

## Speech By E. C. Roach

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

---

### Recommended Citation

"Speech By E. C. Roach." *The Annals of Iowa* 16 (1929), 608-609.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.5304>

Hosted by Iowa Research Online

the prospect they afford and ponder the obligations they impose; to the end that succeeding generations may review the record we may make and find that we, of this day and generation, have neither faltered nor failed in the contribution we may have made to the advancement of a civilization which represents the crowning achievement of a worthy race of pioneer men.

Former representative E. C. Roach was called and spoke as follows:

SPEECH BY E. C. ROACH

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Forty-third General Assembly: When we reflect back over the forty-one and forty-three years that have passed since the people up in Lyon County made the mistake of sending me down here there are many things for contemplation. As the ages go the interests become so complex and complicated that the legislator has a problem before him always. In those times we struggled here with the question of woman suffrage—whether the women of this commonwealth should be allowed to vote at the elections, and objection was made that if they could vote then they would be entitled to hold the offices and become legislators and executives—but now it's a pleasure to greet and congratulate the honorable member from Jackson, who is here laboring with you people. That's progress. That's evolution.

And so we say often that there are too many laws. I think that's true—but with all these various institutions that must be regulated the laws must multiply rather than diminish. There is no other way of regulating the affairs of communities and societies but by legislation—by statute—and it is for the legislator to do the best he can with the things that come before him upon which he must legislate. And then we provide judges and supreme courts to tell the people whether the legislature knew what they were doing when they passed the law.

I thank you very much for the pleasure and the honor of greeting you here this afternoon, and I say to you that you are doing better than we could do, because you have more of the progress and education and enlightenment that has come to you as you come here to perform the duties of the great commonwealth.

Senator Klemme: Mr. President, in looking over this front row of silver haired pioneer lawmakers I find one amongst the group that I served with in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth general assemblies, and it would be a great pleasure for me to listen to him once more if he is permitted to say a few words before this vast audience. His name I will give later on if he is permitted. The man's name is Van Houten—he's the man I want to hear.

Governor Clarke: I assure you it is the greatest pleasure of the Pioneer Lawmakers to give pleasure to the members of the Forty-third General Assembly, and I am pleased to call on Mr. Van Houten for a five-minute talk.

Mr. Van Houten responded eloquently and was followed by Constant R. Marks of Sioux City, who was a representative in the Thirteenth General Assembly, 1870, their speeches closely following the lines of their addresses delivered during this meeting of the Association and already set out in these proceedings. The joint assembly then adjourned.

---

#### TOWN MAKING IN IOWA IN 1837

---

Town making has become quite a system in the West. So successfully has it been carried on for some time past that numerous small fortunes, and not an inconsiderable number of great ones, have been made at it. The proprietors of Chicago, Alton, Peoria, in Illinois, and Milwaukee and others in Wisconsin Territory, and many in Michigan, Alabama and Mississippi, may be enumerated as belonging to the class of the very fortunate ones. But the day will soon have passed away when money will be amassed in very large quantities by proprietors of new towns in the older of the states above named. The Indian title to some millions of land more, west of the Mississippi and Missouri, must be extinguished—the tide of emigration must roll some hundreds of miles further, and subdue the wide prairie and lay low the forest, and then the town makers and land speculators will be again in their glory.—*The Western Adventurer*, Montrose, Wisconsin Territory (Iowa), August 26, 1837. (In the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.