

## Labor Day

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importance, doubtless are permanently lost. Correspondence between the owners of the respective fragments established the indubitable fact that both are parts of one large original, painted by either Flinck or Eckhout. Could these fragments but speak, what a story they could relate of the circumstances which led to their separation and wanderings until they found permanent homes in two American collections.

Dr. Walter G. Jessup, then President of the State University of Iowa, upon the dedication of the Municipal Art Gallery, October 11, 1925, said: "How fortunate we all are that in the city of Davenport, through the munificence of Mr. Ficke and the intelligent co-operation of her citizens, forces are being set in motion that will surely increase the sum total of our happiness and joy in these finer spiritual things." No greater or finer tribute can be paid to the memory of Charles August Ficke, who, through his tireless energy, wisdom, and generosity felt it his duty for fourscore years "to do something that will aid the generations that follow us." All who knew him were agreed that he had performed his duty well.

Such were the footprints left behind in the public and cultural life of Davenport by this largehearted man who, on December 10, 1931, completed a life of fourscore years of fruitful, generous living.

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### LABOR DAY

Of the time when he was Mayor of Davenport, Charles Ficke wrote:

In 1890, the first day of September was created a legal holiday to be known as "Labor Day." It became my privilege officially to participate at Davenport's first Labor Day celebration. The event opened with a procession in which five thousand members of military, labor, and civic organizations, and four hundred floats and vehicles, participated. This was followed by a gathering at Schuetzen Park, at which the attendance was limited only by transportation facilities. At the park Governor Boise and I were among the speakers.—*Memories of Fourscore Years*, pages 244-45.

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