

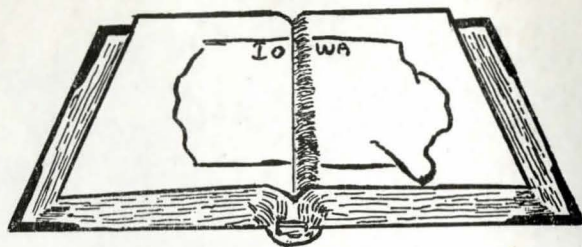
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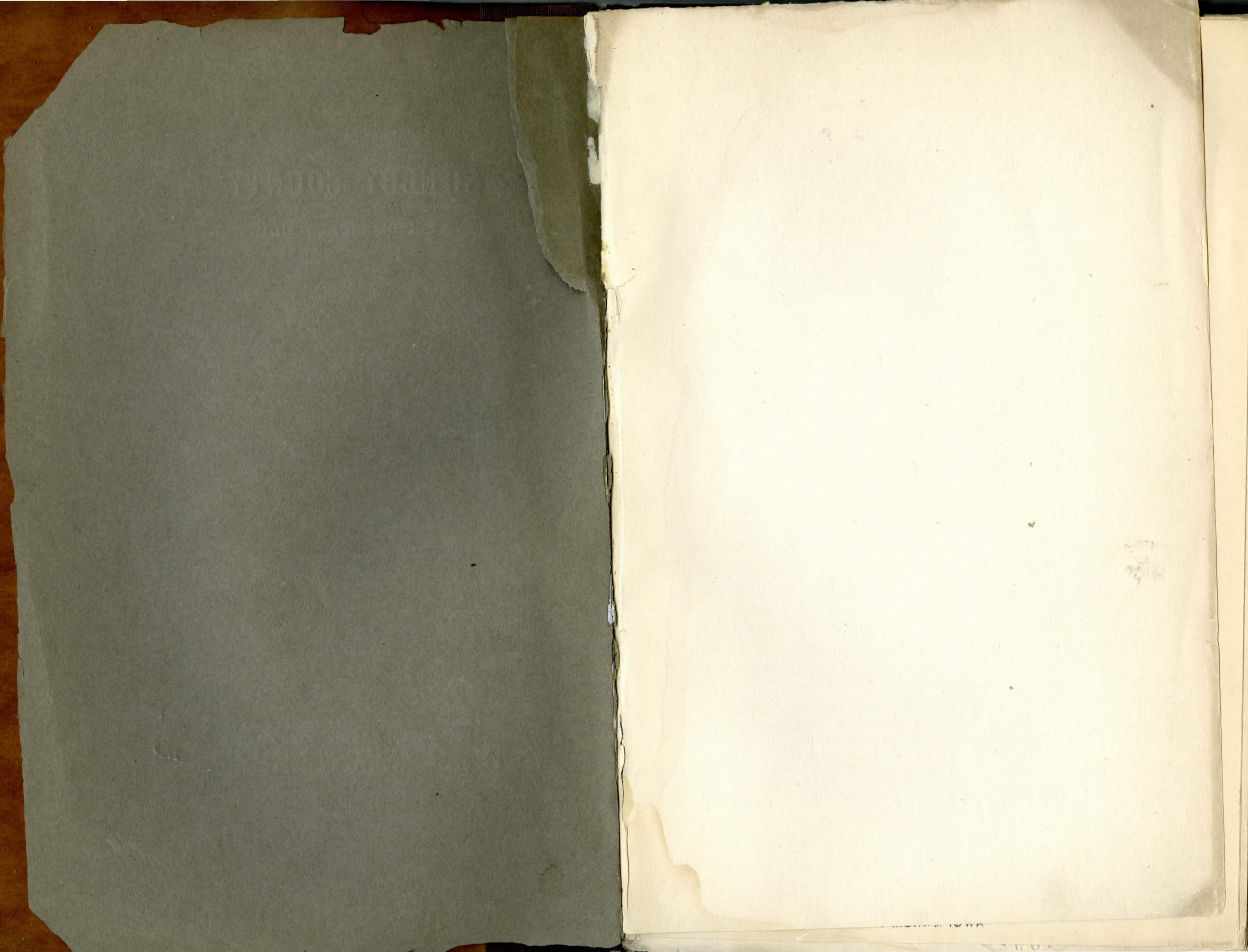
SHELBY COUNTY

A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

BY
JOHN J. LOUIS



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A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY



crossed easily. In its original condition the rolling prairie was covered by tall grass and myriads of flowers. Natural groves dotted the landscape and animal life was abundant—ducks and geese found the swamps a very satisfactory nesting place; quails and prairie chickens were disturbed only by the coyote, deer, or occasional elk. Squirrels and rabbits, crows, hawks, and many varieties of songsters formed a natural society as yet unmolested by civilization. Fifty years have wrought great changes. God's beautiful prairie has become man's habitation. The whole scene is changed. Civilization has claimed the land by placing it all under cultivation. Looking out over the country from the hill tops one may see scores of country homes surrounded by trees and a village of farm buildings. Great herds of cattle graze on the hill sides. Yellow fields suggest the wealth of the harvest.

THE SOIL

In the valleys the soil is black loam resting on a bed of clay beneath which is found sand and gravel. The hills vary—some have a black soil, others reddish brown and many are yellow clay. There is very little sand and almost no stone in the soil. Hazel brush and dwarf oak trees grow on the hills. The soil is very fertile and is well adapted to extremes, producing crops in times of drought and flood.

An abundance of good water is easily obtained. Wells vary in depth from ten feet in valleys to one hundred fifty feet on some hills. Springs are frequent. The water of the streams is often sought by stock in preference to water from wells.

There are a half dozen natural groves containing oak,

ash, elm, walnut, hickory, and basswood trees among others. Galland's Grove, named from the first settler, is the largest in the county, containing about one thousand acres.

The climate is diversified. The temperature varies from thirty degrees below zero to one hundred twelve degrees Fahrenheit. Changes come very rapidly making a difference of fifty degrees in twenty-four hours. From the dry summers and almost snowless winters to floods and heavy snows, the climate varies from year to year. Snow falls about Thanksgiving, and the ground is rarely snow covered after Easter Sunday.

The altitude of the county seat is twelve hundred feet above sea level. The average annual rainfall is about 38.29 inches.

THE POPULATION

In 1848 Abraham Galland made the first permanent settlement in Galland's Grove. In 1849 some of the families from the scattering Mormons, pleased with the shelter of the grove, made cabins for themselves. Many of the early settlements of Pottawattamie, Harrison, Cass, and Shelby counties were effected by the Mormons who left the Mormon Society at Kanesville because of its polygamous practices. In 1854 there were one hundred forty-seven people in the northwest corner of the county on an area of thirty-six square miles now known as Grove Township.

In 1857 there were only six families in the southern part of the county—people from Pennsylvania and Ohio, who in 1853 had come by boat down the Ohio River to the Mississippi, thence westward and north on the south and west side of the Missouri to where Blair, Nebraska, is now

located. They crossed over into Iowa and started out across the prairie to find a home. A grove in the beautiful valley of the Nishnabotna River afforded shelter for the party over night, and in the morning the father announced that "here is the spot, the beautiful land shall be our home," and immediately he began to make preparations to build a cabin. The cows which the boy had driven behind the wagon were allowed to graze, the horses were tethered out, the fowls so long in their crate were given liberty, and a permanent union between the land and population was begun.

By 1857 Monroe Township had acquired Danish population. Much as the others they came to find homes in the new country of opportunity. In 1868 Clay Township gained a Danish settler, an Adventist and a Republican who was very influential in persuading other Danes to come to this country. Each new comer induced some of his friends to join him in the new country—thus began the greatest rural colony of Danes in America.

In 1882 Elkhorn Post Office was established in the northeastern part of Clay Township. It is in the midst of the heavy Danish settlement of Audubon, Cass, and Shelby counties. In addition to the usual stores and other business places of a village it fosters an orphan's home and a college—both institutions of the Danish Lutheran church.

The German colony in Westphalia Township owes its origin to an advertisement in a newspaper. Emil Flusche came from Grand Rapids, Michigan, in September, 1872, and undertook the task of selling railroad land in this township. The railroad company contracted to pay a commis-

sion of one dollar per acre on all land sold to German Catholics who became actual settlers, provided that there were forty settlers within eighteen months from the date of the contract. The commission was to be shared equally by the promoters and the church; and so from the beginning of the enterprise the church has played an important part in influencing the colony.

Blood-relationship or kinship aided the founders of the colony. In October, 1872, Joseph Flusche came from Minnesota, and about a month later Charles Flusche came from Grand Rapids. On March 16, 1873, August Flusche, Emil Zimmerman, and John Rueschenberg came from the province of Westphalia, Germany. Within two years the township was organized with a population of two hundred seven. It was named Westphalia for the old home province.

It must be remembered that the Danes and Germans have not confined themselves to the townships mentioned. Both nationalities have been energetic in gaining possession of the soil until the Danes occupy Clay, Monroe, Jackson, and Center townships with many Danes in the townships bordering on these, and the Germans possess Westphalia, Washington, Cass, parts of Lincoln and Shelby townships with German farmers in adjoining townships.

