

CHARLES J. A. ERICSON,

Senator from the Thirty-first District, composed of the counties of Boone and Story, was born in Sodra Vi parish, Sweden, March 8, 1840. The family emigrated to America in 1852 and settled on a farm in Rock Island county, Illinois. Mr. Ericson acquired his education in the common schools of Sweden and Illinois. Worked on the farm and in a sawmill there three years, then moved to Altona, Illinois. There he worked in a saw and flouring mill and clerked in a store until in May, 1859, when he removed to Iowa. Was a passenger on the steamer "John Rogers" from Agency City to Des Moines; located at Mineral Ridge, Boone county, and engaged in the general merchandise business and later in buying and shipping live stock.

Was appointed postmaster in 1860 under President James Buchanan's administration, reappointed under the Lincoln administration, and served for twelve years. Also held the offices of road supervisor, township clerk, school director and treasurer. In 1870 opened a store in the city of Boone, which was continued for five years. Engaged in the banking business in 1875, and has followed this occupation since that date. Is President of the City Bank of Boone.

Since removing to the city of Boone he has served as alderman, city treasurer, president and treasurer of the school board. Was elected in 1871 as Representative in the Fourteenth General Assembly and elected to the Senate in 1895 and 1903, serving in the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh, Thirtieth, Thirty-first and Thirty-second General Assemblies. Assisted in revising the Codes of 1873 and 1897. There is but one other member now living who helped revise both Codes. Served on the Iowa State Commission to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904, having charge of the State Dairy and Apiary Department.

Is a member of the Masonic fraternity and a Knight Templar. Takes great interest in his home library, being president of the board of trustees. As chairman of the Senate Library Committee has taken a leading part in the legislation of the State pertaining to library work.

A Republican in politics.