

Robert L. Safely

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there in turn as mayor, long-time member of the school board, postmaster for eleven years, an ardent advocate of municipal ownership and an active republican worker. His combination of characteristics marked him as an able man—clear thinking, keen analysis, aggressive action, unfailing loyalty and unimpeachable integrity, all influencing his course in life. With wide acquaintance he exercised great influence in Iowa political affairs, enthusiastically espousing the cause of men and measures having his approval.

Mr. Clark served as representative from Hamilton county in the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth General Assemblies. Later serving as dairy and food commissioner, he continued as director of the dairy and food division of the newly organized State Department of Agriculture, under Raymond W. Cassady, the first secretary of agriculture. Mr. Cassady died in 1924 and Governor Kendall appointed Mr. Clark as the interim secretary, until a successor was nominated in the person of Mark Thornburg, who retained Mr. Clark in his old position until recent years when failing health caused his retirement. Through a long period of years he bore an honorable part in the affairs of Iowa, always a firm believer in the right of popular suffrage and having an abiding confidence in the ability and right of the people to enjoy the widest possible privileges in fixing the policies of government.

ROBERT L. SAFELY, railroading and insurance service, born at Cohes, N. Y., Aug. 19, 1863; died at the Iowa City hospital, June 20, 1943, a resident of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, more than sixty years; came there with his father in 1877, the father being master mechanic of the old B. C. R. & N. Ry.; a first cousin of Col. W. G. Dows; served first as a clerk under Robert Williams of the same railroad, and then as the private secretary of Pres. C. J. Ives; for years was a director of the Iowa Railway and Light Co.; later becoming owner of and conducted a large fire insurance agency until his death; married a daughter of Col. C. A. Clark, who died in 1919; survived by a sister, two daughters and two sons.

Mr. Safely was active in the commercial life and club interests of his city and served as an officer of those aggressive in the upbuilding of Cedar Rapids; organized one of the first professional base ball clubs, played on such teams as the Captain Ansons in Marshalltown; encouraged development of John McGraw later of the Baltimore Orioles and the New York Giants; also personal friend and sponsor of William Hutchinson, later star pitcher of Des Moines and Chicago Cubs. Mr. Safely was a member of the Episcopal church and a republican. He made a number of trips to Europe and was proficient in speaking the French language.

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