



LESLIE E. FRANCIS,

Senator from the Forty-seventh district, composed of the counties of Dickinson, Clay, Emmet, Palo Alto and Kossuth, was born in Dickinson county, Iowa, April 4, 1871, of American-born parents. His parents homesteaded near Spirit Lake in Dickinson county, in May, 1860, three years after the Indian massacre, and experienced all the privations and hardships of pioneer life, including the grasshopper period so disastrous to northwestern Iowa. His father served four years in the frontier army during the civil war. He attended country school until sixteen; then attended the Spirit Lake high school one winter, and at seventeen commenced teaching in the country schools of Dickinson county. Attended an academy in Spirit Lake two winters, in the meantime commencing the study of law in the office of Wm. Hayward, also at Spirit Lake, when eighteen years of age. At twenty entered the law department of the State University, graduating therefrom June 16, 1893, and at once engaged in the practice of law at his old home, where he has ever since remained. Early in 1894 was appointed deputy county attorney; was elected county attorney in the fall of that year, and served until 1901. Since 1894 has taken part in every campaign, speaking for the republican party in various counties in northwestern Iowa. His entire time is devoted to the practice of law, except as he occasionally invests in real estate. Elected senator in 1908. Re-elected in 1912. A republican in politics.

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