

Pioneer Lawmakers Association

David C. Mott

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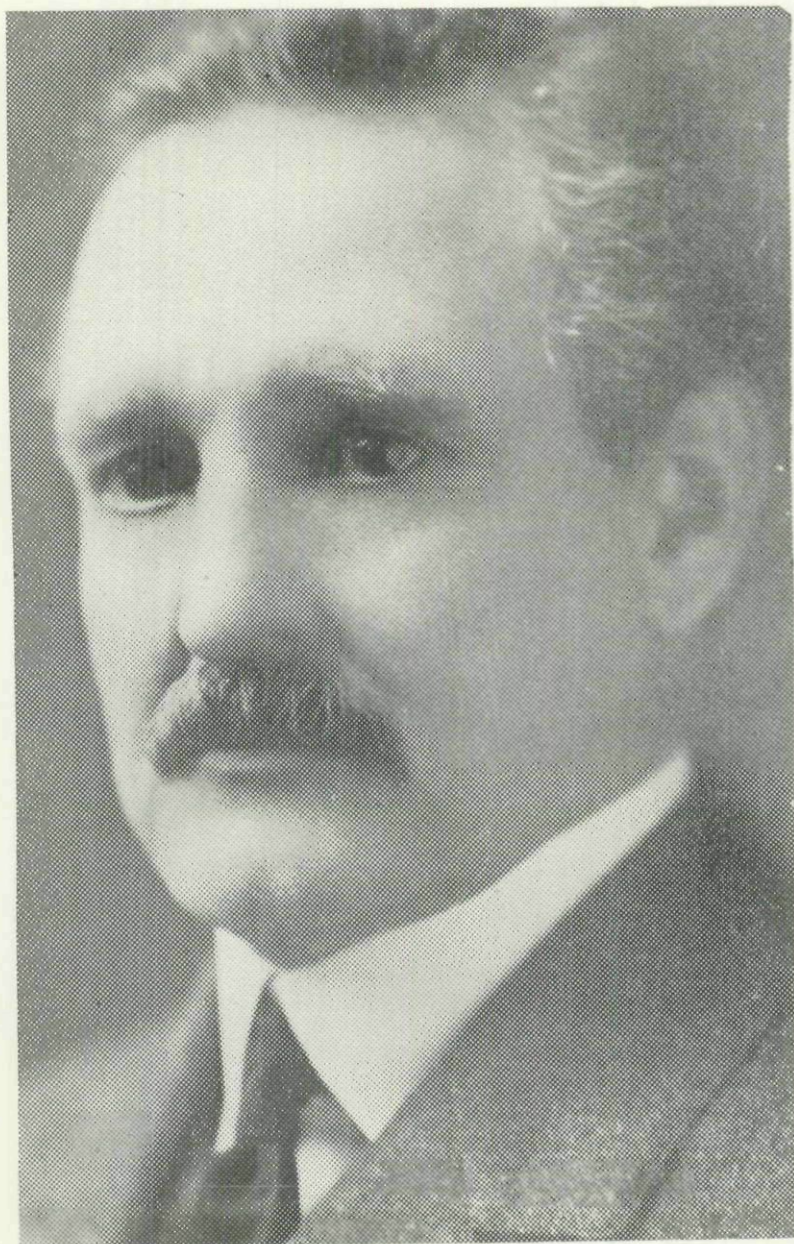
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JOHN T. CLARKSON
President of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa, 1933-35.

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THIRD SERIES

PIONEER LAWMAKERS ASSOCIATION

BY DAVID C. MOTT

The Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa met in its twenty-fourth biennial session in the Portrait Gallery of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department, Des Moines, February 20, 1935. President John T. Clarkson called the meeting to order at about 9:30 A. M. and asked the Reverend Percy M. Thomas, pastor of Friends Church, East Des Moines, to give the invocation, and he spoke in part as follows:

INVOCATION BY THE REVEREND PERCY M. THOMAS

Almighty God, our gracious Heavenly Father, our hearts fill with gratitude as we are caused to remember the multitude of blessings with which thou hast surrounded us. As we contemplate the pleasant situation in which we find ourselves, living in this wonderful state in the midst of the richest nation in the world, with every modern convenience placed at our command, we are made to remember that other men have labored and we have entered into their labors. "Truly the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places."

Not only are we the beneficiaries of material blessings without number, but we are heirs to the noblest ideals that have ever motivated any people. Ideals forged on the anvil of pioneer living and in the white heat of a simple yet unwavering faith in God. As we stand today in this art gallery, whose walls are adorned with the portraits of those who have served this their state in public life and have left behind a record of faithfulness to their generation, we recall the words of St. Paul, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, . . . and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

We would not pray, our Father, that the difficulties and adversities of this hour be removed, but we do pray that thou wouldst give to us something of the courage, fearlessness, and faith of the pioneer men and women who blazed the trails of human progress and achievement into the Middle West. As we of this generation are matched against this hour, give us grace and wisdom to so order our lives and discharge our duties that our children may honor us, as we seek to honor those who are dead yet speak to us this day through their noble achievements.

We ask these favors in the name of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Brigadier General Charles H. Grahl, adjutant general, was introduced and spoke as follows:

ADDRESS OF BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES H. GRAHL

Mr. Chairman, Members and Friends of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association: Governor Herring has requested me to extend to you his genuine disappointment in being unable to welcome you this morning. As I left his office a few moments ago he was in conference with members of both houses of the legislature on matters of vital importance. In view of the fact that many of you present are former legislators, I am confident you will fully appreciate his situation.

I feel particularly honored to have been selected by the Governor to represent him upon this occasion. It was my privilege to serve as a page in the Senate during the Thirty-second and Thirty-third general assemblies. The associations, the friendships, and the contacts I made with legislators and public officials as a boy have been a constant inspiration to me. Many of the friends I made at that time have had a direct bearing upon my life, and I consider that experience to have been a real education.

On behalf of our Governor, I wish to extend to all of you a most cordial welcome, and I know it is his sincere wish that your meeting here this morning, and your meeting this afternoon with the joint session of the legislature will be a memorable one.

Former Speaker of the House, Joseph H. Anderson, was then introduced to respond. Governor Herring not having been able to be present and deliver his address of welcome in person, and having sent a representative there to do it for him, the following response to the Governor was therefore modified in its delivery to fit the situation that had arisen. It is here given as it would have been delivered if the Governor had been present in person.

ADDRESS OF FORMER SPEAKER JOSEPH H. ANDERSON

Mr. Chairman, Pioneer Lawmakers, Ladies and Gentlemen, Your Excellency Governor Herring: It is gracious of you, Governor, to come over here to greet the Pioneer Lawmakers. It is pleasant to have our presence recognized. It is nice of you to extol our virtues and to acknowledge the par excellence of our services to the state. I am sure you can sense the significance of our existence. I am equally certain that any one who can sound the depths of our experience will also surely have got himself "a heart of wisdom."

Whether we stage our appearance and performance under the Golden Dome of notoriety in a Republican era of prosperity or in the dark ages of a depression, there is always the possible consolation that when

we go out with the tide of time, we will surely find our proper place among the immortals. What that proper place may be I do not know.

Governor, there are a number of things for which you are to be commended. May I pause to pay you just one simple sincere compliment. I believe the people like you, Governor, because you seem to be so utterly unafraid. You dare to think aloud and you dare to do things. That quality alone covers a multitude of sins, if you have any.

I have in mind a man upon whose headstone I believe the historian will write just one single sentence: "They sought to impeach the War Governor for the folly of his patriotism." That was the price he paid for immortality. It is enough. No one will inquire further. I have in mind another man too that I also love to think of as a friend. He too knew the pain that malicious hatred can inflict upon him who would stand between poverty and oppression. No one can rob either of his place among those who will never be forgotten.

In a little while the veil will be drawn to reveal the portraits of these men that will henceforth hang among those of other illustrious sons of Iowa in this gallery of art.

Legislative investigations still seem to retain all the alluring and enticing qualities and characteristics of old. Investigation designed for intensive study of vital public problems is evidently an intelligent and effective method of approach to remedial legislation. Investigation involving the assumption and the exercise of judicial and executive functions by a General Assembly is usually a total loss to the state. Investigation designed as a factory for political munitions and war is destructive of good government. Here's hoping that investigations by this General Assembly may be of a kind and character to promote sound, sober, deliberative, constructive results.

