The Constitution of Iowa in Facsimile

Edgar R. Harlan

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Executive Register

Declaration

Whereas an insurrection known as the "New Constitution of the State of Iowa" adopted by the Constitutional Convention of said State on the fifth day of March 25, 1857, was submitted to the qualified citizens of said State at the annual election held on Monday the third day of August 1857, for their approval or rejection.

And whereas the different counties of the state cast at such election show that there were nearly four thousand more votes cast in favor of said Constitution than against it, and six hundred and eighty-three votes cast against its adoption, making a majority of thirty thousand and thirty votes, in favor of its adoption.

Now therefore, I, James A. Garfield, Governor of said State, do hereby, in the name and stead of the Governor, according to law, declare the said New Constitution to be adopted and declared to be the supreme law of the State of Iowa.

I do hereby order that the State of Iowa, through its officers,

By the Governor,

Secretary of State.

Facsimile of the record of the proclamation putting into effect the Constitution of 1857, as it appears on page 394, Vol. I, Register of the Official Acts of the Governor of the State of Iowa. The original manuscript with signatures and official impression of the Great Seal of the State of Iowa is not in the Archives Division of the Historical Department, nor to be found in casual search in the office of the Secretary of State.
The Annals in the present issue seeks to fix the legibility of the Constitution of 1857 and amendments through reduced facsimile. It is a bound manuscript of forty pages, nine and one-half by fifteen inches in size, the script very large and on a scale with the pages. The paper is not uniform in its color, the yellow of age being more pronounced on some than on other sheets. The ink is becoming brown and in places the colors already contrast so little that with the best ray filter and finest lens, the photographic plate will not receive impressions. This condition, of course, will increase with time.

There is value in this reproduction to those interested in the mechanics of writing. The Constitution, adopted in 1847, was engrossed in longhand. The first five amendments, adopted in 1868, the sixth in 1880, and the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth in 1884, are all engrossed in longhand. But the eleventh and twelfth, adopted in 1904, the thirteenth in 1907, and the fourteenth in 1915, were engrossed in typewriting.

Intending to record the present state of this valuable document, we did nothing to increase its legibility. The text of the Constitution is in print in countless numbers. Its meaning has been litigated and judicially defined in almost its every word. But the exact appearance of our basic law is familiar to few.

This reproduction resulted from a remark of Hon. John M. Rankin, representative in the General Assembly from Lee County, in the Fortyeth Extra session. Upon his inspection of the old document he said: “The youth of Iowa should be shown this instrument and taught a reverence for it. It is not too sacred to admit of reading and interpretation by any teacher in any school, whatever his culture, creed, or character. And it is too sacred not to be carried to the attention and into the intelligence of every one of the two and a quarter millions of us.”
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
State of Iowa

WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF IOWA
grateful to the Supreme Ruler for the blessings with which
we are favored, and feeling our dependence on Him for a
continuation of those blessings, do ordain and establish a
free and independent govern-
ment; by the name of the State of Iowa, the boundaries
whereof shall be as follows:

Beginning in the middle of the main channel of the Mis-
sissippi River, at a point due East of the mouth of
the main channel of the Des Moines River, thence up the mid-
tle of the main channel of the said Des Moines River, to a
point on said river where the Northern boundary line of the
State of Missouri, as established by the constitution of that
State, adopted June 12th, 1820, crosses the said middle of the
main channel of the said Des Moines River, thence Westwardly
along the said Northern boundary line of the State of Mis-
souri, as established at the time aforesaid, until an extension
of said line intersects the middle of the main channel of the
Missouri River, thence up the middle of the main channel of
the said Missouri River to a point opposite the middle of the
main channel of the Big Sioux River, according to Missis-
bippi Omaha; thence up the main channel of the said Big
Sioux River, according to the said map, until it is intersected
by the parallel of forty three degrees and thirty minutes north
latitude; thence East along said parallel of forty three degrees
and thirty minutes north latitude; thence parallel of said paral-
lel, to the middle of the main channel of the Missouri River;
thence along the middle of the main channel of the Missouri
River to the place of beginning.
Article I.
Bill of Rights

Section 1. All men are, by nature, free and equal, and have certain inalienable rights among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

Sec. 2. All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for the protection, security, and benefit of the people, and they have the right, at all times, to alter or reform the same, whenever the public good may require it.

Sec. 3. The General Assembly shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; nor shall any person be compelled to attend any place of worship, pay tithes, taxes, or other rates for building or repairing places of worship, or the maintenance of any minister or ministry.

Sec. 4. No religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust, and no person shall be deprived of any of his rights, privileges, or capacities, or disqualified from the performance of any of his public or private duties, or rendered incompetent to give evidence in any court of law or equity, on consequence of his opinions on the subject of religion; and any party to any judicial proceeding shall have the right to set up a plea, or take the testimony of, any other person not disqualified as a court of justice, who may be cognizant of any fact material to the case, and practice to suits may be witnesses, as provided by law.
Sec. 3. All laws of a general nature shall have a uniform form of operation; the General Assembly shall not grant to any citizen, or class of citizens, privileges or immunities which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens.

Sec. 4. Every person may speak, write, and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right. No law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech, or of the press. No prosecution or indictment for libel, the truth may be given in evidence to the jury, and if it appear to the jury that the matter charged as libels was true, and was published with good intent and for justifiable cause, the party shall be acquitted.

Sec. 5. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated; and no warrant shall issue but on probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons and things to be seized.

Sec. 6. The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate, but the General Assembly may authorize trial by a jury of a less number than twelve men in inferior courts, but no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.
Sec. 10. In all criminal prosecutions, and in cases involving the life, or liberty, of an individual, the accused shall have a right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury, to be informed of the accusation against him, to have a copy of the same when demanded, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have compulsory process for his witnesses, and to have the assistance of counsel.

