

**THOMAS GENEVA,**

Representative from Keokuk county, was born at Leicester, Leicestershire, England, December 22, 1856, of English parents. The family emigrated from England to America in 1858 settling on a farm near What Cheer, Keokuk county, Iowa. His education was acquired in the rural schools and the What Cheer High School, supplemented by a course in the Oskaloosa Business College. Being the oldest boy in a family of eight children, it devolved upon him at the age of nine years to assist in making the living for the family. For some years he freighted goods from the nearest railroad town and in this way was brought in close relationship with the business men of his home town. His father being a butcher by trade, they started in the seventies in the meat business under the firm name of A. Geneva & Son, in the village of What Cheer. As the town grew their business prospered and they built up a trade in meats, canned goods and wholesale and retail salt. They also added the handling and shipping of live stock. In the midst of his business activities he has found time to actively engage in Sunday-School and church work, being identified with the First Methodist Episcopal Church of What Cheer for thirty-three years. He was township clerk two terms, alderman five terms, member of the school board three years. Was a member of the Democratic County Central Committee for four years. Elected a Representative in 1903 and re-elected in 1906, serving in the Thirtieth, Thirty-first and Thirty-second General Assemblies. A Democrat in politics.