

FRANK B. BRANDEGEE

B RANDEGEE, HON. FRANK BOSWORTH, United States senator, lawyer, and one of the most prominent Republicans in Connecticut, was born in New London, Connecticut, July 8th, 1864. He is a descendant of Jacob Brandegee, a native of Nine Points, New York, who settled New Britain in the middle of the eighteenth century and founded the Connecticut branch of the family. John Brandegee, his grandfather, was a prosperous cotton broker of New Orleans, who came to New London and engaged in the whaling industry, and in many public enterprises. On the maternal side, Senator Brandegee is descended from Daniel Deschamps, a Huguenot refugee at the time of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and from Captain Daniel Deshon, who commanded an armed vessel during the War of the Revolution. The other two Huguenot ancestors, John and Richard Deshon, served with conspicuous credit as captains of companies of Connecticut militia in the Revolution. Puritan as well as Huguenot blood flows in the Brandegee veins, for their family ancestry is also traceable to the historic Elder Brewster. Senator Brandegee's father, Hon. Augustus Brandegee, one of the most distinguished lawyers and politicians Connecticut has ever produced, was four times a member of Congress, an able speaker, and a popular political leader. His wife, the present senator's mother, was Nancy Bosworth Brandegee.

After the usual public school experience Frank Brandegee prepared for college at the Bulkeley High School in New London, where he graduated in 1881. He then entered Yale University, where he won honors both for excellent scholarship and for prowess in athletics. After taking his degree in 1885 he went abroad, visiting Great Britain and Continental Europe, and later Alaska, Canada, and the Hawaiian Islands. Returning home, he was admitted to the New London County Bar in 1888 and, following in his father's worthy steps, he began the practice of law and became a member of the well known law firm of Brandegee, Noyes & Brandegee. Like his father,

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he was singled out for political honors very early in his career, and in 1888, the first year of his legal practice, he represented New London in the General Assembly, and was chairman of the committee on cities and boroughs during his term of office. In 1889 he was elected corporation counsel of the city of New London, and held this office continuously, with the exception of two years when his party was not in power, until he resigned it upon his election as representative in Congress in 1902. His consistent party loyalty, rare executive ability, and marked capacity for leadership gained him rapidly growing prominence among the Republicans of the State, and he was their delegate to the Republican National Conventions in 1888, 1892, 1900, and 1904, and in the last named year he was chairman of the delegation. Since 1898 he has been a member of the Republican State Central Committee. In 1898 he was again elected State representative, and was Speaker of the Connecticut House in 1899. In 1902 he was elected to the 57th Congress at its second session to fill a vacancy left by the death of Charles A. Russell, and was reelected representative to the 57th and 58th Congresses by large majorities in both instances. He served with great success on the committee of naval affairs, and has been a most prominent and active Congressman. In 1905 he was elected to fill the senatorial vacancy caused by the death of Orville H. Platt. His term of office as United States senator will expire March 4th, 1909.

As a speaker Senator Brandegee is forceful, just, persuasive, and eloquent, and he is as able a writer as he is orator. His fine mind, his ability to understand men and conditions, his public spirit and personal integrity have won him high places in politics and in his profession, and he is truly "the distinguished son of a distinguished father."