

The History

The Need

The Cost

The Future

IOWA STATE LAW LIBRARY

State House
OF THE
DES MOINES, IOWA

State Capitol Grounds
EXTENSION

*Authorized by the
Thirty-fifth General Assembly*

An Address Delivered by
GOV. GEORGE W. CLARKE
Before the Sioux City Commercial Club,
on Tuesday Evening, January 13, 1914

“**H**ERE is the history of the Capitol Extension measure, fully, frankly, and truthfully told. I have abiding faith in the people of the State. I know the pride they have in Iowa. When once they have fully considered the facts, the present needs, the great future that lies beyond, I am sure they will approve the action of the Thirty-fifth General Assembly.”—Gov. Clarke.

Gov. Geo. W. Clarke on Capitol Extension

Following is the text of Governor Clarke's opening address on capitol extension delivered at Sioux City last night.

Not a New Question.

The question of enlarging the grounds about the capitol is not a new one. It has been a matter of common remark for many years that the grounds are not at all in keeping with the great capitol building itself. Indeed, ever since its erection it has been generally admitted with deep regret that the grounds are not at all commensurate with its vast proportions and great beauty. The ordinary observer has been thus impressed and every landscape architect who has ever visited Capitol Hill has said, as politely as he could, how lamentable it is that this great building has not adequate grounds, a proper setting not only for it but also for the buildings that a great state will certainly need in the future. Its location upon an eminence overlooking the business portion of the city of Des Moines and the valley of the Des Moines river to the west, south and east, the slope of the hill toward the city and to the railroad tracks on the south gives an unsurpassed opportunity at a comparatively small expense to transform the whole into one of the most beautiful capitol grounds in all the world.

I have been intensely interested from time to time through the last twelve years to note the enthusiasm, the sparkle of the eye, the real exaltation of soul of the cultured, genuine landscape architect as he exclaimed, "Oh, how entrancingly beautiful it might all be." Then the question has arisen, will Iowa neglect her great opportunity, her great natural advantages? Iowa, so great in her wealth and in the fineness and hopes and aspirations of her people. Iowa, great in the present, far greater in the years that are to be. Will the people of Iowa have an inspiring vision of the state that is to be in the distant years and will she command the gratitude of the men and women of coming time for her foresight and by building wisely for the centuries. Or will she, on the other hand, spoil her present great building, by a meager setting, by crowding close to it other great buildings and all huddled together, smothered in appearance and in fact, with no perspective, no room for grass and trees and flowers and fountains and monuments and statuary which the coming years will demand and long for in their sense of the useful, the artistic and the beautiful. Iowa will speak of what she is on Capitol Hill

and its surroundings more than anywhere else. There is the heart of Iowa. There Iowa is personified. There ought to center the pride of every man who loves his state. There she speaks in all the departments of her government.

Demand Is Imperative.

It, however, is not simply that the grounds be more spacious and beautiful, though that is one great impelling reason, but, as I shall show further on, there is a present imperative demand for more ground for the needs of the state. This need for enlargement for the placement of buildings as well as for proper setting has been, as I said, a matter of common discussion for years. Governor Larrabee said in his message in 1890: "The improvement of the capitol grounds ought to be begun at an early day. The grounds should be in keeping with the capitol, which is one of the most beautiful on the continent."

Governor Shaw in his message in 1900 said: "When the present capitol was built it was believed to be as commodious as the needs of the state would ever require. It has now been occupied sixteen years and several of the departments are seriously congested. An arsenal is needed for the accommodation of the adjutant general's department. Storage of quartermaster's supplies is now provided in a building rented for the purpose. It was found necessary to locate the board of control in committee rooms back of the senate chamber, which cannot well be spared from their designed use during sessions of the general assembly." (The board is now in the basement of the capitol, a place never designed for anything but storage purposes.) Partitions and changes in various offices have been found imperative to make room for the several departments connected with the state government.

Evidently additional buildings will be needed in the near future and these, when erected, should be fire proof and of substantial and presentable architecture, and should be so located as to improve and add dignity to the present capitol. Then the governor recommended an enlargement of the grounds for buildings and said "nothing will be saved by delay and the erection of substantial buildings by the owners upon this property may materially add to the expense. Location of public buildings is a matter of prime importance. * * * No location is too good for Iowa and none but the best should be considered."

