



Charles A. Noyes.

CHARLES PHELPS NOYES

In the death of Charles Phelps Noyes on April 30, 1921, the Minnesota Historical Society lost a former president and one of the most valuable members of its executive committee and the community lost a very useful citizen. A sketch of his life cannot fail to be of interest, for his career was in many ways typical of a large number of men who, after the pioneer period in Minnesota history, came from the East, and more particularly from New England, and by their lives and activities did much to transform a frontier commonwealth into the present fully developed American state.

Mr. Noyes was born on April 24, 1842, at Lyme, Connecticut, and came of the soundest New England stock. His emigrant ancestor, the Reverend James Noyes (1608-56), son of the Reverend William Noyes of University College, Oxford, later rector of Cholderton, Wiltshire, England, was matriculated at Brazenose College, Oxford, but did not graduate. Later he emigrated to New England because he could not comply with the ceremonies of the Church of England. Accompanied by his wife, he took passage on the "Mary and John" and arrived in Boston in 1634. Shortly afterwards he settled at Newbury, Massachusetts, as pastor. Here he resided for the remainder of his life. He was an active member of his order, which at that time contained the educated and ruling members of the community. He was "dearly loved" by the Reverend John Wilson of Boston, the opponent of Anne Hutchinson, and he published various religious pamphlets, such as *A Catechism for Children*, *The Temple Measured*, and *Moses and Aaron*. His son, the Reverend James Noyes (1640-1719), also was a man of prominence. He graduated from Harvard College in 1659 and then became pastor at Stonington, Connecticut, for the remaining fifty-five years of his life. He took a leading part in the founding of Yale College, his name ap-

pearing first in the list of ministers who founded the college and who became its first trustees.

The intermediate ancestors of Mr. Noyes were farmers about Stonington. They held militia commissions and fought in the various Indian wars. His grandfather, Thomas Noyes, served as lieutenant in the Trenton and Princeton campaign in the Revolution. Later he was for years president of the bank at Westerly, Rhode Island, which then was a position of much dignity. He served the last twenty years of his life, first as deputy, and then as senator, in the Rhode Island legislature, and he was also a member of the famous Hartford Convention. Among the prominent ancestors of Mr. Noyes were the famous Anne Hutchinson of Boston, Governors Coddington and Sanford of Rhode Island, and Deputy Governor Willoughby of Massachusetts. The others lived mainly in Rhode Island where they had located on account of sympathy with the opinions of Anne Hutchinson, who had been driven out of Massachusetts.

Mr. Noyes himself was deeply interested in and rightly proud of his ancestors, and one cannot help believing that their worthy example deeply influenced his conduct through life. He spent much time in tracing the various branches of his family, and in 1907 he published the results of his labors in a finely illustrated and most interesting book, the *Noyes-Gilman Ancestry*, on which the foregoing sketch has been based and to which the reader is directed for a fuller account of the Noyes family.

In this volume too is preserved a most interesting picture of the home at Lyme in which Mr. Noyes grew up and which seems to have been of the best New England type. His father, Daniel Rogers Noyes (1793-1877), after some wanderings finally settled in Lyme in 1820 and opened a general store. The business was never satisfactory, owing to the limited possibilities of so small a place. Soon after settling in Lyme, in 1827, he married Phoebe Griffin Lord and bought an old house

next to the village church, the congregation of which they both joined during a revival in 1831. Later he led in the singing, and became superintendent of the Sunday school and a deacon; his home was a stopping-place for all ministers, missionaries, and lecturers who passed through the town. His wife was a remarkable woman. She had spent much of her girlhood in New York where she had studied French and taken up miniature painting. The charming frontispiece in the *Noyes-Gilman Ancestry* is a reproduction of a painting which she made of her children. With her wider experience she was able to make her new home in Lyme a center of social life for the young people. She was fond of tableaux, charades, rhyming games, even of dancing, which at that period was not at all approved, and was the intellectual leader of the village.