Sec. 11. All offenses below than felony, and in which the punishment does not exceed a fine of one hundred dollars, or imprisonment for thirty days, shall be tried summarily before a Justice of the Peace, or other officer authorized by law, on information under oath, without indictment, or the intervention of a grand jury, saving to the defendant the right of appeal; and no person shall be held to answer for any higher criminal offense, unless on presentment or indictment by a grand jury, except in cases arising in the army, or navy, or marine, or in the militia, when in actual service, in time of war or public danger.

Sec. 12. No person shall after acquittal, be tried for the same offense. All persons shall, before conviction, be bailable, by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses where the proof is evident, or the presumption great.

Sec. 13. The point of halting or corpse shall not be suspended, or refused, when application is made as required by law, in case of rebellion, or invasion, the public safety may require it.

Sec. 14. The military shall be subordinate to the civil power. No standing army shall be kept up by the State in time of peace, and in time of war, no appropriation for a standing army shall be for a longer time than two years.
Sec. 15. No soldiers shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war except in the manner prescribed by law.

Sec. 16. Treason against the State shall consist only in levying war against it, adhering to its enemies, or giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason, unless on the evidence of two witnesses to the same overt act, or confession in open Court.

Sec. 17. Excessive bail shall not be required, excessive fines shall not be imposed, and cruel and unusual punishments shall not be inflicted.

Sec. 18. Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation, paid being made, or secured to be made to the owner thereof, as soon as the damages shall be assessed by a jury, who shall not take into consideration any advantage that may result to said owner on account of the improvement for which it is taken.

Sec. 19. No person shall be imprisoned for debt in any civil action, on merits or final process, unless in case of fraud; and no person shall be imprisoned for a militia fine in time of peace.

Sec. 20. The people have the right freely to assemble together to consult, and to petition the legislature, for redress of grievances.

Sec. 21. No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, shall ever be passed.

Sec. 22. Foreigners who are, or may hereafter become, residents of this State, shall enjoy the same rights in respect to the possession, enjoyment, and descent of property, as native-born citizens,
Sec. 23. There shall be no slavery in this State, nor shall
there be involuntary servitude, unless for the punishment of
crime.

Sec. 24. No lease or grant of agricultural lands, reserving
any rent, or service of any kind, shall be valid for a long
or period than twenty years.

Sec. 25. This enumeration of rights shall not be construed
to impair or deny others, retained by the people.
Article II.
Right of Suffrage.

Section 1. Every white male citizen of the United States, of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been a resident of this State six months next preceding the election, and of the County in which he claims his vote sixty days, shall be entitled to vote at all elections which are now or hereafter may be authorized by law.

Sec. 2. Electors shall, in all cases except treason, felony, or breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest on the day of election, during their attendance at such election, going to and returning therefrom.

Sec. 3. No elector shall be obliged to perform military duty on the day of election, except in time of war or public danger.

Sec. 4. No person in the military, naval or marine service of the United States shall be considered a resident of this State by being stationed in any garrison, barracks, or military or naval place, or station within this State.

Sec. 5. No idiot, or insane person, or person convicted of any infamous crime, shall be entitled to the privilege of voting.

Sec. 6. All elections by the people shall be by ballot.
Article III.

Of the Distribution of Powers.

Section 1. The powers of the government of Iowa shall be divided into three separate departments— the legislative, the executive, and the judicial—and no person charged with the execution of powers properly belonging to one of these departments shall exercise any function appertaining to either of the others, except in cases hereafter expressly provided or permitted.

Legislative Department.

Section 1. The legislative authority of this State shall be vested in a General Assembly, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives, and the style of every law shall be, Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa.

Sec. 2. The sessions of the General Assembly shall be biennial, and shall commence on the second Monday in January next ensuing, the election of its members, and the Governor of the State shall, in the meantime, convene the General Assembly by proclamation.

Sec. 3. The members of the House of Representatives shall be chosen every second year, by the qualified voters of their respective districts, on the second Saturday in October, except the years of the Presidential election, when the election shall be on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November; and their term of office shall commence on the first day of January next after their election, and continue two years, and until their successors are elected and qualified.
Sec. 4. No person shall be a member of the House of Representatives, who shall not have attained the age of twenty-one years, be a free white male citizen of the United States, and shall have been an inhabitant of this State one year next preceding his election, and at the time of his election shall have had an actual residence of six
by days in the County or District he may have been cho-
d to represent.

Sec. 5. Senators shall be chosen for the term of four years, at the same time and place as Representatives; they shall be twenty-five years of age, and possess the qualifications of Representatives as to residence and citizenship.

Sec. 6. The number of Senators shall not be less than one-third, nor more than one-half the representatives; they shall be so classified by lot, that one class, being as near as one-half as possible, shall be elected every two years.
When the number of Senators is increased, they shall be annexed by lot to one or the other of the two classes, so as to keep them as nearly equal in number as practica-
ble.

Sec. 7. Each house shall choose its own officers, and judge of the qualifications, election, and return of its own members. No contested election shall be determined in such manner as shall be directed by law.

Sec. 8. A majority of each house shall constitute a quo-
rum for the transaction of business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such pen-
alties as each house may provide.

Sec. 9. Each house shall sit upon its own adjourn-
ments, keep a journal of its proceedings, and publish
the same, determine its rules of proceedings, punish members
for disorderly behavior, and, with the consent of two thirds of
that member, but not a second time for the same offense, and
shall have all other powers necessary for a branch of the Gen-
eral Assembly of a free and independent State.

