Hugh Reid Belknap, of Chicago. was born in Keokuk, Iowa, September 1, 1860. He attended the public schools there, and also took a course of instruction at the Adams Academy, Quincy, Mass., completing his education at Phillips Academy, at Andover, Mass.; being unable to take a collegiate course, at the age of eighteen he entered the service of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company in a minor capacity; remained with that company for twelve years, filling various positions in practical railroading in the operating department, and retired as chief clerk to the general manager, in 1892, to become superintendent of the South Side Rapid Transit Railroad, of Chicago—the first elevated railroad in that city; was elected to the Fifty-Fourth and reelected to the Fifty-Fifth Congress as a Republican, receiving 22,075 votes, against 21,485 votes for Clarence S. Darrow, Democrat and People's party, 255 votes for John Krebs, Independent Gold Standard Democrat, 182 votes for Solomon D. Ebersoll, Prohibitionist, 109 votes for Michael L. Morris, Socialist Labor, and 21 votes for John J. Fanning, Middle of the Road. Mr. Belknap represents the third district of Illinois, which has a population of 307,972, and embraces part of Cook County and that part of the fourth ward west of the center line of Wentworth Avenue and all of the first, second, fifth, sixth, and seventh wards of the city of Chicago.