

Go to the West

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tion, sixty and more years ago, to decide to pack up his worldly possessions and leave the comforts of the east and come to what was then the very far west; and so it was, that those that did come were of the best, and the best equipped for the work before them.

Last winter, at the biennial meeting of the "Pioneer Law Makers" in the city of Des Moines, on the occasion of the reception of that body by the legislature, then in session, the Hon. S. P. Yeomans, of Lucas county, one of the pioneer legislators, in reply to an address made by the presiding officer of one branch of the legislature, tells the story of the work of the pioneers far better than I can. He said:

I could not keep you on the mountain top if I would. I ask you to step down to the level plain of facts. The profound compliments we receive may turn our heads. Our work was not so marvelous after all. The truth is that the Lord Almighty made Iowa. When we came here we found in Iowa a veritable cornucopia of wealth. We found it in soil, climate, sky and woods. Our civilization was crude. The men who laid the foundations of the state were not pioneer law makers, but for the most part pioneer farmers. They planted trees, they tilled the land, they raised the crops. Prosperity came apace. The iron horse came to carry away to the east the products of the farm. It is true that laws had to be established. A judiciary system was devised, schools were organized and were made free to all. If we did our work well, we have received our reward.

DES MOINES, IOWA, May 23, 1900.

GO TO THE WEST.—We say, as we have ever said, to young men or young women of light purse, but willing hand; to the farmer or mechanic of increasing family, slender means or dubious prospects, your true home is in the West! Seek it, rear your children there to larger opportunities than await them on the rugged hill-side or in the crowded streets of the East.—*Horace Greeley, Oct. 15, 1857.*

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