

INAUGURAL ADDRESS  
OF  
FRANCIS M. DRAKE

GOVERNOR OF IOWA,

DELIVERED

AT HIS INAUGURATION,

JANUARY 16, 1896.

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## INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives and to the People of the State of Iowa:*

In entering upon the grave and responsible duties of the office of chief executive of Iowa, I beg to express my sincere thanks to the people of the state for the high honor that has been conferred upon me.

Recognizing, as I sincerely do, that the honor is not in the mere holding of the office, but in the faithful, unselfish, honest, and efficient discharge of its duties, and in the service of the whole people, I ask you, as members of the general assembly, and the people whom you represent, for your influence and co-operation to enable me to discharge these duties, and to meet these responsibilities, with wisdom, with love for humanity, and with reverence for Almighty God.

This representative body, selected by the people from their own number because of their fitness to legislate, I have no doubt will enact wise and wholesome laws for the protection, prosperity, and happiness of the people as a whole, and without partiality or favoritism to any classes.

From my knowledge of the distinguished gentlemen of which this intelligent body is composed, I am impressed with the belief that nothing will be omitted, in the way of legislation, necessary to be enacted for the promotion of the best interests of this great commonwealth and for the development of all its material resources.

institutions are the State University, Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm, and the State Normal School, and have a total attendance of 2,391; the schools for the blind, the deaf and the feeble-minded have a total population of 1,108; the three hospitals for the insane have a population of 2,406; the two penal institutions, 988; two reformatories, 589; Soldiers' Orphans Home, 452; Soldiers' Home, 605, and Home for the Industrial Blind, 44.

The state has a property investment in these institutions of over \$10,000,000, and is expending annually nearly \$1,500,000 in their management. It has been my duty as well as pleasure to visit all of these institutions, and most of them I have visited several times, and I take pleasure in attesting to the honesty and economy of their management. There is nothing that reflects more credit upon the intelligence of our state, nothing of which the people of Iowa can be more proud, than the magnificent results which they have accomplished. Governed as they are by non-partisan boards, the members of which are selected by the general assembly, the freedom from scandal over a long period of years, as well as the high standing which they have attained, demonstrate the wisdom of Iowa's early law-makers who first established this principle for the government of state institutions.

It has been proposed to change this present form of government for that of a single board of control. I believe the proposition to be against the best interests of these institutions. It would be an experiment fraught with injury to the state to place \$10,000,000 of property with \$1,500,000 expenditures thereon in the hands of three or five persons, who, from the very nature of things, have never had experience in the control of other than small properties or the handling of other than small amounts of money. A board possessed of the highest ability to govern the state university is liable to have the least ability in managing the state penitentiaries or the hospitals for the insane.

Under the present management the state institutions of Iowa are receiving the highest business ability attainable and at a nominal cost.

They are governed, not only by the application of good business principles, but by that which is equally as valuable, the application of the principles of sympathy and love dictated by able and representative men and women who are members of the governing board, and who are giving their best energies,

their best abilities, to the state, not for the per diem which they receive, but in many cases because of the fact that those near and dear to them are inmates of these institutions. I most certainly recommend that the present method of government of our state institutions be permitted to remain.

I am fully aware of the fact that good business principles demand that before apportioning the appropriations to the various state institutions, the general assembly should have the judgment thereon of some one who is familiar with their financial condition, who knows the necessities of each, and who also has knowledge of the ability of the state to provide for these necessities. The law now provides that the executive council can authorize the managing boards of state institutions to create indebtednesses against their support fund. It is also authorized to appropriate from the providential contingent fund in aid of these institutions upon proper showing. In the fulfillment of these duties the executive council has already become familiar with the financial conditions and needs of many of them. I would, therefore, recommend that the executive council be required by law to visit each state institution at least once during the biennial period, and, jointly with the governing board, to investigate the financial conditions, consider the appropriations to be asked for, and that the executive council be further required to report to the general assembly, making recommendations for the apportionment of appropriations to each institution. This recommendation is not made with the view of dispensing with the visiting committee of the general assembly, which is so well calculated to bring the law-makers of the state in closer sympathy with the aims, desires and necessities of the various institutions.

The people of Iowa are most happily situated in being free from the demoralizing and embarrassing influences resulting from a great metropolitan city. With intelligence such as we possess, with prosperity such as we have, there are no good reasons why this great family of people should be content to do even comparatively well. We should fully meet the increasing responsibilities which our intelligence, our wealth and our progressiveness naturally bring to us. The past record of our state has been most creditable, but a larger life would seem to be opening before this active, intelligent and prosperous people. The demand of our present population is far in excess of the capacity of our present plant. When the merchant who

## IN MEMORIAM.

In this place, it is fitting that I should speak of the two members of the commission that has had charge of the construction of the monument, who have passed away since the general assembly's last session. I speak standing in the shadow of a bereavement which is personal to all of us. Him who was thus taken from us, it was my high privilege to know for half a century. It cannot be improper, even in a state paper, thus to speak of Judge Wright, for his name is identified with all that is best in fifty years of Iowa's history. I cannot say what he has been to me in all these years; and standing on the threshold of the high office for which I have just qualified I feel, and frankly say it, that I shall miss him and his wise counsel. He was one of the noblest of the builders of the commonwealth, one who illustrated its best citizenship, adorned its social life, exalted its jurisprudence, and in all things honored the state. I would that I might speak of all that he was to the state, but that would involve a review of the entire history of Iowa.

On Governor Kirkwood had been laid a heavy burden in a time of great public peril. He it was, under whose inspiring leadership and efficient management, more than fifty regiments were recruited, equipped, and sent forth to do battle for the union and the life of the nation. He, too, filled a large place in the history of the state.

Both these men served their generation and future generations faithfully and well. Integrity and devotion to duty were characteristic of each of them, and their sturdy manliness and thorough sincerity made them beloved by all the people. Among the careers which in all the days of the commonwealth shall most illumine its history, and furnish felicitous lessons for its youth, will ever be those of George Grover Wright and Samuel Jordan Kirkwood.

## A MEMORIAL HALL.

In this connection, allow me to indorse most cordially the recommendation of my esteemed predecessor, favoring the erection, at as early a day as possible, of a memorial, historical, and art building. It would seem appropriate that this desirable project—seconded, as I believe, by every lover of the state—should be commenced, if not finished, in our semi-centennial year.

Iowa's history has been made rapidly during the fifty years, and is being made even more rapidly year by year. Thanks to the enterprise and untiring energy of a few of our citizens, and to many distinguished lovers of art and literature without the state, who have so liberally contributed their generous gifts, we now have many valuable treasures, fine paintings, works of art, and historical manuscripts, as well as mementoes and relics of early days and of the war, for the safe keeping and convenient exhibition of which we have no adequate accommodation. The state is constantly being remembered in this direction by liberal donors, and will be much more so, when they are assured that ample provision has been made so that the articles contributed can be suitably placed, safely cared for, and fairly exhibited for the benefit of the public.

To this end I recommend a suitable building, fire proof, and complete in all its appointments, where may be gathered, preserved, and exhibited these much coveted treasures.

## STATUE TO JUSTICE SAMUEL F. MILLER.

Not alone as warriors and chieftains are men great, and to be cherished in the memory of the people. When the spirit left the body of the lamented Judge Samuel F. Miller, of the federal court, a great man had fallen, and the nation mourned.

As a young man he was the friend and appointee of the immortal Lincoln. His was the soul of wisdom and honor. He was Iowa's son, her greatest legal light, the peer of Chief Justice Marshall. His pre-eminent ability was fully recognized, and his great heart, mind, and soul, his strict sense of

justice, his purity of character, shone forth to the world a guiding light well worth observing. It has been suggested that a bronze statue of him be placed in our state capitol, and one in the capitol of the nation. I commend this to you and our representatives in congress.

