

and referendum, and many reforms in civic and state measures through its columns. In 1889 he was nominated by the Union Labor party for state senator, was endorsed by the Democratic party, was elected, and served in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth general assemblies. Although the Senate in the Twenty-third was evenly divided when he voted with the Democrats, yet he voted independently and often held the balance of power. He introduced a bill for woman suffrage, favored the Australian ballot, the two-cent railroad fare in Iowa, free text books, and prohibition. In 1891 he was the Sixth District member of the State Central Committee of the Peoples party. In 1892, the same year James B. Weaver was that party's candidate for president, Dr. Engle was that party's candidate for Congress in the Sixth District. He was the author of two books, *Heredity and Environment*, 1909, and *Atrocities of War, or The Beauties of Peace*, 1910. He had been a Mason seventy-three years, or since 1862, and was reputed to be affiliated with Masonry the longest of any one in Iowa. He was a past president of the Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa. He was a sort of practical idealist, doing good among the people both in his vocation and in his many other activities.

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CHARLES C. LAFFER was born on a farm near Sigourney, Iowa, November 1, 1870, and died in Des Moines June 2, 1935. Burial was at Sigourney. His parents were Henry and Georgiana Crist Laffer. His education was acquired in public schools of Keokuk County. In 1889 he left the farm and entered a harness shop in Sigourney where he learned the harness making trade. A few years later he went into business for himself in Sigourney with a harness store of his own. His first public position was that of city clerk. His interest in people, his social nature and ability to make and hold friends, and interest in public matters naturally led him into politics. He became deputy sheriff of Keokuk County during the service of Sheriff James H. Barlow, 1894 to 1898, and in the fall of 1897 was himself elected sheriff, was re-elected two years later, and served from 1898 to 1902. When sworn in January 1, 1898, he was but little more than twenty-seven years old, and was said to be the youngest sheriff in the state. On leaving the sheriff's office in 1902 he re-entered the harness business and later became a director in the First National Bank, and also in the Union Savings Bank, both of Sigourney. In 1914 he was elected senator and served in the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh general assemblies. In 1917 he sold his harness business, for a few years was in the real estate business, but in 1920 became a state automobile inspector, holding that position until 1932.

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JOHN TINLEY BROOKS was born on a farm in Keokuk County, Iowa, October 17, 1850, and died in Claremont, California, February 28, 1933. His parents were John G. and Mary (Kyger) Brooks. He attended public school and was graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, in 1875, including the study of law in his liberal arts course.

Soon thereafter he was admitted to the bar and, joining with John A. Donnell as Donnell & Brooks, began practice in Sigourney. After five years practice he became cashier of the Union Bank of Sigourney. In 1882 he with W. H. Young and J. P. Yerger founded and laid out the town of Hedrick, naming it for General John M. Hedrick of Ottumwa. Here Mr. Brooks established the Hedrick State Bank, and later the First National Bank of Hedrick. He was interested in other lines of business in Hedrick and was the town's mayor for ten consecutive terms. He helped organize the Iowa State Bankers Association, was a member of its board of managers for some years, was vice president in 1906 and president in 1908. In 1901 he was elected senator from the Keokuk-Poweshiek district and served in the Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth and Thirty-first general assemblies. In his first session he was chairman of the Committee on State Buildings and Grounds, and in the two following sessions he was chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. In 1915 he removed to Claremont, California, and became president of the Claremont National Bank. Later when that was consolidated with the First National Bank of Claremont he was made vice president of that institution. He was a Republican, a man of strong character, and always exercised a fine influence.

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FRANKLIN W. HART was born in Michigan in 1840 and died in Huntington Park, California, June 25, 1935. Burial was in Inglewood Park Cemetery. He lived for a time near Stanwood, Cedar County, Iowa. He entered the Preparatory Department of Cornell College, Mount Vernon, as a student the fall of 1863, giving Mount Vernon as his residence. In May 19, 1864, he enlisted in Company I, Forty-sixth Iowa Infantry, was mustered June 10, 1864, and was mustered out September 23, 1864, at Davenport at the end of his service. The next school year, 1864-65, he was again a student in the Preparatory Department in Cornell, and in the four years following he was a student in liberal arts, graduating in 1869. He practiced law some years in Mount Vernon. In 1874 he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the town of Mount Vernon. In 1881 he was elected as a representative from Linn County and served in the Nineteenth General Assembly. During the administration of Governor William Larrabee, Mr. Hart was on the governor's staff as a lieutenant colonel. In 1895 he removed to Los Angeles, California, where he practiced law for twenty-five years. He became a colorful figure in Southern California, devoting much time to writing and lecturing. In 1920 he removed to Huntington Beach where he opened a law office, and five years later, on his eighty-fifth birthday, retired and devoted his time to study and writing. In 1932 he published his *Biography of Abraham Lincoln*.

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FRED W. WEITZ was born in Des Moines, Iowa, March 20, 1867, and died in the city of his birth February 17, 1935. The body was cremated. He was a son of Charles Weitz who came to Des Moines in 1855 and

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