Pioneer Lawmakers is an intriguing term, cleverly appropriated to perpetuate our interest—and perhaps our importance. It implies almost an unlimited historical horizon. When we qualified as members of this Supreme Council of Pioneer Lawmakers, we were initiated into the greatness and grandeur that was once Rome. It is our ticket of admission to all the mysteries of antiquity. We can hob-nob with the Solons of the centuries. We can sit down with Moses and compare our Iowa Code with his tablets of stone. In an argument I believe we could convince Moses that we have a larger legislative vocabulary than he had and that we can pass more numerous and complicated laws than he, whether they mean anything or not. Of course, while we were sunning ourselves in our own conceit on the Summit of Mount Sinai, some darn fool might come along and tell us that Pioneer Lawmaker is only a glorified designation of a political has-been.

Now, Governor, if you choose to retain your present position in the public service until you can qualify as a member of our Supreme Council of Pioneer Lawmakers, I shall then come back and insist that you give your own response to the governor. If my computations are correct, you have only eighteen years left to serve.

May I again express our appreciation of your courteous words of welcome. Thank you!

Then followed the address of the president of the association, former Senator John T. Clarkson of Albia, who spoke in part as follows:

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT JOHN T. CLARKSON

Two years have passed since last we met in convention to renew friendships and erase bitterness, if any, formed during the time when as members of the Iowa General Assembly we rendered public service in one branch of our state government.

It is a source of inspiration to see the splendid attendance at this convention of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association, but I would not have you infer that the name means old has-beens, but rather in the sense of preparing the way for another. Perhaps it may be truthfully said of some of our members who are convinced that we not only prepared the way but completed the job, leaving nothing further to be had or done, except perhaps to do a little painting to cover the spots where the heat of the battles left its mark.

Be that as it may, those who fail to attend our conventions miss the enjoyable phase of their past legislative experiences in that the many words uttered, which then seemed mean and oftentimes hurt, have passed away, the wounds healed over, and we revel in the pleasant recollection of the many courtesies extended, and especially enjoy greeting the fellow who predicted dire results if your measure became law, when experience has proven they were mistaken.

I would not have you feel that reviewing the past is our primary duty and obligation—far from it. With our past experience we owe a duty to the people of our state to continue in the work of pioneering that is paving the way for others, and we can do that work with far greater freedom than as members of the General Assembly. Then we were somewhat restricted by our Supreme Court, the guardians of our Constitution. Now we defy them, as our bills are always constitutional, and truthfully say "Your conscience is your constitution and guide."

I note that the Supreme Court of recent date held that in passing upon the constitutionality of a presumed law it is their duty to go behind the enrolled bill. This may be good law as applied to an act passed by a body operating under restriction, but we function in the realms of pure and unrestricted freedom and deny the power of any other body to pass upon our laws. This, they cannot do if they would, as our bills find a repository in the waste basket.

Speaking seriously, I present for your consideration the repeal of what is known as the Primary Law; a law that imposes a heavy burden upon the tax payer and the candidates. The law was enacted to correct evils that were intolerable. Night club meetings were resolved into political caucuses to elect delegates to county and state conventions. Many

times notices for a caucus were posted an hour or two before the meeting, which was fixed at a time convenient for the powers that be, knowing none others would be in attendance; but the remedy has not proven all that we hoped for. But we can truthfully say "truth crushed to earth shall rise again." If it does not rise it is fair to infer that it lacked truth, but it may require the efforts of a pioneer to cause it to rise when clothed in better form.

Many who do not understand a proposition generally deny its value. If it contains merit the pioneer will steadily advocate its virtues until under the power of reasoning right will prevail. Those who opposed the enactment of the primary can find little, if any, comfort at this day by saying "I told you so"; but we may with satisfaction look upon those who offered constructive measures to overcome the evils with which we were disgusted.

We do not care to return to the former unregulated method, but should provide for a legalized caucus, safeguarded and ample opportunity given to every member of the respective parties to attend and make known their choice of delegates. The delegates thus chosen for the county convention to nominate candidates for county offices and elect delegates to the state convention to nominate candidates for state offices, and like procedure for district officers, in these times when by reason of the depression the saving in expense would be a valuable asset worth favorable consideration.

Some may say why devote our time to such measures? The ready answer is found in the words of wisdom uttered by Franklin: "Leisure is the time to do something useful."

As president of the Association I greet you and trust that in due course of the splendid program prepared by our secretary you will express yourself freely as of yore, remembering we have others, old and young, who are ready, anxious and willing.

Short talks of a reminiscent nature were then made by former Senator Frederick Eversmeyer, former Representative John C. De Mar, former Senator Charles J. Fulton, former Governor B. F. Carroll, former Senator A. B. Funk, former Senator George Cosson, former Judge J. H. Henderson, and former Representative E. J. Bradley. Mr. Bradley offered a resolution urging the General Assembly to have replaced in future editions of the Official Register the alphabetical list of names of all who have served in the General Assembly in former sessions and moved its adoption. Governor Carroll moved as a substitute that the president and secretary of this association be directed to request the secretary of state to replace the names of former members of the General Assembly and also of former state officers in the next

edition of the Official Register. The motion to substitute carried and the motion as substituted carried.

President Clarkson appointed as the Committee on Nominations the following members: A. B. Funk, Charles J. Fulton, and John C. De Mar.

The association at this time participated with the Historical, Memorial and Art Department in the installation of two portraits, one of former United States Circuit Judge William S. Kenyon, and one of former Governor William L. Harding. President Clarkson turned the gavel over to Justice E. G. Albert, member of the Board of Trustees of the Department, who delivered the following address:

ADDRESS OF JUSTICE E. G. ALBERT

When I view the beauties of Blashfield's allegorical picture at the head of the grand stairway in the Statehouse, marred only by the fact that the driver is on the wrong side of the ox team, which is intended to typify the old saying that "Westward the star of empire takes its way," my mind reverts to our forebears who forded the Father of Waters seeking a place where they could hew out their fortunes. They were an adventurous class of people, rough and rugged in their ways, but they became the nucleus of our present civilization. Amidst all the surroundings of pioneer life, they fought against the bitter cold and snows of the winter and the burning heat of the summer, seeking to acquire the possession of a part of the earth that they could call their own, from which they could wrestle a living and accumulate something for their old age, and possibly accumulate sufficient of the world's goods that the lives of their children should be less laborious than were their forebears'. Possibly this was a mistaken notion, at least in the face of the divine command, "In the sweat of thy brow thou shalt eat thy bread." It was supposed that these forefathers laid a firm foundation on which our civilization was to be built, and passed it on to us to carry on. Do we appreciate the duties resting upon us to continue the superstructure as was anticipated by our ancestors? We are now told that many of the foundation stones thus laid by our forefathers, and their notions of the accumulation of wealth for their old age and for the benefit of their progeny, were mistaken ideas; that they are not entitled to the same; that the accumulations, through their struggles and thrift, shall be taken away from them and given to those who have been less thrifty and saving. In the subduing of the virgin states by our forefathers, one struggle was to dispose of the surface water on these agricultural lands, to the end that there would be larger productivity. As I look back, even in my days, I can see the old-fashioned ditching machine, drawn by four, eight, or twelve ox teams, through the low and swampy land. Later a wave swept over northwestern Iowa

and, at an expense of millions of dollars and the loss of many farms to the owners, or at least the creation of excessive burdens, the wet part of the state was largely freed from surface water, thus bringing into production more than a million acres of land. We are now told that this was all a mistake, that we have too many productive acres, and that the same must be reduced. We have had for many years a State Agricultural College, rightly recognized as the outstanding institution in its line in the United States. It has devoted its purposes to making two blades of grass grow where one grew before, and two stalks of corn with a double size ear; not to make two hogs grow where one grew before, but, by scientific feeding and care, to reduce the time and the quantity of feed necessary to produce the finished product. We are now advised that this also was a mistake. We have, at the expense of the state, between fifteen and twenty thousand young people in our colleges and universities, and we are educating in our public school system, about five hundred and twenty-five thousand students, at an expense of more than one-half of all the taxes paid to the state. Is it possible that this, also, is a mistake? When one views the condition of our civilization at the present time and in the light of present conditions, one can but wonder whether the stones in the foundation of our civilization, which were thus laid by our forebears, are not being gradually swept away. The growth of civilization is slow; it is not a question of months or years, but a question of decades and centuries. Any theories founded on the bright and insidious sands of expediency are bound to slow up, if not stop, the growth and progress. The student of civilization is compelled to pause and wonder whether we are at a stopping point in the growth of our civilization, and must reconstruct and rebuild the foundation.

