

Hon. Charles A. Sanford

The subject of this sketch was born on a farm in Washtenaw County, Michigan, April 16, 1838. Not long after his mother's death in 1845, he went to live with a sister at Aurora, Indiana. Returning to Michigan at the age of seventeen he variously occupied his time until 1857, when he entered the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, where, after a year's attendance, he taught his first term of school during the winter of '58 and '59 and boarded around. The next spring he entered upon a preparatory course in the Ypsilanti Union school and entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in September, 1861. Dependent on his personal efforts for means to pursue his studies with, he devoted his vacations to labor—mostly on farms. During the summer of '64 he was employed in the auditor general's office at Lansing, seven hours a day, at \$50.00 per month, and as overtime was permissible, he worked 14 hours a day and drew \$100 a month regularly. He resumed his studies at Ann Arbor in the fall and in February, '65, was appointed paymaster's clerk in the government volunteer service and immediately reported for duty at Washington, D. C. Industry enabled him to carry on his studies in conjunction with his clerical duties. At the close of the year he returned to Ann Arbor and passed private examinations in his studies before the professors of his classes. He took the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the University at the '66 commencement and that of Master of Arts in '69.

In '66 he engaged in the lumber business and in '70 in railroad office work. In '74 he took charge of a ward school of Lansing, Mich., and in '76 was promoted to the superintendency of the city schools. After nearly seven years in charge of the Lansing schools, in '83, he resigned his position and came to the now North Dakota in search of more active pursuits and better health. He farmed it near Jamestown during the summer and in the fall filed on the south half of section 26-144-62, where he engaged in active farming and stock culture until he moved to Courtenay in 1898, where he has assisted in promoting every public interest of any moment since. In '96 Mr. Sanford was a member of the state board of agriculture and was

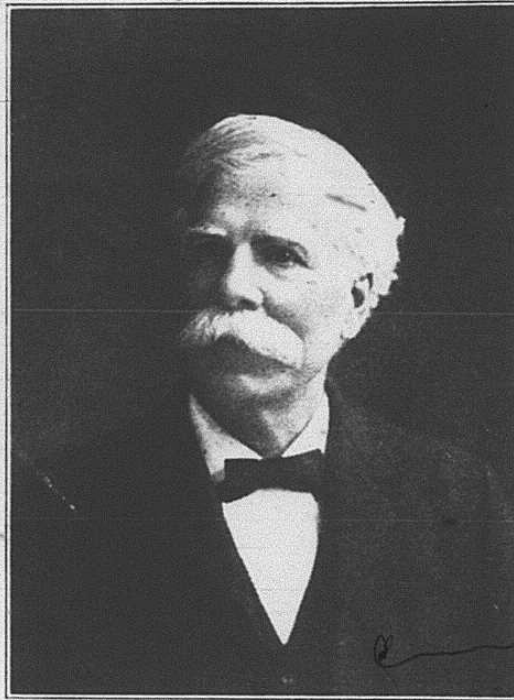
lay commissioner from the Fargo Presbytery to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at Saratoga, N. Y. In '97 he founded the Courtenay Gazette, and in the same year Gov. Briggs appointed him delegate to the Farmers' National Congress which convened at St. Paul. In '98 he was elected representative to the state legislature where he served on several important committees—chairman of the committee on education—and introduced several important bills—one proving very helpful to the overcrowded hospital for the insane, at Jamestown.

In 1903 he made a cruise of the Mediterranean, visiting all important countries on the sea, returning through Italy, Switzerland, France and England.

For several years he was director in the Alliance Hail Association of North Dakota and was for a long time secretary and treasurer of the Jamestown Presbyterian college. In politics he is a republican and as a delegate has attended numerous state and county conventions. Mr. Sanford has been known as an active hustler in the grain and stock business—owning at one time nearly 2,000 acres of land not far distant from Courtenay, and still retains 640 acres—all under cultivation. He owns one of the finest residence properties in the county and other houses and lots in the village.

In 1868 Mr. Sanford married Miss Elizabeth G. Barker of Ann Arbor. They have no children, save an adopted daughter, Mrs. John Bradford. Mr. Sanford holds a membership in the Masonic fraternity, and is a member of the Owls and Delta Kappa Epsilon (college) fraternities.

Mr. Sanford has in a large measure, retired from active affairs, not caring to tie himself down to exacting business. In the last ten years he has sold many thousand acres of land for non-resident owners from Maine to California, mostly on the crop payment plan, looked after their interests in minute detail without an expressed displeasure or criticism from any one of his clientage. He has had, from the first, unbounded faith in North Dakota, which has been justified by results.



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