

Oley Nelson

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

NOTABLE DEATHS

GEORGE A. HUFFMAN, Commissioner of the State Commerce Commission, died in Des Moines, June 15, 1938, from injuries suffered in an automobile accident. Born at Medina, Ohio, he was educated in the schools of Ithaca, Michigan, and was graduated from the University of Michigan. For many years a newspaper reporter in Port Arthur, Canada, he first located in Iowa when he applied for a printer's job at Grand Junction, Iowa, while changing trains, and got it. Later he removed to Des Moines. For many years he was in the publishing business in Des Moines, he was also active in insurance and real estate. In 1897 he was chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee. From 1915-24 he was Postmaster of the Des Moines post-office. He was elected to the state Commerce Commission in 1934 for his first term as a Democrat.

CHARLES FRANKLIN LYTLE, contractor, investment broker, and business man, died of heart failure while driving an automobile near Council Bluffs, May 9, 1938. He was born on a farm near Solon, Iowa, September 11, 1869, the son of Robert B. and Sarah E. Kemp Lytle. Moving to Buena Vista County at the age of seven, he obtained a grade school education and later that of a business college. He came to Sioux City in 1898, which since remained his home. Of wide business interests, Mr. Lytle first engaged in banking business in Nebraska, and also the grain business, before beginning the highly successful contracting company which bears his name. In addition he was head of an investment company, the Iowa Joint Stock Land Bank of Sioux City, and was vitally interested in the oil business, having several holdings in Texas. Elected to the Senate of the Iowa General Assembly as a Republican in 1916, he resigned before the end of his two year term. In 1932, as a Democrat, he was unsuccessful in his candidacy to secure the nomination as United States Senator.

OLEY NELSON, Iowa pioneer and Civil War veteran, died at his home in Slater, Iowa, April 15, 1938. He was born August 10, 1844, in Rock County, Wisconsin. Although at the outbreak of the Civil War he organized a company of Wisconsin men to fight in that struggle, in his several enlistments he was mustered in the forces of three states, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa. In 1867, on a trip through Iowa, he was so impressed with Iowa prairie land that he moved with his mother to

Sheldhal, where he operated a grocery. In 1887 when the Northwestern Railroad was built he left Sheldhal and helped to establish the town of Slater, where he helped organize the first bank, and continued to live the balance of his life, holding prominent positions of public trust in the affairs of the town. Elected to the 21st and the 22nd General Assemblies of the state, he had a shaping hand in the establishment of the Old Soldier's Home in Marshalltown. Since 1923 he has served the House of Representatives continuously as doorkeeper. In 1927 he was elected State Commander of the Iowa Department of the G. A. R., and in 1936, was elected National Grand Commander. A member of the Lutheran Church, he was one of twelve men who, in 1890 at St. Paul, organized the United Norwegian Lutheran Church.

JOHN PARKER RISLEY, State Commander of the Iowa Department of the G.A.R., died March 27, 1938 in Des Moines, Iowa. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 1846, and was brought to Iowa by his parents in 1856 when they settled in Clinton County. He first enlisted in the Civil War by running away to join the 75th Illinois Infantry, but was discovered by his parents and returned home. A few days later he succeeded in joining the 20th Iowa Infantry, in which, together with the 29th Iowa, he served throughout the remaining two years of the war. Following the war he engaged in farming and the grocery business until 1915, when he was appointed chief oil inspector for the state. In 1922 he was appointed adjutant general of the Iowa G.A.R., also assistant adjutant general of the national G.A.R., in charge of the records of the Iowa G.A.R. veterans. In this office he continued for fifteen years, until June, 1937, when he was elected state commander of the Iowa G.A.R.

W. F. SEVERA, business man and philanthropist, died in Cedar Rapids March 29, 1938. Born on September 3, 1853, in Chrudim, then in Austria, now Czechoslovakia, he came to the United States at the age of fifteen in 1868. Locating first at Cedar Rapids, then at Belle Plaine, he returned to the former city in 1880 to establish a successful pharmaceutical business. In 1903 he founded a wholesale drug company bearing his name that has been eminently successful. In addition to his drug interests he dealt in real estate, founded the Bohemian American Savings Bank, which later became the American Trust and Savings Bank, and was also one of the founders of the Iowa Electric Power and Light Company. As notable as his business enterprise was, his interest in the welfare of those of his native country and the aid he offered them is equally noteworthy. He established the Council of Higher Education of American Students of Czech Extraction which had its first headquarters in Cedar Rapids. On the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of this council he was presented with the Order of the White Lion to America by Thomas G. Masaryk, President of the Czechoslovak Republic.

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