

## An Epoch in Iowa Politics

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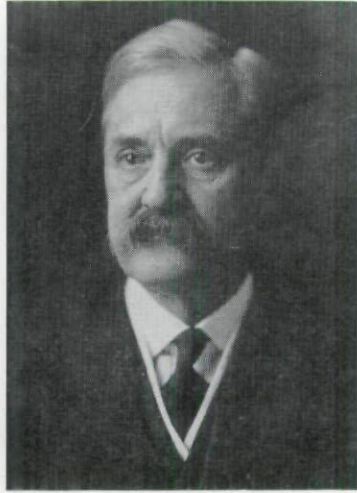
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CANDIDATES FOR U. S. SENATOR, 1900



JOHN H. GEAR



ALBERT B. CUMMINS

CANDIDATES FOR SPEAKER IOWA HOUSE



DR. D. H. BOWEN



WILLARD L. EATON

# Annals of Iowa

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## An Epoch in Iowa Politics

By WILLIAM G. KERR\*

In the year 1900, four years following the defeat of William J. Bryan and the Democratic party in 1896, Theodore Roosevelt was nominated on the Republican ticket for vice president with President McKinley, who was running for his second term. The choice was made upon the insistent demand of Senator Platt of New York, seeking thereby to effectually sidetrack Roosevelt, who that early had his eye on the presidency, and reluctantly accepted the nomination for the minor position on the Republican ticket.

Iowans with others proposed Congressman Jonathon P. Dolliver for the second place on the ticket and Major McKinley had indicated his approval, but Platt had his way. LaFayette Young of the *Des Moines Capital* was said to have had a speech all ready to place Dolliver in nomination, but changed it with the tide of affairs, to name Roosevelt instead, who had attained fame in the Spanish-American war as the popular hero of engagements in Cuba. Thus did Dolliver miss the presidency.

At that time agitation was going on seeking to liberalize the attitude of the Republican party, change the leadership personnel and even displace representation

\* William Gault Kerr, of Grundy Center, was a member of the Iowa House of Representatives from the Sixty-fifth district, Grundy county, in the 28th and 29th C. A. (1900 and 1902). Only two other members of the House in the 28th are still among the living—Burton E. Sweet of Waverly and W. G. Jones of Sigourney.

in congress that dominated its purposes. My father, a veteran of the Civil war, who had been active in Illinois politics, later in Iowa politics, and served in the House of Representatives at Washington, D. C., from the Fifth Iowa district, and whose opinion and judgment I thought valuable, believed that the party was largely controlled by special privilege, dominated by powerful selfish interests and should be disciplined. Therefore, he repudiated it. On the other hand, I believed that it could be disciplined successfully within the party ranks and made more responsive to the needs of the people.

The bulk of more liberal sentiment was mainly centered in the Midwest, in such states as Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas and in California and several other states. Governor LaFollette of Wisconsin and the Republican delegation from that state had been turned down in at least two Republican national conventions by an overwhelming vote when they proposed forward-looking measures for insertion in the party platform. Similar attempts to liberalize party pronouncements were made by others in later years. I recall hearing Hiram Johnson, governor of California, where he had retired the Southern Pacific Railroad from political activity and ended its rule in that state, speaking from the floor of the Republican national convention of 1912, seeking the same objective. I witnessed the dispute, strife and division within the party delegates present after he had finally secured the attention of and been recognized by Elihu Root of New York, chairman of the convention.

#### CUMMINS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPS

Here in Iowa, similar sentiment existed and rapidly grew in volume. Albert B. Cummins of Des Moines, a tall, vigorous, fine-looking man in the prime of life, a great lawyer, often mentioned as being at the head of the Iowa bar, of wholesome and independent character, for some time had been a modest aspirant for the position of United States senator from Iowa, his adopted state. He had distinct qualities of leadership.

Often in visiting with friends, in characteristic involuntary manner, he would throw back his shoulders, keeping them erect, maintaining a distinguished poise and bearing. He had been recognized in the councils of his party and was one of the candidates for the U.S. senate when Senator John H. Gear was first chosen. In 1900, when Gear sought a second term, Mr. Cummins again became an active and aggressive candidate for election by the Iowa legislature. Since he did not bow before the prestige and commands of the oldtime Republican leaders, he appeared in their eyes as the symbol of rebellion.

