

NOTABLE DEATHS

EDWIN THOMAS MEREDITH was born at Avoca, Iowa, December 23, 1876, and died in Des Moines June 17, 1928. Burial was in Glendale Masonic Cemetery. His parents were Thomas Oliver and Minnie Minerva (Marsh) Meredith. Much of his youth was spent on his father's farm in Cass County. He attended common school in that county and was a student in Highland Park College, Des Moines, in 1893-94. On leaving college he entered employment in the office of the *Farmers Tribune*, then being published in Des Moines by his grandfather, Thomas Meredith. From 1896 to 1902 he was publisher of the *Tribune*. In 1902 he established *Successful Farming*, an agricultural monthly paper that at once entered on a phenomenal career. In 1903 the *Dairy Farmer*, semi-monthly, and in 1922 *Better Homes and Gardens*, monthly, were added to the Meredith publications, the combined circulation of the three being some two million copies. Mr. Meredith was a director in the Iowa Trust and Savings Bank, a director in the Iowa National Bank, a director in the National Life Association, had been president of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, a director of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, president of the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World, and had lent his abilities and energies to many other public enterprises. His political affiliation was with the Democratic party. In 1914 he was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for United States senator, but was defeated in the primary by Maurice Connolly. In 1916 he was his party's candidate for governor, but was defeated by W. L. Harding. In November, 1917, he was appointed by Secretary McAdoo a member of the Board of Excess Profits Advisers, and in October, 1919, was appointed by President Wilson a member of the Industrial Conference. In January, 1920, President Wilson appointed him to the Cabinet as secretary of agriculture, in which position he served to the end of the administration, March 4, 1921. In 1924, although he did not formally announce his candidacy for president, his friends in the Democratic National Convention supported him so that on the one hundred and first ballot he stood third choice with 130 votes, with John W. Davis 316 and Oscar W. Underwood 229. His influence in public and private life was on the side of prohibition of the liquor traffic. His contribution to the cause of improved agriculture was important. He was an inspiration to numberless, young and old, and lived a life of great usefulness.

GEORGE FREDERICK PARKER was born in Lafayette, Indiana, December 30, 1847, and died in New York City May 31, 1928. Burial was at Shelbyville, Indiana. His parents, Thomas W. and Eliza Ann (Kirk) Parker, removed with their family to a farm near Carlisle, Warren County, Iowa, in 1854. As a boy George F. worked on the farm in

summers, attended common school in winters, and supplement that by attending the State University of Iowa for two years—1868 to 1870. He then resumed work on his father's farm, but in 1873 founded the *Indianola Tribune*. In 1876 he purchased an interest in the *Iowa State Leader*, Des Moines, and edited it during the Hayes-Tilden campaign and contest. Soon thereafter he went to Europe for study and returned to the United States in 1880 becoming an editorial writer on the *Indianapolis Sentinel*. He followed that work by doing editorial writing on the *Washington Post*, the *Manchester Union* of New Hampshire, and the *Philadelphia Times*. He was assistant postmaster at Philadelphia from 1885 to 1887, going from there to become managing editor of the *New York Press*. In 1888 began his intimate association with Grover Cleveland. He edited the Democratic Campaign Textbook of that year and also took charge of the literary department of the Democratic National Committee. Continuing his editorial work, he was again associated with the National Committee in 1892. He was United States Consul at Birmingham, England, from 1893 to 1898, following that by service as commissioner in the United Kingdom for the World's Fair at St. Louis. Returning to the United States in 1904 he was secretary of the Equitable Life Assurance Society from 1905 to 1910. In 1909 he published his *Recollections of Grover Cleveland*, after which time he devoted himself principally to writing historical articles for the *Saturday Evening Post* and other publications. His mind was comprehensive and philosophical, his knowledge of history and of public affairs was equalled by few, and as a writer he had excellent command of language. He left to the Historical Department a very valuable collection of correspondence.

WILLIAM T. PROUDFOOT was born near Indianola, Iowa, May 2, 1860, and died in Des Moines June 8, 1928. Burial was at Indianola. His parents were Elias and Martha Ann (Barnett) Proudfoot. He passed through the grade and high schools of Indianola and then obtained work in the office of Foster & Liebke, architects, of Des Moines. After a time he located at Pierre, South Dakota, and opened an office of his own as an architect, but went from there to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Cambridge. After his training there the firm of Proudfoot & Bird, architects, opened an office in Wichita, Kansas, later removing to Salt Lake City, then to Philadelphia, but finally to Des Moines in 1895. The firm later became Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson, and then Proudfoot, Rawson & Souers. Since locating in Des Moines the firm, of which he was the senior member, designed among others the following buildings: at State University of Iowa, Iowa City—Liberal Arts, Natural Science, Physics, Chemistry, Dental, Law, New Medical Group, University Hospital, Field House, Dormitories; at Iowa State College, Ames—Central Building, Engineering, Agricultural Hall, Gymnasium, Home Economics, Chemistry, Dairy, Physics, Dormitories, Li-

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