

In 1942 he was elected to represent the 24th legislative district in the state Senate. He ably represented the people of Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties, and had he lived, he would have completed his second term on January 1, 1951.

Stating that Senator Hagen was an expert in the tax field, one of the leaders of the Senate had this to say about his late colleague:

'Senator Hagen was a liberal in the true meaning of that word. Our service with him dates from the session of 1943 when he came in as the senator from his district. We soon learned that his support and influence could always be counted upon for good and desirable legislation and against the bad and ill-conceived. He was an able and logical debater because he was a keen student of social and economic questions. He was highly respected by all his colleagues for he did not temporize or compromise with expediency and evil, yet withal possessed such a warm personality, such a fine sense of humor that instinctively he was liked and valued as a friend.

'In these days when ostensibly educated men are scripturally illiterate it was a privilege to know and visit with Edward Hagen. He knew his Bible and was no stranger to the classics. He lived the former and used both with telling effect in his work. He knew his agriculture but his culture was broad and fine beyond that.'

Senator Edward Hagen was a reverent man. He believed in God and lived by His law.

The God-fearing people in his home community have just recently completed a beautiful church at Big Bend, and it is partly to the credit of the late Senator Hagen that this edifice became a reality. He was generous with his time and money, and during the last few weeks of his illness, he maintained his interest in the progress that was being made on the new structure. Even at the time when he knew his days were numbered, he participated in the laying of the cornerstone at the site of the new church, in spite of the tremendous drain on his energy.

Minnesota is a better place in which to live because of men like Edward Hagen. As a legislator and a leader his work has touched the lives of many. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew him."

→ The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Rice County, Mr. Covert.

"Mr. President, Members of the Senate, family of the deceased, relatives and honored guests:

It is, indeed, a great privilege and honor that has been bestowed upon me by custom and election to prepare and deliver this eulogy of our former Senator and friend, David W. Illsley, of Rice County. I feel that I am not fully qualified to do justice in the preparation and presentation of this memorial to his character, his extra-ordinary fine type of citizenship, his excellent record of personal, public and private service to his friends, his community, state and nation. I shall endeavor, to the very best of my ability to do justice to the memory of this good man; briefly, if I may, as Dave would want it; for as we knew him well, Dave, although a great wit and conversationalist, was, after all, not a man of words, but, of action.

While in the Senate, largely through his cheerfully rugged disposition, as well as his natural ability, he had won the great respect and esteem of the entire membership of that Honorable Body. And, as we scan his long and useful public record, both in and outside of the Senate, we are bound to come to the conclusion that while in the Senate he fully measured up to the standards, principles and traditions so well grounded and firmly established by his famous predecessors, former Senators of Rice County, since the first session of the state legislature, the immortal—Michael Cook, John M. Berry, Levi Nutting, Gordon E. Cole, O. F. Perkins, George W. Batchelder, Thomas Scott Buckham, George W. Wood, A. W. Stockton and Cassius M. Buck, real 'GIANTS IN THE EARTH.'

Much as I could say, touching upon the fine character, the rugged individualism, could not fully measure up to the scholarly and splendid tribute paid to the Senator and Mrs. Illsley by Lucius A. Smith, a former county attorney of Rice County and an intimate friend of the Senator and family, published in the Faribault Daily News under the date of October 15, 1945, with reference to the occasion of the celebration of the Golden Wedding Anniversary. It was a fitting and well deserved tribute, indeed, which I take the liberty to include in these our solemn memorial services, as follows:

October 15, 1945.

Editor,  
Faribault Daily News,  
Faribault, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

The hand of time falls gently upon the young of heart. Mr. and Mrs. Illsley are certainly two of time's favorites. Back in 1935, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They were young in action and appearance then, and they have not changed since.

Way back in the 1920's Dave was a Senator in the Minnesota Legislature, fighting hard for the Babcock, good roads, Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution. Today, 1945, he could take the place of his son, Representative Ralph Illsley, and give a good account of himself; or he could pinch-hit successfully for his son Harry who holds high office in the Land O'Lakes Creamery Association.

Dave has served his community as Town Board Member, as School Board Member, and as Assessor. His knowledge of business and of property values has caused him to be constantly sought after as Court Appraiser in condemnation proceedings, executor, administrator and the like.

Always willing to help in an emergency; many of Dave's friends and neighbors have good cause to thank him for sound and timely advice on business matters of the highest importance.

Dave Illsley, eighty-one years young, successful as a farmer, road contractor, business man and politician, genial kindly father of a notable family, is an asset to his community, county and state. He is Rice County's "elder statesman." May his light never grow dim.

Sincerely,

LUCIUS A. SMITH,

And, so has the former county attorney fully set forth and expressed the sentiment of the entire community.

