

CANDIDATE FOR JOINT SENATOR

Personal Sketch of Hon. John L.
Blair, of Friday Harbor.

JOHN L. BLAIR, Republican nominee for state senator in the Twenty-fourth joint senatorial district, comprising the counties of Jefferson, Clallam and San Juan, is a native of Rensselaer county, N. Y., and is 72 years of age.

At the age of 12 he went with his parents to Wisconsin, and seven years later, in 1853, he removed to Minnesota, where he first engaged in the mercantile business and later in farming. His education was acquired as a result of considerable hardship and self-sacrifice, the opportunities for schooling in those days not being the best.

For ten years, while working on a farm, he spent his winters in school,



and made it a practice during the greater part of each year to spend three hours each night in studying some of the higher branches. Later in life he read law in the office of William Windom, afterward United States senator from Minnesota. Mr. Blair never practiced law, preferring farming as an occupation.

Early in 1864 Mr. Blair enlisted in the First Minnesota battery, and served till the end of the civil war, taking in the Atlanta campaign, marching with Sherman to the sea and up through the Carolinas, fighting the last battle at Bentonville, N. C. He was honorably discharged with the battery at St. Paul, Minn., in July 1865, and returned at once to his home at St. Charles, Minn., to engage in farming. Having filled

engage in farming. Having filled several minor offices in the intervening years, he was elected to the legislature in 1872. At that time Hon. D. N. Farmer, father of one of the candidates for the nomination just secured by Mr. Blair, was speaker of the house, and Sam H. Nichols, now secretary of state, was chief clerk. The three were warm personal friends in that session.

In May, 1892, Mr. Blair removed to this state and located at Friday Harbor, where he still resides, engaged in farming and fruit raising. In 1859 he married Miss Martha E. Cheatham. He lived with her forty-three years, until the time of her death at Friday Harbor, in January 1902. In April, 1903, Mr. Blair married his present wife, who was Mrs. Harriet E. Wright.