Through the generosity of the state, this department has been able to accumulate this gallery of portraits. You will find here the portraits of all the governors of the state of Iowa, from the territorial government to the present administration. Arrangements have been made for the painting of the portrait of the present governor, which will be taken care of in due time. In addition, you will find the portraits of a number of senators and representatives of this state in Congress, together with those of men who have been outstanding in the history and development of the state. The occasion causes an alarm at the door of memory. I presume that there is no one present whose memory extends beyond the time when Governor Kirkwood was the first war governor of Iowa. You will see many faces here that are familiar to you, and many others which are shrouded in the mists of time. I must confess to you that, as to the artistry connected with these portraits, I know nothing. I have no power to view these portraits from an artistic standpoint. When I gaze upon Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" and see the eyes which appear to follow me around the room, the changing expressions apparently shown on the countenance, the smile on one occasion, and the cynical smile on another, I seem to feel that she is alive. This measures

my view of a portrait. When these two excellent portraits are presented to your view, and I look at them, I measure their value to me by the same rule. My long and intimate acquaintance with both of these men makes me wonder, when these portraits are veiled and I these men makes me wonder, when these portraits are unveiled and I gaze upon them, are they of such character as that when I address them as "Bill," and "Bill," as I have done on many occasions in the past, they will look to me as though they are alive, or will they simply look to me as a conglomeration of design, colors, canvas, and a gilded frame.

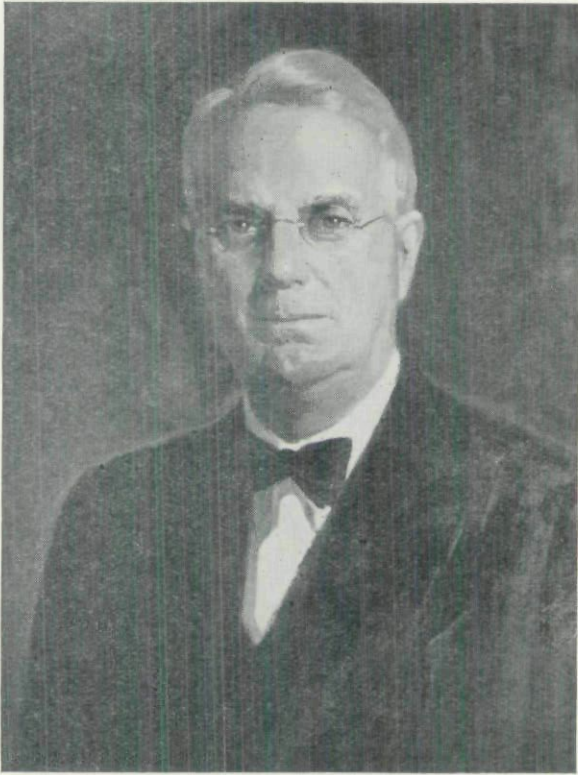
Miss Barbara Harding then unveiled the two portraits. Justice Mitchell spoke as follows concerning Judge Kenyon:

ADDRESS OF JUSTICE RICHARD F. MITCHELL

When a boy in grade school in Fort Dodge, together with two of my young companions I took French leave one afternoon and followed the crowd to the court room in the old Federal Building. The room was jammed. A murder trial—the most sensational in the history of the county and that part of the state—was in progress, and as in this day, so in that, murder trials attracted the attention of the people. Two brothers were charged with the murder of their two neighbors over a boundary line dispute. The State of Iowa was represented by its then county attorney and as special prosecutor, the Honorable John F. Duncombe, known to the bench and the bar of this state as one of Iowa's really great lawyers. The defendants were represented by Senator Thomas D. Healy, and his distinguished brother, the Honorable M. F. Healy. The presiding judge was a young man, hardly thirty, but, due to his knowledge of the law, his fairness in his rulings, and the dignified manner in which he presided, he won the admiration of all that attended, including the three members of the audience that were supposed to be in school rather than in court.

That is my first impression of William S. Kenyon. From that time on to the date of his death it was my privilege to respect his great ability, to admire his progress in life, and to claim him as a friend. When I graduated from law school, at his request it was my privilege to work in his office in Washington, Judge Kenyon being at that time a member of the United States Senate. And when, two years ago, I was a candidate for the Supreme Court of Iowa, I received a letter from him, written in longhand, in which he said, "I want you to know that there are three absent-voters' ballots being sent from Maine, all marked for you—Mrs. Kenyon's, my secretary's, and mine."

While Judge Kenyon was not born in Iowa, practically his entire life was spent within the borders of this state, and the better part of it in the service of the people of Iowa. At Grinnell College he received his early education. Then to the University of Iowa for his legal training. Returning to Fort Dodge after graduating, he started upon the practice of his chosen profession. At the age of twenty-five we find him elected to the office of county attorney of Webster County, in which



WILLIAM SQUIRE KENYON

From an oil painting from life in 1931 by Carl W. Rawson.

position he served as prosecuting attorney for a period of four years. He stepped from prosecuting attorney to judge of the District Court of the Eleventh Judicial District of Iowa. After two years as one of the presiding judges of that district he resigned and re-entered the practice of law at Fort Dodge. Shortly thereafter he was appointed district attorney of the Illinois Central Railroad, and within a few years we find him as general counsel of that great system. In 1910 he was appointed by President Taft as assistant to the attorney general of the United States in charge of the enforcement of the Hepburn Rate Act and the Sherman Anti-trust Act, and while holding that office he represented the government in litigation of national importance. While still serving in the Department of Justice he was, in 1911, elected by the General Assembly of Iowa United States senator to fill the unexpired term of Senator Jonathan P. Dolliver. He was twice re-elected as senator from Iowa and resigned from the Senate in 1922, when appointed by President Harding as judge of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, which position he filled until the time of his death in 1933. President Coolidge tendered to him the position of Secretary of the Navy, which position he refused to accept. President Hoover appointed him a member of the Law Enforcement Commission, of which the Hon. George W. Wickersham was chairman, and for months there was added to the many duties of his office the arduous labor incident to that commission. Many times he was prominently spoken of as a candidate for vice president, and president of the United States.

This, in brief, is a short record of a man of remarkable industry, energy and capacity, who cheerfully gave the best that was in him to the labors and duties of whatever task he undertook. His great mind served with intelligence and comprehension the rights and wants of the people and his big heart drove him on and on to accomplish something in their behalf. He had a fine instinct of justice, and in attempting to secure it for the multitudes of his country, he bore upon his own shoulders the burden which injustice had imposed upon others. He was an apostle of progressive political thinking in this state, and an earnest advocate of the causes which he championed. As United States senator he labored in Washington in behalf of the common people of his state and country. Here was one of the most untiring defenders of the masses. His whole effort in Congress was devoted to the cause of social justice, for as a senator he fully realized the injustices suffered by the people because of their exploitation by the privileged classes. He was one of the first real statesmen of America to be lined up on the side of humanity in its perpetual conflict with privilege. Possessed of a powerful intellect and a great, human heart, he fought year after year for the forgotten man, woman and child of his time.

