

The Semi-Centennial of Cedar Rapids

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of Iowa." The spirit that warmed the hearts of the banquet-ers was beautifully expressed in the couplet:

Old friends are the best friends and
You can't get old friends in a day

THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF CEDAR RAPIDS.

During the week beginning Sunday, June 10, the city of Cedar Rapids celebrated with interesting ceremonies the semi-centennial anniversary of its incorporation. Nearly two years ago Hon. C. D. Huston, then Mayor, called a meeting of her citizens for the purpose of instituting measures for the appropriate recognition of the event. Under the general charge of an efficient executive committee, of which Mr. E. E. Clark was chairman, an elaborate program was formulated and successfully carried out. Each day of the week was devoted to special interests—thus Sunday was given up to Sabbatical discourses replete with recollections of the religious experiences of the pioneers; Monday was set aside for programs recounting the civic and social beginnings and development of the city. The festivities included besides formal literary programs, balls and banquets, parades and prize contests, picnics and reunions, all the pleasant diversions that enter into the jollity of such an occasion. The "Official Program" with its historical accounts and its illustrations makes an attractive booklet of 64 pages. For the historian the most valuable result of such an event is the ingathering and preservation of the reminiscences of the pioneers and builders of the city's foundations. *The Cedar Rapids Republican* and *The Gazette* expended much energy and money in garnering and presenting a large amount of valuable historical material descriptive of the beginnings and growth of Cedar Rapids.

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