

Joseph Ralph Burton

This is a photograph of Joseph Ralph Burton, a Senator from Kansas who was born near Mitchell, Lawrence County, Indiana on November 16, 1852. He attended the common schools, Franklin College, and DePauw University at Greencastle. Burton studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1875 and commenced practice in Princeton, Indiana before moving to Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas. In 1878, Burton was elected to Kansas State house of representatives and served 1882-1886. He was appointed a member of the World's Fair Columbian Commission at Chicago in 1893, representing Kansas. Burton was elected as a Republican to the United States Senate and served from March 4, 1901 until his resignation on June 4, 1906 serving on as chairman for the Committee on Forest Reservations and Game Protection (Fifty-seventh and Fifty-eighth Congresses). Burton was convicted in 1904 (convicted again on appeal in 1906) of the charge of illegally receiving compensation for services rendered before a federal department and served five months in prison. After his release, he returned to Abilene, Kansas, and engaged in the newspaper business. Burton died in Los Angeles, California on February 27, 1923 and his body was cremated and the ashes deposited in the columbarium of the Los Angeles Crematory Association and in 1928 the ashes were removed and buried in the Burton family plot in the Abilene Cemetery in Abilene, Kansas.

Date: 1902

Callnumber: 2017-197

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 443177

Item Identifier: 443177

www.kansasmemory.org/item/443177