At the time of his resignation from the United States Senate in 1922 to accept the appointment on the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, second in authority and power only to the United States Su-

preme Court, critics of Judge Kenyon—and like all men of prominence he had his critics—charged him with leaving the field of battle for the quiet, peace and dignity of the court. To these accusations—and some of them found their way into public print—Judge Kenyon made no public response, but with his intimate friends he did not hesitate to discuss this matter frankly and candidly as was his custom. “They say I am deserting the field of battle,” Kenyon told his friends, “that I am running away from the fight to the solitude and calm of the court. I do not feel that way about it. In fact, I believe that I am but leaving a minor engagement to enter what is destined to be the greatest battlefield in the history of the American Republic. I am convinced the time is rapidly approaching when the whole question of the preservation of American liberty and constitutional government will be fought in the courts, when the courts will be our safeguard against the overthrow of the American concept of government as handed down to us by the Fathers of the Republic.” Remember that Judge Kenyon made this statement some ten or twelve years ago. I am not suggesting that the time he feared has actually arrived, but that there was much farsightedness in his remarks cannot be questioned. Bear in mind that Judge Kenyon was a Liberal, in the very best sense of the word. He brought to the bench all the human qualities, the tenderness, the consideration, the passion for fair play, that he possessed as an individual, and which endeared him so to those of us whose privilege it was to know him intimately. A wise judge, skilled in the law, and yet ever the human being. And so, when Judge Kenyon talked about the preservation of the constitutional government and the great struggle facing the courts, he was not by any manner or means echoing the philosophy of those reactionary individuals who can do no more than blindly follow rules laid down by men long since dead. But as Judge Kenyon was ever the human judge, never hesitating to evoke the rule of common sense in his judicial opinions, nevertheless he realized that the fundamental principles of our constitutional system of government must be maintained at all hazards, lest in loosening one brick the whole structure tumble down. He knew that scoundrels can wear the mask of liberals. He knew that expediency must be considered but that it must be measured carefully, else for the apparent advantage of the moment we bring on ourselves far greater ills than those from which we tried to escape. Such was Kenyon’s intelligent liberalism.

Much has happened in the world since Judge Kenyon took his place on the federal bench. Autocracy under the guise of dictatorship prevails in many countries. Liberty and freedom are forgotten words in these countries. In the throes of the greatest economic depression in history, the United States carries on, our great governmental institutions standing as erect as ever, and the constitutional rights of our citizens have been maintained. For the continuation of this happy situation we must look, and I believe with perfect confidence, to our courts. Great questions are before the courts today, probably the greatest in

the history of the American judiciary, carrying out to some extent the prophecy of Judge Kenyon of a dozen years ago. In meeting these great issues, we can have perfect faith that the courts will decidé for the best, facing situations that exist and at the same time doing so without weakening our constitutional principles of government. Such is the glorious record of our judiciary. One can only regret that Judge Kenyon was not spared a few years longer, so that his great and noble mind could have participated in the framing of these historic decisions.

And so, as we meet here today in this building, dedicated to the history of Iowa—and truly, the history of Iowa is the history of her great men—as we recall his record as prosecuting attorney, as district judge, as assistant attorney general of the United States, as United States senator, as judge of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, and as we think that in these public positions which he held, he contacted all sorts and conditions of men—the good and the bad, the virtuous and the vicious, the educated and the unlettered, the rich and the poor, the honored and the obscure—and as we remember, in the words of ex-Governor Kendall, this man, after forty years of public service, emerged “unsoiled and unspoiled,” truly, his portrait should hang upon the walls of this Historical Building that it may be an inspiration to the men and women of tomorrow who will be charged with carrying on the good work that Judge Kenyon has rendered the state of Iowa.

I have the privilege to present to this Historical Department, the portrait of Judge William S. Kenyon.

Former Justice Truman S. Stevens spoke as follows concerning Governor Harding:

ADDRESS OF FORMER JUSTICE TRUMAN S. STEVENS

We are assembled in this wonderful portrait gallery in the midst of faces typifying the greatness of Iowa's citizenship. Here are gathered the faces of the brave and mighty heroes and heroines of each past and succeeding generation. We can feel the spirit of the pioneers and the builders of the decade in which they and their successors wrought, hovering over us. Men and women—toilers and leaders, compatriots all. Imbued with the same spirit, animated by the same purpose, inspired by the same hope they transformed the wilderness into homes, villages and prosperous cities. Each succeeding generation with renewed faith and determination took up and carried forward the task of building and equipping a commonwealth.

Forward has ever been the watchword, and the march has not and never will halt. This great gathering of portraits constitutes and presents an illustration of our beginnings and of our progress as the builders of a great and enduring commonwealth.

No state, no nation ever reaches the point of greatest usefulness without leaders—men and women gifted with high character, understanding and vision—men and women who comprehend and understand the spirit, purpose and mission of their followers.

This commonwealth was builded and brought to its present greatness by the unbroken unity of all classes, leaders, masters at the arts of government and culture, leaders of heroic mould, high holy purpose, with visions ever widening to survey the expanding horizon.

Organized society must go forward or ultimately perish. If there is no progress stagnation must result. The character of every great movement is typified by its leaders. In them the masses center their hopes.

Here are gathered the portraits of a host of our great leaders—men and women of sublime faith in the eternal, of undaunted courage—men and women who believe in the highest and best—in justice, in humanity, in righteousness and in liberty.

Although they have passed from the stage of human action and rest from their labors, they remain and continue to be leaders. The history of their lives, of their sacrifices and devotion are written upon every page.

They can never die; as the procession moves on, in the hearts of our people they still lead.

Such an one of the great leaders and teachers of the past was William Lloyd Harding. His portrait just unveiled by his own lovely daughter richly belongs in this gallery of Iowa's great and noble. Born to the soil which he cultivated in his youth he became strong in body and mind. Gifted with vision and ambition he saw far beyond the confines of his rustic surroundings and longed to enter a field of broader and greater possibilities. He sought and obtained an education. He entered the profession of the law. He quickly obtained recognition in his chosen profession for which his talents so ably fitted him. The humdrum of his profession did not however satisfy his desire for a wider and more useful field of endeavor. He sought the political arena. He became a candidate and was elected to the state legislature. Re-elected again and again he came into new activities, visioned new and wider horizons. His growing convictions, understanding and ambition drove him forward; he sought higher and wider recognition by his followers and became lieutenant governor, and then governor of his native state. In each of the stations filled he displayed the qualities of leadership that gave him the high place he filled in the affairs of our commonwealth. His terms as governor covered the period of the World War. His natural talents, his quick perception of public problems, his keen understanding of the complexities fitted him better, far better, than his fellows to discharge the onerous duties of this period. He was patriotic, patient, farseeing, capable. He possessed the ability to analyze and construct. He was a builder.

Time does not permit a review of his achievements. They are written imperishably in the history of his time. I prefer to speak of his personal and public qualities, of the spirit that animated his great career. He loved his state and his country. He no sooner comprehended the problems of the hour than he offered some constructive solution thereof. He was a natural public speaker. His power of clear and comprehensive

statement was marvelous. He made his hearers understand. As a campaigner for his party he had no rival. He was more than a great campaigner, he was an administrator of public affairs. What he promised to his constituents he sought with great scruples and ability to perform. His eye was on the future. His part in public life was to continue and ever push forward the building of our commonwealth; he saw no place to halt. His answer to his followers, to the ever restless throng was always a promise of the future. Yet he left no task of today unperformed. His culture was of the mind and heart. He was sincere, honest and ever faithful. Fidelity to every public trust was to him a solemn duty.

Brilliant, ambitious, patriotic, farseeing, he quickly won his way into public confidence. He filled a large niche in the affairs of his generation. His usefulness continued to the last—he fell in battle, in the advocacy of a cause in which he believed with all the intensity of his nature. He could not falter; his broken health did not deter him. To the last he was the public servant and benefactor. He was indeed a great leader of men. The history of his career, of his part in building and serving his commonwealth, can never perish and will loom high in its history.

He has joined the men and women of the past who wrought before or with him in the building of an empire. It is appropriate that we today in this presence and in the light of his achievements place his portrait in this galaxy of the immortals. It is with pride and pleasure that I now tender this magnificent portrait of our illustrious friend and leader to this Department to be preserved and kept for the generations to come. With the close of this ceremony his portrait will help tell the story of his part in the achievements of our state, and enlist him in the ever growing procession of our beloved men and women who shall forever inspire and beckon us forward.

ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE BY CURATOR EDGAR R. HARLAN

It remains for me to express the pleasure of this institution in having the Pioneer Lawmakers Association our guest in its twenty-fourth biennial session.

It has been in other recent years our guest. Earlier, when Charles Aldrich was an active member, it approved his purpose of creating here a formal repository for materials produced in the service of your membership in previous times, saved then and to be preserved always thereafter.

We are here in the inspiring presence and amongst the spirits of lawmakers of Iowa of the past ninety-eight years. If we are not dumb we will be inspired with their thought and purpose for as many scores of years in future.

Today in this program we are formally adding to these deposits, the portraits of two great figures in Iowa lawmaking history. It is becoming in us that we study in portraiture their faces, now that they are gone, among the faces they and you were familiar with; study the

laws they made, interpretations they wrote. Their labors, as labors of your own, my friends, and the scores of Iowa public citizens, are not lost, at least not yet. Those records are under this roof and shall so remain until their and your own foresight in providing the means, be not continued and not sustained in the policy of Iowa.

