



JOHN HAMMILL

Governor of Iowa, 1925-31. From a portrait from life in oil by Carl W. Rawson, 1930, in the collections of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.

NOTABLE DEATHS

JOHN HAMMILL was born at Linden, Iowa County, Wisconsin, October 14, 1875, and died in a hotel in Minneapolis April 6, 1936. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery, Britt, Iowa. His parents, George and Mary (Brewer) Hammill, removed with their family to near Britt, Hancock County, Iowa, in 1889. John was graduated from Britt High School in 1895 and from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in 1897, was admitted to the bar June 9, 1897, began practice in Britt, was elected county attorney in 1902, was re-elected in 1904, and served four years in that office. In 1908 he was elected senator and served in the Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth general assemblies. In 1920 he was a candidate in primary election for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor in a closely contested field of Wallace H. Arney, John Hammill, William F. Moore and James M. Wilson in which he emerged third, but no one receiving the necessary thirty-five per cent it went to the convention where Mr. Hammill was nominated on the second ballot. He was elected at the general election following, was renominated two years later and re-elected. In 1924 he was a candidate for governor in the primary in a close race, the candidates being Joseph H. Anderson, Albert J. Banks, William J. Burbank, Jonas Demos Buser, John Hammill and Glenn C. Haynes, in which he was high man, but not receiving the required per cent the convention gave the nomination to him on the first ballot. In 1926 he was re-elected, and was a candidate in the primaries in 1928 for a third term in a field of Marion E. Anderson, M. L. Bowman, John Hammill and Lars J. Skromme in which he won, and was elected at the general election, becoming the second man in the history of the state who won the third consecutive election as governor. In 1930 he became a candidate in the primary election for United States senator in a field of Lester J. Dickinson, John Hammill, Frank J. Lund and William O. Payne, in which he emerged second, Mr. Dickinson being nominated. Mr. Hammill was a man of large stature and great vigor, and at the time of his death had thrown his energy into his last fight—that to retain the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad in its present form. Having been raised on a farm and always living among agricultural people, and being the owner of some good farms himself, his interests and sympathies were with the farmers in their recent struggles. During his first term as governor he called together at Des Moines a convention of farmers from the Middle West from which resulted a large committee which he accompanied to Washington to ask for legislation to give farmers relief. It was under his administration that the present great system of paved highways reaching every part of the state was developed. The conduct of his office for the three terms entitled him to be regarded as one of the able executives of the state. The last honor Mr. Hammill received from his party was his selection by the recent Republican State Convention as a delegate at large to the National Convention at Cleveland.

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