

John Elmer Hipple, (20 Jul 1865 – 23 Dec 1939), Newspaper Clipping, Pierre, South Dakota;
John Hipple Dies At Pierre

Pierre, Dec 23 Mayor **John E Hipple**, 74, publisher of the Capital Journal here, died of a heart attack at his home this morning.

The widely known political figure who played an instrumental part in getting South Dakota admitted to the Union, collapsed about 11:40 o'clock, shortly after calling the paper office to get his morning mail.

Although he had been in failing health most of this year after suffering what physicians diagnosed as a "heart block" the editors family considered his condition as improved. Funeral services tentatively have been arranged for Tuesday afternoon in the Masonic temple here.

Hipple was considered a power in early-day politics because of his close association with the state house but the only major office he ever held was that of state auditor from 1893 to 1897. He was defeated by Carl Gunderson in 1926 when he ran as an independent for governor. **Hipple** was born in Perry County PA, July 20, 1865. Surviving are his widow **Ruth Bowman Hipple**, and two sons, **Robert B.** and **James B.**, both connected to the newspaper.

The editor was a militant crusader for the rights of common people and with his editorials often incurred the disfavor of the party leaders. Politically he classed himself as an "independent republican".

One of **Hipple's** favorite stories was an anecdote about how he slept with a bundle of credentials when he was secretary of the credentials committee at Jamestown, Dakota Territory, in March of 1888. It was at that meeting that the division of the territory was agreed upon. **Hipple** refused to leave the credentials unguarded for a minute after North Dakota" anti-divisionist" offered \$100 for them.

In recent years, the editor has devoted much of his time to his duties as Mayor. With the aid of WPA funds, he built a park system along the Missouri River front here. With boulders from the hills north of Pierre and old car bodies, his crews shifted the channel of the Missouri River and impounded water in a lake which separates Farm Island, a recreational center here, and the main shore. Both the lake and park system are named in his honor.

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