While these foreign elements were finding their homes, men from other States and other counties of this State were rapidly claiming the land. Many of the counties in the eastern part of the State sent enough people here to warrant their designation as groups—"the Jones County settlers," "the Mahaskans," "the Clinton County folk." Johnson County furnished a colony which settled near Shelby, a vil-

lage on the Rock Island railway, almost in the southwestern corner of the county. Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois each furnished its quota of home seekers who have made the prairies yield great wealth while they established happy homes and the proper public institutions.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT¹

In 1854 Galland's Grove Township was organized with a population of 174. Round Township was organized in 1856 with a population of 188. These two townships contained all of the territory of the county. Harlan, Jackson, and Fairview Townships were created in 1860 and Round township lost its existence in the three new ones.

Clay Township, organized in 1867, was called Indian Creek until June, 1869. It took Township 78 north, range 37 west and the east half of Township 78 north,

¹ The following statistics indicate the organization of the townships and the territory as it was divided for purposes of local government:

ORGANIZATION OF TOWNSHIPS				
NAME	TOWNSHIP	RANGE WEST	DATE	POPULATION
Grove	81	40	1854	174
Harlan	79	38	1860	
Jackson	79	37	1860	30
Fairview	79	39	1860	130
Clay	78	37	1867	80
Cass	79	40	1869	120
Shelby	78	40	1870	190
Washington	80	40	1871	163
Union	81	39	1871	87
Douglas	80	38	1871	164
Polk	79	37	1871	120
Lincoln	79	39	1871	129
Jefferson	81	37	1871	30
Monroe	78	38	1873	550
Greeley	81	38	1874	770
Westphalia	80	39	1874	207

range 38 west from Fairview Township, and the south one-third of Township 79 north, range 37 west from Jackson. Cass Township was taken from Harlan Township in 1869.

Shelby Township was taken from Fairview in 1870; Washington and Union from Grove in 1871; Douglas from Harlan and Jackson in 1871 — the west one-half of what is now Douglas Township, and section 34 from Harlan and the remainder from Jackson. During the year 1871 Polk was separated from Jackson; Lincoln from Cass and Harlan; and Jefferson from Grove and Jackson. Monroe Township was taken equally from Fairview and Clay in 1873. The next year saw the part of Jefferson Township, which formerly had been a part of Grove, organized under the name of Greeley. Westphalia Township was organized in 1874 with its boundaries those of congressional Township 80 north, range 39 west.

For the purpose of better administration the city of Harlan was separated from Harlan Township in 1898. The part outside of the corporation limits was named Center Township.

While the population of the entire county has increased fifty per cent in the last twenty years, that of several townships has decreased since 1890. This is due to three causes: (1) farmers are retiring and moving into the towns; (2) others are buying out their neighbors, thus decreasing the numbers of families in the township; and (3) the young men and women are leaving either to find cheaper land or other employment. Often the homestead is left in charge of a son or son-in-law. The rising generation is not given

to large families. The birth rate is not enough greater than the death rate to offset emigration. Ten years ago the floating population of farm laborers was much greater than to-day because the farmers' boys have grown up and displaced the hired men in many instances. Another decade will bring about the necessity of more immigration of farm labor, for the tendency is to enlarge the farms. This causes decrease in the number of families and consequently a lower rate of increase in the population. The towns are growing steadily through the coming of day-laborers and retired farmers who desire the advantages of the town schools for their children. A few industries mentioned later furnish employment for several families.¹

In 1900 the total population of the county was 17,932, of which 9,455 were males and 8,477 females. Of this num-

¹ The following table shows the growth of the county by townships since 1880:

TOWNSHIP	1880	1890	1900	TOWNSHIP	1880	1890	1900
Cass	498	1025	1073	Jefferson . . .	351	993	1042
Clay	850	1080	1147	Lincoln	88	935	725*
Douglas	677	9925	857*	Monroe	1012	932	894*
Fairview	919	873	722*	Polk	443	809	835
Greeley	334	877	871	Shelby	1299	1457	1443
Grove	818	721	798	Union	538	1212	1209
Harlan	2172	2563	2422	Washington . .	506	952	931
Center			740	Westphalia . .	597	1265	1357
Jackson	800	1009	806*				

* Townships having decreased in population.

The following table taken from statistical reports shows the population of the county and the per cent of increase from 1854 to 1900:

YEAR	POPULA- TION	PER CENT OF INCREASE	YEAR	POPULA- TION	PER CENT OF INCREASE
1854	326		1875	5,664	123.15
1856	456	39.	1880	12,696	124.15
1859	784	72.	1885	16,306	28.43
1860	818	4.33	1890	17,611	8.
1865	1,900	132.3	1895	17,798	1.06
1870	2,540	33.7	1900	17,932	.75

ber 14,535 were native born and 3,397 foreign born. There were 7,898 native born of native parents and 6,627 native born of foreign parents. Thus the entire population of foreign extraction was 10,024. The following table shows the number that various countries have contributed to the population:

Germany—1,419. Denmark—1,404. Norway—134. Ireland—111. England—103. Canada (English)—100. Sweden—37. Austria—21. Switzerland—16. Scotland—10. Russia—10. Bohemia—6. France—6. Holland—7. Poland—1 (Russians), other Poles—6. Italy—2. Australia—2. Belgium—1. Canada (French)—4. China—0, and 10 Negroes.

THE MOTIVES FOR SETTLEMENT

Inquiry of the early settlers of this county concerning the motives for settling here brings many answers. Home-seeking, usually, is the predominating one. Of the possible motives—health, wealth, sociability, knowledge, religion, morals, and desire for beauty—wealth is the reason generally given, although the other motives were satisfied in a measure.

The settlers who followed Abraham Galland to Galland's Grove left the Mormon train at Kaneshville, now Council Bluffs, because of differences in religion and morals. Polygamy was not in accord with the moral sentiments and religious feelings of these separatists and it formed a motive for them to find homes where they could associate with those who were likeminded with regard to marriage.

The motives which prompted the settlement of Westphalia were two-fold—an opportunity to make money and to do a service to the Roman Catholic church at the same time. Cheap homes in a fertile land among those people who were of the Roman faith were in brief the motives inducing settlers to come to Westphalia. After a few families had settled in the colony their friends and relatives were urged to come, and so sociability became a strong motive in building up the population.

The Danish people who came here did so mainly through the efforts of their friends who had come before. This has not yet stopped. Letters still go back to the fatherland describing the beauties and possibilities of this fair land. Money is sent, and the United States receives another immigrant. In the experience of the colony of Danes, one member of a family—the first to come here—has been the means of bringing over all the other members of the family.

In several instances young men have sent money back to sweethearts to bring them to this new home where the temptation was too great—the money was kept and the girl stayed in the old country. In January, 1903, the papers noted a case in which the young woman refused to marry the man after she came.

Many of the Danes and Germans visit the fatherland; but almost invariably return to America. One of these visitors writes from Copenhagen as follows: "People don't believe me when I tell them about the liberty we enjoy in America and the possibilities and opportunities which abound there. I am sick of home and homesick for my adopted country, America. I am coming back glad to realize my good for-

tune in being a citizen of the United States. I am bringing with me a young man, a future citizen."

The early population showed other motives than the mere keeping of health and the gaining of wealth. A certain amount of both health and wealth is necessary to existence.

Knowledge as a motive was shown in the building of school houses. Very early in the settlement of the county subscription schools put opportunities before the children. Schools were held in cabins or in other log buildings, a log granary serving in one instance. Frequently schools were held in dwelling houses, with the children of the family the only pupils and the mother their paid teacher.

Religious societies were organized and meetings held in groves, cabins, school houses, in the county court house later, and anywhere that a group of people could be gathered to worship God. The Danes attended long services regularly; the Germans followed their priest through various services on Sunday; the Americans went visiting by dozens and scores. For them the motive of sociability asserted itself strongly.

The desire for beauty was present from the very earliest time. Muslin hangings to cover the rude walls of the log cabin were unmistakable signs of æsthetic feeling. Even the careful removal of the bark from the parts of the logs which showed on the inside of the house and the smoothly worked chinking showed æsthetic tendencies which in a score of years expressed themselves in beautiful houses surrounded by fine lawns and flowers.

SEGREGATING INFLUENCES

Among the Danes one of the first settlers was an Adventist. He worked hard to induce his fellow church-men to come to this country, and a flourishing church grew up in Clay Township. Lutherans and Baptists came also, and the segregating effect of the difference in sect is noteworthy. The Lutherans are strongest around Elkhorn which is the center of the great Danish settlement.

In the western part of Clay Township and eastern Monroe we find the Baptists. About a quarter of a mile west of the Danish Baptist church was once a Union church which stood as a monument to the fact that there must be some vital connection with a living organization with its traditions to insure its perpetuity. In this Union church were Lutherans and Presbyterians from Pennsylvania; Methodists from Ohio and Indiana; Campbellites, as they were called, from Illinois; and men and women who had no church affiliations other than those established by the Union church.

