

-serving as such until January, 1878. In 1881 he was elected to the senate again and served in the Nineteenth and Twentieth General Assemblies. Although those assemblies contained many men of note and ability, he was a real leader and greatly influenced legislation. In 1881 he was appointed register of the land office at Cheyenne, Wyoming, and held the position nearly four years, resigning when Cleveland was inaugurated. He was then called by the board of directors of the Union Pacific Railroad to investigate and report on their entire land system, which he did. Up to this time his career had been that of a successful business man and a political leader. For years he was chairman of the Republican county central committee of Lee County, and he was perhaps the dominant political figure of the county during the later years of his residence there. In August, 1887, at forty-seven years of age, he turned his back on what appeared to be further and more distinguished political honors, and entered his life work as superintendent of the Iowa School for the Deaf at Council Bluffs. His mind had been directed to this work because of the deafness of a son. When in the senate he had been active in furthering legislation for the deaf. His nine years of service on the board of education of Keokuk, several of the later years as its president, had familiarized him with general educational work. In 1887 he found the School for the Deaf was a small institution with quite limited buildings. He remained its superintendent thirty-two years, or until August, 1919, when he resigned. During that time epidemics of sickness, floods and fires were visited upon them. At one time nearly the whole plant was burned down. Under his constructive management the school became one of the best equipped and best organized in the country. Mr. Rothert was active in Masonic circles, being grand master of the Grand Lodge of Iowa in 1875 and 1876. He was a man of large administrative and executive ability, of strong intellect and of generous sympathies.

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JAMES HANNIBAL SHIELDS was born near Bowling Green, Missouri, May 8, 1840; he died at Dubuque, Iowa, September 30, 1914. He received his early education in the schools of Dubuque, was prepared for college at Alfred Academy in western New York and spent some time in Union College, Schenectady. He studied law in the office of John B. Henderson, of St. Louis, and was admitted to the bar in Dubuque County in 1862. He was elected city attorney of Dubuque in 1863 and served two terms. In 1882 he was elected district attorney and held that office for four years. In 1889 he was elected senator and served in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth General Assemblies. In the last twenty years he withdrew almost entirely from politics and the practice of law, confining his attention to the real estate business.

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