

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."