

ter in various towns in north Iowa and in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1891-92, later going to Birmingham, Alabama, and Jackson, Mississippi.

He served as a guard at the Chicago Columbian exposition in 1892-93, and then went to the Midwinter exposition at Golden Gate park, San Francisco, installing Canadian exhibits in 1893-94. Returning to Waukon in 1894 he followed his trade as a carpenter; enlisted in Company I, of the 49th Iowa National guard; entered the U. S. Navy at Pensacola, Florida, on May 5, 1898, and served as a first-class petty officer; at the close of the war studied law at Drake University, Des Moines, and the State University, Iowa City, and in 1899 was admitted to the bar at Waukon.

In 1902 he married Decorah Grattan at Medford, Oklahoma, and they had two children, who survive him, Henry Grattan O'Brien, Des Moines, and Lt. Col. John Gordon O'Brien, Washington D.C. He served as a representative in the Forty-third General assembly, 1929-30; and was a member of the order of Knights of Pythias and a Republican.

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CHARLES FRANKLIN CURTIS, educator and agriculturist, died at his home on the campus of Iowa State college at Ames, Iowa, July 30, 1947. Dean emeritus of the institution of which he was once a leader, he was generally regarded as "the best known man in the livestock world." Born at Nora, Illinois, December 12, 1863, the son of Franklin and Margaret Schmitz Curtis, he moved to Iowa with his parents when two years old; located in Story county and spent his childhood on a stock farm ten miles from the college where he was to have a notable career. Young Curtis paid his way through Iowa State college by raising cattle and teaching in the country schools; graduated from college in 1887 with a bachelor of science degree, when at twenty-seven years of age he was made manager of the college experiment station farms; received a master of science degree in 1894 and Michigan Agricultural college awarded him a doctor of philosophy degree in 1907; became dean of agriculture in 1897, succeeding James (Tama Jim) Wilson, when the latter was appointed secretary of agriculture by President McKinley; expanded and enlarged this important division of the college and developed the experiment station, securing large added appropriations and erecting new buildings, greatly adding to the student body; established the farmers short courses long so popular and valuable; originated the department of agricultural journalism; perfected crop rotation programs, studies of farm machinery, and methods of controlling crop pests; deeply interested in live stock feeding and breeding; a good judge of horses and cattle, a showman in the livestock ring, and exhibitor of Shorthorn cattle, Berkshire hogs, Percheron horses; judged livestock in every im-

portant show ring in this country, Canada, and in South American shows.

Dean Curtis served on many national and international livestock investigating committees and commissions. He had been a member of the Iowa state board of agriculture, director of the executive committee and one of the founders of the International Livestock exposition, president and director of the Percheron Horse Association of America, member of the American Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science, a member of the Saddle and Sirloin club, Chicago, Ill., and was a frequent contributor to livestock and agriculture papers. In 1893 he married Olive Wilson, of Harper, Iowa, who died April 1, 1943, and their survivors are two daughters, Mrs. C. J. Murray, New York, N. Y., and Mrs. Wallace Whittaker, Somerset, Virginia.

During all his career Dean Curtis was helpful in large degree to the scientific progress of Iowa agriculture—a close personal friend and co-worker with Secretary James Wilson and Secretary Henry (Harry) C. Wallace in the broadening field of mid-west agriculture and the allied interests of cornbelt animal husbandry. Few men have left a greater impress in an educational way upon the generation in Iowa of which he was a part.

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THOMAS CONRY, churchman and educator, president-emeritus of Loras college, died at Dubuque, Iowa, July 29, 1947; born on a farm near Masonville, Iowa, January 27, 1869, the son of John and Mary (Whalen) Conry; grew up on the farm and attended district school in Coffins Grove township, Delaware county; was graduated from Loras college in 1895 and in 1898 from Laval-Grand Seminary, Montreal, Canada, where he was ordained a priest in the Roman Catholic church; served as assistant pastor of St. Raphael's cathedral at Dubuque until 1901, when he was appointed to the English department at Loras college; appointed college president in 1924 and served until 1939 when he became president-emeritus. The distinguished educator was named prothonotary apostolic in 1934 and received an honorary doctorate of laws from St. Ambrose college, Davenport, in 1939, in recognition of exceptional accomplishments in the field of Catholic education. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Conry was appointed vicar-general of the archdiocese in 1934 and held that position until 1944; also was the first editor of *The Witness*, diocesan weekly newspaper, serving for many years, and was the author of a number of poems and articles dealing with education, literature and religion.

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JOHN M. RANKIN, legislator and jurist, died at Des Moines, Iowa, June 20, 1947; born on a farm in Fulton county, Illinois, June 9, 1873; educated in rural schools and Western Normal college at Bushnell, Illinois; studied law in Chicago Kent College of Law; practiced law in Chicago from his admission to the bar in 1904

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