



KIRTLAND I. PERKY

Biographical

HON. KIRTLAND IRVING PERKY.

Hon. Kirtland Irving Perky, well known as a lawyer and law maker, having formerly represented Idaho in the United States senate, while at the present time he is an active member of the Boise bar, was born at Smithville, Wayne county, Ohio, February 8, 1867. His father, Dr. John Firestone Perky, and his mother, Esther (Martin) Perky, were natives of Pennsylvania. The former came of French Huguenot ancestry, while the latter was of Scotch-Irish descent. The Perky line is traced back to Daniel Perky, who came from Switzerland to the new world prior to the Revolutionary war and established his home in Virginia.

Kirtland I. Perky spent his early boyhood to the age of thirteen years in Smithville, Ohio, and in 1880 the family removed to Nebraska, where he was reared to manhood. He completed his more specifically literary education by graduation from the Ohio Northern University of Ada, Ohio, as a member of the class of 1888, at which time the Bachelor of Science degree was conferred upon him. He afterward took up the study of law in Lincoln, Nebraska, first in the office of Bryan & Talbot and later in the office of Cornish & Tibbetts, well known attorneys of that place. The former firm was composed of William Jennings Bryan and A. R. Talbot. Subsequently Mr. Perky did two years' work in one year in the law department of the University of Iowa at Iowa City and was admitted to the bar at Des Moines in 1890. He then located for practice in Wahoo, Nebraska, where he remained until 1894, when he came to Idaho, settling first at Albion. Subsequently he removed to Mountain Home and while there was appointed judge of the district court in 1901, serving out an unexpired term and declining to become a candidate for the office. In 1903 he removed to Boise and has been a leading member of the bar of that city throughout the intervening period. He has had much to do with shaping political activity as well as legal interests in his community and served as chairman of the state democratic central committee from 1900 until 1902. In November, 1912, he was appointed United States senator by James H. Hawley to fill out the unexpired term of the late Weldon B. Heyburn and continued in the position until the close of the term, when he resumed his law practice in Boise, which has become extensive and of a most important character. He is now the senior member of the firm of Perky & Brinck, being associated with Dana E. Brinck, with offices in the McCarty Building in Boise. He displays wide research and provident care in the preparation of his cases and at no time has his reading ever been confined to the limitations of the questions at issue but has gone beyond and compassed every contingency, providing not alone for the expected but for the unexpected, which happens in the courts quite as frequently as out of them. His legal learning, his analytical mind, the readiness with which he grasps the points in an argument, all combine to make him one of the strong attorneys of the Boise bar.

On the 18th of April, 1891 Mr. Perky was married to Miss Ella Hunter, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, and they have one child, now Mrs. Esther Woodhouse, of Bloomington, Wisconsin. Fraternaly Mr. Perky is connected with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and with the Knights of Pythias. The major part of his time and attention, however, is given to his professional interests and he is a member of the American Bar Association. He has ever held to the highest professional standards and is recognized as an able minister in the temple of justice.
