

12-1-1923

Comment

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Recommended Citation

Briggs, John E. "Comment." *The Palimpsest* 4 (1923), 428-430.

Available at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest/vol4/iss12/3>

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Comment by the Editor

IOWA STATESMEN

Men from Massachusetts are now preëminent in the national government. Calvin Coolidge is President, John W. Weeks is Secretary of War, Oliver W. Holmes and Louis D. Brandeis are Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, Frederick H. Gillett is Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Henry Cabot Lodge is the majority party floor leader in the Senate. Such a condition is not accidental: it is the result of personal ability, experience, and the recognition of merit.

The prominence of particular States in national politics was the fear of the Fathers and the realization of their children. It was at once the danger of the Union and the vindication of democracy. The discovery and acceptance of trustworthy leadership is a measure of the capacity of a people for self-government.

No Iowan has ever been President of the United States — though William B. Allison narrowly missed nomination in 1888 when election would have been practically certain; in 1892 James B. Weaver polled the largest number of votes ever won by a third party candidate except Lincoln and Roosevelt; and Jonathan P. Dolliver might have been Vice

President in 1901. Nevertheless Iowa has contributed much to the statesmanship of the nation. It is only necessary to mention the astute Augustus C. Dodge, the brilliant James W. Grimes, the honest man-of-the-people Samuel J. Kirkwood, the judicious Samuel F. Miller, the cautious William B. Allison, and the eloquent Jonathan P. Dolliver in order to indicate the continual prominence of Iowa men in Washington.

And there have been occasions, as in 1902, when Iowa, like Massachusetts, seemed conspicuous for its political talent. During the first year of Roosevelt's administration Allison and Dolliver occupied positions of leadership in the Senate, Leslie M. Shaw was Secretary of the Treasury, James Wilson was Secretary of Agriculture, David B. Henderson was Speaker of the House of Representatives, and William P. Hepburn, as chairman of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, was formulating the most epochal legislation of the first decade in the twentieth century.

Democracy must have leadership. Fortunate is the Commonwealth like Massachusetts, Virginia, or Iowa that honors its own prophets.

J. E. B.