It was in such a home that Mr. Noyes, the youngest of seven children, was brought up. "Our Sundays," he wrote in later years, "were strictly observed, though not made an unpleasant memory by too rigid rules. There was never the question, 'Who is going to church?' It was assumed as a matter of course that all would go. After morning service my aunts and other friends came to our house, were given home-made currant wine and cake or other refreshments, and spent a little time talking over family affairs. After the afternoon service, we had family prayers, reading and prayer, and then singing for an hour or more. . . . Usually after singing, if it was pleasant father took us for a walk to the burying-ground. Sometimes before the lights were lit, mother had us recite the Shorter Catechism. She knew it by heart, questions as well as answers, and never needed to refer to the text." At that time Sunday in New England began at six o'clock on Saturday evening; and Mr. Noyes used to tell with some amusement how the boys in the boarding-school he afterwards attended kept either Saturday or Sunday evening, according to their invitations, and often got in arrears and were obliged to keep them both for a week or two.

As a boy Mr. Noyes attended the village school. When he was fifteen he left Lyme to take a temporary job on some United States Army work at Springfield, Massachusetts. When this work was completed he attended the Springfield High School, but after one winter he returned to Lyme to attend school and to work on his father's books. In the fall of 1858 he went to Williston Seminary, Easthampton, Massachusetts, to prepare for Yale. Among the students at this time there was a craze for chess, in which he joined. But what was of more importance was the beginning of his coin and autograph collections, in which he took great interest throughout his life. The former was started largely through the interest of Professor Hitchcock, who gave him a general letter of introduction, which enabled him at odd times to examine the kegs of old copper coins of the neighboring tollgate keepers. It was in this way that he obtained his very complete collection of old United States copper cents and other minor coins. This entire collection with his later accumulations has now come by the gift of Mrs. Noyes, made in accordance with her husband's original wish, into the permanent possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Pecuniary considerations forced Mr. Noyes to leave Williston Seminary in the spring of 1860, and, though he spent some time studying French in a French family, he was finally forced to give up any idea of going to Yale. Accordingly in the fall of 1860, at the age of eighteen, Mr. Noyes became a bookkeeper with Gilman, Son, and Company, a banking house in New York, at an annual salary of \$150. During the course of the following year this salary was raised by gradual steps to \$400 a year, but with all his New England thrift his year's expenses amounted to \$444.17; and, notwithstanding an offer of \$800 a year if he would remain, he accepted a loan of \$1,000 from his elder brother to buy a part interest in his father's business at Lyme, to which town he returned.

Though pecuniarily unremunerative, his work at bookkeeping had by no means been a failure. He received during this

period valuable training that was to stand him in good stead throughout a long business career. Here he acquired a thorough knowledge of bookkeeping in its various branches. He always wrote a very handsome and perfectly legible hand, and his figures were clear. He would not tolerate slovenly work in others, and he carried through life an accountant's idea of the importance of a proper attention to detail in all practical undertakings.

During his life in New York, Mr. Noyes joined the City Cadets, afterward called the Union Greys, which later became Company G of the Twenty-second New York Volunteer Infantry. In June, 1863, when Lee invaded Pennsylvania, this regiment was called out for the protection of Harrisburg. Mr. Noyes joined his company there, but after thirty days the regiment was recalled on account of the draft riots in New York. For this military service Mr. Noyes records that he received eleven dollars and one cent.

Shortly after his return to Lyme, in the fall of 1863, Mr. Noyes sold his interest in his father's general store and went west as far as Dubuque, Iowa, in search of a location where he might open a dry goods store, choosing this line because his brother-in-law was a wholesale dry goods merchant in New York. Finally he leased a store in Saginaw, Michigan, but almost immediately gave it up and removed to Port Huron, Michigan, where early in 1864 he opened a general merchandise store under the name of C. P. Noyes and Company.

Mr. Noyes remained in Port Huron for four years. This was the time of the oil craze, and Michigan as well as other regions had hopes. Consequently, Mr. Noyes, for himself as well as for Eastern friends, devoted some of his time to investigation of oil prospects of which nothing came. Finally he wound up the Port Huron business, intending to accept an offer to buy a third interest in an established wholesale grocery business in Detroit, Michigan. But his older brother, Daniel R. Noyes, had already moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, and had acquired control of Vawter, Pett, and Moulton, a small whole-

sale drug house, the name of which now became Noyes, Pett, and Company. His brother's health was so poor that Mr. Noyes felt obliged to decline his Detroit offer and, at the age of twenty-six, he came to St. Paul and joined his brother as junior partner in the new firm. By 1870 the brothers had bought out the other interests and the name of the firm became Noyes Brothers. Edward H. Cutler, son of a leading Boston wholesale druggist, had previously worked for the original firm, and he now entered the employment of Noyes Brothers. As the need for additional capital was beginning to be felt keenly, the brothers took him in as a junior partner on April 1, 1871, and the firm name assumed its final form of Noyes Brothers and Cutler.

