

# ANNALS OF IOWA

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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The Curator is deeply grateful for the editorial assistance rendered him in the preparation of this number of the ANNALS by Miss Halla Rhode, Educational Assistant in the Historical, Memorial and Art Department.

O. E. KLINGAMAN.

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### NOTABLE DEATHS

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FREDERICK LOUIS MAYTAG was born in Cook County, Illinois, near the town of Elgin on July 14, 1857, and died in Los Angeles, California, March 26, 1937. Interment was at Newton, Iowa, in the Maytag mausoleum in the Newton Union Cemetery. His parents, Daniel W. and Amelia Maytag, removed in 1866 to near Marshalltown, Iowa, where they settled on unimproved land. Here Fred L. attended rural school in winter and worked on the farm in summer and there grew to manhood. In 1880 he entered the employment of an implement firm in Newton and eighteen months later became a partner in the firm. In 1891 he sold his interest in that firm and purchased a lumber yard. In 1893 he joined with three others in forming the Parsons Band Cutter and Self-Feeder Company and a year later became the manager, and by 1909 he took over the ownership of the company after which it was known as the Maytag Company. In 1907 a hand power washing machine with wringer attached was added to the company's products. By 1911 they had perfected an electric motor attachment to the washing machine and in 1914, a small gasoline engine attachment to use in homes that were without electric current. In 1922 they developed the aluminum tub for their washer. Thus step by step was built up the nearest perfect washing machine for family use ever known, and by the organizing and administrative ability of Mr. Maytag and in spite of disappointments and reverses there grew up a business successful beyond expectation. By 1924 the company attained to leadership as the world's largest producer of washing machines. Mr. Maytag never devoted much time to service in public office, but did serve eight years as a member of the Newton City Council, and in 1919 to 1920 was one year mayor. In 1901 he was elected senator and was re-elected in 1906, serving consecutively from the Twenty-ninth to the Thirty-third general assembly. He was an honor to public service in all these positions. He was remarkable for his ability as an organizer and as an executive. He was a just and kind man with a high sense of honor. When financial success

came to him he generously contributed to many philanthropies and remembered his town with benefactions in the way of public improvements, and by his will he shared extensively with relatives, employes, associates and friends the proceeds of his success. His estate was said to total many millions.

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JOHN BURKE, better known as "Honest" John Burke, was born in Keokuk County, Iowa, February 25, 1859, and died May 14, 1937. Burial was at Bismarck, North Dakota. His parents were John and Mary (Ryan) Burke. He was educated in the public schools of Keokuk County, Iowa. He attended the State University of Iowa and received his degree of LL.B. From 1886-88 he practiced law in Des Moines with his brother, Judge Thomas C. Burke. In 1888 he removed to North Dakota and soon attained fame as a trial lawyer. He was elected county judge, serving from 1889-91 and from 1896-98. He was a member of the North Dakota House of Representatives from 1891-93 and of the Senate from 1893-95. He had the distinction of being the first Democratic governor to serve in North Dakota, being elected in 1907 and re-elected in 1909 and 1911, serving until 1913. In 1912 he was runner-up to the late Thomas R. Marshall for the nomination of vice president. He was appointed treasurer of the United States in 1913 by President Woodrow Wilson and served until 1921 during the trying period of the World War. After his retirement as United States treasurer he entered into partnership with Louis M. Kardos, Jr., in a Wall Street brokerage firm which soon failed and was subjected to a grand jury investigation. Mr. Burke was absolved of any wrongdoing, but so keenly did he feel the losses of the people who had invested their money that he turned over his entire personal fortune including a paid up insurance policy in order to help make up some of their losses. This together with his personal record in public office earned for him the appellation of "Honest" John Burke. From New York he returned to North Dakota and was elected a member of the Supreme Court of that state, and was serving as a Supreme Court justice at the time of his death. Governor William Langer of North Dakota commenting on the death of Mr. Burke said: "North Dakota has lost its leading citizen, the outstanding man of the state."

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WILL BURNETT, chief of the Des Moines fire department, was born October 9, 1859, in Newark, New Jersey, and died in the Iowa Methodist Hospital, Des Moines, Iowa, March 27, 1937. Burial was in Glendale Masonic Cemetery. His death was the result of burns suffered in an explosion in the Sheuerman Woolen Mills warehouse fire March 26. His parents were Charles and Ellen (Stagg) Burnett. In 1870 when only eleven years old, he came with his parents to Des Moines where he has continuously made his home since. He obtained most of his schooling in the East Des Moines public schools. From 1881 to 1895 he and his brother Lew operated a grocery store at East Sixth and Locust

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