In his message of 1911 Governor Carroll said: "There seems to be no question but that in the course of time the state will of necessity be compelled to acquire additional grounds in the vicinity of the state house for the erection of buildings. While it would be very desirable that a number of blocks of ground be acquired both with a view of locating other buildings and for the purpose of beautifying the state's property,

I am convinced that, even if nothing more be done, there should be a reasonable allowance placed at the disposal of the executive council to purchase lots facing the state house grounds." Governor Carroll in his message in 1913 said: "A comprehensive scheme for enlarging the capitol grounds should be adopted by you and plans be made for the eventual acquiring of lands to be added to the present holdings of the state. I would recommend that the state buy all the grounds lying between East Ninth and East Twelfth streets, beginning at Capitol avenue and extending to the railroad tracks at the foot of the hill to the south. The grounds lying south of Walnut street should be parked and beautified." He also recommended the placement of the Allison monument and an executive residence, and recommended the erection of a judicial building and its placement, and the removal of the heating plant to the railroad tracks.

In his message to the legislature in 1909 Governor Garst said: "I feel that you and all of the people of the state ought to be deeply interested in the matter of providing a suitable setting for our magnificent state capitol. It seems to me there is an obligation upon this generation that we make the surroundings and approach to this great structure comport with its dignity and architectural beauty." He recommended a commission "authorized to purchase land adjacent to the capitol grounds." He further said: "We ought to make the building and its surroundings beautiful. We ought to make the whole an object of pride to all our people, something that will be an inspiration to better citizenship and that will give Iowa higher standing in the family of states." He then said: "More than half the business of the state is now done in offices wholly inadequate and that were originally intended only for storage rooms," and recommended the construction of what he called an agricultural, industrial and military hall.

Quotes Inaugural Address.

In my inaugural address I said: "The day is now here when these grounds surrounding us should be more spacious and they should be made more beautiful. They do not meet the demands of the present and for the future they will be entirely inadequate. The future should ever be in mind. We build for those who are to come after us. We should have a vision of what Iowa is to do and be. In the extension of the grounds regard should be had for a better setting of the capitol. The whole question of the enlargement and location of buildings and monuments should at once be placed in the hands of the best landscape architect that could be found with instructions to prepare a plan commensurate with the needs and ideals of a great, progressive and cultured people. It cannot be done at once, but a beginning can be made. Every day of postponement only makes the realization more expensive and difficult.

What is done should be in accordance with a plan to end in both utility and great artistic beauty. It seems to me that all will agree that buildings and monuments should not be located in a haphazard way, but that they should have placement with right relation to other buildings, present and future, bringing out the finest and best in each by location and perspective and that there should be ground enough to secure this result. Not every one is competent to bring about such a result, therefore, a plan was suggested and it has been furnished by a world famous man. If it is followed no one's artistic sense will ever be offended, nor will there ever be criticism that "these grounds were spoiled by locating this building or this monument here or there."

This is enough to show that the enlargement of the capitol grounds has been under discussion and deemed a necessity for quite a number of years. The inadequacy of the capitol to meet the demands of the business of the state is admitted by all. For years the governors have been pointing out the need for new buildings. But the state has gone on without erecting any of them until some of its departments have been crowded out of the state house and many of those left are housed together in crowded and inconvenient quarters. For instance, the industrial commissioner and labor commissioner are temporarily together in one room in the basement where there is but one small window, and where artificial lights must be kept burning all the time. No one going into the office can consult privately unless the other leaves.

The board of control is similarly situated in the basement. What firm of three lawyers would, or could be expected to work in the same room, each with a stenographer, no opportunity for private consultation with clients or to quietly study cases unless the others would be kind enough to leave. Each could take his turn in standing out in the corridor. The board of parole, the board of health, the pharmacy commission, the adjutant general, a part of the business and employes of the office of secretary of state and the state auditor and the office of the secretary of the executive council are all in the basement, the secretary of the council with his assistants being just as far away from the place of the meetings of the council as he can be and be in the building.