Sec. 10. Every member of the General Assembly shall have
the liberty to dissent from, or protest against, any act or res-
olution which he may think improper to the public, or an in-
dividual, and have the reasons for his dissent entered on the
journals; and the year and ways of the members of either house,
in any question, shall, at the desire of any two members pres-
ent, be entered on the journals.

Sec. 11. Senators and Representatives, in all cases, except
treason, felony, or breach of the peace, shall be privileged from
arrest during the session of the General Assembly, and on
going to and returning from the same.

Sec. 12. When vacancies occur in either house, the Govern-
or the person exercising the functions of Governor, shall make
notices of election to fill such vacancies.

Sec. 13. The doors of each house shall be open, except on such
occasions, as, in the opinion of the house, may require secrecy.

Sec. 14. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other,
adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than
that in which they may be sitting.

Sec. 15. Bills may originate in either house, and may be
amended, altered, or rejected by the other; and every bill
having passed both houses, shall be signed by the Speaker
and President of their respective houses.
Sec. 16. Every bill which shall have passed the General Assembly, shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the Governor. If he approves, he shall sign it; but if not, he shall return it, with his objections, to the house in which it originated, which shall enter the same upon their journal, and proceed to reconsider it; if, after such reconsideration, it again pass both houses, by yeas and nays, by a majority of the members of each house, it shall become a law, notwithstanding the Governor's objections. If any bill shall not be returned, within three days after it shall have been presented to him, Sunday excepted, the same shall be a law on like manner as if he had signed it, unless the General Assembly, by adjournment, prevent such return. Any bill submitted to the Governor for his approval during the last three days of a session of the General Assembly, shall be deposited by him in the office of the Secretary of State, within thirty days after the adjournment, with his approval, if approved by him, and with his objections, if he disapproves thereof.

Sec. 17. No bill shall be passed unless by the assent of a majority of all the members elected to each branch of the General Assembly, and the question upon the final passage shall be taken immediately upon its last reading, and the yeas and nays entered on the journal.

Sec. 18. An accurate statement of the receipts and expenditures of the public money shall be attached to and published with the laws, at every regular session of the General Assembly.

Sec. 19. The House of Representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment, and all impeachments shall be tried by the Senate. When sitting for that purpose, the senators shall be upon oath or affirmation; and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.
Sec. 26. The Governor, Justices of the Supreme and District Courts, and other State officers, shall be liable to impeachment for any misdemeanor or malfeasance in office; but such punishment in such cases shall extend only to removal from office, and disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust, or profit, under this State; but the party convicted or acquitted shall nevertheless be liable to indictment, trial, and punishment, according to law. All other civil officers shall be tried for misdemeanor and malfeasance in office, in such manner as the General Assembly may provide.

Sec. 27. No senator or representative shall, during the time for which he shall have been elected, be appointed to any civil office of profit under this State, which shall have been created, or the continuance of which shall have been increased during such term, except such offices as may be filled by the people.

Sec. 28. No person holding any lucrative office under the United States, or this State, or any other power, shall be eligible to hold a seat in the General Assembly; but officers in the militia, to which there is attached an annual salary, or the office of justice of the peace, or postmaster, whose compensation does not exceed one hundred dollars per annum, or notary public, shall not be deemed lucrative.

Sec. 29. No person who may hereafter be a collector or holders of public moneys, shall have a seat in either House of the General Assembly, or be eligible to hold any office of trust or profit in this State, until he shall have accounted for and paid into the treasury all sums for which he may be liable.

Sec. 30. No money shall be drawn from the treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law.
Sec. 25. Each member of the first General Assembly, under the Constitution, shall receive three dollars per day while in session, and the further sum of three dollars for every twenty miles traveled, in going to and returning from the place where such session is held, by the nearest traveled route, after which they shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by law, but no General Assembly shall have power to increase the compensation of its own members. And when convened in extraordinary session, they shall receive the same mileage and per diem compensation as fixed by law for the regular session, and whenever...

Sec. 26. As law of the General Assembly, passed at a regular session, of a public nature, shall take effect until the fourth day of July next after the passage thereof, laws passed at a special session, shall take effect ninety days after the adjournment of the General Assembly by which they were passed. If the General Assembly shall deem any law of immediate importance, they may provide that the same shall take effect by publication in newspapers in the State.

Sec. 27. No divorce shall be granted by the General Assembly.

Sec. 28. No lottery shall be authorized by this State; nor shall the sale of lottery tickets be allowed.

Sec. 29. Every act shall embrace but one subject, and no improper or connected therewith; which subject shall be expressed in the title. But if any subject shall be embraced in an act which shall not be expressed in the title, such act shall be void only as to so much thereof as shall not be so expressed in the title.

Sec. 30. The General Assembly shall not pass local or special laws in the following cases:
For the assessment and collection of taxes for State, county, or municipal purposes.
For laying out, opening, and working roads or highways.
For changing the names of cities: 
For the incorporation of cities and towns: 
For vacating roads, town plots, streets, alleys, or public squares: 
For locating or changing county seats.

In all the cases above enumerated, and in all other cases where a general law can be made applicable, all laws shall be general, and of uniform operation throughout the State, and for changing the boundary lines of any county shall have effect until a law, being submitted to the people of the counties affected by the change, at a general election, shall be approved by a majority of the voters in each county, cast for and against it.

Sec. 31. No extra compensation shall be made to any officer, public agent, or contractor, after the service shall have been rendered, or the contract executed, nor shall any money be paid to any claim, the subject matter of which shall not have been provided for by existing laws, and no public money or property shall be appropriated for local or private purposes, with such appropriation, compensation, or claim, be allowed by more than two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the General Assembly.

