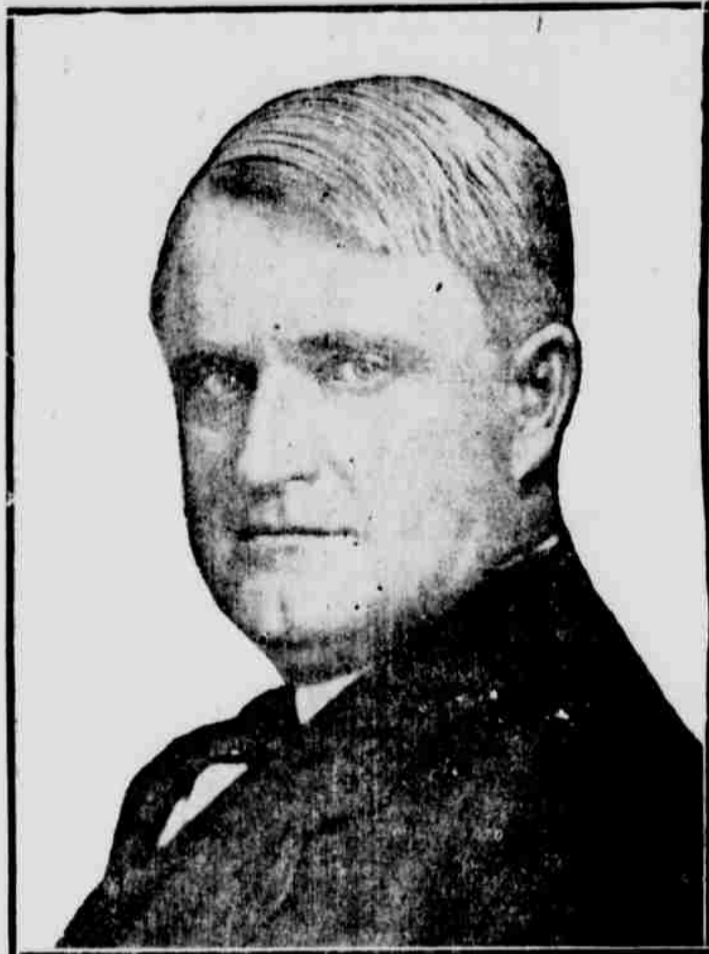


## MEN IN THE PUBLIC EYE

R. L. Williams, of the Supreme Court, A Judge of the Law and A Man of the People.



R. L. Williams, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma.

In writing the opinions of the court on constitutional questions and others demanding a thorough grasp of the fundamental principles of government, the lion's share of the work has fallen to Justice Williams, and properly so, for he bore a conspicuous part in framing that constitution and he is most zealous in vitalizing the principles thereof.

A few words about Judge Williams, the man, will not be amiss. He is very generally referred to as "Bob." That in itself is proof that he is a real, red-blooded, companionable human being. Off the bench he is a man of affairs, a business man of recognized ability, and he takes a leading part in the development of the country in a business sense.

The judge has an absorbing interest in farm life. He was born and raised on a farm, and has always maintained his interest in the farming industry. He has a farm now, and one of his hobbies is the building of dams and lakes and stocking the waters with fish. He insists that this not only beautifies the landscape, but, that if the plan were generally followed, it would very materially increase the rainfall.

Judge Williams' great-grandfather was Jonathan Williams, born in Connecticut, in 1764, whither his father, some years before emigrated from Wales. Jonathan Williams enlisted in Beardsley's regiment in the Revolutionary Army. After the Revolution he drifted to North Carolina, living there until 1821, when he went to Jones county, Georgia, with a view of settling in the Creek country. This he did in 1824, settling in Pike county, Alabama. In after years the settlement was known as "Williams' Settlement," and the two sons of Jonathan Williams founded what is known as "Williams' Church." Jonathan left two sons, Rev. Elisha and Rev. Simeon Williams. Rev. Simeon Williams had a son by the name of Jonathan Williams, who is the father of R. L. Williams.