Among the Danes the political parties offered a segregating influence. The Lutherans were Democrats; the Adventists and Baptists were Republicans.

The agitation of the slavery question brought about conditions which separated men in every relation of life. The feeling was strongly anti-slavery, and the few men who were in sympathy with the south, or were Democrats, were listed by some of the county officers as "Copperheads."

Nationality was a strong segregating element in the county group and an equally strong unifying force in the natural group.

UNIFYING INFLUENCES

The unifying influences were almost solely of two kinds, a common ancestry or nationality, and the necessity of union for protection and progress. The men planned to journey to mill and market together. It was forty-five miles to Council Bluffs, and the denizens of the county went there to trade until 1869 when the Rock Island railroad was completed across the State. Avoca then became a trading point and post office.

All attended the county conventions without regard to party. On one convention day a group of men on their way to the meeting found a young Republican breaking prairie with his four yoke of oxen. They invited him to accompany them, and on his refusal because of the urgency of his work, they threatened to put him "on the ticket." Accordingly he was given the nomination on the Democratic ticket for the most important county office. His Republican friends were greatly amazed at his election. The fact still remains that in county politics the ability and character of the man stands for more than party allegiance.

In the early history of the county we find extensive coöperation in many things which promoted good feeling and a wholesome spirit of sociability. The building of houses and barns found a group of men hauling the lumber from Avoca or earlier hauling logs to the nearest sawmill in Bowman's Grove or Harrison County and returning with lumber—cottonwood, poplar or hard wood of some sort, oak, walnut or ash. Neighbors helped build the cabins; and later when the family had become larger and prosperity warranted a new house, they raised the frame. Barn rais-

ing, butchering, threshing, and working the roads united the men and women of each neighborhood. While the men were at their tasks, the women were preparing a bounteous dinner. After the work was done the men engaged in friendly bouts, wrestling, racing, and other feats of strength. These occasions were the real holidays of early times. Contract road-working leaves threshing the only remaining gala day of its kind. In view of the fact that in some localities the population changes so rapidly the personnel of the threshing crew changes so much from year to year that much of its value as a unifying influence is lost.

In Harlan the people have long been unified in their sport. Since 1878 there has existed some form of organized athletics, varying from hose teams and association football to roller skating, base ball, and rugby. It is no wonder that this county furnishes its share of college athletes.

We find the Germans unified most thoroughly in their religion. The colony is Roman Catholic, and in the county there are five Catholic churches. A common faith and a common nationality provides a strong unifying influence. In addition to this there is but little difference of opinion in politics, the Germans being nearly all Democrats.

In other parts of the county we find marked tendencies to unity in the endeavor to accomplish something for the good of the community. The defunct societies known as Farmers' Alliance and the Coöperative Association were intended to supply the economic wants of the community at less expense than local merchants would. These associations were short lived because the people would not fully carry out the plans of the organizations. There was not continuous and constant coöperation.

THE FAMILY

The men who came to this county in its beginning brought their families with them in many cases; and if there was no family to bring, one was established as soon as the man could get possession of enough land and sufficient capital to start to farm for himself. Those who came here were home seekers and they have proved themselves to be home builders. It is a noteworthy fact that not men alone came either from other States or foreign lands; but men and women both came from the very first. Many Danish and German girls came to this country because their brothers, cousins, or friends had told them of its opportunities. These girls first worked as domestics in families needing help, and many of them went to homes made for them by their prosperous fellow countrymen who had saved their months' earnings until a small farm could be rented and a team and machinery provided. A housekeeper was then sought. Even to this day such beginnings are crude and accomplished by many privations and hardships.

The family established now knows nothing of the independence which was necessary for the early family to take upon itself. The family which came here in the early fifties or in 1860 had to be a miniature society in itself. Not only did the husband provide the food and fuel and the wife prepare the meal, but all the economic functions were discharged by the family. It was forty miles to mill, and many times when the snow made travel impossible the women ground grain in coffee mills. During one very severe winter, that of 1856-7, one family ground sixteen bushels of buckwheat on an ordinary hand coffee mill. It was often

necessary to pound corn or grind wheat for food. During such times families practiced all possible coöperation; but it was miles between neighbors.

Great contrasts may be drawn between the conditions of family life of the present and the years just before the war. By 1860 there were only 818 people in the county. They lived in rough houses, log cabins with thatched roofs, dug-outs, or cabins with a sod coating outside the logs. They worked hard to wrest enough more than a living from the soil to pay for land and improvements. The methods of production—the ox team plow, the reaping by cradle or by the hand rake reaper drawn by horses, the binding of the grain by hand, its stacking, its threshing by flail and by tramping or by means of the crude threshing machine—all were processes which were harder labor than the present methods of grain raising impose on the farmer. Add to these things the distance to market, the lack of bridges and good roads, and the waste which all of the difficulties mentioned caused in time, strength, and material, and we see under what disadvantages the early families labored. All the members of the family assisted in raising the crop. The women did anything from raising vegetables to stacking wheat and husking corn.

Family life of those days is marked by the way the families did or did not observe Sunday. Whatever had been the custom of the family in the old home was followed here. In most cases some religious service was held, if only the dust were removed from the old family bible. Many Sundays were spent in holding meetings in groves or at some of the larger houses. Neighborhoods gathered in Sunday

schools; and where there were school houses they were used for church purposes.

As a rule the Danish people all went to church. Their services were long, but the people were devoted. The Americans were not as faithful in church attendance as their brethren from Denmark.

The Americans spent many of their Sundays in visiting. They went by the wagon load and stayed all day. These Sunday gatherings of genial spirits did much to unify the community. The Danes, when they came, visited each other after divine service and because of difference in language and customs did not associate with the Americans to any great extent. Many of their families became unsocial because of the great effort by which wealth was to be acquired. There was no time for sociability in the family, and this determined the unsocial character of many of the people. Even to this day the Danes show a preference for their own nationality in matters of business, although they disown such attitude if they are questioned concerning it. The Danes who were born in America and who have been reared under the influence of our institutions are thoroughly American.

The Danes are a happy, contented, hard working people. Conservative, they love order; yet they are not sluggish in their conservatism and will defend their rights vigorously. They do not burden the courts with suits.

Most of the Danes have been here less than twenty-five years. Many earned their passage money after coming. Scores of men who landed in America penniless, hired out, saved their wages, bought a team and farming

implements, and by constant economy and industry have come to own large farms.

Untiring in industry, rigidly economical, they permitted no waste of material or supplies. All the nooks and corners were utilized. This practice often led to serious offence to the more æsthetic and often less prosperous. An onion bed is not an ideal front yard, nor does a cabbage or potato patch make an acceptable substitute for a nicely kept lawn. But front yard gardens are certainly preferable to pigs and poultry before the door. Happily this stage in the evolution of the Dane was passed sometime ago by the more prosperous ones. Every community, however, has and will continue to have a few inhabitants who prefer the uncouth and unsanitary environs of the pig sty.

As a citizen the Dane is a desirable addition to the community. He thinks, is usually conscientious, and votes intelligently. Allegiance to party is about equally divided between Republicans and Democrats. When the prohibition question was before the people, church affiliation seemed to have had some bearing on politics. The Lutherans were for beer, while the Baptists were for no beer.

The Danes are very sociable and hospitable among themselves. They visit each other frequently and groups often assemble for picnics. There are numerous Sunday afternoon festivities.

The fifth of June is celebrated as their national holiday on account of the royal grant of greater liberties. The Danish flag and the Stars and Stripes are unfurled, speeches are made, and demonstrations such as are common on the Fourth of July are indulged.

Sunday picnics are common in the summer, and public dances in the winter. These picnics and balls are often not exclusive. Usually they are given on the subscription plan by two or three of the enterprising young men. The balls are not held on Sunday, although the entertainment differs but little from that of the Sunday picnic and platform dance.

The Danes quickly adapt themselves to American ways of business but the family life remains much the same as it was in the old country, especially among the early settlers. There is one family at least which carries on all the domestic manufactures common to the family in Denmark. Wooden shoes, yarn, homespun cloth, and the ordinary domestic utensils are all made in that home—unconsciously the arts and crafts are thus fostered.

In the heart of the German settlement is maintained a little Germany where the manners and customs of the fatherland flourish unmolested among the older people. The young generation is American, and it adapts itself readily to the customs and usages which prevail outside of the colony. In spite of his beer and Sunday games of base ball, the German is a good citizen who upbuilds the social cause and does his part to improve conditions in which he lives. The home life is the last to yield to the influence of the new country.

SOCIAL AGGREGATES

Among the social aggregates first to be mentioned are those held together by bonds of blood relationship. There are many families among the residents of Shelby County whose history is inseparably connected with that of the

county. The influence which these families had on the community is seen in the fact that in many cases the family name became the name of the community. A notable example is Hacktown, where a father, mother, and several children by the name of Hack settled in a grove in what is now Fairview Township. They all lived in a close community for several years. The name Hacktown is now without meaning, for the family of Hacks has scattered. Later there was a similar settlement in Shelby Township, formed by the Myers family.