Sec. 32. Members of the General Assembly shall, before they enter upon the duties of their respective offices, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation. I, (name), do solemnly swear or affirm, (as the case may be), that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Iowa, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of Senator or Representative, as the case may be, according to the best of my ability.

And members of the General Assembly are hereby empowered to administer to each other the said oath or affirmation.

Sec. 33. The General Assembly shall, in the years one thousand, one thousand two hundred and fifty-nine, one thousand two hundred and sixty-three, one thousand two hundred and sixty-five; one thousand two hundred and sixty-seven, one thousand two hundred and sixty-nine, and one thousand two hundred and sixty-nine, and one thousand two hundred and sixty-nine, and one thousand two hundred and sixty-nine, and one thousand two hundred and sixty-nine.
Hundred and seventy five, and every ten years thereafter, an enumeration to be made of all the white inhabitants of the State.

Sec. 34. The number of Senators shall, at the next session following each period of making such enumeration, and the next session following each United States census, be fixed by law and apportioned among the several counties, according to the number of white inhabitants in each.

Sec. 35. The Senate shall not consist of more than fifty members, nor the House of Representatives of more than one hundred and twenty-five; and they shall be apportioned among the several counties and representative districts of the State, according to the number of white inhabitants in each, upon rates to be fixed by law, but no representative district shall contain more than four thousand inhabitants, and each district shall be entitled to at least one representative. Every county and district which shall have a number of inhabitants equal to one half of the rate fixed by law, shall be entitled to one representative, and any one county containing an addition to the rate fixed by law, one half of that number, or more, shall be entitled to one additional representative. So fixing districts, shall have, after be formed.

Sec. 36. At the first session under this Constitution, and every regular session, the General Assembly shall fix the rates of representation, and also form such representative districts there shall be, which will not be subject singly to a representative.

Sec. 37. When a congressional, senatorial, or representative district shall be composed of two or more counties, it shall not be entirely separated by any county belonging to another district, and no county shall be divided in forming a congressional, senatorial, or representative district.

Sec. 38. In all elections by the General Assembly, the member thereof shall vote ironically and the votes shall be entered in the journal.
Article IV.

Executive Department

Section 1. The Supreme Executive power of this State shall be vested in a Chief Magistrate, who shall be styled the Governor of the State of Iowa.

Sec. 2. The Governor shall be elected by the qualified electors at the time and place of voting for members of the General Assembly, and shall hold his office two years from the time of his installation, and until his successor is elected and qualified.

Sec. 3. There shall be a Lieutenant Governor, who shall hold his office two years and be elected at the same time as the Governor. In voting for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the electors shall designate for whom they vote as Governor, and for whom as Lieutenant Governor. The returns of every election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, shall be sealed up and sent to the seat of government of the State, directed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall open and publish them in the presence of both Houses of the General Assembly.

Sec. 4. The persons respectively having the highest number of votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, shall be declared duly elected, but in case two or more persons shall have an equal and the highest number of votes for either office, the General Assembly shall, by joint vote, forthwith proceed to elect one of such persons Governor, or Lieutenant Governor, as the case may be.

Sec. 5. Contested elections for Governor, or Lieutenant Governor, shall be determined by the General Assembly, in such manner as may be prescribed by law.

Sec. 6. No person shall be eligible to the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor, who shall not have been a citizen of the United States,
and a resident of the State, two years next preceding the election, and attained the age of thirty years at the time of said election.

Sec. 2. The Governor shall be commander-in-chief of the militia, the army, and navy of the State.

Sec. 3. He shall transmit all executive business with the offices of government, civil and military, and may require information in writing from the officers of the executive department, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.

Sec. 4. He shall take care that the laws are faithfully executed.

Sec. 5. When any office shall, from any cause, become vacant, and no law be provided by the Constitution and laws for filling such vacancy, the Governor shall have power to fill such vacancy by granting a commission, which shall expire at the end of the next session of the General Assembly, or at the next election by the people.

Sec. 6. He may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the General Assembly by proclamation, and shall state to both houses, when assembled, the purpose for which they shall have been convened.

Sec. 7. He shall communicate, by message, to the General Assembly, at every regular session, the condition of the State, and recommend such matters as he shall deem expedient.

Sec. 8. In case of disagreement between the two Houses with respect to the time of adjournment, the Governor shall have power to adjourn the General Assembly to such time as he may think proper, but no such adjournment shall be beyond the time fixed for the regular meeting of the next General Assembly.

Sec. 9. No person shall, while holding any office under the authority of the United States, or the State, execute the office of Governor or Lieutenant Governor, except as heretofore expressly provided.
Sec. 15. The official term of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall commence on the second Monday of January next after their election, and continue for two years, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The Lieutenant Governor, while acting as Governor, shall receive the same pay as provided for Governor, and while presiding in the Senate, shall receive as compensation, besides the same mileage and double the per diem pay provided for a Senator, and more others.

Sec. 16. The Governor shall have power to grant reprieves, commutations, and pardons, after conviction, for all offenses except treason and cases of impeachment, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law. Upon conviction for treason, he shall have power to suspend the organization of the Senate until the case shall be reported to the General Assembly at its next meeting, when the General Assembly shall either grant or withhold the pardon, or direct the execution of the sentence, or grant a further reprieve. He shall have power to send for persons and papers, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law, and shall report to the General Assembly, at its next meeting, each case of offenses committed, or pardons granted, and the reasons therefor, and also all papers in whose favor remission of fines and forfeitures shall have been made, and the several amounts remitted.

Sec. 17. In the case of the death, impeachment, resignation, removal from office, or other disability of the Governor, the powers and duties of the office, for the duration of the term, or until he shall be acquitted, or the disability removed, shall devolve upon the Lieutenant Governor.

