

Speech of Welcome

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the appropriations committee of the present session be requested to increase the amount available for the Association's expenses from one hundred dollars to two hundred dollars, which motion carried.

The association then adjourned, the members to assemble at the State House. Some twenty-five of the members lunched together at the State House, after which they with others assembled in the rotunda and at two o'clock they were met by a committee of a joint session of the Forty-third General Assembly and conducted to seats in the House Chamber. Lieutenant Governor McFarlane presided. Representative E. A. Elliott and Senator Joseph R. Frailey welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers in the following speeches:

SPEECH OF WELCOME

By E. A. ELLIOTT

Mr. President, Members of the Pioneer Lawmakers, Members of the Forty-third General Assembly, and Friends: We who serve in the legislative halls today wish to express to you a hearty greeting and extend to these Pioneer Lawmakers a most cordial welcome. In doing this we are only welcoming you to your own. These halls were yours. To these desks you have a right prior to ours. Long before those who are engaged in active work today had any thought of being your successors you were engaged in the business of making laws for the state of Iowa, and the peace and good order, the happiness and the general prosperity of the people of Iowa are evidences of the fact that you did your work well. And today we point with pride to the laws of our state and to the men who laid the foundation of this commonwealth and enacted the laws that have put Iowa to the front in morality and literacy and those things which go to make a commonwealth really and truly strong and great.

One has said "Show me the laws of a state and I will tell you the quality of its people and its institutions—and show me the people of the state and I will tell you the quality of its laws—for no man is greater than the law." Under the laws of this state were developed such men as Jones, Harlan, Kirkwood, Allison, Dolliver, Cummins and Byers—men lifted up to the emergencies of the time—men who shed luster and honor on territory and state—men such as we have with us as our guests today. Man's greatest work for mankind is to plant that others may reap. He who selfishly gathers to himself the benefit of all he does has not learned the golden rule, or any other rule that responds to the best demands of the world in which he lives.

Pioneer Lawmakers, the work that you did twenty years ago and more still stands, and we are glad to have you with us here today, and

we only ask that we be present to sit at your feet as Paul sat at the feet of Gamaliel to learn words of wisdom. We give you much credit for the progress that has been made along the lines of education of the youth in our state. I was very much interested a few years ago in hearing an old pioneer tell about the limited educational advantages when he was a boy. He said in those days they learned their ABC's in this way: he said the teacher wrote the letter "A" on the blackboard, then he asked the boy what that was. Of course he didn't know. With a slap on the side of the head the teacher said "That is 'A'. * * *

We sincerely hope that your visits to these halls may long continue—that your presence will always be a benediction—and that finally all may answer to the roll call in the Great Assembly beyond. Again I wish to express a hearty greeting and extend to one and all a most cordial welcome.

SPEECH OF WELCOME

By JOSEPH R. FRATLEY

Members of the Pioneer Lawmakers' Association, and Ladies and Gentlemen: It is my heartfelt privilege and pleasure, and more than that, honor, on behalf of the Senate of the Forty-third General Assembly, to extend to you veterans here a most hearty welcome in our midst. Meetings of this character mean much, not only to this General Assembly, but to the people, and the history of the state. It is well to go back into the past sometimes, and it is indeed a happy occasion when we can have with us the builders of the past who made possible the present. Eighty-three years as history counts time is but an instant in eternity, and yet this state in which we live and of which we are so proud is only just about to celebrate its eighty-third birthday. You men who sit here today with us, former members of the General Assembly, occupied chairs in these two halls in an uncertain and formative period of our history. It is, as it were, that you are the break between the infancy of the state and the commonwealth of today, and I do not think that any place in the history of any state in this Union is there a more romantic history than this. Beginning at the time of the first settlements upon the Ohio, and the Mississippi, with the settlements of Kentucky and Virginia and Pennsylvania, and then a few years later, after the river valleys became dotted with settlements—which are now cities—again back to New England, and the Ohio, and the men and women from Illinois and Indiana, and that procession over this country in the covered wagons into the prairies of the west—until at last the settlement of Iowa was achieved. And today, as a result of that settlement, we have the best and finest love and traditions of any people in this world. * * * No place in this great country of ours is a civilization wrought by that type of people more characteristic than it is in this state of Iowa. You are the men who saw miracles accomplished. The day of log cabins and covered wagons is gone. The day of the early development was yours. And it is from you men, who in your day and

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