Nearly every family which settled in the county before 1870 left its definite influence in forming aggregates. Investigation shows that by a complication of intermarriages and the claims of either a common ancestry or a common birth-place the early population of Cuppy's Grove, Galland's Grove, Hacktown, and other settlements were bound in spontaneous aggregates more closely than would be possible for such people in voluntary associations.

The Danes and Germans found themselves separated from the other parts of the population by their nationality; and the immigrants were considered as a "law unto themselves." Conditions in this county when the Danes began to come in 1867, as I have observed earlier in this essay, were such that it was not only natural but inevitable that they should be grouped by themselves. The English speaking people were already in possession of the soil with fairly well developed local institutions, such as schools, church societies, and a local government.

Many of the Danes had to work for the Americans as farm laborers, and were naturally looked down upon as foreigners.

The Danes were sensitive and resented the attitude which was taken by many of the Americans. Attention might be called to a few cases of poetic justice which time has wrought. Thirty years find the tables turned in many cases, and the American settler who hired the young Dane has now become his hireling. Many sons of settlers who despised the Dane are now glad to work for him on the farm, in the shop, or at the store. Many of the Danes have bought the farms on which they once worked.

By force of circumstances the foreign population associated with the English speaking people, but the bond of union was economic. Merchants recognize this fact, and clerks who speak Danish or German are found in almost every store in the county.

In earlier times it was common for the Jones County folk, the Johnson County people, the Clinton County settlers, who had come from homes farther east, to meet in Jones, Johnson, or Clinton County reunions. Just as the Danes and Germans were brought here by the influence of their friends who had come earlier, so these people from eastern Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and farther east came because they had heard from friends and relatives that the prairies of Shelby County offered opportunities worth the taking.

The Danes and Germans are grouped geographically in a fairly definite manner. Some note with alarm that they are buying much of the land from the Americans. These "foreigners," as they are called, although many of them were small children when their parents came to this country, are really taking possession of the farms by virtue of their very sturdiness and their disposition to work hard and save.

By counting the business houses in Harlan it is found that over half the stores and shops are kept by Danes and Germans. Not counting the clerks, there are forty business men who are of Danish or German parentage. In buying the Americans make no distinction, and as a matter of fact patronize the merchant who furnishes the best grade of goods at the lowest prices. It is noteworthy that the Danes and Germans trade with their own kind. This is perfectly natural and may be explained in part by the recognition of the bond of nationality, a consciousness of kind, and a common language.

Business men recognize the necessity of making their customers feel at home, and so nearly every store has its clerks who speak English and one or more of the foreign languages. Every business man has his customers who prefer to deal with him and often refuse to buy of any other. Each business man has built up a custom peculiarly his own, which might be designated as an involuntary social aggregate.

In the towns and country there are distinctions made on the basis of wealth. The amount of property, the size of the house in which a man lives, the part of town in which he resides, are made the bases of distinction by some people. A certain street in Harlan is designated as "Quality Row" by those who live in a less desirable residence district. Business and professional men occupy certain parts of town, while laborers predominate in certain other localities.

Expressions frequently come to the ears of the teachers in the Harlan schools suggesting distinctions in ability and

culture among the children in the north and central schools. Observation proves, however, that the school asserted by some to be rough and rude does in fact behave as well as the so-called better schools.

In a rural community such as this there is one class which attracts attention, namely, the retired farmers. These men have made themselves independent by their labor and management, and have moved to town to enjoy rest and quiet association with their fellows during the years which remain to them. As a rule they are energetic and progressive and take a lively interest in the welfare of the town. They are a source of much merry-making. In their leisure they tell their experiences and ideas of farming; and they plant, sow, or reap, according to the season, in their conversations held on sidewalks or in public places. Although they are liberal as a rule, they are in a sense conservative, and any public improvements which call for an increased tax levy find at least some opposition among this class. Each town in the county has its quota of retired farmers.

In the country there is a class distinction made between renters and those who own their farms. This is a distinction which is certainly based on wealth, for when the renter was a hired man he was a member of the family and shared in the family's pleasures.

Among the groups united by common interests we find rural schools and independent districts using all told one hundred forty-six buildings and employing one hundred eighty-five teachers.

In Elkhorn there is a college which has had a varied career as an institution of the Danish Lutheran church. The main

building is twenty-six feet wide by ninety-four feet long, two and one-half stories high, with dormitories accommodating eighty students. It was built by the Danish community and is supported by tuition received from the students—fourteen dollars per month on the dormitory plan. The course of study includes the English and Danish languages, bookkeeping, shorthand, music, and such other studies as are usually taught in academies or high schools. During the present year three teachers were employed in this college. The public school employs two teachers.

The Sisters' school at Westphalia is conducted under the influence of the Roman Catholic church. In addition to the studies commonly taught in elementary schools, instruction is given in the German language. In several schools in Westphalia Township, German is taught because the parents want their children to learn to read the language of the fatherland.

The Danish Lutheran Orphans' Home is located at Elkhorn. It receives children from any Danish congregation in the United States and keeps them until they are of age. During 1902 this home cared for twenty-three children, and at present it is caring for twenty-five. It has property worth \$40,000, received during the past year \$1,476.68, and expended the sum of \$1,426.28.

Of the many business associations or partnerships which exist in this county there are a few which deserve notice from the student's point of view. One of these is the coöperative creamery which owes its success to the fact that a sufficient number of men, who keep cows for the money they make, have built these creameries and supply them with the

necessary cream. Shelby County men had taken stock in creameries before, but the enterprise failed because not enough milk could be procured by the creamery to supply the amount necessary to run the plant with profit.

Some of the creameries collect the cream by sending out wagons with three or four tin cans, which hold about thirty gallons each. The driver skims the milk and measures the cream, which is paid for at so much per inch. Many farmers now own their own separators, for which they pay about \$100. This is especially desirable in case the creamery is one which uses the separator plan; for the milk after having been taken to the creamery and separated becomes sour and unfit for food even for pigs—much less for calves—before it can be returned to the farm. A cream separator pays for itself in a few months through the use of the by-product.

One creamery in the village of Corley served its patrons doubly by giving them a market for their cream and by carrying their mail. Parcels were also carried, and small shopping was done by the milk hauler.

These creameries are especially prosperous in Jackson, Fairview, Monroe, and Clay townships among the Danish people. The following report shows what one creamery brings into a community: milk received, 2,308,867 pounds; butter fat, 765,445 pounds; butter made, 90,505 pounds; amount received from sales, \$17,283.37. The gross price for butter was $19\frac{9}{100}$ cents per pound throughout the year.

A young man who was a "hired man" five years ago told me in August, 1902, that he was selling \$70 worth of cream per month. He employed a man and a girl who helped him milk seventeen cows night and morning. This man counted

his receipts from cream as pure gain, because the milking took very little time that could be used profitably for anything else; while the herd grazed on the bottom and timber land which was fit for nothing but pasture.

The following extracts from the articles of incorporation of three of the creameries set forth the plan of coöperation.

1. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF CENTER CREAMERY COMPANY, FILED FOR RECORD MARCH 10, 1900.

ARTICLE VI

The object of this association is to handle all milk and to manufacture it into first class butter and to sell same for patrons; factory to be operated on the coöperative plan, patrons to receive their proportion of the net proceeds of each month's make in money. Each patron's share to be based on what part of the whole amount of milk each patron furnishes. Necessary running expenses to be deducted each month together with a sinking fund which shall be applied toward the first cost of the creamery plant.¹

2. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE CLAY TOWNSHIP CREAMERY COMPANY, FILED FOR RECORD MARCH 22, 1903.

ARTICLE V

In case the Company's business should become unprofitable and would have to dissolve, all unpaid moneys invested shall be equally divided among all members who shall be compelled by law to pay their equal share of such indebtedness.

ARTICLE VI

If a member should withdraw or quit selling his milk without good reason, he shall after six months be compelled to pay his share of all debts concerning said company except in case of death, selling out, moving out of the township, or quit farming.

¹ There are forty-five men in this association.

ARTICLE VII

In case this company shall have to dissolve, a two-thirds vote of all members shall be required to decide.

ARTICLE VIII

This constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the members present at any lawful meeting.

3. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE CORLEY CREAMERY COMPANY, FILED FOR RECORD FEBRUARY 16, 1901.

ARTICLE XI, SECTION 2

The object of this association is to handle milk and cream separated by centrifugal separator and manufacture the same into first class butter and sell for the patrons, factory to be operated on the coöperative plan. Patrons to receive their portion of the net proceeds of each month's make of butter money, each patron's share to be based on what part of the whole amount of milk or cream such patron furnished in proportion to the amount of fat in such milk or cream. Necessary running expenses to be deducted each month and a sinking fund, which shall be increased or decreased by two-thirds vote (to pay interest, taxes, and the plant) to be made to the patrons of each month's milk as soon as all returns are in. There will be no dividends.

The above articles are copied literally from the county records.

The tables of figures which follow indicate the political preferences of the county as a whole. They show also how each precinct voted in the elections of 1901 and 1902.