Sec. 18. The Lieutenant Governor shall be President of the Senate, but shall only vote when the Senate is equally divided: and in case of his absence, or impeachment, or when he shall vacate the office of Governor, the Senate shall choose a President pro tempore.

Sec. 19. If the Lieutenant Governor, while acting as Governor, shall be impeached, deposed, resign, or die, or otherwise become incapable of performing the duties of the office, the President pro tempore of the Senate shall act as Governor until the vacancy is filled, or the disability removed;
and if the President of the Senate, for any of the above causes, shall be rendered incapable of performing the duties pertaining to the office of Governor, the same shall devolve upon the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sec. 20. There shall be a seal of this State, which shall be kept by the Governor, and used by him officially, and shall be called the Great Seal of the State of Iowa.

Sec. 21. All grants and commissions shall be in the name and by the authority of the people of the State of Iowa, sealed with the Great Seal of the State, signed by the Governor, and countersigned by the Secretary of State.

Sec. 22. A Secretary of State, Auditor of State, and Treasurer of State, shall be elected by the qualified electors, who shall continue in office two years, and until their successors are elected and qualified, and perform such duties as may be required by law.
Article V.
Judicial Department.

Section 1. The Judicial power shall be vested in a Supreme Court, District Courts, and such other Courts, inferior to the Supreme Court, as the General Assembly may, from time to time, establish.

Sec. 2. The Supreme Court shall consist of three Judges, two of whom shall constitute a quorum to hold Court.

Sec. 3. The Judges of the Supreme Court shall be elected by the qualified electors of the State, and shall hold their Court at such time and place as the General Assembly may prescribe. The Judges of the Supreme Court so elected, shall be classified so that one Judge shall go out of office every two years, and the Judge holding the shortest term of office under such classification, shall be Chief Justice, during his term, and to an extent. After the expiration of three terms of office, unless sooner retired, the term of such Judge of the Supreme Court shall be six years, and until his successor shall have been elected and qualified. The Judges of the Supreme Court shall be ineligible to any other office in the State, during the term for which they shall have been elected.

Sec. 4. The Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction only in cases in equity, and shall constitute a Court for the execution of the laws of the State, under such regulations as the General Assembly may, by law, prescribe; and shall have power to issue all writs and processes necessary to secure justice to parties, and exercise a supervising control over all inferior Judicial tribunals throughout the State.

Sec. 5. The District Court shall consist of a single Judge, who shall be elected by the qualified electors of the District in which he
Sec. 6. The District Court shall be a court of law and equity, which shall be district and separate jurisdictions, and have jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters among the respective districts, in such manner as shall be prescribed by law.

Sec. 7. The Judges of the Supreme and District Courts shall be conservators of the peace throughout the State

Sec. 8. The style of all process shall be, "The State of Iowa," and all proceedings shall be conducted in the name and by the authority of the same.

Sec. 9. The salary of each Judge of the Supreme Court shall be two thousand dollars per annum; and that of each District Judge, one thousand two hundred dollars per annum, until they pass Eighteen hundred and Fifty, after which time, they shall draw all sums of such compensation as the General Assembly may, by law prescribe, which compensation shall not be increased or diminished during the term for which they shall have been elected.

Sec. 10. The State shall be divided into eleven Judicial Districts; and after the year Eighteen hundred and sixty, the General Assembly may re-organize the Judicial Districts and increase or diminish the number of Districts, or the number of Judges of the said Courts, and may increase the number of Judges of the Supreme Court, but such increase or diminution shall not be more than one District or one Judge of either Court, at any one session, and no reorganization of the districts, or diminution of the number of Judges, shall have the effect of removing a Judge from office, such reorganization of the districts, or any change in the boundaries thereof, to increase or diminish.
Act 11. The Judges of the Supreme and District Courts shall be chosen at the general election, and the term of office of each judge shall commence on the first day of January next after his election.

Act 12. The General Assembly shall provide, by law, for the election of an Attorney General by the people, whose term of office shall be two years, and until his successor shall have been elected and qualified.

Act 13. The qualified electors of each judicial district shall, at the time of the election of a District Judge, elect a District Attorney, who shall be a resident of the district for which he is elected, and who shall hold his office for the term of four years, and until his successor shall have been elected and qualified.

Act 14. It shall be the duty of the General Assembly to provide for the carrying into effect of this article, and to provide for a general system of practice in all the Courts of the State.
Article VI.

Militia.

Section 1. The militia of this State shall be composed of all able-bodied white male subjects between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, except such as are or may hereafter be exempt by the laws of the United States or of this State, and shall be armed, equipped, and trained, as the General Assembly may provide by law.

Sec. 2. No person or persons conscientiously objecting to bearing arms shall be compelled to do military duty or bear arms. Provided, that such person or persons shall pay an equivalent for such exemption in the same manner as other citizens.

Sec. 3. All commissioned officers of the militia (excepting staff officers) shall be elected by the persons liable to perform military duty, and shall be commissioned by the Governor.
Section 1. The credit of the State shall not, in any manner, be given to, or claimed by, or in aid of, any individual, association, or corporation, and the State shall never, directly, or become responsible for, the debts or liabilities of any individual, association, or corporation, unless incurred in time of war, for the benefit of the State.

Sec. 2. The State may contract debts to supply actual deficiencies or failures in revenue, so to meet expenses not otherwise provided for, but the aggregate amount of such debts, direct and contingent, whether incurred by virtue of one or more acts of the General Assembly, or at different periods of time, shall never exceed the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and the money arising from the creation of such debts, shall be applied to the purpose for which it was obtained, or to repay the debt so contracted, and to no other purpose whatever.