#### THE FUTURE AND EDUCATION.

But revering the past, and building monuments to its achievements, are not sufficient. We must keep our eyes on the future. The keynote of Iowa's future greatness is education. Iowa must educate; all America must educate, or perish. We who came to this state when schools were few and inadequate, and when colleges and universities were unknown, who had to look to life's rugged school for our education, are in position to appreciate the value of schools and colleges. As individuals and as a state, we have in a measure labored worthily in the cause of education. But there is much more to be done. It must be done gradually, I realize, but we ought, as a state, to keep constantly in mind some high ideal, and then strive to approach it.

That ideal for Iowa, in my opinion, ought to be this: A system of education beginning with the kindergarten, passing upward through the primary, intermediate, and high schools: a completed public school system, open to all and adequate for all; thence upward again through normal schools, where teachers shall be trained for the common schools, and ending in the state university with a course of study comprehensive as any on the continent. Co-ordinate with it, there will be ample room for the colleges and universities of the various denominations, which have done so much, and made so many sacrifices, for higher education. I see no room for rivalries, except healthful rivalries; whatever helps one institution helps all. Nor would I forget the agricultural college at Ames, where a technical, scientific, industrial education ought to be offered to the young men and women of the state on the most generous terms possible.

The public school system should be enlarged and made more comprehensive, until the children of the state can there obtain such complete education as will fit them for any avocation or business pursuit.

#### NORMAL SCHOOLS.

The State Normal school, so essential to the education and training of professional teachers of high rank and scholarship, well equipped for the most efficient service in our common schools, is worthy of your careful attention and of liberal endowment. Our normal school facilities are grossly inadequate. About 18,000 teachers are employed in our Iowa free schools. We can not overestimate the importance of well qualified teachers, nor the irreparable injury in deficient teaching and training of the youth of our land. Errors planted in virgin minds are very difficult to eradicate. It is much easier to teach correctly from the beginning than to correct erroneous teaching. The normal school system ought, as soon as the state can afford it, to be amply enlarged.

#### THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Agricultural college, so necessary for acquiring knowledge in agriculture and for the promotion of our agricultural interests to the highest standard of systematic efficiency and economy, has proven an untold benefit to the state, and I doubt not will meet with your very liberal encouragement.

#### THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

Our State university has already attained a very high standard of excellence, but there is room for further development. A great struggle is being made by its entire management, and it has many difficulties to meet and to overcome. The buildings are inadequate properly to accommodate its present attendance, and there are many necessities to be provided for that should by no means be neglected. This institution is deserving of your greatest consideration, and all its reasonable wants should be met, so as to keep it fully abreast with like institutions in other states.

## STATE INSTITUTIONS.

While we have great reason to be proud of our excellent system of state institutions, and the wise and humane provisions made for our unfortunate classes: schools and colleges for the deaf and blind; hospitals for the mentally disabled; homes for the disabled and unfortunate veteran soldiers, and for the soldiers' orphans and other indigent children; industrial schools for the wayward boys and girls; and penitentiaries for the criminal classes; let us not forget that as the state grows in population these wants increase in a like ratio, and provision must be made to supply them. Close attention must be given in order to secure the highest standard of efficiency and integrity in management, in strict compliance with humane and sanitary requirements. Let us not be in the least forgetful of any of these institutions, but take all due interest in seeing that they are properly maintained, improved, and extended commensurately with their necessities, in order that there be no neglect in caring well for the unfortunate classes in Iowa. In this connection I may suggest that among the criminal classes it would be in the interest of humanity and reform, could an intermediate provision be made, between the industrial or reform school and the penitentiaries, for young men and women and such others, not entitled to become occupants of the former, and who ought not to be sent to the latter. I will not enlarge on this subject, but leave the matter for your serious consideration.

## THE NATIONAL GUARD.

At the outbreak of the civil war in 1861, the government found itself dependent for equipped and drilled soldiers upon the small and scattered forces of the regular army, and the patriotic volunteers fresh from the fields, stores, shops, and offices, unlearned and undisciplined in the art of war. The nation learned from this the necessity for better provision in the future, and the system of state national guards was established.

These organizations have proven to be not only a valuable acquisition as a reserve force to the regulars, but as conservators

of the peace and good order of the several states. In Iowa we have one of the most efficient of these organizations. It is composed of forty-eight companies, divided into twelve battalions, four regiments, and two brigades, made up—rank, file, line, and field and brigade commands—of the best and most select men of the state. They have been educated and trained thoroughly in the latest approved army tactics, and in accordance with the army regulations. These guards are gentlemanly and orderly in their bearing, precise in their movements and drill, and as obedient, loyal, faithful, and efficient—although enlisted and sworn into service and mustered with no pay except the reward of patriotism—as if belonging to the regular army, and regularly paid for their services. Iowa is justly proud of her national guards. They deserve well of the state, and by a reasonable increase of allowance, to provide them with knapsacks and some additional equipment and protection for travel and camp life, they can be made and will become equally efficient, and as ready for active service in the field as the regulars. Neither the nation nor the states have, in my opinion, taken sufficient interest to inform themselves as to the true value and importance of these national guards. For that reason they have failed to appreciate properly and fairly consider and recognize the unselfish and patriotic services so graciously given at considerable sacrifice.

## HIGHWAYS.

The question of good roads is one now being much agitated and discussed in all the states. Good and substantial public highways are not alone a great convenience, but a necessity, and in the end a matter of economy. May we not hope that measures will soon be taken whereby a greatly improved system will be inaugurated in this direction.

## RAILROADS.

It is impossible fully to estimate the great advantages Iowa has received through her vast system of railroads. There is

not a county in the state without railroad facilities. Iowa has within her borders about 9,000 miles of railroad, so located and operated that farmers in every part have easy access to the markets. These railroads have developed the resources of the state in every conceivable way, and have been the most important factors in promoting, building up, and advancing its growth, wealth, and general prosperity. There is a community of interests between the owners and operators of the railway lines and the people of the state. Each should study and respect the rights and interests of the other. Much of the prejudice at one time existing between these two interests has been removed, and we believe that the nearer the railroads and the people get together, and learn to understand and respect the rights of each other, the better it will be for both; and may we not now rejoice in the belief that the day for this is approaching, if not already here. It shall be the aim of the executive to advance, as far as he may be able, such a happy state of affairs.

The railroad commissioners, now wisely selected by the vote of the people, and of recognized ability and fairness, have done much to bring this about, and I have not the least doubt will continue to do much.

#### WATERWAYS.

The people are now looking to waterways as the great means of cheap transportation, and to the utilizing of our lakes and rivers by bringing them in connection with each other, so that communication by water may be had from all parts of the Mississippi valley and east of it to the Atlantic seaboard. It would be next to impossible to estimate correctly the immense advantages to be obtained by securing this desirable result. The American people are becoming thoroughly awakened to the importance of these matters. The state of New York has appropriated \$9,000,000 for the deepening and otherwise improving of her canal system. The Pittsburg canal, to connect the Ohio river with Lake Erie, is being rapidly constructed. The Chicago drainage canal, now approaching completion, will be sufficient for the passage of large steamers from Lake

Michigan to the Illinois river; and the Hennepin canal, when completed, will connect the Illinois river from La Salle with the Mississippi river at the mouth of Rock river near Milan, in the vicinity of Davenport, Iowa. The length of this canal will be less than one hundred miles, and it will be the most direct and best connection to be made between the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. The people of Iowa are deeply interested in the early completion of this canal. No other means can so readily afford our entire state cheap transportation to the Atlantic seaboard. It is only a question of time until it will be completed, but time is a question of great moment, when this matter of cheap transportation so materially affects our commercial interests, and that of the producers and shippers. To this end, I recommend that our desires be made known to congress, through our senators and representatives, that a sufficient appropriation may be made for the early completion of this great waterway.

#### THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

One of the greatest promoters of crime is found in the indulgence in the use of ardent spirits. Its serious consequences are seen and felt most in the homes of the poor and the unfortunate. Too frequently, fathers, husbands, and sons, whose daily earnings, necessary for family support, are squandered in the saloons, and instead of bringing love and sunshine carry darkness and cruelty to mothers and children. The home, the most sacred place of all things earthly, is thus transformed into a place of wretchedness. If this evil can not be prohibited it should be controlled. The people of the state of Iowa are behind no other people in the nation, or in the world, in their purpose and desire to cultivate and maintain the highest standards of temperance and morality. To this end the people, at a non partisan election more than a decade ago, expressed their wishes at the polls in favor of amending the constitution of the state, which finally resulted in the passage of the prohibitory liquor law. This law has been enforced in strong temperance districts, but has been inoperative in those districts in which a majority has been

opposed to the law. The question has long been one of serious discussion, and the majority of the people, being anxious to secure the most favorable results, pronounced in favor of the American doctrine of local self-government and relegated the question to the representative districts. The Twenty-fifth General Assembly, to preserve prohibition in those localities where it could be made efficient, and to control the traffic in the other localities, enacted what is known as the mulct law. That law has since been in force, and upon information I believe is giving reasonable satisfaction, still leaving the prohibitory law undisturbed in localities where it is preferred.

At the same session of the legislature preliminary steps were taken for the resubmission of a prohibitory amendment to the constitution. These questions will be before you for your earnest consideration, and I doubt not will be determined by you in the exercise of wisdom and in sincerity as the chosen representatives of the senatorial and representative districts, and with all due regard for the wishes of your constituents, keeping in mind the welfare of the state.

#### TRANSIENT VENDORS.

The importation into the state of goods, wares, merchandise, and other chattel property by transient vendors is becoming so prevalent as to warrant legislation necessary to protect the rights of resident business men. These wares are brought in by parties who are not residents, nor do they intend to become such. Such vendors remain for an indefinite period to dispose of their property at pretended bankrupt prices, in competition with the established business classes who pay their taxes regularly for the support of the state and counties. These vendors enjoy the benefits of residents, free from taxation. The state and the counties should secure the assessment and collection of just and reasonable taxes from these transient dealers. I would suggest that bonds may be required to secure such proper revenue.

#### AGE OF CONSENT.

There seems to be no valid reason why the consent of a female minor should be legalized in the commission of an act of moral turpitude that does not apply to business transactions. Woman's virtue, the most sacred element of her nature, the most precious jewel of her adornment, should not be weighed in petty scales, to the advantage of the libertine or the passions of the stronger sex. At least, not in Iowa, the state which stands, or should stand, in the van of Christian civilization. From a careful consideration of the subject I am of the opinion that the age of consent should be raised to eighteen years.

#### CODE COMMISSION.

The last general-assembly created a commission of five men, learned in the law, to revise and recodify the statutes of the state. This commission has completed its work, and its report will come before you for consideration. It is of vast importance, affecting as it does every interest in the state. This being the case, I need not urge upon you to give it a thorough examination and careful consideration.

Allow me to suggest that the laws pertaining to contracts should be made, so far as possible, to avoid technicalities, and so simplified as to be within the comprehension of ordinary minds. If this can be done, much in the way of litigation will be avoided, the work of courts and juries lessened, and the burdens of taxation lightened.

#### NATIONAL QUESTIONS.

As one of the great states of which this nation is composed, Iowa has a right to speak, and her voice to be heard, both in congress and out of it, on all important questions affecting the national interests, whether domestic or foreign. While there must be no failure to look after, and in the most careful and liberal manner provide for, all the interests of the state, for its development and growth in intelligence, wealth, and general prosperity, we must not forget that our vast interests are closely interwoven with those of our sister states.

As a part of the nation we must be ever on the alert to exercise our best talents and business judgment, as a chief contributor to the molding of the nation's policies for the elevation and development of all the people, and for the fostering and supporting of the interests of America and American citizens. To this end, trusting to American statesmanship which looks to America and American conditions, and to such policies as are for the best good of the American people, let us not deviate from the path marked out by Washington, Hamilton, Monroe, Jackson, Clay, Lincoln, Blaine, and other illustrious statesmen, who cleared the way, and placed along it the signal lights of the American system of protection: in providing revenues ample for the expenses of the government, by levying duties on imports which come into competition with home productions; in seeing to it that our laboring interests, which are most important, are protected by such duties as will at least cover the difference between foreign and American wages; in as far as possible creating a demand for labor, by developing and utilizing our own resources, advancing wages, and securing the greatest possible prosperity. To build up a great and prosperous country we must provide and maintain such conditions as will enable the industrious working man to provide comfortably for himself and family, to make home life attractive and elevating, and to secure to his children the opportunities for a good education, and their proper advancement in society.

Labor is the representative of values. The amount of labor required to produce any given article constitutes its real value. No less than 90 per cent of everything produced or constructed is the direct product of labor. Labor is the creator of capital. And while this is true capital is the true and only patron of labor. The interests of labor and capital are so closely identified that their relations are entirely mutual and should go hand in hand. Capital should respect labor, and labor should respect capital, and each should receive like just and equitable

consideration and protection in the spirit of impartiality and fairness.

The standard of labor should be, and is, an elevated one, and is constantly being raised through the potent influence of education. The American laborer should stand upon the same plane as his fellowman, and should never lower the standard of manhood in the seeking or even accepting the self-constituted guardianship of the demagogue, who would designedly fetter his hands or despoil him of his individual judgment; the result of which is to create disaffection and prejudice, promote strife, and disturb the mutual and honorable relations which ought to exist between labor and capital.

To the end that these sound principles be cultivated and maintained and the greatest protection be accorded to the laboring classes, may I be permitted to express the opinion that our immigration laws should be strengthened, so that the pauper, anarchist, socialist, and criminal shall be excluded from becoming competitors of labor and disturbers of the nation's peace and harmony.

#### FINANCE.

A sound and stable currency is essential to the safe and successful conduct of business affairs, and it should be in volume sufficient to facilitate the employment of labor and the unlimited transaction of business.

The system of national finance, which for more than thirty years has been maintained by the government, has proven the wisest and best, and has prevented fluctuation, so that of the three kinds of money in use—gold, silver, and paper—one dollar has long been just as good as any other, whether at home or abroad.

The people of Iowa would hesitate to depart from this financial policy, for the adoption of any other which might prove a dangerous experiment.

estimates of appropriations as made by the warden and recommend that additional appropriations be made for the building of cell houses in the north wing. Your attention is also called to the fact that nearly thirty female convicts are now of necessity kept in the same building and on the same floor with the criminal insane. This location is highly unfit for them, and the female building should be finished at once.

The warden of the penitentiary at Fort Madison makes an estimate of the appropriations required, amounting to \$17,250. I have investigated in detail the various items included in this estimate and fully approve the same as necessary to the best interests of the prison.

Although placed at a disadvantage by unfavorable circumstances the condition of both these prisons is highly commendable.

Of the 988 convicts now in our state prisons 318 are between the ages of 15 and 22, with additions to this class of seventy-five to 100 each biennial period. Most of this large number are serving short sentences of from six to eighteen months and for first offenses. A large majority of these younger prisoners are not criminal by nature, but are young men, who through bad associations, bad habits or recklessness, have committed an offense against society. They are mostly native born citizens of Iowa, and with proper punishment and intelligent treatment a large number can be reclaimed to society and be made good citizens. I do not believe it is creditable either to our intelligence or to our humanity to permit such an army of young men to be committed to the penitentiary and branded "ex-convicts." Next to the highest punishment which society can inflict is the disgrace and humiliation which attaching the name of "ex-convict" invariably brings. I cannot believe that society fully realizes the responsibility it takes in putting this brand upon 318 young men of the state whose average age is less than 19 years, and who have before them long lives in which to suffer disgrace. In committing these young men to the state's prison for a class of offenses designated as "the lesser crimes," society relentlessly uses the same brand of disgrace that it uses upon the murderer and highwayman who is sentenced for twenty or thirty years.

