

JOHN L. BLEAKLY,

Senator from the Forty-sixth District, composed of the counties of Cherokee, Ida and Plymouth, was born in the county of Fermanaugh, Ireland, February 17, 1857. His parents were both natives of Ireland. Removed with his parents to Rock Island county, Illinois, in October, 1863, and to Linn county, Iowa, in March, 1872. His education was acquired in the public schools of Illinois and Iowa and the Cedar Rapids Business College. Taught for several years in the schools of Linn county, Iowa, and in 1882 removed to Ida Grove, Iowa, where he entered as bookkeeper the banking house of Baxter & Rule, now known as Baxter, Reed & Co. Occupied this position for three years, and at the end of that time entered the mercantile business in Ida Grove and continued thus engaged until the year 1900, when, on account of ill health, he was forced to retire from active business. Was elected a member of the School Board of Ida Grove in the year 1889 and served for twelve consecutive years in this capacity, the last three years as President of the Board. In 1903 he was elected State Senator for the Forty-sixth District and has served in the Thirtieth, Thirty-first and Thirty-second General Assemblies. He is a Methodist in religion and a Republican in politics.