imported "races" and their elaborate hives differ greatly from the small, dark, "wild" bees and their simple abodes of yesteryear.

The honey extractor, a mechanical device for separating the honey from the wax comb, was invented in 1865. It slowly opened the way for more commercial uses of Iowa's honey and beeswax. According to F. B. Paddock, Iowa's State Apiarist, increased uses have been made of beeswax for cosmetics, medicines, and pharmaceuticals, and during World War II greatly increased production was urged for secret military uses.

At the close of its first century Iowa had become one of the leading honey-producing States in the Union. More than 20,000 of Iowa's citizens were directly connected with the care of its bees and the marketing of its honey and wax. Some three hundred of these were commercial beekeepers.

But fine as this record is, Iowa's State Apiarist says that the real value of bees as pollinators of Iowa's field crops, fruit trees, and garden plants is "from 8 to 10 times that of their value as honey makers"! It is estimated that some three million sips of nectar must be taken to make a single pound of honey and in obtaining this the bees help scatter the powdery pollens from one blossom to another, thus fertilizing the plants. Other insects, including the bumble bee, use this method also and are beneficial in varying degrees as pollinizers, but no other bee is as prolific a honey producer as the honeybee, and no other bee therefore works over

the flowers as carefully or scatters the pollen as thoroughly as does the honeybee!

The benefit of bees to fruits and many other plants and the advantage of a food supply close to the bees has resulted in a system of "farming out apiaries". A beekeeper secures permission to place a number of beehives in an orchard or garden or near a field of clover. This system, still in its infancy, has possibilities for the future since the owner of the bees gets more honey and the owner of the orchard, garden, or field gets better fruit and more seed.

"The bee", said Jonathan Swift, "does the whole business of life at once and at the same time feeds, and works, and diverts itself." Whether the bee gets enjoyment out of its work no one can tell, but the business of bees pays double dividends to man. So much for the first century of beekeeping in Iowa. In the second century the industry could, according to one authority, "expand ten times as much in honey production" and be at least eighty times as valuable in the pollination of food crops.

FLORA CLARK GARDNER

Comment by the Editor

LEADERS

The non-conformist may be a thorn in the flesh to people who love order more than freedom; he may be a will-o'-the-wisp, tempting the thoughtless into danger; he may be an obstructionist, unwilling to meet new times; or he may be a real leader, with vision and initiative beyond that of ordinary men. Sometimes common sense can distinguish the true from the false; but often only history makes the point clear. Real leaders are those who have a vision of the roads ahead and courage to follow the right one even though it looks rough and dangerous.

Then to side with Truth is noble when we
share her wretched crust,
Ere her cause bring fame and profit,
and 'tis prosperous to be just;
Then it is the brave man chooses while
the coward stands aside,
Doubting in his abject spirit, till his
Lord is crucified.

“Wilful men” may do irreparable harm, turn the tide of progress back a century or more; men of vision may encourage the masses to dare the

doubtful and unknown. The Iowa men who refused to accept their party's decision to deny Iowa the coveted Missouri River boundary on the west were not, perhaps, "pillars of fire" leading to the promised land, but they were men of courage and initiative who were willing to risk the present for the future. To accept what seems to be the inevitable is too often to be mediocre.

Should men in places of authority follow public opinion — or make their decisions independently? In a democratic society, those who desire votes must accept the will of the majority, but only those who are willing to risk their political futures in order to espouse a cause are really great leaders.

The little man who buries his one talent, runs away in the face of danger, or accepts a compromise which he feels is wrong, misses his chance of greatness, though less may be involved in his decision than is the case with men in high office who adopt appeasement in the face of aggression or sell out weak nations. Enoch W. Eastman, Frederick D. Mills, and Theodore S. Parvin dared to stand against political pressure. Probably greater than these men was James W. Grimes, who risked and lost health and position to vote "no" on the conviction of Andrew Johnson on impeachment charges. Time dims the eyes of men, but history gives perspective.

BEES, "BUMS", AND BOMBS

Bees have always been dear to the hearts of philosophers. Their industry and organization have long represented a high point in coöperation. They produce more than they consume. Though Webster frowns upon "bums" as a word, the idea typifies a person who lives at the expense of others, whether he be a tramp who begs for a living, a dishonest speculator who takes advantage of the less shrewd, a thief, or a leader in a predatory nation. Such individuals take what others have produced. A bomb is the acme of destruction, the last word in man's effort to destroy other men and their work.

The work of bees is, on a small scale, typical of the slow motion of creative nature. Drop by drop they collect the liquid sweetness which we see oozing from the honey comb. Even the blossoms from which the bee filches nectar are benefited by its visit. There is nothing spectacular about the bee — except its sting, its only defense against robbers. Usually a colony of bees attends strictly to its own affairs, though robbery of a weak colony by another is not unknown. If bees had newspapers there would be little news.

We think too often that little happens in our human world when a land is peaceful. So men have said of Iowa that it has little history. No

real battle has been fought here within the memory of man, no earthquake has leveled houses. Century after century the soil was built up, waiting only for the plow and the planter. Then came the farmer, plowing, sowing, walking or riding day after day along the rows of corn, perhaps husking it ear by ear. What has happened? What has been accomplished?

It is good, therefore, that we take time out at intervals to measure the slow development of a productive people, as an apiarist looks in the hive to see how the bees are faring and what the honey harvest is to be. History records the deeds of men who own wealth which they have not produced or destroy in a second what it has taken other men centuries to build; Iowans specialize in such products as meat, corn, and honey, but they, too, have a right to a place on the pages of history. "Little men", not men of high estate, produce food for the world. Said the preacher, Ecclesiasticus, long ago, "The bee is small among flying things, but her fruit has the chiefest sweetness."

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