All are ex-convicts who pass through the prison gates, and the discipline, work and confinement of the young man who serves six months or a year inside of the prison is but a small

part of the punishment which he receives compared with the brand of disgrace which he carries for a lifetime outside of the prison walls. I believe that society, in the punishment of this class of offenders by committing them to the penitentiary, puts such a fearful load upon them through life that when they fully realize the utter hopelessness of being able to outlive the disgrace, or to overcome the merciless fate which seems to be ever dragging them down, a large majority arrive at the conclusion that there is more hope in casting their lot with the enemies of society than in struggling on in the vain effort to reinstate themselves in its confidence. It would undoubtedly be economy to the state to adopt radical reformatory measures for this large class of young offenders. If the best thought and intelligence of our country, as expressed in the laws of all the older sister states, is of any value, it would seem that we cannot afford to send this large class of first offenders to the penitentiary to associate with hardened criminals, and to occupy the same cell with and to receive instructions from convicts who have been enemies of society over long periods of years. I am convinced that the present method of punishment does more to educate young men in crime and to manufacture criminals than it does to prevent crime and to manufacture good citizens.

The state of Iowa stands almost alone in its treatment of "first offenders." If all the older states in the light of experience cannot afford to brand the young criminal an "ex-convict," most surely the state of Iowa cannot afford it, and I most earnestly recommend the creation and establishment of an intermediate institution between the reform school and the penitentiary, to be designated a state reformatory. This institution should include as inmates "first offenders" between the ages of 15 and 22 whose sentences do not exceed two years, much, however, being left to the discretion of the court. To this institution, also, authority should be given to receive from the boys' reform school such of its inmates as tend to demoralize and retard the best results of that institution. In this connection permit me to call your attention to the message of the governor of Pennsylvania, and to that portion referring to their state reformatory: "The sixth year of the history of this highly important institution finds it in a condition which emphasizes its significance as part of the penal system of the commonwealth. More than 500 'first offenders,' between the

ages of 15 and 25, are confined there. This number of the youth of the state are spared the demoralizing effect of association with the crime class; they are the beneficiaries of a parole system in accordance with the best instincts of humanity, which puts the offender on his good behavior, and generally is found to operate alike in behalf of his reformation and for the protection of society."

In connection with the penal and reformatory system of our state there should be a "board of parole and pardons," to consist of three members, who shall receive their expenses and a per diem for time actually employed in behalf of the state. They should have a secretary whose office should be in the state capitol, and whose compensation should be a fixed annual salary. The duties of this board should be advisory to the executive. All applications for executive clemency should be thoroughly investigated and examined by this board and recommendations made to the governor. Most surely the time has come when the executive of the state should be relieved of these matters which are absorbing time and attention that should be given to affairs of more general state importance. Not only this, but the state of Iowa owes it to its intelligence and progressiveness to take some advanced step in the direction of reformatory legislation. The only reformatory policy with which the state can now be credited as applicable to its prison population is that taken by its executives in the liberal use of the pardoning power. That this prerogative has been extended beyond the scope of the original intent of the framers of the constitution is undoubtedly true. That this liberal use has been forced upon the judgment and conscience of the executive as a reformatory necessity, dictated by humanity and justice, is beyond question. It is not fair to the executive, whose time is so much absorbed in other questions, to carry this burden. It is not fair to the intelligence and progress of our state to longer remain silent as to reformatory laws. I am convinced that by the wise use of the parole system at least 200 young men, now inmates of our state prisons, can be reclaimed to society. The economy to the state in having the support and encouragement of 200 additional good citizens, rather than expending its resources and energies in fighting 200 bad citizens, is beyond computation. In the exercise of the pardoning power I have extended clemency to some fifty or sixty "first offenders" by suspensions or conditional pardons. I regret

that it was necessary in a few cases to revoke these suspensions for the violation of the conditions, and to order a return to serve the balance of the original sentence. In the large majority of cases, however, these young men are conducting themselves in accordance with the conditions imposed. From letters received from the parties themselves, and from such information as has been given me by neighbors and police officers, I am satisfied that many have returned permanently to the ranks of good citizenship. I most sincerely recommend that this method of parole, which is unanimously approved by the most intelligent thought of the present age, be engrafted into law by the Twenty-sixth General Assembly.

#### THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

In the establishment of the Soldiers' Home an institution was created which reflects credit upon the intelligence, patriotism and gratitude of the people of Iowa. The demand for admission by worthy veteran soldiers is however, for in excess of its capacity. The present hospital both in size and in accommodations is shamefully inadequate to the necessities of the population of the home. No other class of people in our state is in greater need of a modern and convenient hospital than are the inmates of the Soldiers' Home. A large number are in advanced years and are crippled and helpless by reason of rheumatism, paralysis and wounds, and they are now crowded five and six in a room which is not large enough to accommodate more than one or two. I therefore endorse the recommendations of the board of commissioners both as to the necessity for the erection of a new hospital, and for the general enlargement of the institution for the accommodation of all worthy applicants.

#### OTHER STATE INSTITUTIONS.

The other institutions of the state, the School for the Deaf, the College for the Blind, the Soldiers' Orphans' Home and Home for Indigent Children, the Industrial Home for the Blind, and the industrial schools have been doing valuable service in their respective fields. For a detailed account of their activities and necessities I have already referred to the reports of the superintendents of each. These reports are full and complete and make a most excellent showing of work done during the last biennial period. The support fund of \$8 per month for each inmate, allowed the Boys' Industrial School has not proved sufficient and I recommend that it be increased to \$10 per

United States for the state of Iowa for the year commencing July 1, 1893, and ending June 30, 1894, which for convenience I will hereafter designate as the last year under state wide prohibition, was 6,032. The total number of government licenses issued during the year commencing July 1, 1894, and ending June 30, 1895, which for convenience I will designate as the first year under the mulct law, was 4,264. The loss in government licenses by counties during the first year of the mulct law was 1,843. The gain in government licenses by counties for the same period was 75, the total net loss being 1,768.

July 1, 1895, there were fifty-one counties, having a population of 837,809, which had not adopted the mulct law. The number of government licenses issued in these counties during the last year under prohibition was 1,078; number of licenses issued during the first year under the mulct law, 890; net loss, 188, or 17½ per cent. On this same date, July 1, 1895, there were forty-eight counties, having a population of 1,220,260, which had adopted the mulct law. During the last year under prohibition the number of government licenses issued in these counties was 4,954; the first year under the mulct law the number was 3,374; net loss, 1,580, or 32 per cent.

The number of saloons against which the mulct tax was assessed during the first year of the operation of that law was 1,620, and the total revenue derived therefrom at \$600 per annum was \$972,000. This, together with the added penalties assessed by cities, made a total of \$1,156,317.

The following tables show those counties in which the loss of government licenses was greatest and those counties in which there were gains in government licenses during the first year of the mulct law:

## COUNTIES SHOWING GREATEST LOSS.

COUNTIES.	Last year under prohibitory law	First year under mulct law.	Loss.
Black Hawk.....	84	45	39
Carroll.....	120	85	35
Clinton.....	280	172	108
Crawford.....	104	55	49
Fayette.....	100	57	43
Johnson.....	97	45	52
Linn.....	191	107	84
Plymouth.....	110	69	41
Polk.....	206	183	23
Pottawattamie.....	248	168	80
Scott.....	378	244	134
Woodbury.....	283	183	100
Des Moines.....	163	129	34
Total.....	5,424	1,542	882

## COUNTIES SHOWING GAIN.

COUNTIES.	Last year under prohibitory law.	First year under mulct law.	Gain.
Adair.....	14	15	1
Clarke.....	6	12	6
Clay.....	20	23	3
Decatur.....	8	9	1
Dickinson.....	14	23	9
Franklin.....	10	15	5
Fremont.....	13	15	2
Henry.....	8	13	5
Jasper.....	39	31	1
Mitchell.....	16	17	1
Montgomery.....	17	26	9
Pocahontas.....	18	26	8
Poweshiek.....	3	8	5
Ringgold.....	6	10	4
Taylor.....	13	17	4
Van Buren.....	25	31	6
Washington.....	1	4	3
Wright.....	21	23	2
Total.....	243	318	75

In the light of this showing I most earnestly recommend that the mulct law be permitted to remain upon our statute books and that it be given a fair and impartial trial.