It has concerned some of you that this structure may not be fully passed on to the next generation in all the service it now performs; that these grounds may be in part devoted to less sacred but more "practical" use; that the adjacent ground may be used to "enlarge" this building, but for current office or other uses.

I remind you, in whose hands repose the moral trust, that your appropriations of the public funds, for erecting this temple to receive these original materials, and thereafter to support the functions of their administration, began in the administration of Horace Boies; were followed in that of Leslie M. Shaw, and afterward from time to time up to and during the administration of William L. Harding; that in Shaw's administration the cornerstone of this very structure was laid, and with his participation. John A. Kasson, in a memorable address, cast the public mind of Iowa in the direction of preserving the original evidence, from which may always be retrieved, if a modicum of brains be used, the facts of Iowa in its origin, in evolution and in its arrival at a fruition through the devoted labor of all pioneers. Afterwards, in the first administration of George W. Clarke, was passed Chapter 14, of the Thirty-fifth General Assembly. It corrected and completed the Capitol grounds. That had been recommended, in principle, by his predecessors Carroll, Garst, Cummins and Larrabee. Section 3 of the Act provided the *plan* for such corrected and completed grounds ". . . in accordance with the plan covering said extended grounds as contemplated herein, submitted as the 'Allison Memorial Commission plan,' now on file in the office of the secretary of state . . .," etc., etc. That *plan* for the grounds was drawn, submitted to and received the full approbation of all concerned, including that of the mind of General Grenville M. Dodge. Zeal increased for the plan because it provided for the long future. Governor Clarke and General Dodge directed Emanuel L. Masqueray, architect of the plan, marking upon it not only the site of the Capitol and of this building as they already stood, but indicating that the ground lying immediately to the north, "future Historical Building." By the same method it placed elsewhere the "future Supreme Court Building" and "future Office Building." It follows then in your implied trust to say whether, if not when, the General Assembly shall comply.

But we bow to an emergency which commands "not now." I also am of the stock which gave you to Iowa. We were not lawmakers as were you and all these men (the gallery) here portrayed. We have been liberal contributors to Iowa census rolls, modest and persistent payers of Iowa taxes and evaders of jails and chain gangs your laws have authorized, these eighty years. You, like they, come but two or

three generations from those lands and landmarks of prudence and heard "In bad times build barns; in good times, houses; in all times shun debt"; "Two and two make four; work and thrift alone makes more," and "Keep thy shop and thy shop will keep thee."

This is a time when wisdom would save—save opportunity as well as money resources that you yourselves provided. It came cost free to the present generation to *have* and have *always* in hands and hearts of those who love our state; who keep the soul and spirit of these good citizens who observe and who inspire us.

Thus I feel it is mine now to speak more than a welcome to the pioneers and all they represent; a welcome to my superiors—my Board of Trustees, in the persons of our chairman and that of our sponsor of the Kenyon portrait; and no less also of him who speaks with such eloquence and great appreciation of the Harding canvas; to her whose gentle hand unveiled these new arrivals in this galaxy of Iowa's great.

Soon thereafter the meeting dispersed and the members assembled at tables in the basement of Capitol Hill Church of Christ for lunch. During lunch A. B. Funk reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee the following for officers for the coming biennium:

President, Emory H. English, Des Moines.

Vice president, Aaron V. Proudfoot, Indianola.

Secretary, David C. Mott, Des Moines.

District vice presidents: First District, Charles J. Fulton, Fairfield; Second District, H. C. Lounsberry, Marshalltown; Third District, N. W. Bebee, Hampton; Fourth District, R. J. Bixby, Edgewood; Fifth District, Ralph Sherman, Grinnell; Sixth District, B. F. Carroll, Des Moines; Seventh District, George W. Van Camp, Greenfield; Eighth District, Joseph H. Anderson, Thompson; Ninth District, Robert Hunter, Sioux City. The report was adopted and the above gentlemen were declared elected.

Immediately after lunch the members assembled on the second floor of the Capitol and at 2 P. M. were escorted to seats in the House Chamber where the senators and representatives were in joint session, President pro tem H. L. Irvin presiding. Senator L. T. Shangle was recognized and spoke as follows:

ADDRESS OF SENATOR L. T. SHANGLE

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association: We all feel honored in having you with us today in this twenty-fourth session of your biennial reunion and in being permitted

to have a part in this celebration which means so much to you in this happy renewal of old and cherished associations. It is my pleasant duty in behalf of the Senate to give audible expression to that kindly welcome we feel for you in all our hearts.

The word "welcome" is one of the sweetest and pleasantest words in the English language, but it is sweet and pleasant only because of the sentiment that lies back of it. If it comes from a heart filled with real kindness, it will excite in the recipient some of the finest emotions known to the human heart. It is in that spirit and that spirit alone that I here and now bid you "well come" or "welcome."

To simply say you are welcome were superfluous, but just how welcome are you. "You are as welcome as good tidings after distressing fears." And welcome as fresh showers to the dry and parched earth after such a drouth as we had last summer.

My own life has fallen far enough into the sere and yellow leaf that I have some personal appreciation of the universal respect we have for the gray hairs that betoken old age. By common consent gray hairs are a crown of glory: the only object of respect that never can and never does excite envy. We all venerate old age; we love not the man who can look without emotion upon the sunset of life when the dusk of evening begins to gather over the watery eye and faltering step, and the shadows of twilight grow broader and deeper upon the understanding.

Your active days are over. You have reached that period in life when you can say with Goldsmith:

"Oh blest retirement, friend to Life's decline,
Retreat from cares, that never must be mine.
How blest is he who crowns in shades like these,
A youth of labor with an age of ease."

With heads silvered o'er with the gray hairs that the poet has been pleased to call "death's blossoms," it is your happy privilege to revisit the scenes of your former triumphs and live over again those sturdy battles where in the clash of mind with mind, and opinion with opinion, you hammered out upon the anvil of Truth that wise and beneficent legislation that laid broad and deep those sure foundations upon which our great state was built and that have made her second to none in all that makes for a happy, a contented, and a prosperous citizenry.

In that return may you meet with nothing but joy and pleasure and that happy appreciation of reward for service well done that is so justly your due.

And now, venerable men, may that Providence that has bounteously lengthened your days that you might behold this joyous occasion, continue to be gracious unto you and continue to grant to us, your successors and your countrymen, the proud and happy privilege of meeting you here and in the name of the state thank you for your patriotic services that have so enriched our people.

Whether a man is rich or poor depends more upon what he is than upon what he has.

Our grand old state of Iowa is rich by both what she is and by what she has, to both of which, by your patriotic services, you have largely contributed. May our joy in you and your joy in us never be less.

"Welcome ever smiles and Farewell goes out sighing." So with a Hail and Farewell, I greet you. A smile of welcome and a tear for that farewell so soon to follow. Let me add this parting wish: When your little day of life on earth shall end, as end some time it must, may you each and all behold a glorious sunset. I don't know whether this address is more of a how-de-do or a good-by.

Representative Arch W. McFarlane gave the following address of welcome on the part of the House:

Mr. President and Members of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association: It is with profound pleasure that I bespeak the sentiments of every member of this assembly, in extending to the Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa a hearty welcome home. To you who have labored here in the days gone by, I can only say that you played your parts well, and have contributed in no small degree to the upholding of one of the leading commonwealths of the nation.

Your conception of governmental institutions was in accord with those of the great George Washington, whose natal day we celebrate this week, and the founders of this republic. You kept in mind the fundamental principles of government, with a keen sense of right and wrong. You asked no special favors from the state or nation, only the protection of liberties and property, and the guarantee of an equal opportunity and chance in the race of life.

Your triumphs come to us as an obligation, and your unstinted sacrifices invoke our pledge of devotion to the responsibilities of our time. To you we pay our tribute of praise and appreciation, as we accept the burdens of the tasks unfinished and seek to carry on.

Let us also admonish those who shall rise to fill our places in the long line of generations yet to come, to follow in the footsteps of the Pioneer Lawmakers—the Old Dealers of Iowa—and be guided by your precepts, and governed by your examples. Your advice and counsel is valuable to the members of this assembly, and we bid you welcome today and every day.