Many years previous, Cummins had been elected to the Iowa House of Representatives as an independent candidate. He had differed with his party at that time upon methods of control of the liquor traffic in the state, and his candidacy was in response to a petition and request of three hundred fellow Republicans of Polk county who had similar beliefs upon that subject, this being considered by the party management as making him a liability, but by others he was regarded as a decided asset. No other senatorial candidates appeared in this contest, which to some extent affected the political fortunes of state legislative candidates.

For weeks prior to the convening of the Iowa General Assembly in January of 1900, a contest for the Republican nomination for speaker of the house was engaged in between Representatives W. L. Eaton of Osage, Mitchell county, and D. H. Bowen of Waukon, Allamakee county, the Cummins supporters favoring Mr. Eaton and the Gear forces supporting Dr. Bowen. This contest involved the entire organization of the House of Representatives, but was so over-shadowing that individual candidates for legislative clerical positions were not in evidence as is the usual practice. This skirmish was preliminary to and a part of the senatorial fight. It was believed by the supporters of Mr. Cummins, the writer being one of the number, that if the Iowa house could be controlled through election of the Cummins

candidate for speaker, with strength Cummins would be able to secure in the state senate, his election over Senator Gear would be assured, and thus Iowa would secure a more progressive senator.

In the fall of 1899, following the election, and in company with Captain E. M. Sargent, a member of the Republican State Central committee for the old Fifth district, the writer went down to Cedar Rapids to meet and counsel with the leaders and other Republicans of the district. The Fifth district then was the home of Robert G. Cousins, congressman, and a Standpat stronghold. It was a conservative area always. Not to my surprise, however, I found that the member of the house elected in Marshall county, Representative Thomas Kimball and myself were the only persons present who indicated a friendly feeling for the Cummins cause. However, I have often said that I found the others in the group to be excellent men, aggressive Republicans, but not as liberal in their views as myself, and while they always treated me with courtesy, I never felt that they were under any obligation to me in a political sense.

#### REFORM MOVEMENT OUSTS COUSINS

Nevertheless, eventually there came a change of sentiment in the district. The Cummins uprising retired Cousins from congress, after sixteen years of service, his retirement characterized by denunciatory utterances by him in criticism of those with whom he differed. It will be remembered that James W. Good was elected to succeed him in 1908 and served the district in congress for twelve years, when he voluntarily retired and later became manager of Herbert Hoover's campaign for the presidency; then was Hoover's secretary of war and passed away long before his time as a result of an operation. I had known Mr. Good in Coe college, roomed in the same house, belonged to the same society, and in 1906 had urged him to run for congress, but he then felt that the time was not ripe. When Cousins learned he would have opposition for

renomination and because of it retired to private life, James H. Trewin, who had recently moved to Cedar Rapids, became Mr. Good's opponent in the primary, but was defeated. Cyrenus Cole served the district as congressman ten years following Mr. Good's retirement. When the state of Iowa was redistricted, the old Fifth congressional district passed into history, with pleasant, abiding recollections remaining of its personalities and contests.

Mr. Cousins' attitude of resentment toward the changing political sentiment in the state was characteristic of many other Iowa congressmen at that time. Albert B. Cummins, although recognized as being of eminent senatorial stature, in reality was compelled to meet the attitude of prejudice and unfriendly feeling of the majority of the congressional delegation of the state and the governor of Iowa. Governor Shaw knew that Judge Nathaniel M. Hubbard of Cedar Rapids, who was not for Cummins, had been the leading influence that made him governor. Cummins also had the opposition of J. W. Blythe, the general solicitor of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Whenever the term "the reservation" was mentioned, it meant the domain of J. W. Blythe. The team, Hubbard and Blythe, long was renowned in dictatorship of Iowa Republicanism. Those having the temerity to oppose this powerful party influence had bargained for a continuing struggle for supremacy or sometimes political survival in the state which had long been in the control of these men. Such a contest involved not only Iowa, however, but concern of other states, as well as the national interest.

