



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



SUPERVISOR RICHARD W. PRIDHAM

Term: 1908 - 1916
District: Fifth
Date of Birth: March 7, 1856
Death: 1938

Richard Woodsworth Pridham served as county supervisor for two terms. Elected in 1908, he assumed office in 1909 and was re-elected in 1912.

Pridham was born March 7, 1856, in London, Canada. He grew up in his hometown and attended public schools.

When he was 14, Pridham went to work at a print shop in Toronto. He apprenticed there for 10 years, mastering the trade. In 1882 at age 26, he moved to Los Angeles and opened up a printing/box manufacturing business of his own. He eventually employed 125 people, and shipped goods all over the western half of the United States and to the Pacific Islands.

His success in business led to an involvement in civic affairs and election to the Board of Supervisors. While in office, he championed the beginning construction of what is today the County's roadway/highway system and establishment of the County's purchasing department.

Credits included membership in the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association of Los Angeles; Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce; the Municipal League; the Jobbers' Association; the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; the Shriners; the Free and Accepted Masons and the Woodmen of the World. He also belonged to the Annandale Country Club; the Union League Club; the Jonathan Club and the Shrine, Scottish Rite and Knights Templar.

In 1938 at age 82, Pridham died after a short illness at his home in Hermosa Beach. He was survived by his wife, Althea, daughter and grandson.

Sources: Los Angeles Times, April 28, 1938, Who's Who in the Pacific Southwest; Notables of the Southwest.