President pro tem Irvin then introduced President Clarkson, who spoke briefly and introduced former Senator Aaron V. Proudfoot, who delivered the main address, which was as follows:

ADDRESS OF FORMER SENATOR AARON V. PROUDFOOT

LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REMINISCENCE

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Forty-sixth General Assembly, Pioneers and Citizens: As a former legislator in the Thirty-third, Thirty-fourth, Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth general assemblies, together with two or three extra sessions, and now numbered among the pioneer

lawmakers of the state, I greet you one and all with an open heart and hearty hands. And speaking for your predecessors who are present, and who ere long will contemplate the time which the poet refers to as the "sere and yellow leaf," and entertaining, I trust, a proper degree of sympathy and understanding, I salute the Forty-sixth General Assembly now in the midst of its biennial session.

To be entirely frank, it is proper for me to say, what Iowa history has already revealed, namely, that prior to this very moment, I had not lived long enough to have been confronted with a legislature of the political complexion borne by the decided majority which I see before me, and to be again entirely frank, I must say that a preliminary survey does not reveal countenances any more swarthy than those I saw in former years about these corridors.

Quite aside from any political affiliations or party preferences, however, I am entirely truthful when I say that I am not these days very anxious to be occupying seat No. 40 in the chamber across the rotunda. I shall speak somewhat briefly, and will be pardoned by being personally involved in some reminiscences, which reminiscences are given in no partisan spirit, but historically only. However much we would like to do it, I have not conceived this afternoon to be the time, nor this legislative hall to be the place, for discussion and recommendation as to the many controverted problems, state and national, that weigh upon the minds and hearts of legislators and congressmen.

My experience has taught me also, that members of a general assembly are in no great hurry to accept the opinions of others than themselves. This Pioneer Lawmakers Association is purely voluntary, without politics, without platforms, without responsibility, save only the responsibility, grave though it is, of continuing as good citizens of the state and community. We are subject to no official investigation by this body, even though prior sessions have appropriated a very modest sum for printing, etc., and this appropriation, I think, has been withdrawn. Therefore, we are entitled to immunity from any inquisition and are entitled to go home and vote when the time comes, and worship under our own vine and fig tree.

These occasions are very largely reunions of a reminiscent character, and incidentally afford an opportunity of lending age and some dignity to present and future statesmen, both men and women to whom the world looks for salvation, and to impose upon them our political contacts and experiences now twenty years old and more, shake the dust from our feet and return in peace and quiet to our homes.

It is true that once in a while some distinguished pioneer on occasions like this may have seen fit to advance his own opinions and arguments as to pending or future legislation, but he was no doubt sure of his audience. I shall take no such chances. The passing years continue to breed new ideas. Now for some reason not altogether patent, former legislators never saw the necessity of stretching a cordon around the seats of the mighty, and I have never heard of any of them suffering martyr-

dom for a failure so to do, and I am persuaded that the people of the state could very properly regard a barrier of that kind as serving two distinct purposes, namely: That of keeping those on the outside from getting in and those on the inside from getting out. From all this it is not to be anticipated that this new form of protection will ever develop into a picket enclosure. If I were to divulge the whole truth, which after the lapse of two decades I am disposed to do, it would be to tell you that on one certain occasion which I very vividly recall, when an important bill was under serious consideration and a vote was soon to be taken, a closely woven web fence, with three barbed wires on top, should have been thrown around my room in a certain hotel, and an inside enclosure of similar structure thrown about my humble cot, as a member of the so-called "third house" in the wee small hours of the morning gained admittance, seeking an advance pledge for my vote on the measure he was hoping to save from defeat. Pioneers of other days, however, who had similar experiences may now be disposed not to withhold approval of the new departure on the part of the Forty-sixth Senate.

As former lawmakers returning to these familiar chambers, we are frank to confess we cannot suppress a flood of recollections that crowd in upon our memories, as we recall our herculean efforts to save the state and leave our everlasting impress upon the statute books of the commonwealth. In those days as well as these, the number of willing and sacrificial embryo commissioners, board members, congressional aspirants, governors, consuls, etc., that appeared from the membership of a general assembly was simply astonishing and altogether bewildering then as now, to the appointing power and to the voting constituency of the state. Yet while these personal interests frequently, and I should hope, unselfishly conflict, and very often clash, men and women elsewhere never get quite so close together in their relationships in life as do legislators when mingling together in state and social contacts for ninety strenuous days throughout these halls. Here we learn to know the motives, the ambitions, the histories of each other. Here we detect likes and dislikes, and learn each other's conception of life and its outcome, estimate loves and hates, if any there be, services to human kind and appraisements of the world that now is and that which is to come.

How many of us, in sadness, have gone home after adjournment with hopes blasted, ambitions defeated, motives questioned, and the sense of failure to accomplish what we thought the state so sorely needed. However, with those of us who are so many steps removed, such experiences are well nigh forgotten and we are relegated to a day one-fifth of a century in the past.

Notwithstanding all this, the fair state of our birth with many of us, and the state of their adoption with others, for which we all studiously strove, lives on and will continue to live on, until the remnant of this assembly and its successors for decades to come, shall automatically be eligible to membership in a pioneer association. But who can tell, unless

forsooth it be the senator from Jackson, and her immediate proponents, how long it will be before your membership will be split in twain and Iowa will enact its laws in a unicameral legislature, a thing never dreamed of in daytime or night by a Pioneer Lawmaker. And who knows but that this assembly along other lines may have come to the kingdom of the state for such a time as this? A time of newer and bigger and more unheard of problems than were ever before known to a general assembly. May I take a moment along a little different line?

Legislatures and congresses as well, have ever exhibited a tendency to delegate their authority to other bodies or other high officials. This tendency has grown in recent years. We all feel some concern because of this apparent abdication of fixed authority in the legislative branch of both state and federal governments.

The Constitution of the United States, in its very first article, provides that all legislative powers shall be vested in a senate and house of representatives, and our own Constitution in article three thereof, ordains that in the state also legislative authority shall reside in a general assembly, consisting of a senate and house of representatives (unless of course the Constitution shall be amended). The legislative department in both instances being the very first of the three great primary departments of government, to be set up by both state and federal authority, and for the manifest reason, no doubt, that the judiciary cannot construe and determine and the executive cannot execute and enforce until the legislative branch has enacted, and possibly enacted such laws as may be submitted for construction and execution.

Congress is wrestling afresh with this very question, not yet fully knowing, legally, how far it may go toward conferring authority upon the chief executive and others below him. Legislation of such character is quite numerously in the hands of various United States courts, for determination, and the Supreme Court is being frequently called upon to say how elastic the Constitution may be held to be, in authorizing such enactments, even in the days of extreme emergencies.

I am one of those who feels that the Constitution, inspired by the people and crystallized into written form by their direct representatives, was made to serve the people, who are its real authors, and should be construed from time to time to fit the various justifiable emergencies in which the people find themselves. All of course within legal bounds, and following the principles of right and justice and the good of human kind which should be the goal of all interpretation. Mr. Cooley has said, however, "that there are some bounds to the authority of government" and that some people may entertain a vain impression that "government may rightfully do whatever it has the power to do." Such must not be the case. And such he further says "is not the theory of American constitutions. The sovereignty with us is in the people, who have delegated to the agencies of their creation only so much of the powers of government, as they deemed safe, proper and expedient." So when laws have been enacted and carried to the highest court for

interpretation, we are still able to observe with what loyalty and almost respectful silence a patriotic people await the decision of the supreme judicial tribunal, and with what sensible submission they bow to the will of that decision.

This attitude on the part of vitally interested citizens throughout the country, is being demonstrated anew since the momentous so-called "gold clause" decision, handed down only forty-eight hours ago, after a wait of months in almost breathless anxiety. While it was a five to four decision with which the minority flatly dissented, saying the "Constitution has been swept away," yet our people, schooled in the doctrine of majority rule, even among courts, will loyally submit as they have always done, when the highest legal authority has spoken.

But as before indicated, your body for the state, and Congress for the nation, constitute the first and only authority of the three great triumvirate primary departments which solely and alone are charged with the highest duty of creating law. Mr. Blackstone says: "The power of making laws constitutes the supreme authority, and wherever the supreme authority in any state resides, it is the right of that authority to make the laws." At the risk therefore of being called in question by the executive and the judiciary, may I congratulate lawmaking bodies here and elsewhere upon the exalted position to which Cooley and Blackstone have assigned them.