As the time for the convening of the General Assembly approached in 1900, the public men and politicians of the state gathered at Des Moines for preliminary conferences. Some days before the holding of the caucus of Republican house members, James E. Blythe of Mason City, a former house member and brother of Joseph W. Blythe of Burlington, the latter the man who was always consulted by the public men when any of its

citizens were seeking important state office, together with George Metzger, postmaster at Davenport, took me into a room in the old Savery hotel at Des Moines. In the course of a pleasant visit, they told me that the forces represented by them had been running Iowa political affairs and would continue to do so; that to oppose their strength was like "butting your head against a stone wall." I told them that my mind was made up, so further discussion was not indulged in. This sort of pressure from outside my district did not impress me too well, but I quickly learned that other members thought to be for Cummins, as well as those in the wavering group, were being pressured in like manner.

Just how many of the other Cummins or Gear men had a like experience to my own, I never learned. I was told that young Dr. Eiker of Decatur county and Dr. Prentis of Ringgold county had to meet similar tests, but remained steadfast Cummins supporters. The newspapers told of Dr. Eiker being taken for an unpleasant ride in a cab by Ed H. Hunter, of the Burlington Railway, in an effort to line him up for Bowen and Gear, but without success. Other incidents were indicative of the determined character of the struggle for mastery. Apparently there were a few who wavered considerably in reaching a final decision and many members were being made the subjects of surveillance right up to the hour of convening the caucus.

#### GARDNER COWLES A FACTOR

In a few days, Gardner Cowles, the Kossuth county new member, came down from Algona and quickly became an influential element in the Gear forces. He ascertained that the number of members of the house committed to support of Bowen for speaker fell short of the required majority. He counseled the round-Robin method of signing up every possible man to a written agreement to vote for Bowen and Gear. This was immediately done, and then operations began, bringing influence to bear upon the wavering or undecided group.



Members of the legislature and outsiders were utilized to accomplish these ends. Where necessary, promises were made of legislative patronage, committee chairmanships and assignments and help in securing votes for bills to be introduced when the legislature assembled. The Standpat members co-operating with Cowles in this procedure included Stuckslager, Temple, Dows, Payne, Kendall, Wilson of Washington and others. Their canvass disclosed that some members who expected to vote for Bowen were not too sure to be for Gear, and the reverse was also found in one or two instances. Names were systematically assigned to Gear men and they proceeded by two's to line up and secure signatures from those not already committed. The Cummins-Eaton forces were equally active, but not so methodical in their procedure. The Republican house leaders active in that group included Byers, Carr, Way, Prentis, Clark of Hamilton, and Wilson of Buena Vista. The lines were tightly drawn and the result unquestionably was in doubt up to the holding of the caucus.

The pre-caucus canvass was exhausting for the venerable John H. Gear running for re-election. Through the previous years he had been speaker of the Iowa house, governor of Iowa—"Old Business"—a member of congress and United States senate. His opponent, the alert Albert B. Cummins, also was to be seen in the lobbies and conferences. Likewise, the candidates for speakership were contrasting individualities. Dr. D. H. Bowen, the Gear candidate, was a calm and quiet man, and Willard L. Eaton, the Cummins candidate, a more emotional and aggressive type.

#### GEAR MEN CONTROLLED CAUCUS

The caucus session proved to be quiet and very business-like in procedure, showing how thorough had been the canvass made by the opposing forces. The vote was close, being 43 for Dr. Bowen and 38 for Mr. Eaton. A change of three votes would have reversed the decision. Dr. Bowen was declared the Republican nominee for speaker, after which Gear was unanimously nominated

for U. S. senator and he was elected by the general assembly.

In the distribution of house employees then selected, the wishes of the Gear membership prevailed, but revealed some situations not altogether understandable. Illustrative of this was the development that while Representative Anderson of Warren county was among the 38 members voting in the caucus for Mr. Eaton for speaker, two of the more important employees of the house selected were from Warren county, being S. M. Cart, chief clerk, and A. U. Swan, journal clerk. It is entirely probable that Representative Anderson was pledged to vote for Senator Gear, while through personal friendship he supported Eaton in the speakership contest.

But the victory of the Gear forces was only the real beginning of a determined struggle by the supporters of Mr. Cummins for future political control of the Republican party in Iowa and the effective elimination of the sinister influences of dominating dictatorship which had long ruled in Iowa official circles, that ultimately was to send Cummins to the United States senate. In view of the strength shown by the Cummins group and his growing personal popularity, it was decided to protect and fortify that strength by more complete organization over the state, developing what was characterized "the Progressive Republican Movement."