The basement was never intended for offices but simply for storage purposes. Yet so great has the business of the state become that the congestion has forced its occupancy. Not only is this true but many have been forced into legislative committee rooms. When a new judge was added to the supreme court there was not a room for him adjoining or in the vicinity of the other judges and he had to be assigned to a small committee room off the representative chamber and away from the library. The chief oil inspector occupies a little room off the corridors of the second floor where he can hardly be found without a guide. The commerce counsel

occupies the lieutenant governor's room and the speaker's room is occupied by the secretary of the board of education. When the legislature meets all of these people will have to move out. Where they will go will depend upon where places can be found for them in houses about the capitol grounds.

One Board's Quarters.

The food and dairy department with its great business is in a building formerly occupied by a family and last fall the plastering began to fall about the heads of the occupants, the heating apparatus failed utterly, the roof leaked, so that the expense necessary to make it habitable had to be incurred. The veterinary department is similarly situated. An insurance department was created by the last legislature. Where a place will be found for it nobody knows. Neither can anybody tell where the industrial commissioner with his clerical help can finally be located. I recite these facts to indicate the necessity for a new office building. Other buildings will be needed in the future. The question arises where are they to be located? Where is to be the placement of the Allison monument soon to be ready? The law says it must be on the capitol grounds or some extension thereof. No one has yet been discovered who did not protest against putting it upon the grounds where the great capitol stands. Nothing could be more reprehensible than to think of such a thing. It would spoil Capitol square. It would dwarf the splendid monument and rob it of its beauty. Many think it ought to have a spacious setting and be sufficiently distant from the capitol to give it perspective and its full artistic value. All buildings hereafter should likewise be so located with reference to each other. But where can they be located? The state now has no ground for any such scheme or any scheme. These locations can only be made by enlarging the grounds.

No one who has carefully examined into the question but has said that the heating plant ought to be located by the railroad tracks south of the capitol. I have never heard a dissenting opinion. Much of every year the state is compelled to haul coal from tracks to plant. I asked the state's chief engineer to report to me on condition of plant and expense. He advises me cost of hauling coal annually \$2,420. Boiler room built in 1881 in bad condition and too small for present demand upon it. No room to install modern up-to-date machinery. Boiler room floor so near the sewer line that water comes in from the sewer when it rains. Smokestack built in 1881 not located properly and should be in the center of the battery of boilers for economical considerations. Besides it is cracked at the top about ten feet and should be relocated and rebuilt. The engines are eleven years old and two of them are outgrown. The tunnel to the state house is in bad condition. When it rains the water runs down it in streams

to the boiler room. There is not sufficient room for storing coal. City water is used for boilers. If the plant were at the railroad tracks there would be a saving by laying a main to the river.

Residence for Governor.

For years there has been discussion of the necessity for a governor's residence. Again I ask where can such a building be located and how can the plant be relocated at the tracks unless the state buys the ground there and lying between? The heating plant, I am advised, will have to be practically renewed within five or six years. When that time comes would it not be sound business judgment to locate it where everybody says it ought to be, give it modern equipment and manage it on an economical basis? If in the future a governor's residence is built, ought it not to have reasonably spacious grounds? What I have said indicates the needs revealed by the present as to buildings and grounds. While it so indicates it is not expected they will all be realized for some years. They involve considerations of this great state in its wonderful development in the years to come.

But what must be said of a statesmanship that does not look into the future? We are yet laying foundations in this new world. They ought to be so laid that coming centuries can build thereon. Since the capitol was built the state in its public affairs has extended far beyond the visions of the men who planned it. Ought not the men of today to have a vision of the distant years and of what this heart of the great Mississippi valley, the finest land of all the earth, is to be? Here is to be a mighty population. Here is to be an intelligence, a culture, a refinement, let us fondly hope, not excelled anywhere else in the world. It ought to find expression, among other ways, in its public buildings and grounds. Can not the men and women of Iowa hear the voices far ahead calling out of the future? These buildings and at least some of these grounds must inevitably be acquired in the days that nearly all of us will see.

