

## Speech of Welcome

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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

generation laid the foundation of our government and our traditions and ideals, for no government and no ideals and no traditions can long exist unless the corner stone for them has been laid firm and true. You are the men who laid the corner stone. You are the builders of the ark. It is for us to take the torch from your hand and carry on—and then to leave it with credit and luster and honor to those who will follow on. That is what you have accomplished for the state of Iowa, and we are here today to do you honor and to thank you for your accomplishment, and to wish you many more years of health and prosperity and happiness.

The gavel was then turned over to former governor George W. Clarke, who presented as the principal speaker for the association former senator C. H. Van Law.

#### THE AMERICAN PIONEER

By C. H. VAN LAW

The American Pioneer commands the admiration and merits the appreciation of our civilization for the distinctive contribution he has made in the conquest of a continent and in the upbuilding of a nation of the first order. No difficulties to him were deemed insurmountable, no dangers unnerved him, no hardships deterred him. The comforts of the old established fireside were as dear to him as to any, but the lure of the great, undeveloped lands which lay in the course of the setting suns mastered him and inspired his soul for the conquest of the wilderness, the untilled prairies of a continent teeming with the fertility of a virgin soil and the hidden wealth of its mountain wastes. With the challenge to do for generations yet unborn ringing in his soul, and with freedom in his every action, independence and high purpose possessed him as he sought out the tasks of his day and builded for the future. His masterful character knew no distinction of nationality in his companionship and lay claim to no distinction of class, save in comradeship of task and purpose. His soul had been born beyond the seas. When Abraham dreamed his dreams and turned his face toward the promises of a glowing west in high hope and in quest of a homeland, was the soul of the pioneer brought forth and was its westward way taken up. Since that far-off day has its "westward ho" sung, its vibrant challenge to kindred spirits and lured the courageous beyond seas, over mountain fastnesses, through forests, across desert wastes to the lands of promise, with home and country as its goal, and the satisfaction of achievements attained as its reward.

Through the cycling centuries men have purposed to do, and in doing they have found courage to die. Through the ages have men dreamed and have gone to an early grave in an effort to make their dreams come true. So long as the human heart shall yearn to know, so long shall the will of man dare to enter into the unknown. What of the peril to body if the conquest of the infinite is advanced! What of the domination of

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