

James Cameron, Sr.

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was graduated from the law department of the latter in 1893. After acting as secretary to the Iowa Railroad Commissioners for about 12 years, he resigned in 1911 to accept the post of assistant Commerce Counsel. In 1917 he was appointed one of the Railroad Commissioners, to which post he was re-elected until 1927, when he resigned to accept the post of State Commerce Counsel, which post he resigned in 1928 to accept the position as vice president of the United Public Service Company, of Chicago. He returned to Des Moines following the dissolution of that company in 1929. In 1932 he was elected to his first term as Mayor of Des Moines, to which he was re-elected in 1934. Unsuccessful in his candidacy for Congress in 1936, Mr. Lewis was elected to the office of Mayor of Des Moines for the third time in March, 1938. For many years state chairman of the Y. M. C. A., he for long has been known for his interest in boys work. For about forty years he had taught a class of boys at the Central Christian Church which was pre-eminently successful. His quiet unostentatious charities, his largeness of heart, and his sincerity won for him a firm place in the esteem of the boys he knew and the state-community which knew him.

JAMES CAMERON, SR., contractor and business man, died in his home in Keokuk, July 13, 1938. The son of James and Mary Feney Cameron, he was born April 21, 1881, in Keokuk, where he always made his home. Trained by his father in the contracting and fuel supply business, he continued the same enterprises after the death of his father in 1912, extending his interests into several states. He was the treasurer and a director of Cameron, Joyce & Company, which was an outgrowth of one of his father's enterprises, president of James Cameron's Sons, a director of the Keokuk Trust Company and of the State Central Savings Bank, treasurer and director of the Illinois Valley Construction Company, and secretary of the Hannibal Construction Company of Hannibal, Missouri. Successful in business, Mr. Cameron's advice and council was frequently sought in the civic affairs of Keokuk to which he gave freely of his time and energies. In addition he carried on a considerable bit of private philanthropy. He was a member of the Roman Catholic Church and a member of numerous social and fraternal lodges.

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