Today the preparation can be easily and cheaply made. The last general assembly passed a law looking to this end. It has been sustained in all its parts, as all know, by the supreme court. It is the opinion of those most competent to judge that all the territory included in the bill can be bought for \$1,000,000. This is also clearly indicated by the purchases that have been made. Is this cost unreasonable, needless, unjustifiable? The present necessities have been shown, and, leaving out all considerations of beauty, landscape architecture and much of proper placement, still considerable ground is needed. I have heard little, if any, objection to capitol extension itself. It is only objected that too much ground is included. I should not insist that the objection is not well taken. It is considerably more than I outlined in a tentative bill submitted to committees at the request of many members. I believe I have never heard it

objected to by any one who has given the matter any real consideration at all that as much as one block surrounding the capitol and extending south to the railroad tracks should be taken in.

Balance Less Expensive.

When this conceded amount is added the large portion of the expenses is incurred. The balance, block for block, or lot for lot, is not on the average nearly so expensive, and is such as would very greatly mar the appearance of the grounds and lies where more could be added to their beauty by including them than in almost any other portion of the territory.

This I have no doubt strongly influenced the legislature in determining the boundary agreed upon. They felt that to include such territory alone as all conceded to be within fair and almost necessary bounds would still leave the work imperfect and unfinished in the minds of many of the present and certainly meet the condemnation of the coming years. It was with them a problem of both the present and the future and honestly and patriotically and for a long time did they consider it.

Now, a few men who have never carefully studied the needs of the state, who have never gone over and over the grounds as they did, who are not inspired by a vision of the future, who do not see what a great value it would be to the state in its standing among the other states and the nations of the whole world, who do not consider what a fine expression it would be, when completed, of the ideals of the people, a few such men criticise and condemn their faithful representatives to whom, however, future years will surely bring complete vindication. But if the same results could be attained within more limited bounds, and many right minded men hold this view, still nothing can be lost to the state.

As an investment the proposition is a good one. For every dollar expended there is more than a dollar of value. Every dollar is being honestly and carefully expended. There is not, never has been and never will be a single penny of graft in the whole proposition. If at any time an enlightened public opinion should feel that too much was bought it can be sold, men competent to judge say, at a profit. Everybody acquainted with values says that the property is being bought at very moderate price. At a million dollars the cost to the individual taxpayer is very moderate indeed. If it were to be paid by the land area of the state it would cost less than 3 cents per acre, or \$4.80 per quarter section and several years in which to pay.

The average taxable value of Iowa lands is \$16.70 per acre or per 160 acres \$2,672. The tax, then, at a $\frac{1}{2}$ mill per 160 acres is only \$1.34 per year. This is the average. Some will pay a little more, some a little less. Five dozen eggs will pay the annual capitol extension tax

on the average value of 160 acres of land and a 100 pound pig will pay it all. An assessment of ten times as much for a sidewalk in front of one's lot is thought of little consequence. In the last twelve years \$11,900,741.87 have gone to our three educational institutions, or on an average within \$8,271.50 of a million dollars per year. The estimate of cost given is on the basis that a million will be paid in money. But this will be reduced by many thousands of dollars by the sale of Governor's square consisting of more than six acres of ground, which the bill authorizes. It is equivalent to making an exchange of lands.

Extravagant Estimates.

Much extravagant talk has been indulged in about additional cost after the property is bought. It is my judgment, based on careful estimates made by very competent men that the first cost will be all and the only cost that the taxpayer will ever be called upon to pay. The property will take care of itself—put itself in fine condition. If it is bought for \$1,000,000, experts as to rental values say it will bring a return of 6 per cent or \$60,000 annually to the state. That which has been bought more than bears out the statement. Some of it is now paying the state 8 per cent on the investment and the state will have no taxes to pay. If the old and poorest parts are taken down and cleaned up first and only \$35,000 or \$40,000 realized annually from rentals, it is thought after adding salvage from buildings sold, which would be considerable, the property will take care of itself as it goes along and pay all expense of putting it into fine and even beautiful condition. The better buildings can be retained for a number of years not only for expense paying purposes, but for occupancy by state officials and departments I have mentioned before.

It is not the purpose of the executive council to pay extravagant prices for property or to recklessly destroy and waste excellent buildings after they are bought but to proceed carefully and in as business a way as they know how, getting the very most possible out of the people's money.