Sec. 3. All debts to the permanent, School, or University funds of this State, which shall have been occasioned by the misapplication, mismanagement, or want of the agents or officers controlling and managing the same, shall be directed by the proper authority of the State. The amount or amounts shall be a permanent funded debt against the State, in favor of the respective funds sustaining the life, upon which not less than six per centum annual interest shall be paid. The amount of liability so created shall not be deemed as a part of the indebtedness authorized by the second section of this article.

Sec. 4. In addition to the above limited power to contract debts, the State may contract debts to repel invasion, suppress insurrections, or defend the State in war, but the money arising from the debts so contracted shall be applied to the purpose for which it was raised, or to repay such debts, and to no other purpose whatever.

Sec. 5. Except the debts herein before specified in this article, no debt shall be hereafter contracted by, or on behalf of this State, unless such debt
Shall be authorized by some law for some single work or object to be distinctly specified therein, and such law shall impose and provide for the collection of a strict annual tax, sufficient to pay the interest on such debt, as it falls due, and also to pay and discharge the principal of such debt, within twenty years from the time of the enacting thereof; but no such law shall take effect until at a general election there shall have been submitted to the people, and have received a majority of all the votes cast for and against it at such election, and all money raised by authority of such law, shall be applied only to the specific object therein stated, or to the payment of the debt created thereby, and such law shall be published in at least one news paper in each county, if one be published therein, throughout the State, for three months preceding the election at which it is submitted to the people.

Sec. 6. The legislature may at any time, after the approval of such law by the people, if no debt shall have been contracted in pursuance thereof, repeal the same; and may, at any time, forbid the creating of any further debt, in lienship, under such law, but the tax imposed by such law, in pursuance to the debt in lienship, which may have been contracted in pursuance thereof, shall remain in force and be irrepealable, and be annually collected, until the principal and interest be fully paid.

Sec. 7. Every law which imposes, continues, or revises a tax, shall distinctly state the tax, and the object to which it is to be applied; and it shall not be sufficient to refer to any other law to fix such tax or object.
Article VIII.

Corporations.

Section 1. No corporation shall be created by special law, but the General Assembly shall provide, by general laws, for the organization of all corporations hereafter to be created, except as hereafter provided.

Sec. 2. The property of all corporations for promoting profit, shall be subject to location, the same as that of individuals.

Sec. 3. The State shall not become a stockholder in any corporation, nor shall it assume or pay the debt or liability of any corporation, or be required to bear any expense for the benefit of the State.

Sec. 4. A political or municipal corporation shall become a stockholder in any banking corporation, directly or indirectly.

Sec. 5. No act of the General Assembly, authorizing or creating corporations in association with banking powers, or amending the same, shall take effect or in any manner be in force, until the same shall have been submitted, separately, to the people, at a general or special election, as provided by law, to be held not less than three months after the passage of the act, and shall have been approved by a majority of all the electors voting for and against it at such election.

Sec. 6. Subject to the provisions of this preceding section, the General Assembly may also provide for the establishment of a State Bank with branches.

Sec. 7. If a State Bank be established, it shall be formed and operated as other banks, and the branches shall be mutually responsible for and liable for all liabilities, except the liabilities upon all notes, bills, and other issues intended for circulation or money.

Sec. 8. If a general Banking Law shall be enacted, it shall provide...
For the register and countersigning, by an officer of State, of all City or proper shares designated to circulate as money, and require security to the full amount thereof, to be deposited with the State Treasurer, in United States stocks, or in interest-paying stocks of States in good credit and standing, to be valued at ten per cent below their average value in the City of New York, for the thirty days next preceding such deposit; and in case of a depreciation of any portion of such stocks, to the amount often per cent on the dollars, the bank or banks owning such stocks shall be required to make up such deficiency by depositing additional stocks and such loan shall also provide for the recording of the names of all stockholders in such corporation, the amount of stock held by each, the time of any transfer, and to whom.

Ac. 9. Every stockholder in a banking corporation subscription shall be individually responsible and liable to its creditors, over and above the amount of stock by him or his heirs, to an amount equal to his respective share in said company, and his interest in the said company, assuming while he or his remain such stockholder.

Ac. 10. In case of the insolvency of any banking institution, the bill-holders shall have a preference over the other creditors.

Ac. 11. The suspension of specie payments by banking institutions shall never be permitted to sanctioned.

Ac. 12. Subject to the provisions of this article, the General Assembly shall have power to amend or repeal all laws for the organization or creation of corporations, or granting of special or exclusive privileges or immunities, by a vote of two thirds of each branch of the General Assembly, and no exclusive privileges, except as in this article provided, shall ever be granted.
Article IX.

Education and School Lands

Section 1. The educational interest of the State, including Common Schools and other educational institutions, shall be under the management of a Board of Education, which shall consist of the Lieutenant Governor, who shall be the presiding officer of the Board, and have the casting vote in case of a tie, and one member to be elected at large from each judicial district in the State.

Sec. 2. No person shall be eligible as a member of said Board who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years, and shall have been one year a citizen of the State.

Sec. 3. One member of said Board shall be chosen by the qualified electors of each district and shall hold the office for the term of four years, and until his successor is elected and qualified. After the first election under this Constitution, the Board shall be limited as nearly as practicable, but not to equal, before, and the state of the first Tuesday shall be sworn it after the expiration of two years, and the first half of the Board shall be chosen every two years thereafter.

Sec. 4. The first session of the Board of Education shall be held at the seat of Government on the first Monday of December after their election, after which the General Assembly may fix the time and place of meeting.

Sec. 5. The session of the Board shall be limited to twenty days, and but one session shall be held in any one year, except upon extraordinary occasions, when, upon the recommendation of two-thirds of the Board, the Governor may order a special session.