State Treasurer G. S. Gilbertson and Secretary of State William B. Martin from this group were nominated and elected in November of 1900, the state then having annual elections. Thereafter, in 1901, Mr. Cummins was persuaded to become a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor. That decision took his opposition by surprise, as they had confidently believed he had been permanently disposed of; thus again was precipitated all of the factional contention characterizing the senatorial fight of the year before, and with added furor. From county to county the contest for delegates raged, with Mr. Cummins leading against

a field of other candidates, including one from his own county.

The final test of strength of the opposing factions came in the 1901 state convention at Cedar Rapids. The Republican committee selected James C. Davis for temporary chairman. He was a prominent lawyer and insurance executive then residing at Keokuk, and later was the choice of President Wilson for Director General of railroads in restoration of various lines to the individual railroad companies following their operation by the government during World War I. It was a tumultuous gathering and in selecting as its permanent chairman, H. W. Byers of Shelby county, the proceedings were ably controlled, he being an experienced lawyer and an expert parliamentarian, having been speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives. Cummins was nominated by the convention, was elected and became the next governor of Iowa. He was not opposed for his second term and during his incumbency as chief executive, made an enviable record.

#### CUMMINS HEADS STATE ADMINISTRATION

With Cummins in the executive chair, for a time there came a peaceful era in Iowa Republican circles. Willard L. Eaton, who had been defeated for speaker of the house of the Twenty-eighth General Assembly, was unanimously chosen speaker of the Twenty-ninth. Past differences in the party appeared to be forgotten and with no opposition Senators Allison and Dolliver were re-elected, the latter having been appointed by Governor Shaw to fill out the term for which the late Senator Gear since deceased, had been chosen. Then President Theodore Roosevelt honored the state by selecting Mr. Shaw for the responsible position of Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, which he held during the entire period of the Roosevelt administration. As we look back across the years and see Secretary Shaw walking down the center aisle of the Iowa house upon the arm of Senator Allison, we marvel at their composure. This seeming harmony in Iowa Republican

circles was encouraged by the conservative forces among Iowa Republicans as the result of their wisdom in politics, but it was not to continue.

The Standpat membership of the Iowa General Assembly succeeded in blocking many of Governor Cummins' legislative recommendations. It seemed imperative that he should remain governor and the Progressive movement in the state completely control the legislature until the issues before the state and country were rightly determined. Upon insistent urging, Cummins was announced a candidate for a third term. When his decision became known both in Iowa and the country at large, the old antagonisms of 1900 and 1901 became more pronounced than ever. His opposition selected as his opponent the veteran editor of the *Sioux City Journal*, a man of ripe experience who had served in congress for many terms, George D. Perkins, who was a creditable and popular a candidate as the conservative group could have chosen. He was an able speaker and for many years had thoroughly disliked Mr. Cummins, making the contest somewhat of a personal nature.

As the pre-convention campaign advanced, arrangements were made for a joint debate between the two candidates at Spirit Lake. Neither of them relished the prospective personal encounter. I went up to Spirit Lake to hear their debate and there visited with Senator A. B. Funk, who was a stalwart supporter of Governor Cummins and a fine type of man. It seems that some years before that Perkins had heard a false report of the death of Funk and had written an obituary highly praising him, later to be embarrassed in finding him much alive and supporting in an influential way his opponent.

#### LARRABEE'S SUPPORT VALUABLE

It was at this debate that former Governor Larrabee's support of Cummins and the principles he espoused was disclosed. The governor made the opening address of an hour, followed by Perkins occupying an hour and a quarter, in which he thoroughly dissected

the Cummins position and his standing as a responsible member of the Republican party, alleging that few leading Iowa Republicans supported his contentions. Cummins had the closing fifteen minutes, during which he read a personal letter written to him by former Governor William Larrabee, according him full and enthusiastic support in his candidacy and praise for his recommendations to the general assembly and stand upon public questions at issue in the state campaign. Perkins was flabbergasted, as were his supporters, and that was a decided turning point in the contest. The bitter struggle ended with Cummins winning the nomination at the state convention. He was elected for the third term, an innovation in Iowa, which was extended an additional year through the adoption of the biennial election amendment, giving him a total of seven years in the governorship. Possibly it was fortunate that Cummins was not successful in his early efforts to be elected United States senator. Had he accomplished his ambition then the state would have lost those wonderful years in local leadership when he served as the reform governor of Iowa, that really meant so much to the commonwealth.

