

and followed that by teaching school at Eldorado and at Fort Atkinson. While teaching at the latter town he learned telegraphy of his brother, Ace Webster, who was station agent and telegraph operator there. When the Milwaukee road was built through Waucoma in 1882 he was appointed agent and operator there. He subsequently entered into partnership with his brother Ace in the lumber and coal and other lines of business. As dealers in lumber they developed an extended line of lumber yards. The two brothers continued together and for some fifty years operated in different enterprises. Charles Webster was one of the first men in his section to recognize the importance of the telephone and for twenty years was busy in organizing, building and developing telephone properties, not only in northern Iowa but in near-by states. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1908, but was evidently too much engrossed in business to seek office. During the fall of 1917 there developed, especially in northern Iowa, an acute shortage of coal. The railroads and many manufacturing concerns were consuming the coal as they were working feverishly because of increased demands brought on by the war, so local coal dealers found it almost impossible to get coal orders filled. A federal fuel administration was formed and late in September state administrators were appointed. Mr. Webster was already a member and treasurer of the Iowa State Council of Defense, and on its recommendation and that of Governor Harding, he was appointed by the Federal Government fuel administrator for Iowa. His efficiency in railroad and shipping affairs becoming so apparent Governor Harding appointed him November 5, 1917, a member of the Iowa Railroad Commission to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Edward D. Chassell. In 1918 he was elected, and was three times re-elected, serving seventeen years, retiring in December, 1934. In 1929 he was honored with the office of president of the National Association of Railroad and Utilities Commissions. He was a popular and efficient official.

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LOUIS J. MURPHY was born in Dubuque, Iowa, November 6, 1875, and died July 16, 1936, because of an automobile accident near Chip-pewa Falls, Wisconsin, death occurring on the way to a hospital in that city. Burial was at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Dubuque. His parents were John S. and Ann White Murphy. He secured his education in public schools in Dubuque. His father was editor of the *Dubuque Telegraph*, and Louis having ambition to enter the same work, began when only a lad by acting as carrier boy for daily papers in his home city, and when having completed two years of high school he struck out for himself and obtained a job as reporter on the *Galena (Illinois) Gazette*. Two years later he returned to Dubuque and accepted a position on the news staff of the *Dubuque Times-Journal*. He there established himself as a successful newspaper writer. When he was only twenty-six years old, in 1902, his father suddenly died. John S. Murphy had won high reputation as the able and brilliant editor of the *Dubuque*

*Telegraph*, and had just secured the consolidation of the *Herald* with his papers (See ANNALS OF IOWA, Vol. V, page 394). Louis was asked to accept his father's vacant chair as editor of the *Telegraph-Herald*, accepted it and for ten years ably filled the position. Soon after President Wilson's inauguration Mr. Murphy was made collector of internal revenue for Iowa. He became a recognized authority on tax subjects, and in 1920 resigned and for several years was engaged in the profession of tax counselor. He retired from regular business in 1928 and took a well deserved rest. Never possessed of great physical vigor, his activity and ambition pushed him near the limit too often, so rest was needed. He then also took time for more reading and study of public questions. He espoused the cause of the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, as well as farm relief. He became such a leader of thought that in 1932 in a field of five contestants he won the Democratic nomination for United States senator, and won the election in the following November, defeating Henry Field, the Republican nominee. In the Senate he was an ardent supporter of New Deal policies. He had fine personal qualities and easily won friendships. He was at the threshold of large leadership when the untoward accident snapped the thread of life.

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WILLIAM PERRY WORTMAN was born in Deer Creek Township, Mills County, Iowa, June 4, 1867, and died in an Omaha hospital July 11, 1936, following an automobile accident near Plattsmouth, Nebraska. His parents were Benjamin F. and Philena Clark Wortman. In his youth he attended public school in Mills County, and in southeastern Nebraska where the family lived a few years. In 1893 he was graduated from Highland Park College, Des Moines, and for the next seven years taught school. In 1900 while serving as superintendent of schools in Emerson he purchased the *Malvern Leader*, removed to Malvern and was the paper's editor and publisher until his death. Under his hand it became one of the outstanding newspapers in the state published in towns of less than 1,500 people. Mr. Wortman was a member of the Iowa Press Association from its organization in 1915, and was its president in 1918, and at the time of his death was chairman of the Past Presidents' Association which was composed of twenty members. In 1934 he was named a master editor of the Association. He served as a member of the Malvern Board of Education for several years. At his death he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Simpson College. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, was a trustee of his local church, and was Sunday school superintendent, and Sunday school teacher many years. He was a lay delegate to the Quadrennial Conference of the church in 1924, 1932, and 1936. In 1936 he became a member of the Board of Education of the Methodist church and shortly before his death attended a meeting of that distinguished body of educators in Chicago. At the primary in June he was nominated by the Republicans of the Mills-Montgomery district as their candidate for state senator. Educator, editor, and Christian citizen.

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