

of Brown County afterwards State Treasurer for four years; D. B. Sprague, of Fillmore County, who had served in the Sixth Legislature; Charles Hill, of Goodhue County; C. F. Buck, of Winona, where he had settled in 1852, a lawyer and a native of Erie County, New York, and Samuel Lord, born in Meadville, Pennsylvania, and who came to Minnesota in 1856, practiced law in Marion and Mantorville, was a member of the First State Legislature, served in the Senate in 1866 and 1867 and at the end of his legislative term became Judge of the Fifth Judicial District.

The House of Representatives organized with fifty-seven members and elected John L. Merriam, of St. Paul, Speaker. Mr. Merriam had been elected in a district politically against him, but had exhibited in the conduct of his personal business such sagacity and good management as to make him highly successful. He was born in Essex, New York, removed to Minnesota in 1861 to become a partner in a stage and express company, but afterwards engaged in railroading, banking, manufacturing, transportation and other enterprises. He was reelected to the succeeding Legislature, of which body he was again chosen Speaker.

Among the characteristic personalities of the House was Abraham McCormack Fridley, a native of Corning, New York, of German descent. Formerly a Whig, he afterwards became a Democrat, and he was appointed in 1851 by President Fillmore, agent for the Winnebago Indians and stationed at Long Prairie. He studied law and was admitted to practice. In 1853, he removed to St. Paul and became sheriff of Ramsey County. The next year he changed his residence to St. Anthony Falls, and became a member of the Territorial Legislature. Subsequently he removed to Manomin, [now Fridley] and represented his district in the Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Legislatures. While a United States official he became financially involved with the Government. He was a delegate to the Democratic Conventions of 1860 at Charleston and Baltimore, and during his visit in the East there was found to be a balance of \$20,000 due him from the Government. Fridley had employed William Hollinshead, a noted attorney of St. Paul, to prosecute his Government claim,

*Minnesota in Three Centuries. By Frank
R. Holmes. Volume 4. The Publishing
Society of Minnesota, 1908.*