Bob Williams was born on a farm in the old Williams' Settlement. At sixteen years of age he went to work on his own account, working his way through college to the degree of Master of Arts in Southern University at Greensboro, Alabama. He thinks now he was probably handicapped by his poverty and his shabby clothes, but at any rate he plunged in and fought his way to leadership in intellectual activities in the college. Later he read law with Judge William S. Thornton, for some time dean of the law department of the University of Alabama, and a member of the Alabama Supreme Court. Judge Williams was admitted to practice in September, 1891, and hung out his shingle at Troy. A few years later he went to Texas because of the call of the wild. Texas was too tame, and in 1896 he

Whether Judge Williams becomes a candidate for governor, retains his place on the Supreme Bench, or retires to private life, he will continue to be a dominating influence in the development of the state. He has a great capacity for work and his grasp of fundamental principles of government is exceedingly broad and clear. He would make an ideal candidate from a party standpoint, and as a governor of the whole people and a representative of the taxpayers he would certainly fill the bill.

Nine, including the two-cent fare, the fellow-servant provision and the one to the effect that every license issued or charter granted to a mining or public service corporation, foreign or domestic, should contain a provision requiring the submission of all labor disputes with employees to arbitration—the first time such a provision ever appeared in a statute or a constitution. Judge Williams has been

Now that the legislature has adjourned the hotel gossip has turned to the gubernatorial topic, and statesmen and near-statesmen are discussing who will be the democratic candidate for governor next year.

In connection with this talk no name is heard with more persistency than that of Bob Williams. Judge Williams has held a center place in the public eye since long before statehood. He fought valiantly for statehood long before that dream was realized. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention and left his impress on every important section in that document. When the state was admitted to the Union he became its first chief justice.

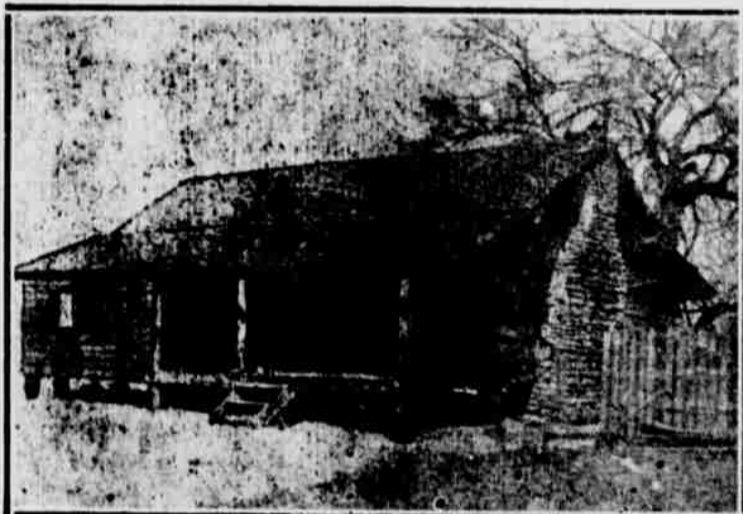
Beginning with statehood every time we have a big election, to choose either a governor or a United States Senator, or both, somehow the name of Bob Williams bobs up. "What about Bob Williams?" has grown to be a familiar question when conversation veers to some big question of public honor or trust or when the state is about to adopt a policy, either civil or political. Meanwhile Judge Williams has gone serenely on, apparently engrossed with his work on the supreme bench, modestly but firmly dealing out justice and laying down a course of procedure which will be followed by the generations to come. Thus far his work on the bench has been of more lasting effect upon the people and the laws than it could have been had he held any other position.

The judge has certainly made good in spite of his early patches and poverty, and has achieved a most lofty position in his chosen state. He has always been a very hard worker; a man of dynamic energy and positive opinions. He has the courage to stand for what he regards right; he stands out ruggedly for the honest straightforward statesmanlike things in politics.