Sec. 6. The Board of Education shall appoint a Secretary, who shall be the executive officer of the Board, and perform such duties.
as may be imposed upon him by the Board, and the laws of the State. They shall keep a journal of their proceedings, which shall be published and distributed in the same manner as the journals of the General Assembly.

Sec. 7. All rules and regulations made by the Board shall be published and distributed to the several counties, townships, and school districts, as may be provided for by the Board, and when so made, published and distributed, they shall have the force and effect of law.

Sec. 8. The Board of Education shall have full power and authority to legislate and make all, needful rules and regulations relating to Common Schools, and other educational institutions, that are not forbidden to receive aid from the School or University fund of the State, but all acts, rules, and regulations of said Board may be altered, amended, or repealed by the General Assembly, and when so altered, amended, or repealed, they shall not be re-enacted by the Board of Education.

Sec. 9. The Governor of the State shall be, ex officio, a member of said Board.

Sec. 10. The Board shall have the power to levy taxes to make appropriations of money. Their contingent expenses shall be provided for by the General Assembly.

Sec. 11. The State University shall be established at one place with such branches at any other place, and the University fund shall be applied to that Institution and no other.

Sec. 12. The Board of Education shall provide for the education of all the youth of the State, through a system of Common Schools and such schools shall be organized and kept in each school district at least three months in each year. Any district failing, for two consecutive years, to organize and keep up a school as aforesaid may be deprived of their portion of the school funds.
THE CONSTITUTION OF IOWA IN FACSIMILE

Sec. 13. The members of the Board of Education shall each receive the same per diem during the time of their session, and mileage going to and returning thereto, as members of the General Assembly.

Sec. 14. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but no rule, regulation, or law for the government of Common Schools or other educational institutions, shall pass without the concurrence of a majority of all the members of the Board, which shall be reported by the year and cause on the final passage. The style of all acts of the Board shall be, "Act enacted by the Board of Education of the State of Iowa."

Sec. 15. At any time after the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty nine, the General Assembly shall have power to abolish or reorganize said Board of Education, and provide for the educational interests of the State in any other manner that to them shall seem best and proper.

2nd. School Funds, and School Lands.

Section 1. The educational and school funds and lands, shall be under the control and management of the General Assembly of the State.

Sec. 2. The University lands, and the proceeds thereof, and all moneys belonging to said fund, shall be a permanent fund for the support of the State University. The interest arising from the same shall be annually appropriated for the support, and benefit of said University.

Sec. 3. The General Assembly shall encourage, by all suitable means, the promotion of intellectual, scientific, moral, and agricultural improvement. The proceeds of all lands that have been, or hereafter may be, granted by the United States to this State, for the support of schools, which may have been, or shall hereafter be set, or disposed of, and the one hundred thousand acres of land granted to the new State, under an act of Congress, distributing the proceeds of the public lands among the several States of the Union, approved in the year of our Lord one.
ANNAI. S OF IOWA

Section eight hundred and forty one, and all estates of deceased persons who may have died without leaving a will or heir, and also such fees and as have been or may hereafter be granted by Congress, on the sale of lands in this State, shall be, and remain appropriated, in the interest of which, together with all rents of the said lands, and such other means as the General Assembly may provide, shall be involuntarily appropriated to the support of Common Schools through out the State.

Sec. 32. The money which may have been is shall be paid by persons as an equivalent for exemption from military duty, and the clear proceeds of all such collected in the several Counties, or any branch of the public lands, shall be exclusively applied, in the several Counties in which such money is paid, or for collected, among the several school districts of said Counties, in proportion to the number of pupils subject to examination in such districts, to the support of Common Schools, or the establishment of libraries, or the Board of Education shall from time to time provide.

Sec. 33. The General Assembly shall take measures for the protection, improvement, or other disposition of such lands as have been, or may hereafter be reserved, or granted by the United States, or any person or persons to the State, for the use of the University, and the funds arising from the sale or sale of such lands, or from any other source for the purpose aforesaid, shall be, and remain, a permanent fund, the interest of which shall be applied to the support of said University, for the promotion of literature, the arts and sciences, or may be authorized by the laws of such grant. And it shall be the duty of the General Assembly, as soon as may be, to provide sufficient means for the improvement, and permanent security of the funds of said University.

Sec. 34. The several agents of the school funds shall be the same, that by law, receive and control the State and county school funds for civil purposes, on the same regulations as may be prescribed by law.

Sec. 35. The money subject to the support and maintenance of common schools.
Shall be distributed to the districts in proportion to the number of youths between the ages of five and twenty-one years, in such manner as may be prescribed by the General Assembly.
Article X.

Amendments to the Constitution

Section 1. Any amendment or amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in either House of the General Assembly, and if the same shall be agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each of the two Houses, such proposed amendment shall be entered on their journals, with the year and may be taken therein, and reported to the Legislature to be shown at the next general election, and shall be published, as provided by law, for three months previous to the time of making such choice; and if in the General Assembly so voted for as a present, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be agreed to, by a majority of all the members elected to such House, then it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to submit such proposed amendment or amendments to the people, in such manner, and at such time, as the General Assembly shall provide, and if the people shall approve and ratify such amendment or amendments, by a majority of the electors qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly, voting therein, such amendment or amendments shall become a part of the Constitution of the State.

Sec. 2. If two or more amendments shall be submitted at the same time, they shall be submitted in such manner that the electors shall vote for or against each of such amendments separately.

Sec. 3. At the general election to be held in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy, and seventh, and in each tenth year thereafter, and also at such times as the General Assembly may, by law, provide, the question shall then be a Convention to revise the Constitution, and amend the same; shall be decided by the electors qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly, and in case a majority of the electors so qualified, voting at such election, for and against such proposition, shall decide in favor of a Convention for such purpose, the General Assembly, at its next session, shall provide, by law, for the election of delegates to such Convention.
Article XI.