#### PUBLIC WAREHOUSES.

There is much discussion throughout our state of the advantages which would be gained to the people of Iowa by the passage of a public warehouse law similar to laws now in operation in Illinois, Wisconsin, Nebraska and other states.

The absence of storage facilities entails a heavy annual loss to the people of Iowa. I refer this important question to you for earnest consideration to the end that legislation be enacted which will give the relief desired.

#### INTER-STATE CONVENTIONS.

During the biennial period there have been twenty-eight commissions appointed to meet in conference similar commissions of other states.

The following are a few of the most important:

National Conference of Charities and Corrections, Nashville, Tenn.; National Prison Congress, St. Paul, Minn.; Farmers' National Congress, Parkersburg, W. Va.; Trans-Mississippi Congress, St. Louis, Mo.; Annual Convention of International Deep Waterways Association, Cleveland, Ohio; Western States Conference, Topeka, Kan.; Western Waterways Convention, Vicksburg, Miss.; Exposition of Industries and Fine Arts, City of Mexico, and to locate and mark position of Iowa regiments in the battle of Shiloh.

A large number of those appointed have attended these meetings and have borne the full burden of expense, as well as the donation of several days of valuable time. Public spiritedness is as essential to the good standing and influence of a state as it is to the standing and influence of a good citizen. I do not believe the state of Iowa receives the full benefit it should from its representatives in inter-state conventions under the present plan of "honorary commissioners." No state in the union is more deeply interested in the movement for deep waterways than the great producing state of Iowa, and yet the delegates attending these conventions go more in an honorary than in a representative capacity. They pay their own expenses, stop at different hotels, are unorganized and consequently lacking in force and influence, which under other circumstances they would have. They meet the delegations of other states who

are organized—with their expenses paid by the state they represent—a compact representative commission whose influence and power is felt both on the floor of the convention and among its members. The state of Iowa should do its share as a public spirited state in the direction of making inter-state conventions a success, and further, it should see to it that its own representatives are placed in a position to receive such recognition and exert such influence as the importance of our state demands. A man may be intelligent, moral, upright, thrifty and prosperous, and yet so economical and lacking in public spiritedness that he is void of influence with his fellow men. A state can drift into the same condition in relation to sister states. I recommend a more liberal policy on the part of the state of Iowa in matters pertaining to inter-state meetings and conventions. Commissions appointed to attend these meetings should be made the state's representatives. The matter should be left to the discretion of the governor or executive council to determine what inter-state meetings are of sufficient importance for the state of Iowa to send representatives and then authority should be given to the council to audit and pay the actual expenses of commissioners in attending these meetings.

#### IOWA AND NATIONAL MILITARY PARKS.

The Twenty-fifth General Assembly provided for the appointment of a commission to locate and mark the positions of Iowa troops at the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. This commission has done its work faithfully and its report is submitted for your consideration. I most earnestly approve the recommendation for an appropriation of \$25,000 for the erection of appropriate monuments to mark the position of the Iowa regiments which took part in these great battles, as a just recognition of the valor of Iowa's soldiers.

On March 11, 1895, I appointed a commission to attend the reunion of the Shiloh Battlefield Association at Pittsburg Landing, Tenn. In an official report made by this commission the following statements were set forth:

"Changes in the roads which traversed the nearly 3,000 acres over which the battle raged, the almost complete demolition of all the old buildings and the new ones erected, many of them on other locations, and still other changes which space forbids enumerating in a report which must necessarily be brief, all united in making the task of locating the positions

held, so difficult, that it was impossible, during the two days allotted to us, to visit that portion of the battlefield where the Sixth, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth regiments were engaged.

"Owing to these facts and the work that will soon be commenced under the direction of the national park commissioners, which will result in still further changes, thus rendering the task of locating the positions held by our regiments even more difficult than now, we respectfully recommend and urge that you appoint at an early day a commission of one or more members of each of the eleven regiments engaged in the battle, whose duty it shall be to visit, as soon as possible, the battlefield and complete the work begun by us."

With this report and recommendation before me and knowing that the finger of time is fast removing the old landmarks of this memorable field, and that each year makes the task of identifying the position of Iowa regiments more difficult, I complied with the foregoing request and appointed a commission consisting of one from each of the eleven Iowa regiments which took part in this engagement. Their report is before you; their work, I believe, has been faithfully and conscientiously done; the expense has been borne by the individual members of this commission and I believe it is but just that the state should reimburse them, and I recommend that an appropriation be made therefor. It will devolve upon you to take such action as will show the appreciation of Iowa for the brave men who upheld the honor of our state and the integrity of the union on this great battlefield of Shiloh.

Nearly every northern state, as well as the general government, is now erecting permanent memorials in our great national military parks to mark the positions held by the union arms. Iowa, like her sons who helped make those scenes historic, should take an advanced position in this movement and provide at once for the erection of appropriate monuments, which shall most fittingly do honor to her brave.

In this connection I would also suggest that the state of Iowa take action in the direction of having the battlefield of Vicksburg made a national park, that the scene of this most important campaign, in which 70 per cent of Iowa's enlisted men took part, may be properly preserved and commemorated

## SEMI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

The year 1896 marks the fiftieth anniversary of our statehood. During the half century of its history as a state, Iowa has made a record unsurpassed in the annals of nations or of peoples, and this general assembly should take measures for a fitting recognition of this important event. In addition to any temporary observance of our semi-centennial which may commend itself to you, it would seem that the most eminently appropriate action would be in the way of some distinctive legislation looking toward the erection and maintenance of a historical museum or memorial hall, which should be not only a perpetual reminder of the greatness of our state, but a permanent repository for the annals of its past and future.

FRANK D. JACKSON.

January 13, 1896.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS  
OF  
FRANCIS M. DRAKE

GOVERNOR OF IOWA,

DELIVERED

AT HIS INAUGURATION,

JANUARY 16, 1896.

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## INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives and to the People of the State of Iowa:*

In entering upon the grave and responsible duties of the office of chief executive of Iowa, I beg to express my sincere thanks to the people of the state for the high honor that has been conferred upon me.

Recognizing, as I sincerely do, that the honor is not in the mere holding of the office, but in the faithful, unselfish, honest, and efficient discharge of its duties, and in the service of the whole people, I ask you, as members of the general assembly, and the people whom you represent, for your influence and co-operation to enable me to discharge these duties, and to meet these responsibilities, with wisdom, with love for humanity, and with reverence for Almighty God.

This representative body, selected by the people from their own number because of their fitness to legislate, I have no doubt will enact wise and wholesome laws for the protection, prosperity, and happiness of the people as a whole, and without partiality or favoritism to any classes.

From my knowledge of the distinguished gentlemen of which this intelligent body is composed, I am impressed with the belief that nothing will be omitted, in the way of legislation, necessary to be enacted for the promotion of the best interests of this great commonwealth and for the development of all its material resources.

Be assured, therefore, that there will be no dictation attempted on the part of the executive or any disposition on his part to interfere with your deliberations.

The high respect for, and confidence entertained in, this general assembly by the executive, and its acquired knowledge and experience in the work of legislation, justify his belief that there exists no necessity for an elaborate message, or for entering into specific and extended recommendations.

#### THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF IOWA.

This year marks an epoch in the history of Iowa. Fifty years ago this state was admitted into the union. The state as we now know it did not then exist. Civilization was confined largely to the eastern border. Where this magnificent capitol now stands was an almost unbroken wilderness; in the north-western part of the state, which is now dotted with homes of happy and prosperous people, the Indians were still in possession of the virgin soil. We who came to Iowa at that time, or before that time, have not only seen this wonderful transformation, but we are glad to feel that we have had our part in this state building. We rejoice with those who have come since, by either birth or adoption, into this great family. One is tempted to linger over the work which has been done in this state. There is so much which was endured, so much which was achieved, so much which was accomplished, so much to tell. Later in the year, when the admission of Iowa into the union is celebrated, I hope that all these things may be appropriately told to the honor of the past and for the inspiration of the future.

