

JOSEPH R. VORIS

The two most strongly marked characteristics of both the East and the West are combined in the residents of Indiana. The enthusiastic enterprise which overleaps all obstacles and makes possible almost any undertaking in the comparatively new and vigorous Western states is here tempered by the stable and more careful policy that we have borrowed from our Eastern neighbors, and the combination is one of unusual force and power. It has been the means of placing this section of the country on a par with the older East, at the same time producing a reliability and certainty in business affairs which is frequently lacking in the West. This happy combination of characteristics is possessed to a notable degree by the subject of this review, Joseph R Voris, of Bedford. He is too well known to the readers of this work to need any formal introduction here, for he not only comes of a family whose name is deeply engraved in the financial, commercial, professional and industrial history of this section of the state, but he himself is filling a large place in the public affairs of this community. Recognized as a man of strong and alert mentality, deeply interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community along material and civic lines, he is regarded as one of the progressive and enterprising men of his city and county.

Joseph R. Voris was born in Bedford, Lawrence county; Indiana; on the 13th of September, 1866, and is the son of Archibald C. and Antoinette (Rawlins) Voris. Specific mention is made of Col. Archibald C. Voris elsewhere in this work, therefore it is not deemed necessary to give details of his life history at this point, further than to say that he was, during his active years, one of the most prominent and influential figures in the development and growth of this community, being identified with many of the county's leading enterprises, besides which he had attained to an eminent standing as a lawyer. Joseph R. Voris attended the public schools of Bedford, completing his general studies in Hanover College. He then entered upon the study of law at Northwestern University, and during 1887-8 he read law in the office of Robert T. Lincoln, at Chicago. In the latter year Mr. Voris entered the law department of Harvard University, where he remained two years. In 1890 he returned to Bedford and became cashier of the Citizens National Bank, performing the duties of that position until the death of his father, in 1911, when he was elected to succeed the latter as president. He has, by his earliest efforts and sound judgment, contributed in a definite degree to the success which has characterized this institution and is held in high regard by his associates. He was also one of the organizers and is a director of the Citizens Trust Company of Bedford, besides which he has some banking and financial interests elsewhere. He was president of the Indiana Bankers' Association in 1908-9 and is at present a member of the executive council of the American Bankers' Association, being one of the two members from Indiana. Mr. Voris was for twenty years secretary, and later president, of the Bedford Light, Heat and Power Company, which was recently sold to the Middle West Utilities Company, of Chicago. In all these enterprises Mr. Voris has been a moving spirit and influential factor, demonstrating business and executive ability of a high Order.

In civic affairs Mr. Voris has taken a large interest and was one of the organizers of the Bedford public library, of which he has served as secretary since its organization. He was a member of the first Indiana public library Commission board and assisted in the organization of that body, which has done so much for the library interests of the state.

Politically, Mr. Voris gives his support to the Republican party, while his fraternal affiliations are with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Free and Accepted Masons having attained to the thirty-second degree of the Scottish rite in the last named order. Socially he is a member of the Sigma Chi college fraternity.

On October 3, 1900, Mr. Voris was married to Katherine Dunlap Wakefield, the daughter of James M. Wakefield, of Washington, Indiana, and to them have been born two children, Elizabeth W. and Archibald C.

(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana , 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 476-478)