Miscellaneous,

Section 1. The jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace shall extend to all civil cases (except cases in chancery, and cases where the question of title to real estate may arise) where the amount in controversy does not exceed one hundred dollars; and by the consent of parties may be extended to any amount not exceeding three hundred dollars.

Sec. 2. As new County shall be hereafter created containing less than four hundred and thirty two square miles, so shall the territory of any organized county be subdivided below that area, except the County of North, and the counties west of it, along the northern boundary of this State, may be organized without additional territory.

Sec. 3. No county, or other political or municipal corporation, shall be allowed to become indebted in any manner, or for any purpose, to an amount, in the aggregate, exceeding five per cent on the value of the taxable property within such county or corporation, to be ascertained by the last State assessment, by the latter previous to the running of such indebtedness.

Sec. 4. The boundaries of the State may be enlarged, with the consent of Congress and the General Assembly.

Sec. 5. Every person elected to any office, shall, before entering upon the duties thereof, take an oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of the United States and of this State, and also an oath of office.

Sec. 6. In all cases of elections to fill vacancies in offices occurring before the expiration of a full term, the person so elected, shall hold for the remainder of the unexpired term, and all persons appointed to fill vacancies in offices, shall hold until the next general election, and until their successors are elected and qualified.
The General Assembly shall not locate any of the public lands, which have been, or may be granted by Congress to this State, and the location of which may be given to the General Assembly, upon lands actually settled, without the consent of the occupant. The extent of the claim of such occupant, as completed, shall not exceed three hundred and twenty acres.

Sec. 5. The seat of Government is hereby permanently established, as now fixed by law, at the City of Des Moines in the County of Polk, and the State University, at Iowa City, in the County of Johnson.
Sec. 7. The first election for Secretary, Auditor, and Treasurer of State, Attorney General, District Judges, Members of the Board of Education, District Attorneys, members of Congress, and such State officers as shall be elected at the April election in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two (except the Superintendent of Public Instruction) and such county officers as were elected at the August election in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six (except Prothonotary) shall be held on the second Tuesday of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight (except Prothonotary). The time for which any District Judge in other State or County officers elected at the April election in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, shall not exceed the time fixed for filling like offices at the October election in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

Sec. 8. The first election for Judges of the Supreme Court, and such County officers as shall be elected at the August election in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, shall be held on the second Tuesday of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

Sec. 9. The first regular session of the General Assembly shall be held in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, commencing on the second Monday of January of said year.

Sec. 10. Senators elected at the August election in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, shall continue in office until the second Tuesday of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, at which time their successors shall be elected or may be appointed by law.

Sec. 11. Every person elected by popular vote, by vote of the General Assembly, or who may hold office by executive appointment, which office is continued by this Constitution, and every person who shall be so elected or appointed, to any such office, before the taking effect of this Constitution, (except as in this Constitution otherwise provided) shall continue in office until the time for which such person has been or may be elected or appointed shall expire, but no such person shall continue
in office after the taking effect of this Constitution, for a longer period than the term of such office, in this Constitution provided.

Sec. 10. The General Assembly, at the first session under this Constitution, shall divide the State into eleven Judicial Districts, for the first Court purposes, and shall also provide for the appointment of the members of the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

Sec. 11. This Constitution shall be submitted to the voters of the State at the Annual election, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, in the several election districts in this State. The ballots at such election shall be written or printed as follows: "Yes in favor of the Constitution, New Constitution—No. " Vote against the Constitution, New Constitution—No." The election shall be conducted in the same manner as the general elections of the State, and the polls, books shall be returned and canvassed as provided in the twenty-fifth chapter of the code, and abstracts shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, whose abstracts shall be sworn to in the manner prescribed for the canvasses of State officers. And if it shall appear that a majority of all the returns of such election for and against the Constitution are in favor of the same, the Governor shall immediately issue his proclamation stating that fact, and said Constitution shall be the Constitution of the State of Iowa, and shall take effect from and after the publication of said proclamation.

Sec. 12. At the same election that this Constitution is submitted to the people for its adoption or rejection, a proposition to amend the same by striking out the word "White" from the article on the Right of Suffrage, shall be separately submitted to the electors of this State for adoption or rejection in manner following— Namely:

A separate ballot may be given by every person having a right to vote at such election, to be deposited in a separate box, and there given for the adoption of such proposition shall have the word "White" struck out of the article on the Right of Suffrage. "And those given against the proposition shall have the word "White" struck out of the article on the
Right of Suffrage § 5. And if at said election the number of ballots cast in favor of said proposition shall be equal to a majority of three cast for and against the Constitution of the said State, "City" shall be stricken from said Article and be a part thereof.

§ 15 Until otherwise directed by law, the County of Kelleysville shall be in said part of the sixth Judicial District of this State.

In convention at Iowa City, the fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the eighty first.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names.
THE CONSTITUTION OF IOWA IN FACSIMILE

Timothy Bigg
S. G. Winchester
David Bremer
D. T. Pelman
Gen. W. Wells
J. L. Wallace
John & Co. Scott
W. T. Marin
W. H. Gray
Peter Garner
W. & O. Gibson
Thomas - self
W. H. Maskin
S. H. Emerson
R. S. B. Martin
Samuel Grimes
S. H. Solomon

John Edwards
W. C. Tear
James H. Wilson
Anne Harris
Rev. T. Clark
J. Ayres
Henry J. Shoff
J. V. Parvin
W. Pemberton
Jeremiah Hollingsworth
Wm. Patterson

Alfred Scott
George Gillaspie
Edward Johnson
A. H. Grouton

Frances Grimes
President
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