I call attention to this matter now, because I want to urge upon the legislature the fact that the state cannot neglect her semi-centennial. We must wait fifty more years, when all of us who participated in the founding of the state will have passed away, before we are afforded another such opportunity. I do not know what form the celebration should take, but I do know this, that it ought to be on a scale corresponding to the

greatness of Iowa. We have here a commonwealth of which we have no cause to be ashamed. Let us lift her up so that all the states may see how fair she is, how worthy to be beloved. The legislature can do nothing that will meet with the more hearty approval of the people of the whole state, for this event appeals to all the pride that is in men and women, and stirs up a thousand memories which are cherished by all the people.

#### SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

No state contributed more of loyalty, of patriotism, or of human sacrifice, during the sanguinary struggle for the maintenance of the union and the government of our fathers, than did our own beloved Iowa. In that terrible conflict from 1861 to in 1865, she was always among the first to respond, and always ready to supply her quota. The courage and patriotism of her soldiers were exhibited on almost every battlefield of the war, where they heroically fought and bravely fell, always at the front. Of 75,000 men enrolled, over one-tenth of her population, more than 12,000 sacrificed their lives and many more their health. Her sons readily responded to their country's call, and no higher roll of honor for bravery, loyalty, and efficiency can be produced in all the world than what their record shows.

How fitting then that a monument should be erected as a tribute to their memory, and as a testimonial to their courage, patriotism and fidelity to their country. This work, which was placed in the hands of an able and patriotic board of commissioners, is far advanced, and I trust the completed monument will soon be formally presented to the people of Iowa. It would be fitting, historically and otherwise, if this consummation could be effected during the present year. The monument will stand, not only to testify to the fidelity to the union on the part of the people of Iowa, and to the valor of those who fought in the union army, but as a testimonial to the sense of patriotic gratitude on the part of those who are sharing in the benefits of the victories which were won by the armies of Iowa and the union.

## IN MEMORIAM.

In this place, it is fitting that I should speak of the two members of the commission that has had charge of the construction of the monument, who have passed away since the general assembly's last session. I speak standing in the shadow of a bereavement which is personal to all of us. Him who was thus taken from us, it was my high privilege to know for half a century. It cannot be improper, even in a state paper, thus to speak of Judge Wright, for his name is identified with all that is best in fifty years of Iowa's history. I cannot say what he has been to me in all these years; and standing on the threshold of the high office for which I have just qualified I feel, and frankly say it, that I shall miss him and his wise counsel. He was one of the noblest of the builders of the commonwealth, one who illustrated its best citizenship, adorned its social life, exalted its jurisprudence, and in all things honored the state. I would that I might speak of all that he was to the state, but that would involve a review of the entire history of Iowa.

On Governor Kirkwood had been laid a heavy burden in a time of great public peril. He it was, under whose inspiring leadership and efficient management, more than fifty regiments were recruited, equipped, and sent forth to do battle for the union and the life of the nation. He, too, filled a large place in the history of the state.

Both these men served their generation and future generations faithfully and well. Integrity and devotion to duty were characteristic of each of them, and their sturdy manliness and thorough sincerity made them beloved by all the people. Among the careers which in all the days of the commonwealth shall most illumine its history, and furnish felicitous lessons for its youth, will ever be those of George Grover Wright and Samuel Jordan Kirkwood.

## A MEMORIAL HALL.

In this connection, allow me to indorse most cordially the recommendation of my esteemed predecessor, favoring the erection, at as early a day as possible, of a memorial, historical, and art building. It would seem appropriate that this desirable project—seconded, as I believe, by every lover of the state—should be commenced, if not finished, in our semi-centennial year.

Iowa's history has been made rapidly during the fifty years, and is being made even more rapidly year by year. Thanks to the enterprise and untiring energy of a few of our citizens, and to many distinguished lovers of art and literature without the state, who have so liberally contributed their generous gifts, we now have many valuable treasures, fine paintings, works of art, and historical manuscripts, as well as mementoes and relics of early days and of the war, for the safe keeping and convenient exhibition of which we have no adequate accommodation. The state is constantly being remembered in this direction by liberal donors, and will be much more so, when they are assured that ample provision has been made so that the articles contributed can be suitably placed, safely cared for, and fairly exhibited for the benefit of the public.

To this end I recommend a suitable building, fire proof, and complete in all its appointments, where may be gathered, preserved, and exhibited these much coveted treasures.

## STATUE TO JUSTICE SAMUEL F. MILLER.

Not alone as warriors and chieftains are men great, and to be cherished in the memory of the people. When the spirit left the body of the lamented Judge Samuel F. Miller, of the federal court, a great man had fallen, and the nation mourned.

As a young man he was the friend and appointee of the immortal Lincoln. His was the soul of wisdom and honor. He was Iowa's son, her greatest legal light, the peer of Chief Justice Marshall. His pre-eminent ability was fully recognized, and his great heart, mind, and soul, his strict sense of

justice, his purity of character, shone forth to the world a guiding light well worth observing. It has been suggested that a bronze statue of him be placed in our state capitol, and one in the capitol of the nation. I commend this to you and our representatives in congress.

#### THE FUTURE AND EDUCATION.

But revering the past, and building monuments to its achievements, are not sufficient. We must keep our eyes on the future. The keynote of Iowa's future greatness is education. Iowa must educate; all America must educate, or perish. We who came to this state when schools were few and inadequate, and when colleges and universities were unknown, who had to look to life's rugged school for our education, are in position to appreciate the value of schools and colleges. As individuals and as a state, we have in a measure labored worthily in the cause of education. But there is much more to be done. It must be done gradually, I realize, but we ought, as a state, to keep constantly in mind some high ideal, and then strive to approach it.

That ideal for Iowa, in my opinion, ought to be this: A system of education beginning with the kindergarten, passing upward through the primary, intermediate, and high schools: a completed public school system, open to all and adequate for all; thence upward again through normal schools, where teachers shall be trained for the common schools, and ending in the state university with a course of study comprehensive as any on the continent. Co-ordinate with it, there will be ample room for the colleges and universities of the various denominations, which have done so much, and made so many sacrifices, for higher education. I see no room for rivalries, except healthful rivalries; whatever helps one institution helps all. Nor would I forget the agricultural college at Ames, where a technical, scientific, industrial education ought to be offered to the young men and women of the state on the most generous terms possible.

The public school system should be enlarged and made more comprehensive, until the children of the state can there obtain such complete education as will fit them for any avocation or business pursuit.

#### NORMAL SCHOOLS.

The State Normal school, so essential to the education and training of professional teachers of high rank and scholarship, well equipped for the most efficient service in our common schools, is worthy of your careful attention and of liberal endowment. Our normal school facilities are grossly inadequate. About 18,000 teachers are employed in our Iowa free schools. We can not overestimate the importance of well qualified teachers, nor the irreparable injury in deficient teaching and training of the youth of our land. Errors planted in virgin minds are very difficult to eradicate. It is much easier to teach correctly from the beginning than to correct erroneous teaching. The normal school system ought, as soon as the state can afford it, to be amply enlarged.

#### THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Agricultural college, so necessary for acquiring knowledge in agriculture and for the promotion of our agricultural interests to the highest standard of systematic efficiency and economy, has proven an untold benefit to the state, and I doubt not will meet with your very liberal encouragement.

#### THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

Our State university has already attained a very high standard of excellence, but there is room for further development. A great struggle is being made by its entire management, and it has many difficulties to meet and to overcome. The buildings are inadequate properly to accommodate its present attendance, and there are many necessities to be provided for that should by no means be neglected. This institution is deserving of your greatest consideration, and all its reasonable wants should be met, so as to keep it fully abreast with like institutions in other states.