In 1902, Cummins and his friends had permitted Dolliver and Allison to be re-elected without opposition. But, when in 1908 Cummins became a candidate to succeed Allison, that consideration was all forgotten. It was the first nomination through operation of the new state-wide primary law. The campaign was a heated one. Dolliver made speeches all over the state in support of his old friend Allison, who was desperately ill at his home in Dubuque. The "Torbert letter" came into the campaign, written some years previous, in which it was declared that Cummins was not a candidate against the senator. The outcome of this tense contest gave Allison a majority of the votes and thereby he was renominated to retain his seat in the senate, but only lived about two months after the primary. Subsequently, the governor called a special session of

the legislature to amend the primary law providing for a special primary election for senatorial nominations.

At the primary election provided, Cummins and Major John F. Lacey, an old soldier of the Civil war, for many years in congress from the Sixth Iowa district and an old-time conservative and Standpat leader, were the candidates for the Republican nomination, the former winning by a substantial majority. The special session was reassembled and Cummins was elected senator; also at the session of the General Assembly in January following, Cummins was elected for the six-year full term, following from March 4th. This was nearly nine years after his defeat by Senator Gear in 1900 and marked the beginning of a conspicuous, superior and highly distinguished continuous service by Cummins in the United States senate for Iowa and the country over a period of eighteen years. During this time he was seriously considered for the presidential nomination and received votes in two Republican national conventions for that position. Upon the death of President Harding and Vice President Coolidge having succeeded to the presidency, Cummins was elected president of the senate and served several years in that capacity.

#### THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S CONNECTIONS

It has been stated that after President Theodore Roosevelt began his second term, he definitely associated himself with the Progressive movement in the Republican party and identified himself with the "Rodents of Reform," as described by Congressman Robert G. Cousins in an Iowa Republican convention speech. But in considering that statement, my memory takes me back to those days. I was well acquainted with the Progressive Republican leaders in Iowa and they told me that when it was put up to Roosevelt to join with them and support their program, he treated the idea with disdain and indifference. He thought it folly to have the idea that the political leaders who placed him

on the ticket with McKinley in 1900 as the vice-presidential candidate could be undermined and shorn of their prestige and power. He had a reason to be loyal to them, for it seems beyond question that if he had not been on the ticket with McKinley, he would never at any time have achieved the presidency.

President Taft inherited a disposition that made him a conservative and Standpatter in his own right, and he did not need to cultivate it. The background of Roosevelt was in sympathy with wealth, power and position. When he placed Taft before the country as his candidate for the presidency, he had all of his administration to fall back on and aid in the Taft crusade. To give Taft strength and votes, he informed the country that Taft was entitled to a large share of the credit for the triumphs of his own administration. When, in 1908, he had been able with all of the machinery at his command to elect Taft, he went on his lion hunt in Africa and left his friend Taft with the tariff issue on his hands. History tells us that it has always been a source of trouble and today it is again in the limelight and bears watching. When Roosevelt returned from his African lion hunt and found Taft unpopular, he fell out with Taft and criticized his record. He embraced an extreme view of public questions, rather giving countenance to quasi socialistic ideas somewhat indicative of later action by Franklin D. Roosevelt and his court-packing bill of more recent years. As a third-party candidate, he did find sufficient following among Republicans in Iowa, however, to enable Wilson to carry the state over Taft.

#### THE REGULATION OF RAILROADS

Cummins became involved in railroad legislation designed to enable the railroads of the country to continue to serve as public carriers after return of ownership to their stockholders following governmental operation in World War I and long afterward. They had suffered materially from this management and both equipment and roadbeds were run down and in sad

condition. Cummins advocated giving the Interstate Commerce Commission power to regulate the transportation system of the country and the railroads as public carriers be entitled to rates to rehabilitate the lines and yield specified reasonable profit. This became a political issue in Iowa in several campaigns and Smith W. Brookhart of Washington county, a former Cummins supporter, challenged such procedure, causing defection in the Cummins ranks, but the senator with the help of many who formerly opposed him was renominated and re-elected to the senate in 1920.