The hand of time moves on. No matter with what honors and achievements the world may clothe us, we must, in the end answer the Call of God; and this sacred call, our neighbor and friend has answered.

David Wallace Illsley was born in Nova Scotia, Canada on April 10, 1864, the son of Irad and Waty Foote Illsley. When eight years of age, he came with his parents to Rice County where he has made his home throughout his entire lifetime. He spent his boyhood, and attended the public schools, in the Little Prairie Community.

On October 10th, 1885 he was united in marriage to Miss Adelaide Peters of Little Prairie. To this union were born six children: three sons and three daughters. Mr. Illsley followed the occupation of farming, and may I add here that the farm which Grandfather Irad had occupied on his arrival in Rice County has remained and is still in the family name and is now owned and operated by the son Ralph.

Dave Illsley served his county and state in various public offices. He served as Senator, Road Supervisor, Assessor in his Township of Bridgewater for nearly thirty years and a school

board director for fifty years. He was a member of the First Methodist Church in Faribault.

The Illsleys moved from the farm into Faribault and have since that time made their home there.

Mr. Illsley had been in failing health for the past five years. He entered the St. Lucas Hospital on New Year's Day and passed away early Friday morning, January 5th, 1951, reaching the ripe old age of four score and seven years.

Mr. Illsley is survived by his wife, Mrs. Adelaide Illsley; his two daughters, Mrs. Harry Lewis (Cloie) and Mrs. Arthur Fox (Elsie), all of Faribault; and, by three sons, Harry of Forest Township; Ralph of Bridgewater Township, and Irad of Jeffers, Minnesota; and, by two nephews, David Illsley of Chicago, Illinois, and Charles Emeott of St. Paul; by nine grand-children and two great-grandchildren, other relatives and a host of friends. He was preceded by the death of his daughter Grace, in January, 1915.

His way of life was the hard way, and manfully he has met all its requirements. He has earned eternal rest. May we here enter his favorite lines from the *Elegy of the immortal Gray*:

'Let not Ambition mock her useful toil,

Their homely joys, and destiny obscure;

Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful smile

The short and simple annals of the Poor.

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,

And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave

Awaits alike the inevitable hour:—

The paths of glory lead but to the grave.'

Honored Colleagues, I am proud to be the successor in the Senate of our great State, of so good a man as was Senator Illsley, a product of the Great West and Pioneer Days. And, at this point, permit me to say that it gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to note here that the Honorable Ralph Illsley, son of the late Senator Illsley has been serving since 1945 and now serving with honor and distinction as my successor in the House.

And when all is said that may be said in tribute to the memory of our friend—"Honest Dave"—as he was popularly known, perhaps more closely resembling in physical stature, disposition and character, the immortal Lincoln, we may conclude that he whose memory we honor this day, can share with the Great Emancipator, the special tribute expressed in the lines of Lowell:

'Nature they say doth dote  
 And cannot make a man  
 Save on some worn-out plan  
 Repeating us by rote:  
 For him her Old World moulds  
     aside she threw  
 And choosing sweet clay from the breast  
 Of the unexhausted West  
 With stuff untainted shaped a hero new.'

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Hennepin County, Mr. Wright.

"Mr. President, Members of the Senate, and Honored Guests:

Charles Rollin Fowler died on May 26, 1950, in his eighty-first year. He was born at Jordan, Minnesota, and except for a short time spent at Fargo, North Dakota, in the early days of his practice of law, was a lifelong resident of Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota and was admitted to the Bar in 1892. He opened a law office in Minneapolis in 1894 and was active in the practice of law for the rest of his days. Judge Kerr was his first partner, and after the death of Judge Kerr, Mr. Fowler became the senior partner of a new firm which is now known as Fowler, Youngquist, Furber, Taney and Johnson. In

the latter years he seldom appeared in court, although he had tried many cases and from time to time established new rules of law as reflected in the decisions of the Supreme Court of Minnesota. He was a member of the county, state and national bar associations and gave much time to the American Bar Association, in the Governing Council as representative of his state, in the work of committees, and in faithful attendance upon the annual conventions, including the notable pilgrimage to England in 1924.

In civic work he was generous with his contributions of time and means. He was a founder and a president of the Minneapolis Athletic Club and held memberships in the Minikahda Club, the Minneapolis Club, and the Minnesota Club.

Mr. Fowler took a keen interest in the local, state and national governments. He was a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1911 and 1912 and a member of the Senate from 1919 to 1922. Politics was for him the breath of life, and for many years he was a sturdy pillar of the Republican Party. He was a 'rugged individualist', but his ruggedness was tempered

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SAINT PAUL:  
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