## STATE INSTITUTIONS.

While we have great reason to be proud of our excellent system of state institutions, and the wise and humane provisions made for our unfortunate classes: schools and colleges for the deaf and blind; hospitals for the mentally disabled; homes for the disabled and unfortunate veteran soldiers, and for the soldiers' orphans and other indigent children; industrial schools for the wayward boys and girls; and penitentiaries for the criminal classes; let us not forget that as the state grows in population these wants increase in a like ratio, and provision must be made to supply them. Close attention must be given in order to secure the highest standard of efficiency and integrity in management, in strict compliance with humane and sanitary requirements. Let us not be in the least forgetful of any of these institutions, but take all due interest in seeing that they are properly maintained, improved, and extended commensurately with their necessities, in order that there be no neglect in caring well for the unfortunate classes in Iowa. In this connection I may suggest that among the criminal classes it would be in the interest of humanity and reform, could an intermediate provision be made, between the industrial or reform school and the penitentiaries, for young men and women and such others, not entitled to become occupants of the former, and who ought not to be sent to the latter. I will not enlarge on this subject, but leave the matter for your serious consideration.

## THE NATIONAL GUARD.

At the outbreak of the civil war in 1861, the government found itself dependent for equipped and drilled soldiers upon the small and scattered forces of the regular army, and the patriotic volunteers fresh from the fields, stores, shops, and offices, unlearned and undisciplined in the art of war. The nation learned from this the necessity for better provision in the future, and the system of state national guards was established.

These organizations have proven to be not only a valuable acquisition as a reserve force to the regulars, but as conservators

of the peace and good order of the several states. In Iowa we have one of the most efficient of these organizations. It is composed of forty-eight companies, divided into twelve battalions, four regiments, and two brigades, made up—rank, file, line, and field and brigade commands—of the best and most select men of the state. They have been educated and trained thoroughly in the latest approved army tactics, and in accordance with the army regulations. These guards are gentlemanly and orderly in their bearing, precise in their movements and drill, and as obedient, loyal, faithful, and efficient—although enlisted and sworn into service and mustered with no pay except the reward of patriotism—as if belonging to the regular army, and regularly paid for their services. Iowa is justly proud of her national guards. They deserve well of the state, and by a reasonable increase of allowance, to provide them with knapsacks and some additional equipment and protection for travel and camp life, they can be made and will become equally efficient, and as ready for active service in the field as the regulars. Neither the nation nor the states have, in my opinion, taken sufficient interest to inform themselves as to the true value and importance of these national guards. For that reason they have failed to appreciate properly and fairly consider and recognize the unselfish and patriotic services so graciously given at considerable sacrifice.

## HIGHWAYS.

The question of good roads is one now being much agitated and discussed in all the states. Good and substantial public highways are not alone a great convenience, but a necessity, and in the end a matter of economy. May we not hope that measures will soon be taken whereby a greatly improved system will be inaugurated in this direction.

## RAILROADS.

It is impossible fully to estimate the great advantages Iowa has received through her vast system of railroads. There is

not a county in the state without railroad facilities. Iowa has within her borders about 9,000 miles of railroad, so located and operated that farmers in every part have easy access to the markets. These railroads have developed the resources of the state in every conceivable way, and have been the most important factors in promoting, building up, and advancing its growth, wealth, and general prosperity. There is a community of interests between the owners and operators of the railway lines and the people of the state. Each should study and respect the rights and interests of the other. Much of the prejudice at one time existing between these two interests has been removed, and we believe that the nearer the railroads and the people get together, and learn to understand and respect the rights of each other, the better it will be for both; and may we not now rejoice in the belief that the day for this is approaching, if not already here. It shall be the aim of the executive to advance, as far as he may be able, such a happy state of affairs.

The railroad commissioners, now wisely selected by the vote of the people, and of recognized ability and fairness, have done much to bring this about, and I have not the least doubt will continue to do much.

#### WATERWAYS.

The people are now looking to waterways as the great means of cheap transportation, and to the utilizing of our lakes and rivers by bringing them in connection with each other, so that communication by water may be had from all parts of the Mississippi valley and east of it to the Atlantic seaboard. It would be next to impossible to estimate correctly the immense advantages to be obtained by securing this desirable result. The American people are becoming thoroughly awakened to the importance of these matters. The state of New York has appropriated \$9,000,000 for the deepening and otherwise improving of her canal system. The Pittsburg canal, to connect the Ohio river with Lake Erie, is being rapidly constructed. The Chicago drainage canal, now approaching completion, will be sufficient for the passage of large steamers from Lake

Michigan to the Illinois river; and the Hennepin canal, when completed, will connect the Illinois river from La Salle with the Mississippi river at the mouth of Rock river near Milan, in the vicinity of Davenport, Iowa. The length of this canal will be less than one hundred miles, and it will be the most direct and best connection to be made between the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. The people of Iowa are deeply interested in the early completion of this canal. No other means can so readily afford our entire state cheap transportation to the Atlantic seaboard. It is only a question of time until it will be completed, but time is a question of great moment, when this matter of cheap transportation so materially affects our commercial interests, and that of the producers and shippers. To this end, I recommend that our desires be made known to congress, through our senators and representatives, that a sufficient appropriation may be made for the early completion of this great waterway.

#### THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

One of the greatest promoters of crime is found in the indulgence in the use of ardent spirits. Its serious consequences are seen and felt most in the homes of the poor and the unfortunate. Too frequently, fathers, husbands, and sons, whose daily earnings, necessary for family support, are squandered in the saloons, and instead of bringing love and sunshine carry darkness and cruelty to mothers and children. The home, the most sacred place of all things earthly, is thus transformed into a place of wretchedness. If this evil can not be prohibited it should be controlled. The people of the state of Iowa are behind no other people in the nation, or in the world, in their purpose and desire to cultivate and maintain the highest standards of temperance and morality. To this end the people, at a non partisan election more than a decade ago, expressed their wishes at the polls in favor of amending the constitution of the state, which finally resulted in the passage of the prohibitory liquor law. This law has been enforced in strong temperance districts, but has been inoperative in those districts in which a majority has been

opposed to the law. The question has long been one of serious discussion, and the majority of the people, being anxious to secure the most favorable results, pronounced in favor of the American doctrine of local self-government and relegated the question to the representative districts. The Twenty-fifth General Assembly, to preserve prohibition in those localities where it could be made efficient, and to control the traffic in the other localities, enacted what is known as the mullet law. That law has since been in force, and upon information I believe is giving reasonable satisfaction, still leaving the prohibitory law undisturbed in localities where it is preferred.

At the same session of the legislature preliminary steps were taken for the resubmission of a prohibitory amendment to the constitution. These questions will be before you for your earnest consideration, and I doubt not will be determined by you in the exercise of wisdom and in sincerity as the chosen representatives of the senatorial and representative districts, and with all due regard for the wishes of your constituents, keeping in mind the welfare of the state.

#### TRANSIENT VENDORS.

The importation into the state of goods, wares, merchandise, and other chattel property by transient vendors is becoming so prevalent as to warrant legislation necessary to protect the rights of resident business men. These wares are brought in by parties who are not residents, nor do they intend to become such. Such vendors remain for an indefinite period to dispose of their property at pretended bankrupt prices, in competition with the established business classes who pay their taxes regularly for the support of the state and counties. These vendors enjoy the benefits of residents, free from taxation. The state and the counties should secure the assessment and collection of just and reasonable taxes from these transient dealers. I would suggest that bonds may be required to secure such proper revenue.

#### AGE OF CONSENT.

There seems to be no valid reason why the consent of a female minor should be legalized in the commission of an act of moral turpitude that does not apply to business transactions. Woman's virtue, the most sacred element of her nature, the most precious jewel of her adornment, should not be weighed in petty scales, to the advantage of the libertine or the passions of the stronger sex. At least, not in Iowa, the state which stands, or should stand, in the van of Christian civilization. From a careful consideration of the subject I am of the opinion that the age of consent should be raised to eighteen years.

