

LINCOLN WEEK.

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. HONORED BY INVITATION to share fellowship of Lincoln season and take thought of continuing inspiring of our patron saint and think together of our country and our party.
- B. SOON it will be 100 years that this exalted common man, equipped not with grace and sophistication but with a mind, a will, a purpose and insight into human nature was called to leadership and stood even where our new President stood but weeks ago and took the oath as Pres.
- C. YEAR AFTER YEAR there is a continuing yearning for his wisdom and his purpose as we confront the challenges of our time. Easy to appreciate English statesman who agonizing said, "Milton thou shouldst be living at this hour." We can say it of Abraham Lincoln.

II. THERE COMES TO MIND A REVEALING EVENT IN THIS

- A. AN EVENT WITH A MORAL. (SEASON.)
- B. AN INTERESTING PART OF OUR OWN HISTORY.

1. ON APRIL 21 1856, I was at RI to participate in 100th anniversary of first train across new Miss. River bridge- the first. The event was dramatic with history.
2. ONE HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE the bridge completed and first train across.
3. WEEKS LATER on May 6 1856, a river steamer the finest afloat with two huge sidewheels crashed into draw pier, upturned a cabin stove and burned
4. SUIT FOR DAMAGES. High feeling. River vs Rail. Glorious steamboat days. River people stirred. St. Louis Chamber of Commerce in the forefront because importance of river commerce.
5. LINCOLN one of lawyers for Railroad Co. July 9 to 3 for Railroad.
6. CASE REINSTATED. U.S. District Judge ordered bridge removed and abated as a nuisance. Pointed out that soon there would be many bridges (QUOTE) Reversed by Supreme Ct. in December 1862. What tragedy if the Dist. Court finding had stood.
7. LINCOLN BEFORE THE JURY
 - a. East-West travel growing.
 - b. Changing conditions must be met
 - c. Opening of new areas to commerce.

III. A MORAL.

A. HE WAS THEN 47

B. HE PHRASED IT SUPERBLY later in his message to Congress on Dec. 1, 1862.

"The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves and then we shall save our country."

C. LINCOLN with a vision of an expanding land defending a railroad company because we must keep abreast of a changing economy, Lincoln writing to Congress with the rumble of conflict in his ears, could plead that we must think anew and act anew, disenthrall ourselves and then we shall save OUR country.

IV. IN THAT SAME MESSAGE TO CONGRESS. "Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history, We of this Congress and this administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves." AND HOW RIGHT HE WAS. And if history teaches anything, it is that there is an all-levelling conscience, a morality, a sense of justice that prods us on which breaks down our capacity for disbelief, our resistance to change

A. ONCE, Russian Czars could break own servant on torture wheel and Roman emperors could send unarmed martyrs into the arena to be maimed and killed by lions but there is a gospel of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness and gradually it prevails. No Czar, no Stalin, no Khrushchev shall stop it.

B. ONCE in our own land, unfortunates were charged and sent to the stake as witches but no more.

C. ONCE there were no farmers - merely serfs grovelling and starving on the land but no more.

D. ONCE illiteracy was no man's concern but no more.

E. ONCE, the work week was 72 hours and more but it has passed away.

F. ONCE children could be sweated in industry but no more.

G. ONCE, woman's status politically was no better than a chattel but today she shares

- equal, rights to vote.
- H. ONCE there was no law to assure pure food and drugs and when the first Act came on in the McKinley administration, what amazing things we said in the U.S. Senate against it
- I. ONCE SENATORS were selected by the legislature but the voice of people became strong and by 1908, Wm. H. Taft was supporting direct election even tho the platform contained nothing.
- J. ONCE THERE WAS NO INCOME TAX and when Congress did enact it, it was struck down by the Supreme Court. It was denounced as a part of the "COMMUNIST MARCH", but a Republican, W. H. Taft came forward to suggest that it be done by amending the Constitution. And it was
- H. (Above) In 1906, A Rep. Senator - Beveridge of Ind. sponsored the Bill amid a tumult that fairly shook the pillars of the Capital. It has been expanded, broadened, tightened.
- K. ONCE, no Postal Savings but a Rep. Pres - Taft - Supported it even tho it was denounced. Likewise Parcel Post
- L. I COULD GO ON. It is unnecessary. This is enough to prove the point. Editors have railed. Orators have decried. Senators have denounced. Platforms have assailed. But Lincoln said it so superbly. We cannot escape history. Let history then furnish the lesson for the future.

V. WHAT THEN OF THE FUTURE?

- A. THE VERY NAME REPUBLICAN implies dedication to the Republic. The future must be contemplated in terms of the Republic for then we shall be more nearly in keeping with our ideals, our traditions, with the landmarks of the past and with the spirit and purpose of Lincoln.
- B. I SPEAK AS A CONSERVATIVE. There will be those who disagree. I want to conserve this Republic and its keystone - freedom. It is the essence of our well being, of the American way, of the free system, of the divinity of the individual.
- C. WHAT IN BRIEF ARE THE SPECIFICS.
1. IF NAT'L FREEDOM GOES, individual freedom departs with it. That calls for security. Security means strength and the aid of those who are willing that their young men are willing to stand on the line with us if we provide them with instruments of defense.

2. IF SOLVENCY GOES, control moves in and control is a simple word for Socialism.
3. IF PEACE GOES, WAR MOVES IN and war means an absolutely controlled nation. Freedom is liquidated. It is forfeited. The quest for peace must go on.
4. LEGITIMATE NEEDS ARE A LEGITIMATE OBJECT OF GOV'T if people cannot contrive them so well or at all. Who so said? Lincoln! "The legitimate object of gov't is to do for people what needs to be done and what they cannot do so well or at all in their separate capacities."

5. Big Gov't