This proposition is not one of a day or a year, but a number of years. It will doubtless remove the necessity of immediately erecting the buildings recommended from time to time by governors. I am sure if the people will exercise a little patience, wait until they get all the facts and a clear understanding of the whole situation and will consult the pride they have in their state and in their public buildings and grounds they will not criticise, but approve and applaud.

If every citizen of the state could see the surroundings of the capitol as they are tonight—many old and unpainted shacks and buildings obscuring the view of all but the dome from the railroads where hundreds of thousands of people

pass monthly and from which there might be a beautiful grassy slope, rendered still more beautiful by the landscape architect and the plan likewise carried out over all of the grounds and among the buildings that time must bring, if he could see the unsightly situation as it is tonight—the great big signs as big as the signs one sees in the fields along the railroads confronting the capitol on the west and north such as “Certainty Pancake Flour,” “Capitol Butter,” “Snyder’s Catsup,” “Old Tavern Beer,” “Likly Luggage,” “Old Homestead Sausage,” “Evan’s Cafe,” “Twenty Mule Team Borax,” “Sefren Furs,” “Golden Grain Belt Beer,” and very many others of like kind—if he could look upon all this as it is tonight and be ashamed as he would be, and awake tomorrow morning to see the splendid vision that inspired the Thirty-fifth General Assembly realized at so trifling a cost to him he not only would never say another word in criticism, but would shout for joy and declare he would not go back to old conditions for ten times the cost. Such is my faith in the men and women of Iowa.

Always .Approved.

Not a man in Iowa has ever opposed a public improvement who was not glad and proud of its accomplishment when it was done.

Recall the building of sidewalks, the pavings of streets, the building of churches, school houses, court houses, the buying of parks, every public purpose everywhere—was there ever one went through without violent opposition—and was there ever one of these things accomplished when there was not afterwards general community pride and rejoicing? Would it ever do in any community to wait until nobody protests? Then would progress go on crutches at a snail’s pace. Every step forward the world has ever taken has been fought. The Louisiana Purchase by which we got fifteen or sixteen of the greatest states in the American union for \$15,000,000 was opposed. Even Livingston who negotiated the purchase declared, population would not cross the Mississippi for a century. When Alaska was bought for \$7,200,000 a storm of opposition swept the country. It was said to be a cold, inhospitable, worthless land. But hundreds of millions of dollars have been taken out. Five times the cost has been the output of gold in one year.

When improvements were going on about the White House in the days of Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren, a Pennsylvania congressman by the name of Ogle made a bitter attack on them charging them with a great squandering of money to make a palace “as splendid as that of the Caesars and as richly endowed as the proudest Asiatic mansion.” He charged that the president’s garden corresponded in its general arrangement with the style and fashion of the most celebrated royal gardens of England and summing up he said: “Our pseudo reformers have therefore expended on what they are

pleased to call improvements an average of \$4,-436.10 per acre."

When our hospital for the insane at Mount Pleasant was built there was great opposition. "One wing," said an opponent in the legislature, "will be sufficient for the state for half a century. I do not stand here to say a word against the erection of these humane institutions, but I must consult the interests and economy of the state. For fifty years the naked and empty walls will be a monument to useless and oppressive taxation . . . it is to be erected as a monument to the ambitions of Governor Grimes" . . . charged that Governor Grimes and others had purchased land near the site, the value of which would be greatly enhanced. All of which was false.

Many remember the stubborn opposition to the building of our capitol. It was declared that no such building was needed and that the burden upon the people was outrageous and that the state would be bankrupted.

Repairing the Capitol.

A few years ago after the fire in the capitol, when it was necessary to repair and thought well to beautify the rotunda and about the grand stairway, an injunction suit was brought against the commission composed of some of the best men in Iowa on the ground that they had entered into a contract to pay \$60,000 for what should be done for \$30,000. Of course nothing came of it. It is doubtful now whether a man could be found in any community where public improvements have been made who would like to admit that he opposed, and as the years go by there is more and more inclination to deny it. Thus the world moves on and the opposer renders his service, a real service, too, but the world does, however, go on.

It has been said by way of criticism that the bill providing for the extension was not fully considered and was railroaded through the legislature. Nothing could be further from the truth. As I stated in the beginning, the matter had been in mind and recommended by governors for years. I was inaugurated on Jan. 16 and on the 26th day of that month there was a meeting of senators and representatives to consider the question, which lasted two hours. It was discussed constantly from that time on to its passage.

