

The Oskaloosa Herald

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ceeded to the office of governor, but from a careful reading of the provisions of the constitution it appears that it provides that the president pro tem can succeed the lieutenant-governor, in case the latter, while acting as governor, should die or for any other reason should vacate the office of governor, but does not provide that the president pro tem could succeed the governor. In fact no one but a lieutenant-governor can succeed a governor. There is a general constitutional provision giving the governor authority to fill any vacancies not otherwise provided for, and under this he might fill a vacancy in the lieutenant-governorship, but there is no mandatory provision requiring him to do so; therefore if the office of lieutenant-governor should become vacant, and not be filled, and then the governorship become vacant, there would be no official ready to act as the chief executive of the state.

Some interesting situations have already arisen in the history of our state concerning this second officer, and they are fully brought out in Mr. Fleming's article.

THE OSKALOOSA HERALD

The *Oskaloosa Herald* has deposited with the Historical Department of Iowa, at Des Moines, an almost complete set of its files from the year it was founded, 1850, to the present time. Only the following years are missing: 1850, 1851, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1870, 1874, 1875, 1881, 1920, 1921. Thus fifty-eight of the seventy-two years of its existence are complete.

The *Herald* has had a remarkable history. It was founded by John R. Needham and Hugh McNelley in 1850. The printing outfit had been brought by them from Cambridge, Ohio, by way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to Keokuk and thence overland to Oskaloosa, then a village of 600 people, 100 miles from a railroad. In 1858 Dr. Charles Beardsley took over the editorial management and continued it during the war. In 1865 Colonel C. W. Fisher and W. E. Sheppard became the publishers, and a few years later Captain W. A. Hunter had editorial charge.

Henry C. Leighton and William H. Needham became the owners in 1870. Charles Leighton and George R. Lee later did editorial work on the paper. In 1881 Albert W. and Pauline Given Swalm purchased the paper. In 1896 they sold it to the present owners, C. V. Hoffman, Charles S. Walling, Phil Hoffman, and Maggie Hoffman.

The old *Weekly Herald* increased in size until its four pages each contained ten columns, and when carefully read by all the members of the subscriber's family, it was then used alternately for a tablecloth and a bedspread. The *Daily Herald* was established in 1887. For many years the daily was a burden on the weekly, but in the gradual development of the city and county, and in the evolution of business, the daily grew and the weekly became the burden, and was finally suspended in 1920, just seventy years after the founding of the paper.

From the start and throughout its history the *Herald* has been prosperous and has had a large influence in the state. This has been due to its fortunate situation in a growing town and county, to its strategic position in the congressional district, but chiefly to its owners and editors who have been men of ability and high character. The founder, John R. Needham, was state senator in three general assemblies and was lieutenant-governor of the state; Dr. Beardsley later became editor of the Burlington Hawk-eye and chairman of the Republican State Central Committee; George R. Lee became one of the leading editors of Colorado; Henry C. Leighton was chairman of the Republican State Central Committee; William H. Needham went from the *Herald* to the *Keokuk County News* at Sigourney and has been the editor of that paper for over forty years, and is father of the famous Needham newspaper family; Colonel Swalm was for years a political leader and went from the *Herald* office into the consular service and during the World War was consul at Southampton, England; and the Hoffmans have upheld the high standard of the paper's editors in ability and influence.

Thus it is apparent that the men who have controlled and edited the paper have been outstanding figures in the history of the state. The fact that Oskaloosa was the home of Hon. John F. Lacey and that the *Herald* was recognized as his chief news-

paper supporter during the twenty years that he was the Republican standard bearer of the Sixth District, added to the paper's prestige.

With a background of such a galaxy of able and brilliant editors, men who were so active and influential in public affairs, it is natural that these files should be rich in pioneer and political historical materials, and the Historical Department, and through it the people of the state, have become beneficiaries by reason of the public spirit and generosity of the present publishers.

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF
CONSERVATION

August 11, 1922

Motions.—Motions were adopted in substance as follows: That hereafter the order of business shall be reports of custodians and other emergency matters, unfinished business, reports of committees, and new business; that all custodians be notified to prevent the taking of lilies from waters in the parks, and other plant life from the parks, also sand, gravel or other natural products, without consent of the Board; that consideration of the contract with W. W. Morehead at Morhead Caves Park be left until the committee of the Board investigates and reports; that Mr. Harlan be appointed to adjust the bill for sinking the well at Pilot Knob Park; that local parties having claims for expenses incurred on the parks be required to present formal bills approved by the park custodian where the expense was incurred; that Ellet Lepley be appointed honorary custodian of Lepley Park; that James C. Folck be appointed honorary custodian of Blue Lake Park; that the Board grant authority to the secretary to employ B. W. Preston, Jr., to assist in abstracting the proceedings, correspondence, etc., relating to the parks, the employment to extend from July 25 to October 1; that all custodians be required to make and submit to the Board an inventory of all materials they have on hand; that the persons petitioning for a park at Mount Pisgah be asked to send their propositions to the secretary.

Resolutions.—Resolutions in substance as follows were adopted: That the Board reaffirms its approval of acquiring land on the shore of Lost Island Lake and recommends to the Executive Council that it accept the offer of local citizens to contribute \$1,000 toward the purchase of twenty-seven acres at not to exceed \$300 per acre, and any additional area not to exceed \$250 per acre, provided all such land be outside the meander line of the lake, and that the Executive Council is hereby requested to investigate the title to and right of possession of the land inside the meander line and to controvert for the state its right to such lands;

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