VOTE FOR PRESIDENT 1900

PARTY	CANDIDATE	VOTE
Republican.....	McKinley.....	2182
Democratic.....	Bryan.....	2010
Prohibition.....	Wooley.....	32
Peoples.....	Barker.....	6
Social Democratic.....	Debs.....	8

TOWNSHIP	VOTE FOR GOVERNOR 1901		VOTE FOR CONGRESS- MAN 1902	
	CUMMINS	PHILLIPS	SMITH	CULLISON
Cass	91	154	90	156
Center	103	51	95	60
Clay	114	74	126	80
Douglas	114	76	117	83
Fairview	73	90	72	81
Greeley	99	46	102	40
Grove	71	68	70	65
Harlan, first ward.....	111	56	87	70
Harlan, second ward...	87	65	99	84
Harlan, third ward....	65	49	55	60
Harlan, fourth ward....	72	52	63	62
Jackson	82	102	82	121
Jefferson	137	71	125	88
Lincoln.....	75	82	71	85
Monroe	114	56	110	69
Polk	94	43	82	48
Shelby	175	117	198	135
Union	121	140	118	130
Washington	84	125	55	127
Westphalia, precinct 1..	35	115	29	101
Westphalia, precinct 2..	7	121	8	112
Total	1926	1753	1855	1866

Total vote for Governor 3679. Total congressional vote 3721.

The German vote is conspicuously Democratic, especially in the two precincts of Westphalia Township. In 1902 thirty-seven of two hundred fifty-nine voters in Westphalia voted the Republican ticket. Among the Germans in Cass, Lincoln, Fairview, and Shelby townships there is not the approach to unanimity that we find in Westphalia, although

the Germans are as a rule Democrats. The Germans in Shelby Township are Lutherans and Republicans.

Among the Danes there is nearly an equal division in the preference shown to political parties. In county affairs they will often favor a candidate who is personally pleasing to them, although he may be on the "other ticket."

Both Democratic and Republican parties are organized with county central committees, and township and ward chairmen; and the voters are carefully listed, so that it is possible for the enterprising chairman to have a committee-man visit every man known to affiliate with his party. In this way the party canvass is as closely made as in the cities where bosses are working. Even the rural communities have their political leaders, who are sometimes elected but more often self-appointed. By taking hold of the work, and thus becoming influential, by attending township caucuses, by being sent as a delegate to the county convention, by doing political jobs for candidates, these leaders are rewarded later by a deputyship or possibly by a nomination to a county office.

In addition to the Republican and Democratic parties there have been organizations of the Prohibition party, the Populist party, and the Free Silver Republican party. Other parties have received a few votes. For example, Debs, the Social Democratic candidate for President, received eight votes in 1900. The Prohibition party has a following of less than forty men who believe that the only way to settle the liquor question is to vote the ticket of that party. That there are plenty of people who do not favor the liquor traffic is shown by the fact that there are no saloons in Shelby

County. It is impossible to secure a sufficient number of petitioners.

For several years prior to 1900 the Peoples party had a loose organization. In the election of 1900 only six voted for the presidential candidate of the party. At one time the party was assisted by the establishment of a weekly newspaper, *The Industrial American*, which was to be the organ of the party. Through vicissitudes and changes in ownership the *Harlan American*, has become a Democratic organ, and the majority of the members of the Peoples party are now voting the Democratic ticket.

Fusion has become absorption where the Free Silver elements have joined the Democratic party in this county. The Free Silver Republicans joined the Populists in 1896, and later both joined the Democratic forces. The three county conventions were held at the same time in different rooms in the court house at Harlan. Later a joint meeting was held and fusion agreed upon with much rejoicing.

Among the social aggregates in this county are churches of the following sects: American and Danish Baptist, American and Danish Adventist, Congregationalist, Catholic, Christian, Dunkard, German and American Evangelical, Episcopal, Latter Day Saints, Methodist, Presbyterian, United Brethren, and Union. The small towns of the county are all well supplied with churches—so well, indeed, that the congregations in many places are too small to support a pastor for full time. And so one pastor is sometimes called upon to fill two pulpits.

The Catholic church finds its adherents largely among the Germans, and their church building at Westphalia is one

of the best in western Iowa. A few Irish Catholics attach themselves to the German churches in various parts of the county. There are Catholic churches in Harlan, Westphalia, Earling, Portsmouth, and Panama. Some of the Germans who live in the southern part of the county attend the Catholic church at Avoca.

The Danes are found chiefly in three churches—the Baptist, Lutheran, and Adventist. Many of the young people and some of the parents attend churches which hold no services in the Danish language. The Danish Baptist church in Monroe Township, as well as the one in Harlan, holds morning service in Danish and the evening service in English. The Lutheran center is Elkhorn for the Danes and Shelby for the Germans.

The Dunkards have a church building at Bowman's Grove in Center Township. They attract some attention by their piety and their simplicity of dress. The poke bonnets which the women wear are especially conspicuous.

The earliest settlers of Shelby County were members of the church which was established among the people who left the Mormons at Council Bluffs—then known as Kaneshville. The Latter Day Saints still have a strong congregation in Grove Township where many of their people settled. Harrison County, which is just west of Shelby County, also has a large number of these people. Some of Harlan's early settlers were Latter Day Saints, and a small congregation still exists in this town.

The Methodists have the largest number of congregations in the county.

If one could assemble instantly and without notice all

the people in church on a Sunday morning it would be a representative assembly—representative of the best moral and intellectual elements in the county. But many wives and mothers would appear as the sole representatives of their families. It is safe to say that the assembly would constitute a minority of the people. Indeed, all the churches filled would hold not more than seventy-five per cent of the people living in the towns alone.

The church societies play an important part in determining cliques in all the towns of the county. Even the county seat is hopelessly divided for social functions by the lines which are laid for church activity. The young people of each church flock together, and even the older people find the company of other sectarians distasteful at times. Sometimes there are smaller groups within the church itself. The several churches or sects differ on questions of popular amusement such as card-playing, dancing, theatre-going; and groups are easily distinguished in some of the churches on the basis of card-playing.

Sometimes distinctions are drawn which are clearly false and entirely artificial. The presumption is common that a certain church has a monopoly on the richest denizens of the town; that another represents the "best society" in its large membership; and that still another is "the poor man's church." These distinctions are non-essential to the differentiation of religious groups, and are simply man and woman made, distinctions fostered in the sewing society, in the young folks' entertainments, or in conversation wherever it turns upon church matters.

The young people enjoy the union meetings of the young

peoples' societies for religious work; and the effect of such meetings is marked by its broadening influence. One pastor has organized a club of men whose special function is to improve the Sunday evening meetings. The club is constantly supplied with work to do and, therefore, has some reason for existence.

The holiday vacation of the young people attending college causes a readjustment in the grouping for the time being. The renewal of old acquaintances and the effort to entertain the friends who have returned for the holiday season have a marked tendency to break down the church lines. In many cases the bond of union is in the hostess alone.

There are family reunions, neighborhood gatherings, quiltings, and carpet-rag sewings in the country, and Kensingtons in town. In Westphalia weddings often bring three hundred people together. On these festal occasions there is usually an abundance of refreshments and entertainment. Beer and dancing are essential at the typical wedding in Westphalia. There are many weddings among the Germans which are consummated without the "celebration," but as a rule all the friends and neighbors join in the felicity of the wedding day, letting it take precedence over all other claims and duties.

Fraternal societies flourish in this county. The Masons are strong, having lodges in Harlan, Defiance, Shelby and Irwin. Together with the Eastern Star, the sister lodge, these form a strong bond of union among a large number of the leading citizens of the county.

The Odd Fellows Order was established in Harlan in

1873, a year after the organization of the Masonic Order. There are lodges of this society at Shelby and Irwin, but their membership is not as large as is that of the Masons. Associated with the Odd Fellows is the order of women known as Rebeccas.

The Knights of Pythias once had a flourishing lodge in Harlan, but like many other insurance orders interest decreased. The organization, however, still exists. On the other hand, the lodges of the Legion of Honor and the Ancient Order of United Workman have passed entirely out of existence.

In addition to the societies already mentioned there are the Woodmen of the World, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Maccabees, and an attempted organization of a new Homestead of Yeomen.

The Modern Woodmen and their sister society, the Royal Neighbors, recognizing the necessity of something more than inexpensive fraternal insurance to hold a group of people together, have equipped their lodge rooms comfortably and provided kitchen and dining rooms with proper furniture. They spend many pleasant evenings together as a big family. I am confident that the lodge has acquired many of its three hundred members through the influence of the good-time social side of the organization.

The Danish Brotherhood established in Harlan in February, 1903, already has a membership of fifty persons. Similar lodges in Jacksonville and Clay Township have about the same membership.

The A. P. A. was very active in the county for a short time when that society was flourishing generally throughout

the country. Their organization in this place was disbanded because of internal dissension.