In all my experience I have hardly known a measure that had more publicity or a subject more fully discussed. As early as about the 20th of February two different plats or views of the grounds according to the plan proposed by the landscape architect, in size about four by five feet and framed, were on constant exhibition before the members and the public and were seen and examined, I dare say, not only by the members but by scores of people from all parts of the state.

On Sunday, March 2, there was published in The Register and Leader under the heading, in large letters across the page, "Allison Monument and Proposed Improvement of the State House Grounds," the views referred to and the subject was discussed. On the 13th of March there was a conference for the consideration of the subject at which there were present nine senators and ten representatives. The bill was strenuously urged during the entire session by republicans and democrats alike and both parties were represented at every conference. The bill was finally drafted with three proposed boundaries of extension and introduced in both houses on the 4th of April. It was considered in the appropriation committees of both houses. When introduced it was printed in both journals with a plat of the largest proposed boundary and additional ones of said plat were laid on the desk of every member. On the 4th day of April it was made a special order for the 8th at 10 o'clock, thus giving four days' notice that at that time it would take precedence over everything else and be considered. Every man had this opportunity to prepare any support or opposition he might desire to make. When the time came it was discussed pro and con and passed by an overwhelming majority.

Then a motion was made to reconsider and was laid on the table and the bill messaged to the senate. There the same identical bill had already been considered by a committee and recommended for passage so the house bill was substituted for the senate bill and passed. In both houses it was voted for by both democrats and republicans, in proportion to numbers. Twenty-seven democrats voted for the bill and twenty against it. Among those absent or not voting were three democrats who had attended the conferences and spoken enthusiastically for the bill and two of them especially urged the provisions for anticipating the tax. The whole history and record of the subject shows the most unusual publicity and discussion and completely refutes the charge of "railroading" which is made simply to prejudice the minds of the people.

Not a Des Moines Idea.

It is also said that it was a Des Moines proposition. I hold no brief for Des Moines and she is no more to me than any other city of the state. I am for all the cities and towns with absolute impartiality and for the whole state and its up-building with all the forces and influences I have. Wherever my fellow citizens have heard me speak they will testify to this fact. I have given myself unreservedly to urging the best things for Iowa.

But Des Moines did not propose capitol extension. I want all of the facts about this matter known from beginning to end and it is for that reason I speak. The people shall not be deceived. No man is a good citizen who will deliberately try to prejudice the minds of the peo-

ple. No lobby appeared from any place for this bill. I do not believe a member of the legislature can be found who will say that a citizen of Des Moines ever mentioned the subject to him. I do not believe one can be found who will say the members from Polk county ever discussed the subject with him. I do not believe one can be found who will say that he ever heard it discussed or referred to as a benefit to or a park for Des Moines.

As for myself, I can say but one Des Moines man ever discussed the subject with me and he only once. Mr. Harlan, member of the Allison commission for the placement of the monument and curator of the historical department, was consulted by virtue of his office. The whole subject was patriotically considered for Iowa and her people, for the present and for the years that are to be.

Other States.

It may be of some interest to know what other capitols are doing. In Massachusetts the state house is just across Beacon street from Boston Common, a spacious park. It is now proposed to build an addition to the capitol, tear down a block of houses at a contemplated cost of \$1,500,000.

In Tennessee it is proposed to erect additional buildings at a cost of \$750,000 to \$1,000,000.

Utah had almost twice as much ground for her capitol as ours, has just paid \$127,000 for seven acres more and besides has adjoining what is referred to as a large site for the executive residence.

Florida has just erected a new supreme court building on an additional block.

Pennsylvania is adding twenty-seven acres in the very heart of the city of Harrisburg and has appropriated \$2,000,000 to be paid in four years, and has already expended \$1,040,000 of it. Governor Tener in approving the bill said it was made necessary for the transaction of the rapidly increasing business of the various departments of the state government and to the proper adornment of the capitol buildings and grounds. His words are quite applicable to Iowa conditions.

North Dakota has 160 acres of ground.

Oklahoma has 650 acres deeded to her for capitol purposes. She has not built a capitol yet, but can make her grounds as spacious as she pleases.