#### CODE COMMISSION.

The last general assembly created a commission of five men, learned in the law, to revise and recodify the statutes of the state. This commission has completed its work, and its report will come before you for consideration. It is of vast importance, affecting as it does every interest in the state. This being the case, I need not urge upon you to give it a thorough examination and careful consideration.

Allow me to suggest that the laws pertaining to contracts should be made, so far as possible, to avoid technicalities, and so simplified as to be within the comprehension of ordinary minds. If this can be done, much in the way of litigation will be avoided, the work of courts and juries lessened, and the burdens of taxation lightened.

#### NATIONAL QUESTIONS.

As one of the great states of which this nation is composed, Iowa has a right to speak, and her voice to be heard, both in congress and out of it, on all important questions affecting the national interests, whether domestic or foreign. While there must be no failure to look after, and in the most careful and liberal manner provide for, all the interests of the state, for its development and growth in intelligence, wealth, and general prosperity, we must not forget that our vast interests are closely interwoven with those of our sister states.

As a part of the nation we must be ever on the alert to exercise our best talents and business judgment, as a chief contributor to the molding of the nation's policies for the elevation and development of all the people, and for the fostering and supporting of the interests of America and American citizens. To this end, trusting to American statesmanship which looks to America and American conditions, and to such policies as are for the best good of the American people, let us not deviate from the path marked out by Washington, Hamilton, Monroe, Jackson, Clay, Lincoln, Blaine, and other illustrious statesmen, who cleared the way, and placed along it the signal lights of the American system of protection: in providing revenues ample for the expenses of the government, by levying duties on imports which come into competition with home productions; in seeing to it that our laboring interests, which are most important, are protected by such duties as will at least cover the difference between foreign and American wages; in as far as possible creating a demand for labor, by developing and utilizing our own resources, advancing wages, and securing the greatest possible prosperity. To build up a great and prosperous country we must provide and maintain such conditions as will enable the industrious working man to provide comfortably for himself and family, to make home life attractive and elevating, and to secure to his children the opportunities for a good education, and their proper advancement in society.

Labor is the representative of values. The amount of labor required to produce any given article constitutes its real value. No less than 90 per cent of everything produced or constructed is the direct product of labor. Labor is the creator of capital. And while this is true capital is the true and only patron of labor. The interests of labor and capital are so closely identified that their relations are entirely mutual and should go hand in hand. Capital should respect labor, and labor should respect capital, and each should receive like just and equitable

consideration and protection in the spirit of impartiality and fairness.

The standard of labor should be, and is, an elevated one, and is constantly being raised through the potent influence of education. The American laborer should stand upon the same plane as his fellowman, and should never lower the standard of manhood in the seeking or even accepting the self-constituted guardianship of the demagogue, who would designedly fetter his hands or despoil him of his individual judgment; the result of which is to create disaffection and prejudice, promote strife, and disturb the mutual and honorable relations which ought to exist between labor and capital.

To the end that these sound principles be cultivated and maintained and the greatest protection be accorded to the laboring classes, may I be permitted to express the opinion that our immigration laws should be strengthened, so that the pauper, anarchist, socialist, and criminal shall be excluded from becoming competitors of labor and disturbers of the nation's peace and harmony.

#### FINANCE.

A sound and stable currency is essential to the safe and successful conduct of business affairs, and it should be in volume sufficient to facilitate the employment of labor and the unlimited transaction of business.

The system of national finance, which for more than thirty years has been maintained by the government, has proven the wisest and best, and has prevented fluctuation, so that of the three kinds of money in use—gold, silver, and paper—one dollar has long been just as good as any other, whether at home or abroad.

The people of Iowa would hesitate to depart from this financial policy, for the adoption of any other which might prove a dangerous experiment.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The stand taken by the president in favor of the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine, as related to the disputed boundary between British Guiana and Venezuela, I am glad to know, has received the unhesitating and most cordial approval of the patriotic people of all political parties. The immediate action taken in both houses of congress, led by statesmen of the anti-administration but now dominant party, sounded the keynote of the true American policy. The grand chorus of American voices is now heard in unbroken harmony and with such perfect unity, throughout the western hemisphere, that all the world must know, and England be well advised, that no further British encroachments upon American territory will be tolerated. It is the duty of the United States sacredly to guard and protect America and American interests to the fullest extent and to resist all encroachments "by every means in its power." The instinct which prompted Christopher Columbus to brave all dangers and face universally declared impossibilities in the discovery of this great continent, and the seeds of patriotic and progressive Christian civilization which followed in his wake and were planted by our fathers in America's rich virgin soil, have been productive beyond measure. The growth of liberty, freedom of thought, and conscientious action, and the rapid advancement of Christian civilization in America and the western hemisphere, show a very marked contrast with those of the eastern hemisphere. Their civilization is European; ours intensely American. We claim no right to enter upon or trespass upon the territory of the eastern, and we interpret the Monroe doctrine to be that they as Europeans have no right to trespass or encroach upon the territory of the western. We do not claim that the Monroe doctrine is international law, but we do claim that it has long been declared a fundamental doctrine of the American people, intended to be maintained, and we do not believe it is a subject for arbitration in which the representative of any European power is competent to participate.

The Monroe doctrine is asserted to prevent European powers having a foothold on this continent, to enlarge their possessions, or to commit any act of aggrandizement that may be construed as a menace to American interests and the determined rights of the American people, whether European governments consent or not to such determination. The honor of this great nation and the perpetuity of this republican government are involved in this momentous question. The time has come when this question must be settled and the principle contended for acknowledged. We hope this will be done peacefully, but, if under the providence of Almighty God and in the interest of liberty and justice it can not be so done, Iowa is ready to acquiesce in the determination of the nation for the defense of its integrity and the maintenance of this vital principle, if necessary, with force of arms.

## THE SLAUGHTER OF ARMENIANS.

It has been frequently stated that England has stood with the United States to represent the highest Christian civilization. This being true, we had hoped that the poor Armenians, who are being massacred by the vicious Turks, would be furnished relief and protection by the interference of the Christian nations of Europe, among which England was not only in position, but in duty bound, to lead. A triple alliance was made, a protest entered, any entrance through the Dardanelles made by their warships, and Constantinople reached. But this seems to have ended the matter, and the bloody Turks are being permitted to continue their diabolical work. Some of the massacres have taken place while the powers were represented in force at Constantinople, and there has not been apparently any cessation on the part of the Turks in the wholesale slaughter of innocent and defenseless Christians. The accounts given of the cruel tortures and indiscriminate slaughter of these Armenian Christians are heart-rending. A so-called Christian civilization which will thus tolerate such inhuman butchery of innocent Christian people is not worthy to be coupled with that of American Christian civilization. Such a foul assault on Christianity

and such inhuman practices would be of short duration on this western hemisphere. No boundary lines would suffice to stay the onward rush of American soldiers for the protection of the innocent and the condign punishment of the guilty. America is not in a position to encounter Europe in an attempt to rescue these unfortunate Christian Armenians. But she will do what she can to alleviate the wants of the poor and the starving who may have survived and escaped the slaughter. Let not Iowa be found behind in sending food and clothing to these dependent and perishing people.

## CONCLUSION.

The past year has been to Iowa one of comfort and plenty. Let us thank God for the bountiful crops with which we have been blessed, and for the material growth in intelligence, wealth, and prosperity, and the happiness of the state and her people.

Resting in the belief and hope that Iowa will not only be able to maintain her exalted position among the sister states, but be able to advance to still higher prominence; and that this nation, founded on the principles of liberty, freedom, and Christianity, will continue even more rapidly in the development of intelligence and of all material resources, let us as a people rejoice, and give thanks and praise to the Great Creator and Governor of the universe, for His goodness and mercy in conferring upon us, as a state and nation, these inestimable blessings.

## BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

## Auditor of State,

TO THE

GOVERNOR OF IOWA.

JULY 1, 1895.

C. G. McCARTHY, Auditor of State.

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