

Frank Darr Jackson

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

NOTABLE DEATHS

FRANK DARR JACKSON, former Governor of the State of Iowa, died at his home in Redlands, California, November 16, 1938, at the age of eighty-four. He was born of an early American family, the son of a school teacher, in Arcade, New York, January 26, 1854. At the age of thirteen he moved with his parents to Jessup, Buchanan County, Iowa. After completing the village schooling of the community, he attended Iowa State College of Agriculture at Ames for several years, later studying law in the law department of the State University of Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1874. In the same year he commenced the practice of his profession in Independence, Iowa. In 1880 he settled in Greene, Butler County, entering into a law partnership with C. N. Greene there. Two years later he first entered state politics by being made secretary to the State Senate, a position which he held a second time in 1884. Despite his youth, the Republican state convention that summer nominated him for the office of Secretary of State, to which position he was elected that fall, and to which office he was twice re-elected. Retiring from state political life in 1890, he returned to the arena in 1893 to successfully contest "Honest Horace" Boies' third term candidacy for the governorship. This was a remarkable feat, as Boies, the first Democratic governor of Iowa since Stephen Hempstead (1850-54), was strong both in the state and national councils of his party.

As Iowa's sixteenth governor Frank Jackson's two year term was a period of turbulent labor and economic unrest. The Pullman Strike in Chicago had reverberations in Iowa, notably in Sioux City, where Jackson was forced to call out the National Guard to calm a threatened mob disorder. Another evidence of the nation-wide unrest was the advent into Iowa of "Kelly's Army." This peaceable army of unemployed men, on their way to join Coxey's Army in Ohio, began its march from San Francisco numbering 350, when it reached Council Bluffs the numbers had swollen to over a thousand. Jackson quietly hurried the men on their way, most of whom dispersed before they had crossed the eastern border of Iowa.

One of the youngest men ever to hold the executive office, Jackson was much concerned during his administration with the problems of state liquor regulation, the famed mulct law was enacted during 1895, he was also interested in the increased state support of state institutions which was sadly deficient. At the close of his term, in 1896, he declined re-nomination, and accepted the presidency of the Royal Union Life Insurance Company, of Des Moines. He held this position until 1924, when he retired and went to California. It is interesting to note that Jackson was the first governor of Iowa to receive his higher education in schools of this state.

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