



JONATHAN PRENTISS DOLLIVER
1858-1910

United States Representative, 1889-1900

United States Senator, 1900-1910

From an oil painting in the Portrait Gallery
of the Iowa State Department of History, Des Moines

Annals of Iowa

ESTABLISHED 1863

Vol. XXIX, No. 5

Des Moines, July, 1948

Third Series

Eminent Iowan Series

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JONATHAN P. DOLLIVER
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During years past various Iowans have voiced tribute to the life work and public service of Iowa leaders who reached positions of eminence in the official life of the state and nation. Many such are in the files of the Manuscript division of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, where they are preserved for posterity. Some have been reproduced in previous years upon pages of THE ANNALS, and others are entitled to like prominence.

The manuscripts of a series of broadcasts by William R. Boyd, of Cedar Rapids, delivered by him over station WSUI of that city, in 1941 and 1942, were most thoughtfully deposited here. These are of especial historical value as Mr. Boyd personally knew intimately each of the subjects, as well as being informed upon their public record and service.

THE ANNALS has satisfaction in first presenting in this number his estimate of the life and career of Jonathan Prentiss Dolliver, who served as congressman from the old Tenth Iowa district, now the Eighth. He later was appointed by Gov. Leslie M. Shaw to succeed United States Senator John H. Gear, deceased in 1900, to which position he twice was elected. Dolliver's death in 1910, when just in the prime of life and having only reached the zenith of his powers and usefulness, startled

and saddened the entire commonwealth and the nation as well. Few public men of the Hawkeye state had attained in early life such a high degree of popularity and acclaim, or had greater promise of future power and influence.

When among his intimates Senator Dolliver enjoyed personal visits and social gatherings. He was a rare and entertaining storyteller, and appreciated a joke either about himself or another. The late Sen. Geo. M. Titus, of Muscatine, wrote some years ago a short sketch of Dolliver in this role, which is also worthy of reproduction in print. It reveals the fine sense of humor and jovial spirit of camaraderie relished by this greatly admired Iowan in companionship with those he loved to meet, and with whom he so often associated.

Also the late Sen. Addison Parker, of Des Moines, wrote in an interesting way of the great battle waged by the Republican "insurgents" in the United States senate in 1909, in which Senator Dolliver joined. This group comprised those from midwestern states. They challenged the leadership of Senator Aldrich upon the tariff bill, in seeking to write into legislation the party platform pledge and fulfill President Taft's campaign speeches for a revision of the tariff schedules downward. This was a culminating epoch in Dolliver's notable career and worthy of presentation in a symposium of views upon his course in public life. Extracts from a manuscript of Senator Parker illuminate Dolliver's part in this amazing revolt of midwestern statesmen.

POSSESSED RARE ORATORICAL ABILITY

By WILLIAM R. BOYD

Those of you who have listened in on this program learned how Leslie M. Shaw was started upon his distinguished career in public life because of a speech made at Denison, Iowa, during the middle nineties, on the

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