All this, however, means that the legislature must keep within its own bounds and enact no laws if possible which could be found to have no standing under the Constitution, much less undertake to say what the law shall mean or how it shall be applied rather than to state what the law is.

Removed as pioneers from the more active participation in the affairs of state, yet we continue to be interested and cannot refrain from expressing anxiety as to whether legislatures and the Congress as well, are failing to hold fast and intact the grants solemnly conferred by the organic law of both state and nation. We are constrained to exhort this assembly to be wary of its high and exclusive authority and jealous of its inherent rights which should never be compromised, much less delegated away from its superior granted powers.

The Congress of the United States now and for some years has been charged with this very abdication, and the Supreme Court as the interpreting branch of the government alone is clothed with power to say just how far the Constitution may be stretched even under an emergency such as today prevails throughout the country.

By reference to the "Annals of Iowa" of four years ago, in which the proceedings of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association appear, I find the highly interesting speech of Hon. Irving B. Richman of Muscatine, recalling before the Forty-fourth General Assembly some Iowa politics under the significant title "Pioneer Iowa Lawmakers Who Were Democrats." If he were delivering that address now I presume he would entitle it, "Iowa Lawmakers Who Are Democrats" and it would take him

most of the afternoon to do it. The minority then very much needed reviving, just as the minority now is suffering a very bad case of atrophy. Mr. Richman is a distinguished citizen and Democrat—a former assemblyman from Muscatine County, and by reason of his youth was referred to as the “boy” legislator. He was chairman of the Democratic State Convention in Sioux City in 1889 that nominated Horace Boies for governor. He is a writer, having compiled a history of the state of Rhode Island and a history of the state of California. Was consul general to Switzerland, out of whose lofty peaks no doubt came some of the inspiration for his poetic and political oratory, and only recently published the interesting volume called “Ioway to Iowa” which many of you have read. He wound up his speech that day by saying “Long live the Middle West, and as the heart of the Middle West, long live Iowa, and as a badly needed element in Iowa politics, long live Iowa Democrats.” And they did live and lived long and seem yet to be very much alive, and Mr. Richman has stayed to see this element predominate. I wonder if we could induce him now to say that a badly needed element in Iowa politics is a little more Republicanism.

Like Brother Richman I have from a lad always been interested in political campaigns, political candidates and political platforms and elections, but after the recent most significant vote in the United States Senate, I am wondering just how much adherence should be attached to platforms and elections, especially on the part of those who helped to construct the platform and stood as candidates thereon. I have always regarded party declarations made in convention assembled by properly accredited delegates, as something more than a “mere scrap of paper” and learned to look upon candidates accepting nomination and election thereon to be solemnly charged with such adherence. Cleveland, you know, said way back yonder, “Party honesty is party expediency.”

So much in my youth was I interested in men and campaigns that as a boy in my teens, I rode sixteen miles on top of a freight train to hear James G. Blaine of Maine, that versatile, accomplished legislator, speaker of the national House of Representatives, United States senator, orator, statesman, secretary of state in Harrison's cabinet, father-in-law to Walter Damrosch of orchestral fame, candidate for the presidency, to whom Robert G. Ingersoll, in nominating him for that position, referred as being like “an armed warrior, like a plumed knight, who walked down the halls of Congress, and threw his shining lance full and fair against the brazen foreheads of his defamers.” James G. Blaine never said it, but Samuel D. Burchard, one of a deputation who visited him in 1884, made this radical and unwarranted statement: “We are Republicans, and don't propose to leave our party and identify ourselves with the party whose antecedents have been Rum, Romanism and Rebellion.” That statement defeated Blaine. Though he tried to explain it away, he never succeeded. Sometimes a man's fool friends are as dangerous as his enemies. How I recall the gallant, soldierly, commanding General James B. Weaver, who entered the army from Davis County—almost

nominated for governor against Kirkwood. Afterward in Congress, as a Greenbacker—an ardent prohibitionist, candidate for the presidency. During one of his active campaigns I saw him in action before a whole township of people, out in the open air, a campaigner of the old school, interesting and dramatic but the champion of a lost cause.

Then in those same Greenback days, we had from this district, right out from under the shadow of this Capitol, a congressman by the name of Gillette—E. H. Gillette, somewhat contemptuously called “Heifer Calf” Gillette—elected in 1878—reflecting somewhat the adverse economic conditions of those days. I think heifer calves in recent months have been worth about what they were at that time. He appeared also with his distinguished colleague, General Weaver, at the township outpouring above referred to. I wonder if these men would have a following if they were here now. But Gillette didn't stay long in Washington, having been succeeded in 1880 by the able, pioneer Iowa lawmaker, long-time prominent statesman and accomplished diplomat, whom many of us have heard with profit and delight, John A. Kasson.

William Howard Taft was a guest of the joint assembly during my day, soon after involuntarily retiring from the presidency by reason of an avalanche of Democratic votes, which left him only eight electors, and which swept Woodrow Wilson, the classical professor from Princeton, into the White House for eight years. While we are dealing in reminiscences more or less personal, may I be pardoned for saying that it fell to my lot on that occasion to introduce the jolly ex-president to the lawmakers of Iowa from this platform.

Most of my hearers do not know it, and had you known it, have long since forgotten it, and that is that my name once upon a time appeared on the Republican primary ballot for nomination to the highest office in the state. I sometimes wish I might forget it myself. But that ticket received 30,000 votes, yet notwithstanding that vote Perry Holden and I went down to inglorious defeat and Governor Clarke was nominated and subsequently twice elected, and the opposition got mighty close to Governor Clarke in one of his elections. We shall not soon forget his campaign, however, in which he championed extension of the Capitol grounds as one plank in his platform and because of which some people feared a coming high tax, but none ever came. Who now among all our citizens regrets for a moment that this Statehouse occupies one of the most commanding sites of any capitol in the country?

In this same connection, if you please, I am going to boast of having made the first capitol extension speech ever made in the state. During my first term there was a movement on foot, brought about by the city of Des Moines, to beautify the river front and move the soldiers' monument to the foot of one of these streets. This to be done without expense to the state. Captain and Senator J. D. Brown of Leon was on the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate to which the proposal had been referred. The old soldiers were opposed to it. Senator Brown induced me to make a speech adverse to the proposition. I said the old

soldiers' preference should be respected—the monument ought not be moved. Why not the state get title to all this land south clear down to the railroad tracks, clean it off, beautify it, so that every man, woman and child going through Des Moines by rail would see the beauty spot where the Capitol and monument stand. A fine advertisement for the state. The state got the land. The monument was not moved, not from what I said but because of the wishes of the soldiers of 1861.

I have never been quite willing to admit that I was an uncompromising, hidebound partisan, at least till that matter had to be decided in the voting booth where every one of us, men and women alike, should deposit his ballot confronted with his conscience and his God. I have really had some consideration at the hands of those who honestly differed with me in matters of political affiliation. As one of these considerations I had the rare privilege of dining with William Jennings Bryan when he was at his zenith, and was after dinner called upon to introduce him to a Chautauqua audience of fifteen hundred people who sat spellbound for an hour and a half while he swept them to their very depths with his soul-stirring lecture on the "Prince of Peace." Such flights of oratory, such sublime conception, such convincing statement and such commanding Christian expression I have scarcely ever heard before or since from the lips of any man. A polished Christian gentleman, a delightful companion, orator of the first magnitude—twice candidate for president of the United States, but differing with his own party, thousands of whom could not follow his lead—probably wrong on the money question. Congressman, churchman, secretary of state with Woodrow Wilson—got out of the cabinet because the war spirit was too strong—such was William Jennings Bryan, the boy orator of the Platte—but we could not vote with him. But if he were wrong then, just how nearly would he be right now?

CONCLUSION

We have just passed the 12th of February, the day on which 126 years ago America's great Emancipator was born, and whose birthday is annually observed by a grateful people numbering one hundred thirty millions.

In getting its permanent organization finally perfected I have read that the Forty-sixth General Assembly has been talking a good deal about prayer observance, quoting scripture, and among other suggestions announcing the doctrine that the laity as well as the clergy may also pray, and indeed indicating that it is his duty to do so, even silently. This movement on the part of any legislature is altogether a hopeful sign.