Away back a decade ago, Judge R. L. Williams was an active factor in Indian Territory politics. He was the democratic national committeeman when a place on the national committee was practically the only representation the eastern part of the state had in the civil government of the country. When the Constitutional Convention was called he was elected as a delegate. He became one of the foremost leaders of that great body of men, and his handiwork may be seen by the student in every vital department of the organic law of the state. As a member of the Constitutional Convention he was placed on the committees on judiciary, revenue and taxation, legislative department, primary elections, legal advisory and public service corporation, and of the last two he was chairman. He was the author of practically all the constructive provisions inaugurated in Article

### BIG AUTOMOBILE SHOW

Visitors to the New State Fair who are interested in the different makes of automobiles will see a display of automobiles at the Fair that will be quite an education. The different manufacturing firms of automobiles of a great many makes have engaged space for their display and this show will be one of the features of the fair.



The Old Williams Homestead—Birthplace of R. L. Williams.

came to the Indian Territory and finally settled at Durant, where he still resides. He was the first city attorney for the town of Durant.

As a citizen the judge has always taken an active part in every movement for civic developments. Some have criticized him for dabbling in politics, but this is characteristic of the man. No activity of his home city, county or state, which looks for the betterment of mankind is too small to claim his most vigorous attention. His activity in all public affairs has kept him in close touch with the people, their conditions and needs. He steps in and takes sides whether it be the selection of the aldermen of his home town or the president of the United States.

He has always been an enthusiastic democrat, and he comes from a democratic family. He has unbounded faith in the wisdom and virtue of the people as expressed in elections, and to a very marked degree he typifies all that is best in western citizenship. While Judge Williams lives modestly, though amply able to afford luxury, he is not wedded to the dollar. His many acts of kindly helpfulness stamp him as a man of broad charity. Last winter he gathered all the new-boys in Oklahoma City together at a leading hotel and gave them a real banquet. In Durant, where he is known best, one hears most of his beneficence.

referred to as the John Marshall of Oklahoma. It sounds well, and it really suits the case. Chief Justice Marshall of the Supreme Court of the United States, by his learned and courageous construction of the most progressive constitution up to that time in existence, hammered the loose and discordant elements into a mighty and indissoluble composite, drove the rivets into the framework of the world's youngest and greatest national government.

Judge Williams, the first chief justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma, has wrought similarly in a more restricted field. Two territories, within the borders of each of which but a few years ago the white man was a trespasser, flung together as a sovereign state under the most progressive—or most radical, as some critics would insist—constitution yet evolved; two territories markedly dissimilar from the standpoint of private law and governmental organization, the Indian Territory having never known the semblance of self-government; a constitution bristling with innovations, establishing anomalous propositions hitherto unknown—all this presented grave complexities to Oklahoma's high tribunal. For nearly six years R. L. Williams and his associates on the supreme bench have wrestled untiringly with these problems, often with scant precedent to light the way.

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Continued from First Page

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INMAN E. PAGE, President

REMBER KELLEY'S HAND LAUNDRY is still in town and solicits your support.

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### AN ENJOYABLE PARTY

Mrs Ella Mitchell gave an enjoyment party Friday night, at her residence on N. Greenwood, to a number of young people in honor of her niece, Miss Jannie May Thompson of Cleveland, Okla.

Those present were:

Jessie Titus, Aura Rollinson, Anna Grier, Emma Green, Irma Rollinson, Rochie and Mandy Robinson, Jes-ie Robinson, David Evans, Emerson Bryson, Amanda and Mattie Partee and

Brooks Reynolds

Ice cream and cake was served in abundance.

A big revival is now being conducted at the first baptist church by Rev Kersh assisted by Dr Westbrook of Oklahoma City. Dr Westbrook is an excellent preacher and a power in the work. Quite number have been added to the church during this meeting.

Rev Jones will spend a few days on a vacation in Texas.

Mrs. Rev. Jones is visiting in Okmulgee this week.

Prof J E Mason died Monday night.

Mr Gurly, Mr Curd and Mrs Wells are in Boley this week attending the Grand Lodge of Masons.

Miss Gentry entertained her sister at the Midway, Friday.

Mr C. O. Clark of St. Louis Mo a cousin of J. D. Ford of this city is expected to be in the city Saturday and spend a few days on business.

Mr L. Crosgrove of Omaha is in the city and is with J. D. Ford. He is a finish Tailor and will be glad to meet those who are in need of first class tailoring work.