

son and being himself of a philosophical turn of mind and cultivating the art of public speaking, he gained some local prominence as a speaker. In 1890 the Democrats of the Sixth District nominated him for congress, and he was elected, defeating John F. Lacey, and served in the Fifty-second Congress. In congress he made at least two notable speeches, one being on disarmament, and the other on the tariff question. The latter became one of the most widely circulated speeches ever delivered in congress, being translated into various languages and used for years by Democratic committees as a campaign document. Mr. White was renominated for congress in 1892, but was then defeated by Major Lacey. In 1897 he was nominated by the Democratic party for governor of Iowa, but was defeated by L. M. Shaw. He was nominated again for the same office in 1899 and was again defeated by Governor Shaw. In 1908 he was nominated for governor a third time, and this time was defeated by B. F. Carroll. In 1911 he retired from his farm and removed to Sigourney. When the World War opened he was, as might have been expected, intensely loyal to his adopted country and it was while delivering a speech at Ottumwa in the interests of the Red Cross that he was stricken with apoplexy, from which he never fully recovered. In his life he overcame the handicaps of poverty, hardships and lack of education. He labored by day and read by night. He was a foe of aristocracy and militarism. He ardently loved the institutions of this republic. He was an original and independent thinker in religion as well as in politics, and was an orator of unusual ability.

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BENJAMIN REX VALE was born June 4, 1848, in Jefferson county, Ohio; he died at Bonaparte, Iowa, April 3, 1915. He removed with his parents to Lee county, Iowa, in 1850, and in 1856 to Harrisburg township, Van Buren county, which was his home until 1914, when he moved to Bonaparte. He was educated in the Birmingham Academy, Birmingham, Iowa, and at Monmouth College in Illinois, graduating therefrom in 1873 with the degree of A. B. He later received the degree of A. M. from the same college. He became one of the leading farmers and stock breeders of Van Buren county, introducing and improving thoroughbred strains of cattle and hogs, his most notable contribution to the wealth of the country at large being his long and wise course of improved breeding of the Chester White strain of swine. Upon the organization of the Farmers and Traders Bank at Bonaparte, in 1882, he was made president, and held the position continuously while he lived. He was also president of the Mt. Sterling Savings Bank. In 1887 he was elected senator from the Van Buren-Jefferson district to the Twenty-second General Assembly and served two terms. He took special interest in all matters pertaining to schools and agriculture.

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