Ida M. Tarbell, the distinguished, reliable and lifelong biographer of the martyred President, has a brief article in the current March number of the *Cosmopolitan*, which she calls "The Greatest Lincoln Story of All." In this article she pictures the great burden bearer of a race at night upon his knees before a table in his dingy law office in Spring-

field, pouring out his great soul in prayer, asking Divine guidance as to whether he should enter upon those now historical and never-to-be-forgotten debates with Douglas, the final outcome of which made Lincoln the successful candidate for the presidency.

There he knelt, silent and alone, his great angular frame shaking with emotion, saying to his God: "Here I am in middle life, politics aside, and just settled down to the practice of the law, with a family of boys to educate. How my political enemies will ridicule me, as they are already doing, saying I want a Negro wife and am trying to break up the Union. I can't win against a great man like Douglas—me, a nobody—all I can do is try to make more people see that his efforts mean an America all slave. O God! not that—the men who started this Union never meant that." Thus he continued to wrestle until rising from his knees, he began pacing up and down, his great soul in utmost agony. How like Gethsemane of old! In fact he picked up his old Bible that lay upon his office table, and read Matthew's account of that age-old tragedy, in the garden. There was no escape. That prayer led Lincoln into the fray, and into the spotlight before the American people.

Months later when taunts of ambition were hurled into his teeth he wrote these words in memory of that night, "God knows how sincerely I prayed from the very first that this field of ambition might not be opened."

Lincoln was a layman. He was not then even an office holder. A country lawyer in a dingy office in the town of Springfield. But he was Divinely called. With an exception or two this legislature is composed of laymen. You are part and parcel of this same government that was then at stake. You are here to legislate for one sector of that government. Great problems confront you. Problems of taxation—problems of relief—problems of social betterment—problems of department reorganization—problems of liquor control—problems of crime and law enforcement. Problems of actual want coming up from thousands of men, women and children—citizens and wards of the state.

May your predecessors who were once similarly called, modestly indicate that the same spirit which hovered about Lincoln in his deepest trials and led him forth to duty and to die, is also your spirit for the asking, to encourage and inspire in the weeks and years that are to come.

"This I'll say for the men I know;
Most of them want to be clean and true;
In spite of the selfish things they do
Most of them try, as they come and go
To leave some glory for men to view.
A few turn traitor to God and State,
But most of the men I know walk straight."

This was one of the most enjoyable and worthwhile sessions of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association in recent years. Forty-

three were registered in the big registration book which contains the autographs of many noted Iowans. Besides those already mentioned in these proceedings there were also present:

J. H. Allen, Des Moines	John M. Lindly, Winfield
W. P. Allred, Corydon	O. K. Maben, Garner
W. I. Beans, Oskaloosa	George McCulloch, Humeston
H. H. Boettger, Davenport	R. J. Martin, Des Moines
R. G. Clark, Des Moines	Roy Murray, Marion
J. E. Craven, Kellogg	Oley Nelson, Slater
A. M. Deyoe, Des Moines	Arthur Pickford, Mason City
S. B. Durant, Forest City	W. G. Ray, Grinnell
R. H. Gregory, Fontanelle	R. J. Reaney, Columbus Junction
Fred Hunter, Des Moines	H. T. Saberson, Des Moines
J. C. Jessen, Story City	Frank Shane, Ottumwa
P. L. Kepple, Nashua	F. E. Shortess, Traer
William G. Kerr, Grundy Center	G. M. Titus, Muscatine

We received letters of regret from several who could not attend, some because of illness, some because of advanced age. We have room here for a few of them:

Adel, Iowa, February 15, 1935.

Hon. David C. Mott, Secretary,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Sir:

I should be very glad indeed to be present at the meeting of the members of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association, but I cannot be. For more than two weeks I have been confined to my room, bed and reclining chair. It is not at all likely that I shall be well enough to be out by the 20th.

My word of greeting to all and always sincere good wishes.

Yours truly,

G. W. CLARKE.

IOWA SANITARIUM AND HOSPITAL

Nevada, Iowa

February 15, 1935.

D. C. Mott,
Secretary Pioneer Lawmakers Assn.,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Mott:

I have received the invitation to attend the twenty-fourth session of the Pioneer Lawmakers. Thank you. It came to me at the above address where my wife and I are spending the winter.

I greatly regret that I am unable to attend owing to physical infirmities, but I hope for the session a most pleasant reunion.

It is now nearly sixty years since I first became a member of the Iowa General Assembly and many changes have occurred since then. We are living in a new world and the work we laid down has passed to other hands. May they be equal to it.

In my ninety-second year I send greetings to you all.

G. S. ROBINSON.

(Telegram)

Santa Monica, Calif., February 19, 1935.

David C. Mott,
Historical Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa.

Sorry I cannot attend meeting of Pioneer Lawmakers tomorrow. Give my greetings to any old friends. I cherish their memory. The more I see of the way state business is handled here the prouder I am of the wisdom of Iowa Lawmakers. Am well and enjoying life here.

H. I. FOSKETT.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Governor's Office

Sacramento

February 19, 1935.

Hon. David C. Mott,
Secretary, Pioneer Lawmakers Assn.,
Des Moines, Iowa.

My dear Mott:

Announcement of the twenty-fourth session of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association to be held in Des Moines on February 20th is before me. Thanks to you for favoring me with the announcement.

It will be impossible for me to accept, much as I would enjoy being in attendance to meet and greet old friends. Official duties prevent my absence from the state at this time. The California Legislature meets each odd numbered year in January, holds a session of not more than thirty days, at which organization of the two houses is effected and bills introduced. Then follows a recess of not less than thirty days. The second session is to convene on March 4th, and it requires much of my time to prepare for the work devolving upon this office.

Trusting you may have a most successful program, and with best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

FRANK F. MERRIAM,
Governor of California.

So far as we are able to learn, the following is a list of the members still living whose first service in the General Assembly dates farthest back. We have followed the list from the date farthest back only to the Twenty-second General Assembly, 1888:

OLDEST IN SERVICE

Gifford S. Robinson.....	Representative Sixteenth G. A., 1876
Bruce T. Seaman.....	Representative Seventeenth G. A., 1878
George McCulloch.....	Representative Nineteenth G. A., 1882
Henry O. Seiffert.....	Representative Nineteenth G. A., 1882
John A. Storey.....	Representative Twentieth G. A., 1884
James G. Berryhill.....	Representative Twenty-first G. A., 1886
John E. Craig.....	Representative Twenty-first G. A., 1886
Oley Nelson.....	Representative Twenty-first G. A., 1886
E. C. Roach.....	Representative Twenty-first G. A., 1886
James E. Blythe.....	Representative Twenty-second G. A., 1888
John Foley (New Hampton).....	Representative Twenty-second G. A., 1888
A. B. Funk.....	Senator Twenty-second G. A., 1888

Following is a list of the deaths of members within the last two years, so far as we have learned:

DEATHS SINCE LAST MEETING

Asa L. Ames, Traer	Karl J. Johnson, Osage
James W. Bailey, Harlan	F. M. Laird, Tabor
August A. Balluff, Davenport	Wm. Larrabee, Jr., Clermont
Robert Bonson, Dubuque	Leslie W. Lewis, Seymour, Clar-
John T. Brooks, Hedrick (So. Calif.)	inda
Robert G. Cousins, Tipton	J. C. Milliman, Logan
L. E. Crist, Osceola	J. K. Montgomery, West Union
Robert M. Finlayson, Grundy Center	Lewis J. Neff, Walnut
Thomas F. Griffin, Sioux City	Clifford B. Paul, Anamosa
Wm. J. Guinn, Belle Plaine	Frank S. Payne, Centerville
Wm. L. Harding, Des Moines	J. S. Pritchard, Belmont
G. N. Haugen, Northwood	Tollef C. Rone, Northwood
W. E. Hauger, La Porte City	Wm. B. Seeley, Mt. Pleasant
Edwin P. Healy, Britt	Charles C. Smith, Griswold
R. W. Hinkhouse, West Liberty	George W. Speer, Indianola
A. C. Hobart, Cherokee	Gillum S. Tolliver, Jefferson, Thir-
A. C. Hotchkiss, Adel	teenth G. A., 1870
	Joseph Wallace, Eldora
	Harry O. Weaver, Wapello
	Herbert B. Wyman, Sheldon

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