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February 9, 2011

THIS WEEK: Forty-fourth Iowa General Assembly

BACKGROUND: The Forty-fourth General Assembly convened on January 12, 1931, and adjourned on April 15—a 94-day session. There were 158 members in the legislature. The Senate had six Democrats and 44 Republicans. The House of Representatives had 70 Republicans and 38 Democrats. Arch W. McFarlane was the Lieutenant Governor and presided over the Senate. Francis Johnson was the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Daniel W. Turner was sworn in on January 15, 1931 as Iowa's 25th governor. He served one term. Turner was 53 at the time of his inaugural. He came from Corning, Iowa. The 1930 census showed Iowa's population had grown to 2,470,939.



Governor John Hammill
(b. October 14, 1875 – d. April 6, 1936)



Governor Daniel Turner
(b. March 17, 1877 – d. April 15, 1969)

Biennial Address of Governor Hammill

(From the House and Senate Journals)

"Over 8,000 Iowa citizens, the majority of them head of families, depend upon the mining of coal for a livelihood. We should encourage this industry. We ought to strive to bring our mining population back to the 1910 basis when 18,000 men were mining coal in Iowa.

"During the past two years we have paved 1,766 miles, graveled 670 miles, and graded and bridged 770 miles. In the season of 1930, we paved 1,027 miles. Only one state, Illinois, has ever exceeded this record. The present condition of those roads, which were in the primary road system at the beginning of this year, is as follows: Paved 3,340 miles, Graveled 2,470 miles, Graded 760 miles, and 216 miles not improved.

"At the present time there are 4,000,000 men in the United States who are unemployed."

The Journal of the Senate includes the remarks of former Senator A.L. Rule on February 12, honoring President Abraham Lincoln. On page 203 of the journal is a portion of the Attorney General's opinion concerning a constitutional amendment allowing state indebtedness "not to exceed \$100 million." The bill Senate File 94 (A bill for an act to regulate and to tax outdoor advertising.) would require licenses and permits for persons, firms, and corporations for the construction, maintenance, and use of billboards and other structures for outdoor advertising.

The Journal of the House of Representatives includes the Judiciary Committee's report on House File 432 (A bill for an act to legalize the proceedings relating to an election held in the city of New Hampton, Iowa, on the proposition of erecting a municipal swimming pool and recreation center.) The bill House file 353 was an act to impose a license fee upon all natural gas, or gas (a part of which is natural gas) carried in pipelines in this state. The bill House File 500 was introduced by Representative Otha Wearin of Mills County. (A bill for an act prohibiting political activity or contribution for political purposes of any appointive officer or employee thereof in any of the different branches of the state government, and providing for a penalty therefor.)

