

GEORGE H. VAN HOUTEN.

Representative from Taylor county, was born February 24, 1847, in Atchison county, Missouri, of American parentage. Moved to Madison county, Iowa, in 1848, to Cass county in 1852 and to Taylor county in 1855, where he has since resided. Enlisted in 1863 in the Twenty-ninth Iowa Infantry and in the Eighth Cavalry, but was rejected in both on account of youth. Enlisted January 1, 1864, in the Fourth Missouri Cavalry and was discharged July 5, 1865. Became a plainsman and later returned and went to school at different times for several years. Married December 22, 1866. Has been farmer, stock raiser, horticulturist, nurseryman and was for twenty-five years secretary of the Southwestern Iowa Horticultural Society and at two different times secretary of the State Horticultural Society and for several years each time, and, later, for three years was Secretary of Agriculture of Iowa. Was local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church and later went to Alaska as special agent of the treasury department, and for more than two years was in the revenue service in Alaska, and after returning spent some time in the Canadian country. Has traveled extensively and at different times lectured on travels and other subjects. At various times has been engaged in newspaper work and is now engaged in editorial work and real estate and exchange business at Lenox, near which place he settled many years before Lenox was started. In 1891 was the Republican nominee for Lieutenant-Governor. Elected Representative in 1895 and re-elected in 1897, serving during the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-sixth extra and Twenty-seventh General Assemblies. Elected Representative again in 1906. A Republican in politics.