

Byron Webster Preston

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RAYMOND ALLEN PEARSON, agricultural administrator and educator, died in Washington, D. C., February 13, 1939. The son of Leonard and Lucy S. Pearson, Raymond Allen Pearson was born in Evansville, Indiana, April 9, 1873; most of his life was spent in agricultural research, agricultural administration, or as an educator in agricultural schools. After graduating from Cornell University, Ithica, New York, in 1894, he became assistant chief of the dairy division of the United States Dept. of Agriculture, serving until 1902, in the meanwhile earning his M.S. degree from Cornell University in 1899. Following a brief year in private research laboratories, he returned to Cornell as professor of dairy industry in 1903, leaving this post in 1908 to serve four years as the Commissioner of Agriculture for New York. In March of 1912 he resigned that position to commence fourteen years service as the seventh president of Iowa State College of Agriculture. Before coming to that institution, he had made a special study of the opportunities and functions of land grant colleges, of which Iowa State College was one, that together with his enthusiasm and earnestness made his years in office a period of marked growth in the college, both physically and academically.

On August 31, 1926, Dr. Pearson resigned as president of Iowa State College to accept a similar position with the University of Maryland, which he continued to fill until 1935, when he was appointed a special assistant secretary of agriculture. His views on agriculture, expressed in addresses as early as the 1920's, closely coincided with those of Secretary Wallace. He was a frequent contributor on agricultural subjects to various magazines. In 1916 he was awarded an L.L. D. from Alfred University, and a year later the University of Nebraska conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Agriculture.

BYRON WEBSTER PRESTON, former Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court, died in Oskaloosa on January 18, 1939. He was born in Newton, Iowa, February 13, 1858, the son of Sylvester S. and Amelia M. Preston. Living on a farm until thirteen years of age, he moved with his family to Grinnell, Iowa, where he attended the public schools, and later Iowa College [Grinnell], following that he took work in the Eastman National Business College. Engaged in the mercantile business in Newton and Grinnell until 1883, he then went to Oskaloosa to read law with Judge L. G. Blanchard. He was admitted to the practice of law in 1884. In 1892 he was elected County Attorney, serving until 1896; the following year he was city attorney for Oskaloosa. Four years later he was elected judge of the sixth judicial district, serving from 1903 to 1913, when he began his career on the state supreme court, serving two terms, from January 1913 to January, 1925.

A life long republican, he was a member of the Episcopalian Church, and later that of the Christian Science. In 1916 he was awarded an L.L. D. degree by Grinnell College.

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