We have eleven acres in a square where the capitol stands. Kentucky has nearly four times as much.

Arkansas has forty-two acres in her capitol grounds. It is now proposed to add three city blocks and later seven more; first extension to cost \$400,000, second would cost \$1,500,000. The state is now spending \$50,000 on beautifying the grounds and the governor says it will take eight months more to complete it.

In Wisconsin there is a movement on foot to extend the capitol grounds now containing thirteen acres to Lake Monona requiring the vacation of six blocks. The capitol is in the center of Madison surrounded by business sections. No residences front directly on Capitol Square. The estimated cost is \$1,500,000. In addition to this proposed extension is a project to widen and boulevard State street which extends from the capitol to the university a mile away. It is proposed to widen the street approaching our capitol from the city only as far as the first street, about the distance of two ordinary blocks.

Such are the facts, such the history of this Capitol Extension question, fully, frankly, and truthfully told. I have abiding faith in the people of the State. I know the pride they have in Iowa. When once they have fully considered the facts, the present needs, the great future that lies beyond, I am sure they will approve the action of the Thirty-fifth General Assembly.

Tax Discussion Misleading

From the Webster City Freeman-Tribune.

The Freeman-Tribune has twice published the total taxes paid by Webster City for state, county, school and city purposes. The capitol extension is such a small matter in the aggregate that it amounts to very little, while the amount of money expended locally for schools, county and city purposes is the real burden. But even at that, nobody will complain if the money is wisely and economically expended. * * * * • If the principle of objecting to improvements not in one's immediate vicinity is carried to its legitimate ends practically all improvements will be stopped. The property owners of one part of the town would object to improvements in another part (if made at public expense), in which they were not directly interested. The Freeman-Tribune is in favor of improvements in all parts of the town, county, state and nation. It is proud of its state capitol and of its national capitol and believes the state is able to have as good as the best and that the nation is entitled to have the very best. Be a booster and you will take pleasure in seeing all parts of the country grow and prosper. The only place at which the Freeman-Tribune draws the line on reasonable improvements is at graft or extravagance, and it is against that whether in Des Moines, Washington or Webster City.

The total taxes paid by the people of Webster City for state, county, school and municipal purposes last year amounted to \$81,511.88 and the amount paid this year will be \$90,620.91. This tax money in 1913 was divided as follows:

For schools	\$35,313.40
City purposes	30,636.63
County	11,671.39
State	3,890.46

Taxes to be paid by Webster City this year are as follows:

Schools	\$34,273.75
City	38,610.11
County	11,864.03
State	5,872.02

There is no reason to believe that Hamilton county will pay anywhere near \$30,000 or \$50,000 for capitol grounds extension. The levy this year in the county for that purpose amounts to less than \$5,000 and even if the grounds ultimately cost \$2,000,000 Hamilton county's share will be less than \$20,000.

Where Your Taxes Go

From the Gowrie News.

Arthur E. Lindquist, assistant cashier of the First National Bank, Gowrie, has taken the pains to figure out where the taxes are used and his figures will be of interest to you if you give them a careful study. He has taken a business property of our city assessed at \$1,500 for illustration, the total tax on the property being \$37.50. By looking the figures over you will see that the very much talked about Capitol Extension will require from this business house the whole sum of 25 cents. To hear people talk one imagines he would be called upon to pay several dollars. The list will disclose the fact that the larger portion goes for school purposes. In fact two-fifths of tax goes for the support of the schools. The detailed list is as follows:

Local Town Funds—

• General	\$4.00
Park .....	.50
Sinking	2.00
Bond	2.50
Sewer .....	.50
Fire	1.00
Water	2.50

Local School Funds—

Teachers	\$6.90
Contingent	4.60
School Building Bonds.....	3.50

County Funds—

County	\$.50
County School .....	.50
County Bridge	1.75
Poor .....	.75
Insane .....	.70
County Bond .....	.45
Soldier's Relief .....	.15
County Road .....	.25

State Funds—

State	\$1.45
State Institutions .....	.25
State University .....	.10
State Teachers College .....	.05
State Agricultural College .....	.10
State Agricultural College Extension25
State Capitol Extension25

Total

\$37.50

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



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