The P. E. O. society maintains a subscription library containing about fourteen hundred volumes of choice fiction, travel, biography, and children's books. The ladies explain that the "new books" are the ones most called for, and hence the library is made up largely of recent works of fiction. The society charges five cents per book, with the privilege of keeping it two weeks, or one dollar for a certificate for a year. For two years the ladies have managed a course of entertainments which profited them about two hundred dollars last year (1902) and about one half that sum this year (1903). All money received is put into books. The library is open every Saturday afternoon and evening when books are issued by a committee which works for the sake of the cause of a public library. The lack of necessary public support prevents for the present the possibility of a Carnegie building.

The Political Equality Club, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and the Woman's Union are societies among the women for purposes of improving moral and political conditions. The Woman's Union is not a select organization, but it is open to all women who are interested in improving local conditions. Recently the society interested itself in beautifying the town by encouraging the cultivation of flowering plants and the care of lawns, parkings, and alleys. A flower contest among the children was one of the devices used to accomplish the desired ends.

Other minor organizations tend to group and re-group the people. It is moreover a fact that a few people belong to

many societies, and many people belong to no organization except the church. At the same time it is true that the many need the benefits of associations more than the few.

SOCIAL ORGANS

There are three general systems of social organs: (1) Sustaining System; (2) Transporting System; (3) Regulating System. Under the sustaining system are included all social organs which are engaged in the production of wealth in either the extracting or the transforming industries. The transporting system conveys wealth and population from one part of society to another. The regulating system coördinates and renders efficient the activities of the sustaining and transporting systems and disciplines and develops the physical powers of persons and society. The regulating system is essentially concerned with the generation and communication of psychical influences—knowledge, feeling, and willing. Every person or group of persons holding a piece of land performs the service of gaining control over food conditions or of uniting the land and population. Now there were very few conditions placed on the owners of Shelby County land as they acquired possession of the soil. A land agent (mentioned above) was to sell land to German Catholics, and for every acre sold he was to pay fifty cents to the church.

The government has, of course, exercised its special function at various times to appropriate property needed for the public welfare, for highways and railroads.

Many of the residents of the towns have taken advantages offered by building and loan associations. Others have experienced the disadvantages arising from poorly organized

associations. These latter cases should be discussed under the topic "Social Pathology."

Loan offices are established now where the savings of the frugal Davenporters or the assets of insurance companies can be borrowed on good security at a low rate. The local banks also furnish farmers and cattlemen ample funds with which to carry on their business.

ORGANS OF PROTECTION

It is impossible to separate the ideas of protection of property from the food process. In the early history of the county the family performed all the services of shelter and defence for itself. Hotels there were none on the prairie, and in almost every cabin where there was room on the floor a traveler was welcome to sleep. It is told that in the fifties west-bound travelers could always pay for their lodgings and meals, but when some of the disappointed gold seekers came back from the west their grateful appreciation of the kindness of the host was sufficient compensation because it was all they had to offer. Then the family dispensed its own medicine, made its own clothes from calico and homespun, captured game, made sweetening out of sorghum or maple sap or watermelons, prepared a substitute for coffee by roasting various cereals, used coarse flour and coarser corn meal, and cracked corn. In fact the family provided its own defense against nature and protection from the elements in almost every particular.

Every township in the county has its trustees, who with the clerk constitute the board of health. The county employs on contract physicians whose duty under the terms of

the contract is to care for the sick among the poor. In 1902 the county spent \$937.53 for medical services for paupers, and \$1,430.72 for quarantine and expenses in contagious diseases, making a total expenditure of \$2,368.27. Quarantine is enforced in all cases of contagious or infectious diseases.

The school board of the independent district of Harlan passed a rule that all children who have been absent from school on account of sickness shall present a certificate from a practicing physician stating that the child has no contagious or infectious disease. The school authorities and the board of health cooperate to the advantage of both.

The county is on the whole well drained. The towns having water works draw the supply from wells. The supply of water for Harlan is from wells which are within fifty feet of the Nishnabotna River. There is a thick bed of fine sand through which the river water would have to pass if any of it got into the wells. The city provides a dumping ground and inspects alleys and private premises in the interests of the health of the community. This is done by a committee of the city council.

In 1891 the city of Harlan voted to establish a system of electric lighting. A sum amounting to \$15,000 in bonds and \$3,500 in warrants covered the expense of installing the plant. The rates established and charged down to 1902-3 are indicated as follows:

RESIDENCE	16 CP.	COMMERCIAL	CHOPHOUSE
1 Light	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
2 Lights	1.25	1.25	1.25
Additional.....	.35	.50	.65

Churches and lodges are required to pay three cents per night for each 16 cp. lamp.

But these rates were unsatisfactory because the plant was running behind. In 1901 there was a deficit of \$10,207.62 charged against the electric light. The present city council urged on by the Commercial Exchange, began to investigate and devise plans whereby the plant could be made to pay its own way. Several sources of loss were discovered; many lights were in use which were not recorded on the books of the city clerk; there was a considerable loss in the operation of the engines and dynamos; the mains were in poor condition; the power house was too far from the center of the district using the lights; but the greatest source of loss was found to be that many of the consumers burned all of their lamps whenever the current was on.

Small leaks in the purchase of wire and other supplies were also found; and discounts and other rebates heretofore unnoticed are now obtained. In the past eleven months the system has made a net gain of \$1,344.72, due to the more careful operation of the plant, an increase in the number of lights and the use of meters. The council has just adopted the Westinghouse scale with a meter rate of fifteen cents per kilowatt for each 16 candle power lamp for thirty days' use.

At present there are sixty-three meters in use—thirty-five per cent of the service. Meters have not been put in unless the consumer advanced the price of the meter and accepted the service of lights for the sum of \$17. The city retains the title to the meters. It has already been shown that the use of meters will more than double the capacity of the plant.

The plant consists of boilers, engine (Corliss), two dyna-

mos of 175 horse power and a voltage of 220 direct current, producing 643 kilowatt hours per day of an average of eight and one half hours, and generating a current of 856 horse power. There are 45.8 miles of mains and 3 miles of branch wires (all overhead work). There are 1,700 lights used at present. The total cost of the plant to date has been \$22,303.62.

Income for the current year is indicated as follows:

Commercial and private lights.....	\$7,037.96
Public lights.....	800.00
Other sources.....	1,800.00
Total.....	\$9,637.96

Arc lights used in business houses are furnished at the rate of \$4.50 per month. The meters save consumers one-third of the former rentals. One case may be mentioned where eleven lights with the meter cost less than four lights on the flat rate.

Fire limits have been established within which no frame building may be erected. A voluntary fire company of sixty members does splendid service whenever there is a fire. The telephone system makes the sending of the alarm and its spread a matter of only a few minutes. Here the transporting system overlaps the sustaining system.

Many insurance companies have agents here who offer to insure against loss by storm, fire, lightning, or accident. There are two mutual fire insurance companies which have a large number of policy holders. One company deals in farm risks only, the other confines its insurance to town dwellings. Both companies afford a very cheap and an entirely satisfactory insurance.

The Danish farmers perfected an organization which was intended to equalize losses occasioned by hailstorms. The Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Association was incorporated May 7, 1898. Among other specifications in the articles of incorporation, I find that policies to the amount of \$50,000 were to be issued before any insurance was valid. Each policy holder was to pay a share of the loss according to the ratio which his policy bore to the whole amount of insurance in force. The company ended its existence after a severe hailstorm which ruined the crops of nearly every policy holder. No losses were paid. The county carries insurance on its public buildings to the amount of \$86,850.

There was a time when there was no need of banks, but now twelve banks serve the people by protecting the money entrusted to them. One of these banks keeps its deposits in a safe which occupies a conspicuous place in a large window in plain sight of everyone on the street. The fact that the city employs a night watchman and that the safe is claimed to be burglar proof makes the location of the safe in the window an additional safeguard.

ORGANS FOR THE PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE OF WEALTH

In this community the organs for producing wealth are largely extractive. Agriculture is the occupation of a large majority of the people. Of 17,932 people who live in this county 5,350 live in the towns. Less than one third of the inhabitants are not engaged in farming. Of this number many who live in towns depend on the farms to provide them with a livelihood. The transforming industries are few. A carpet and rug factory which makes and sells a

very good loom has grown out of a one-room carpet weaving shop solely by the skill and ingenuity of the boy who saw how he could make a lever throw the shuttle and return it.

Similarly from a blacksmith shop in which there worked a man who saw how he could make gasoline furnish power has come a gas engine which is a marvel in simplicity and power. A company has been organized to enable the successful enterprise to be carried out more completely. The company has already provided new machinery for the factory which will turn out gas engines, motors, and automobiles.

A canning factory erected in 1903 consumed the product of over three hundred acres of sweet corn. Contrary to the custom of promoters of such enterprises the community was asked to provide only the site and guarantee the planting of three hundred acres of corn.

There are many other minor industries which might be mentioned in this connection, such as flouring mills, brick plants, cigar factory, broom factory, creameries, and industries which are partly domestic in their organization. Here also we list masons, carpenters, dressmakers, shoemakers, bakers, and so on through the list of those who in the union of the land and population add their capital of tools and strength to produce wealth.