However, the tide of political controversy again was running strong in Iowa, and in 1922, Senator William S. Kenyon, who in 1911 had been elected as Dolliver's successor, resigned from the senate to accept an appellate court appointment and Governor Nate E. Kendall selected Charles E. Rawson, a personal friend of Cummins and chairman of the Republican state central committee, to fill the vacancy, who served several months. Prior to the general election in 1922, a contest developed in the selection of the Republican candidate to fill the remainder of Kenyon's term up to 1925. Senator Cummins' railroad bill again became a prominent issue with former Senator Leslie E. Francis of Dickinson county, Burton E. Sweet of Bremer county, Charles E. Pickett of Black Hawk county, Clifford Thorne and Smith W. Brookhart both of Washington county, as candidates for the nomination. Brookhart won the 35 per cent necessary to become the nominee and was elected.

In the 1924 campaign, Brookhart was renominated over Burton E. Sweet. It was the year when Calvin Coolidge headed the Republican national ticket and the Progressive party ticket headed by Robert M. LaFollett of Wisconsin was reported to have Brookhart's support. Many Republicans in protest voted for Dan Steck, the Democrat candidate for the senate, the returns showing Brookhart as receiving only about one thousand more votes than Steck. Cummins refrained from tak-



ing active part in the campaign. The outcome of the election was contested and the senate seated Steck.

In 1926, when Senator Cummins came up for renomination, after long public service, having lived an active and useful life, at his age he was no longer able to engage in an active campaign. Born in 1850, and well past the allotted span of three score years and ten, the details of political meetings and travel incident thereto had become irksome, if not a burden. Although still alert and conscious of the importance of pending issues, he contented himself with interviews and conferences and more limited meetings, in the discussion of his position upon railroad legislation and other policies which he favored. Brookhart was active in opposition, charging that Cummins had succumbed to the railroad "interests."

A new factor entered the campaign in the candidacy of Howard J. Clark of Des Moines for the senatorship. Brookhart previously having been retired to private life in losing to Steck in the 1924 senatorial contest, Clark assumed the field was open for another Republican candidate, although it has never been explained why he opposed Cummins, whom he previously had supported in many campaigns. This campaign imposed serious drains upon Cummins' strength. Besides Clark's circle of personal friends and active supporters, he drew heavily of others from the ranks of those who formerly had supported Senator Cummins. The campaign waged by Brookhart was a quiet one, but most thorough in character and again he was successful in obtaining the 35 per cent vote in the primary necessary to receive the nomination. He was elected in November, succeeding Cummins, and returned to Washington for another six-year term.

Mr. Cummins had served the people of the state faithfully in public office as governor and senator for over a quarter of a century. Upon his retirement, he engaged himself for a time in preparations to write his memoirs and had completed the opening chapters

when death overtook him in Des Moines July 30, 1926.

Always interested in the public good, he was an honor to the state. He never faltered in a crisis, but "fought a good fight and kept the faith," like the Apostle of old. Not realizing, perhaps, that his life's work was completed, the end came as a merciful release from valiant endeavors in public service of one of Iowa's strongest men and most brilliant figures. The sorrow of a bereaved people paid tribute to his memory, to the virtues and achievements of a useful life, lived in a great state, where from a humble beginning he had grown and reached the heights of greatness.

#### ABLE IOWANS IN THE HOUSE

In the Iowa House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth General Assembly convened in 1900, where the initial skirmishes of Cummins' great career occurred, and the succeeding session of 1902, I came in contact with a sizable group of excellent men with whom personal relations were cordial, although some differed radically in support of measures and men, but no hard personal feelings resulted. It is interesting fifty years later as a sidelight, to recall that a large portion of the men in the house wore whiskers, many of them quite luxuriant. However, they were not like the Bible Samson whose beard and hair gave him great strength and when shorn, his power had departed.

During a long period from early days to the present, the General Assemblies of Iowa have maintained an excellent reputation. Then some of the members were very young men, many were middle aged and quite a few close to three score years and ten. Some were prominent at the time and others became prominent in later years. I well recall M. L. Temple of Clarke county, a Gear man, author of what had been termed the "Temple Amendment." When he arose and addressed the house, he always seemed to grow in stature. Then there was H. W. Byers, who later became attorney general of Iowa, a Cummins leader; also Judge George H. Carr, a close friend of Cummins, who had

won the title of judge in northern Iowa, came down to Des Moines and entered the house from Polk county. He was a good friend of mine and once advised me to "keep on good terms with the newspapers."

