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FRED THOMAS DUBOIS
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Son of a prominent Illinois attorney general, Fred T. Dubois graduated from Yale in 1872 and came to Idaho in 1880. Settling at Blackfoot, he became United States marshal and served in that capacity from August 25, 1882 to September 1, 1886. During that time he searched for polygamists with unparalleled diligence, and revived the demoralized Independent Anti-Mormon Party of Oneida County in 1884. His legislative followers succeeded in disfranchising all the Mormons so that Dubois could be elected to Congress in 1886. By 1888, he managed to get Congress to reject a scheme to divide Idaho between Nevada and Washington, and he led the bipartisan Idaho effort to secure admission as a state in 1890. Elected United States senator on December 12, 1890, he served a full term, in which he became a national leader of the Silver Republicans in 1896. While he could not assemble a combine of Silver Republicans, Democrats, and Populists to ensure reelection to the Senate, he nearly won anyway. During the Spanish American War he emerged as a prominent anti-imperialist, and in 1900 he managed to ally with the anti-Steunenberg Democrats, take over the Idaho Democratic party, and obtain another Senate term even though he was still a Silver Republican.

At this point he became a Democrat, but supported Theodore Roosevelt on progressive domestic issues such as conservation. An ill-advised revival of anti-Mormonism from 1904 to 1908 (at a time when the Mormons could vote again) led to his 1906 defeat for reelection to the Senate, and split Idaho's Democratic Party up once again.

Not embarrassed by his loss of control of the Idaho party organization, Dubois retained his national prominence, managing Champ Clark's national campaign for a presidential nomination in 1912. Dubois once again showed his political flexibility by attempting too much in trying to join his old friend William Jennings Bryan in a combination with Tammany. After Woodrow Wilson was nominated and elected, Dubois served as Wilson's western manager in 1916. Then in 1918 he got Wilson to quietly endorse Borah for reelection in a combine that included Dubois's chief Democratic factional enemy, Senator John Nugent. He wound up getting Calvin Coolidge to appoint him on July 15, 1924, to the International Joint Commission regulating boundary waters of the United States and Canada. A political manipulator of rare skill, he had his ups and downs. But in his earlier years, he had an influential position in the structure of Idaho politics.

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