Exchange is still carried on in some parts of the county in primitive ways. Barter is used extensively in buying produce from the farmers, many of whom find it difficult to use all the credit gained by the marketing of eggs and small fruit. Some have resorted to seeking special patrons at first hand without the assistance of the storekeeper.

One merchant has discontinued the use of due bills because of the many errors which arose. He now issues metal checks which call for goods at his store to the amount stamped on the face of the check. It is interesting to note that this "tin money" is readily accepted by his fellow merchants. Inquiry proved that business courtesy was not the explanation of the ready acceptance of this medium, but rather the fact that the merchant who issued the checks could redeem them in goods or cash and that he was willing to do so at any time.

Much of the exchange is conducted on a credit basis by the use of checks and drafts. The deposits of the three banks of Harlan aggregate over a million dollars. The postoffice is used by many as a banking institution in that they depend on postal money orders to forward money in small amounts. The express companies perform the same function.

ORGANS FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF WEALTH

The organs for the transmission of wealth are few in addition to the function of the family in inheritance. Agents of various life insurance companies and benefit associations are found here. In accordance with the statute there exists a commission for the purpose of assessing the collateral and inheritance tax.

ORGANS FOR TRANSPORTATION

The organs for transportation in early days consisted of oxen or horses and wagons as private conveyances and the stage coach as a common carrier. Until 1869, when the Rock Island Railroad was completed to Council Bluffs, it

was a two days' trip to market or mill and return. Then Avoca became the market place for many Shelby County people. The ridges which run nearly north and south furnished excellent prairie highways the entire distance to Avoca. Many a farmer who now has to drive up and down the hills with his loads of grain longs for the good old times of the ridge road and wheat at a dollar a bushel.

In 1878 a branch railroad was built from Avoca to Harlan by a company called the Avoca, Harlan and Northern Railway Company whose function was to prepare the road-bed which the Rock Island agreed to tie and iron. The local company succeeded in getting a tax levied in Lincoln, Harlan, Westphalia, Douglas, and Greeley townships. This tax varied from one to four per cent on a dollar of taxable property, varying with the advantages to be gained by the operation of the railroad. After the road-bed was completed the Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company leased it for ninety-nine years.

The main line of the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul runs across the northwestern part of the county passing through Defiance, Panama, and Portsmouth, and has 24.81 miles of track. The Rock Island has only 17.15 miles of track, while the Northwestern has 18.72 miles in the branch line which was extended as far as Harlan in 1900. Previous to that time the Northwestern ran only to Kirkman. The Great Western has completed a road diagonally across the county from northeast to southwest. Two additional roads are much talked of, an electric line from Des Moines directly west and a line from Manning to Marne. These roads would pass through country that is now twelve miles from

a railroad. This territory is now reached by no public conveyances, and the only access is through private means of transportation. The mail carrier sometimes takes passengers, and creamery wagons assist in the public service of transportation.

Hotels have their omnibus lines and baggage wagons, and many dray lines have been established. Numerous livery barns supply teams and vehicles for many persons for whom private conveyances would be too expensive.

The delivery wagons and messengers of merchants form a considerable part of the transporting system. The oil wagons in town, which follow definite routes in the country a few times each week, serve a large number of people in a substantial manner.

Farmers have united in their efforts to transport the farm produce easily. The men exchange work usually of a like kind. It is not uncommon to see a dozen wagon loads of hogs brought into town in a procession. The number of teams used is limited by the size of the drove to be transported. At such a time every farmer helps his neighbor and is helped in return when he markets his own hogs. Many loads of lumber are taken to the farms after such a marketing.

THE COMMUNICATING SYSTEM

The transporting system does a great service to the public by providing a means of communication. The railroads which make possible the present postal system, and the telephones and telegraphs by which rapid communication of ideas is accomplished are the material means which unite the people of Shelby County with the world. What it

means to be shut out from the rest of the world is felt occasionally when accidents or storms prevent the arrival of the usual mail.

The communicating system of Shelby County expressed in miles consists of the following:

C. & N. W. R. R.	18.72 miles
C. M. & St. P. R. R.	24.81 "
C. R. I. & P. R. R.	17.15 "
American Express	18.72 "
U. S. Express	41.96 "
Harlan & Avoca Telephone and Telegraph Company ...	35.10 "
Western Union Telegraph Company	60.68 "

There are about four hundred and fifty telephones in Harlan and vicinity, and of this number over fifty are on the rural lines. Inquiry at the central office brings out the fact that the busy time begins about seven o'clock in the morning and reaches its height by half past nine. Business is steady until noon when there is a lull during the dinner hour. From three until five and from seven until eight are busy times for "Central." There are very few calls after eleven o'clock at night. The desire to talk seems to go in waves over the town. Sometimes there is not a call for several minutes; then suddenly there will begin a wave of calls which sometimes lasts for twenty minutes. The service is continuous and offers good connections with neighboring towns. It is of much greater service than an earlier system which was operated twelve hours in twenty-four with no Sunday service.

The press constitutes a very important part of the communicating system. In this county at present there are six

weekly papers published in addition to five Danish publications. The latter are written elsewhere with the exception of one whose name translates *The Voice in the Wilderness*. The local papers published in the county seat contain columns of notes from various correspondents in other towns and in the rural districts. Greater attention is given to local news than to items of wider interest because there are many daily papers taken. The three rural free delivery routes greatly increased the circulation of the daily papers.

Commercial agencies keep banks and merchants informed as to the standing of business men in other communities. The banks serve as local commercial agencies because they can give information concerning the credit of almost every resident of the vicinity.

The weather service forecasts are announced by displaying flags on one of the business houses, by bulletins in the postoffice, and by small flags displayed by the rural mail wagons.

The Commercial Exchange of Harlan gathers and spreads information concerning the locality, and as an organ of communication forms a center in which the public spirited men of the town come together to make plans for the advancement of common interests. The Agricultural Exchange, consisting of nearly one hundred men, is urging the matter of better roads. The Fine Stock Association built a large pavilion on the grounds of the Shelby County Fair Association for the purpose of having a place for the sale of fine stock. The groups which gather at such sales and the hundreds who attend the annual fair are important aids in the communication of the knowledge of the best products and the best methods of production.

Church, school, and lectures furnish continual information for the population. Sermons are filled with practical facts bearing on the morals and spiritual life of the people. The schools broaden the horizon of the child's experience by giving him new material for thought and connecting him with rich experiences of the past. Public lecture courses are popular and have become an important feature even in some of the smaller towns in the county.

The commercial traveler not only tells the retail merchant of the best things which the wholesale house has to sell, but he learns of the demands made by the people on the retail dealer. When the drummer reports a general demand for some special article the whole set of productive and transforming organs are set in motion to supply the new call.

Other minor means of communication are found in the groups which gather in the postoffice, at lunch counters, in billiard halls, and in business places and offices. Advertisements in the newspapers, on the bill boards, and by means of printed or typewritten letters sent through the mail in plain envelopes, or delivered by messenger, furnish the people with much undervalued information.

THE REGULATING SYSTEM

The regulating system shows many interesting phases in its history. A few extracts from the county records pertaining to the first elections show how the County Judge and the Justice of the Peace were once in control of affairs. It is noteworthy that these early records set forth the election of certain men to office, but do not give the number of votes each received nor the names of the opposing candi-

dates. Other details were omitted which are now found in county records. Below are several extracts from the records showing the location of the first county seat, the division of the county into townships, and the results of early elections.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, December 3, 1853.

A majority of the voters of Shelby County, Iowa, as shown by the petition and certified to by the District Clerk of said county, the county officers being electors.

I therefore appoint Marshall Turly of Council Bluffs City; J. F. Vails of Crawford County; Lorenzo Butler of Harrison County, who within two months of receiving notice of said appointment, being sworn, or two of them shall locate the seat of justice for said county as near the geographical center as may be having due regard to the present as well as future population of said county.¹

SAMUEL H. RIDDLE,

Judge 7th Judicial District.

The next item has no date, but the entry immediately preceding is dated February 21, 1854, and the one immediately following, July 3, 1854.

I, James M. Butler, County Judge, do hereby divide the county of Shelby into two townships for the purpose of holding elections in the same, which precincts are known as Galland's Grove precinct and Southern precinct.

At an election held in Shelby county, Iowa, on Monday, the 3rd day of April, 1854, William H. Jordan was elected to the office of County Judge; Milton M. Beebe was elected to the office of Sheriff; Alexander McCord was elected to the office of Treasurer and Recorder; Adam Cuppy was elected to the office of Drainage Commis-

¹ It is interesting to note that the seat of justice was located in the northeast one-fourth of section 27, township 81 north, and range 40 west, which is in the northwest corner of the county. The present county seat is very nearly in the geographical center.

sioner; James Ward was elected to the office of Prosecuting Attorney; and James Perry was elected to the office of Surveyor.

April 7, 1854.

JAMES BUTLER, County Judge,	} County Canvassers.
THOMAS McCORD, Justice Peace,	
URIAH ROUNDY, Justice Peace.	