Gardner Cowles, then a resident of Algona and representative from Kossuth county, was an influential member. Some years later he and Harvey Ingham moved to Des Moines and purchased the *Register and Leader* and renewed its statewide influence, laying the foundation of the paper's great prestige today. Mr. Cowles was an aggressive Gear supporter and a very quiet member, seldom engaging in debate, but a constructive and capable legislator. He was chairman of the house committee on schools. Since his name preceded mine upon the roll call, I often noted how he voted upon important bills. He believed in having a primary election law. He and I were appointed upon a sub-committee of the elections committee to pass upon the merits of several primary law bills which had been introduced in the 1902 session. The agitation had just begun and Governor Cummins had recommended the enactment of such a law. Now nearly every state in the Union has adopted such a system of making party nominations.

Also, I well recall M. F. Edwards of Butler county, a competent lawyer, a Bowen man, who later became a district judge and for thirty years rendered fine service on the bench. And there was Tom Way of Hancock county, a natural leader, who became Cummins' manager in his campaign for the governorship in 1901, and years later served in similar capacity in the Dan Turner governorship campaign. In his acceptance of nomination for governor, Cummins spoke of him as "the Way of my victory."

John Hughes, Jr. of Iowa county, an earnest man, was somewhat chagrined because of the defeat of his anti-pass bill, for members rebuffed him, but he became a state senator and his bill ultimately became a law. One of the charming men of my acquaintance

was George W. Dunham of Delaware county, who became a state senator and later judge of my judicial district. There was Fred C. Gilchrist, a Cummins man from Pocahontas county, a man of ability who was elevated to the senate, for many years served in congress and upon retirement was succeeded by James I. Dolliver of Fort Dodge, a nephew of the great senator. W. G. Dows and Willard Stuckslager of Linn county, strong Bowen men from Standpat territory, were pleasant gentlemen and good businessmen. Stuckslager became state senator and Dows was prominent as an interurban railroad promoter.

#### GEORGE W. CLARKE INFLUENTIAL

From Dallas county came one of the outstanding advocates of the Cummins cause in the person of George W. Clarke. He was a lawyer of good ability and a fine type of man. He had great influence in the general assembly and twice became speaker of later houses, twice lieutenant-governor of Iowa and twice governor of the state. He served in the day when the Theodore Roosevelt and Hiram Johnson third party "Bull Moose" party flourished in Iowa. Judge Stevens of Boone was their candidate and George W. Clarke, the Republican candidate, won the election for governor by a small majority in the heated campaign in which "Capital Extension" was the issue.

I knew Burton E. Sweet of Bremer county, a Gear man, in Cornell college in 1892. He became a lawyer, a member of the 1900 and 1902 houses, a member of congress for several terms and an orator of note. Later he ran for the Republican nomination for United States senate and made a strong and remarkable race for the position. He still is in active professional life and a pleasant gentleman to meet.

Nate E. Kendall, of Monroe county, a Gear man, was well equipped in many ways. He was a lawyer of ability, fine speaker and a congenial companion; was speaker of the Iowa house the last of five terms served, two terms a member of congress, two terms governor of

Iowa and made the nominating speech for Senator Cummins when he was presented to the Republican national convention for the presidential nomination.

And in the Twenty-ninth General Assembly appeared my friend, Emory H. English from Polk county, a constructive and effective legislator, who served three sessions, three terms as state printer and continued a career of usefulness as a wise and competent state insurance commissioner. He still keeps in touch with public affairs.

Also, I readily recall Charlie Wise, who always was interested in the great normal school at Cedar Falls. And then there was Rush G. Clark, of Hamilton county, also a credit to his county and the state, later serving as Iowa dairy commissioner. In this manner, I go down the list of strong men who made up the personnel of those memorable assemblies.

Who can ever forget Col. S. A. Moore, a gentleman of the old school from Davis county, a soldier in the Mexican war, a veteran of the Civil war, a senator in the Indiana legislature and a splendid speaker, so well poised and eloquent, to be rewarded with his house chair when the Twenty-ninth General Assembly reached its adjournment?

The members of the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth sessions of 1900 and 1902 well did their part in the notable crusade for better things. What their services meant to the state and society will remain as their memorial. They helped to fortify the foundation of progress. Later the United States was intrigued into three great wars, whose damage to the world must be undone; the effort is now being made. The peace that all seem to crave must find the individual patriot still working for the common good and the great ideal will be accomplished when man to man the world over will brothers be.

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