At an election held in Shelby County, Iowa, on Monday, 7th August, 1854, for the purpose of electing one member to Congress, Governor, Attorney General, Auditor of State, Secretary of State, one Senator, County officers, County Judge, Recorder and Treasurer, District Clerk, a School Fund Commissioner, Prosecuting Attorney, County Surveyor, and Justice of the Peace, the result is as follows, to-wit:

For Member of Congress..	{	Augustus Halle had 43 votes	
		Rufus B. Clarke	9 "
For office of Governor	{	Curtis Bates	33 "
		James W. Grimes	19 "
Auditor of State.....	{	Jos. Sharp	29 "
		M. L. Morris	11 "
		Andrew Stevenson	18 "

At an election held in the county of Shelby on the 2nd day of April, 1855, there were votes cast for the office of Register of State Lands—Anson Hart had one vote.

For the office of Des Moines River Improvement, Wm. McKay one vote, J. C. Lockwood one vote. Prohibitory Liquor Law—*for*, four votes; *against*, fifty votes.¹

On the first Monday in April, 1858, an election was held to vote on the question "shall stock run at large." The total vote cast was 113 of which number 62 voted in favor of the law and 51 against.

The above extracts show that the early records of the county as kept are very incomplete. The records of the

¹ It is to be inferred that the liquor law was of so much interest that the two offices to be filled were almost entirely ignored.

Justices of the Peace show many cases settled. One part of the record given below suggests the scope of work undertaken by the Justice's court.

STATE OF IOWA, Shelby County:

An inquisition holden at Elkhorn Creek, near the east line of Shelby County, on the 7th day of April, A. D. 1869, before Martin Poling as Justice of the Peace, acting as coroner of said county upon the body of J. W. Wilson there lying dead, by the jurors whose names are hereto subscribed, the said jurors upon their oaths do say that the said Wilson is supposed to have been killed on the 15th day of November, A. D. 1868, by lightning. In testimony whereof the said jurors have hereunto set their hands the day and year aforesaid.

Attest,

MARTIN POLING, J. P.

W. L. DAVIS,

D. S. BOWMAN,

ELIAS MONROE,

Jurors.

I return a transcript of the above to the clerk of the District Court.

MARTIN POLING, J. P.

Acting as Coroner.

The judicial system, courts, and lawyers are above the many authorities which arise out of the public sentiment for right doing. These centers of authority are the church, school, and the indefinite "they" of public opinion. It is in a measure the product of church and school to which is added the sentiment or opinion which seems to grow and scatter itself from nowhere in particular to everywhere in general. Wherever men meet and talk this same intangible force is growing. Not only are fashions fixed by this same influence but morals, religion, and politics come under its sway. Custom and precedent are powerful allies of public opinion especially among the conservative people.

The press has great regulative power. Whenever efforts are needed to secure any enterprise or to make any reform the papers do a great deal to influence public action by the information supplied and the arguments offered. Not a week passes but the press urges the resistance of some wrong, the assistance of right, and the advancement of the common welfare.

A certain bookstore refuses to sell trashy stories to boys and girls, thereby raising the standard of the reading of many young people.

The Woman's Union in carrying out its plans for a cleaner and more beautiful city is regulative in its nature. All the associations or societies which are educational in their nature must be regulative to the degree that they impose local conditions.

The organs of government are specifically regulative through police, the courts, and prescribed administrative regulations.

SOCIAL PATHOLOGY

We have noted that the area studied is a composite society, possessing not only a social body with its organs, but also a social mind which acts, directs, and makes itself felt constantly. It is the product of association and the cause of social activities. The test of the efficiency of the whole organism or of any part thereof is the greatest possible good to the individuals who compose it. That there are many who are not getting the greatest possible good is due in part to the social disease from which no social organ is altogether free.

Diseased individuals cannot adequately perform their

social function, and so the social fabric is weakened by the physical ills of the members of society. As a rule the boards of health in every township of the county are alert and careful to place contagious or infectious diseases in quarantine, but sometimes those restrained fail to realize the necessity of a conscientious observance of regulations. There have been no serious epidemics of ravaging disease. The occasional case of typhoid fever or similar diseases can be accounted for by unsanitary conditions in the immediate vicinity. The drainage is good and general conditions are healthful. The number of births during the past year exceeded the number of deaths. Small pox, scarlet fever, and diphtheria have caused very few deaths. These diseases persist in some parts of the county because the people are unwilling to use the necessary care in disinfecting the premises.

Poverty and pauperism do not furnish in a rural community the problems which are so important in the city. But even in such a prosperous agricultural section as Shelby County it seems necessary to have a permanent home for paupers. The county owns a farm of 166.39 acres, which lie in section 36 of Lincoln Township. The farm as now operated contains one hundred acres of pasture. In 1902 this farm produced ninety tons of hay, twelve hundred bushels of corn, and one hundred bushels of potatoes. The farm is not self-supporting; and that the indoor relief furnished is expensive is evident from the following statistics which are taken from the financial statement for 1902 issued by the County Auditor:

Dr.	
Total cash expenditures during the year 1902	\$ 5,693.17
Inventory of stock and other property at beginning of	
year	7,034.97
Insurance (per annum).....	60.00
Cr.	\$12,788.14
Sales of stock and other products as shown else-	
where	\$4,339.86
Inventory of stock and other property at close	
of year	5,821.01
	<u>\$10,160.87</u>
Dr. balance.....	\$ 2,627.27

Total number of inmates cared for in 1902.....	16
Average number of days for each inmate.....	206
Average number of inmates during the year.....	9
Whole number of weeks of maintenance.....	466
Average cost (cash) per inmate per week.....	\$5.64

From the same source we gather the following facts concerning outdoor relief.¹

EXPENSE OF PAUPERS OUTSIDE OF THE POOR FARM

House rent	\$ 24.40
Monthly allowances	807.00
Clothing	10.55
Provisions	285.91
Medical aid	888.50
Burial expenses	25.75
Expense shipping out tramp.....	5.00
Total	<u>\$2,047.11</u>

The total expense of the public support of the poor for the year 1902 was \$4,674.38. Just what is meant by the

¹ This does not include private charities or that given by the association of churches of Harlan.

item, "Expense shipping out tramp," cannot be stated. It is a fact that the officials of the community have given such parasites a few dollars and a few hours to leave the county. The tramp usually follows the main line of the railroad; so that the tramp problem may be increased for Harlan when the Great Western begins to operate its trains.

On Thanksgiving Day each year the churches of Harlan hold a union service, one part of which is the collection of a thank offering that is to be used in assisting the poor of the community in order to prevent them from calling on public charity. In case of sickness or misfortune temporary aid, judiciously given, has prevented pauperism. The aid is administered through the pastors, two of whom sign an order upon the treasurer for the money to purchase the necessary supplies.

Of a total of one hundred and nineteen adjudged insane from 1871 to March 15, 1903, thirty-two were Danes, twenty-one Germans, and the remainder distributed among other nationalities. From January 1, 1900, to March 15, 1903, twenty-seven persons have been adjudged insane; and of this number two were Germans and thirteen Danes—nine men and four women. On March 15, 1903, there were twenty-nine insane from Shelby County in the hospital at Clarinda. Fifteen of these were Danes. There are two reasons commonly offered for insanity among the Danish people—their intermarriages and living in isolation. Doubtless hard work, melancholy, and brooding over cares are the causes which unbalance the minds of most of those who have been pronounced insane. During the year 1902 the county paid \$5,791.27 to the State Hospital at Clarinda for

caring for thirty-seven patients. The Home for the Feeble Minded at Glenwood received \$57.30 for caring for five persons sent to that institution.

Although vice and crime have not increased noticeably there is a tendency on the part of too many young men and women to disregard parental authority and to neglect consideration for the rights of the general public. Such manifestations of a viciousness in the garb of good society do more damage ultimately than the thief who steals and is caught and punished.

During the past fifteen months there have been four cases of suicide, one attempted murder, and several cases of seduction that have come to judicial notice. In six months there have been five violent deaths by accident and one suicide. These things are mentioned not because they are characteristic, but because the county has to contend with these difficulties just as does any other community.

There is a condition of the social mind that is distinctly pathological. It grows worse as the special organs increase. The individual is becoming more and more forgetful of his relation to the social whole. Social unconsciousness is upon a large number of the population. The only way society can be cured of its ills is for each individual to realize his relation to the social whole and to be willing to sacrifice something for the common good. Prevention of social wrongs will then make cures unnecessary.

We have now traced the growth of this society of Shelby County from its first crude settlement to the present time, when the farmer enjoys his fine home with its books, music, telephone, and rural free mail delivery. There is a marked

contrast between the oxen and wagon, and roadster and family carriage; forty miles to mill and postoffice, and forty feet to the mail box; the assessed value of all the property in the county in 1854 at \$20,599, and in 1902 at \$19,729,913.64. There has been almost a thousand fold increase in less than fifty years.

To ride through the beautiful valleys and see the fifty herds of registered thoroughbred stock, the large barns, and the fine groves is to be amply assured of the material progress and prosperity of the county. To learn to know the people and their ideals is to be convinced that their social progress has been great and that it will continue with an increase in the next generation equal to the material progress of their fathers.

JOHN J. LOUIS

HARLAN, IOWA

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