The association of these three men proved to be very fortunate and happy, and the business was destined to be very successfully conducted by them and their sons for the next fifty years. At the time that Mr. Daniel R. Noyes took hold of the business it was at a very low ebb. It was located in a small store on lower East Third Street, there were less than ten employees, and the sales were under fifty thousand dollars a year. The gradual transformation of this rather unpromising business into the great mercantile establishment of the present day was made possible, of course, by the marvelous growth of St. Paul and the territory tributary to it during the next quarter of a century, but it could not have taken place without the hard work, enterprise, and business intelligence of the three new owners of the business.

While Daniel R. Noyes lived he owned the largest share in the business and was at its head, but his younger brother, who was possibly the keenest business man of the three partners, was equally active. In the first few years he traveled for the firm, covering the territory with horse and buggy, then the only possible way. This leisurely mode of travel through the country enabled Mr. Noyes to acquire an intimate knowledge of the firm's customers and their needs, which proved of great

value to him in the coming years. His training with Gilman, Son, and Company now stood him in good stead. The system of accounting he installed was destined to be maintained along the lines he had established for many years. But above all Mr. Noyes had the real trader's instinct which so many New Englanders possess. He was a shrewd buyer. There was nothing that he enjoyed more than making a good bargain for his firm. He was a prudent and careful manager, always watchful of expenses. Mr. Noyes and his partners always gave full time and long hours to the business, believing that it was only by constant personal attention that success could be obtained and that an example of devotion to work should be set for the employees. It was these traits, combined with the very careful economy of all the partners in their personal expenses, which enabled the new firm to weather the depression of 1873 and largely to increase its capital without the addition of any further money except from the yearly accumulation of saved profits. The sales began to show a constant increase, and after ten years passed the million dollar mark. The firm moved to larger quarters, first to Robert Street, and then to Sibley and Fifth Streets.

During these years of active participation in business, Mr. Noyes had other interests in the growing community. He had early joined the House of Hope Presbyterian Church, and soon was singing tenor in the choir. In 1873 he was chairman of the committee to procure the organ for the new church edifice at Fifth and Exchange streets. This instrument was obtained at a cost of three thousand dollars. In 1877 Mr. Noyes was elected a trustee of the church.

On September 1, 1874, at the age of thirty-two, Mr. Noyes married Miss Emily Hoffman Gilman, the daughter of his former employer and the sister of his elder brother's wife. Curiously enough, similar marriages of two brothers and two sisters had frequently occurred among his ancestors, a fact which he points out in the *Noyes-Gilman Ancestry*. He had

recently bought a house on the south side of Dayton Avenue, just west of where the cathedral now stands. Here he lived for a number of years and here two of his daughters were born. Several years later on a cold winter night the family was driven out by a fire, which destroyed a row of houses including his own. Later he purchased an old residence on the south side of Summit Avenue, just west of the old Henry M. Rice homestead, and here he lived for a number of years.

In 1881 Mr. and Mrs. Noyes took their first trip to Europe. At this time Mr. Noyes joined the Arundel Society, and many of its reproductions of the old masters were to be seen in his home in after years. While on this trip, too, he added very extensively to his coin collection. He made purchases everywhere, and he also obtained many additions to his collection by examining coins in the dishes in which tobacconists kept the money that they could not pass on.

Nearly every summer after this time Mr. Noyes spent at White Bear Lake, first at a cottage he had built on the mainland and later in cottages he erected on the island. The daily respite from the heat of the city explains, perhaps, why he was able to work so effectively through the long, hot summers of many years. Having sold the Summit Avenue home, Mr. Noyes lived in several rented houses until 1887, when he started building, at 89 Virginia Avenue, the home in which he was to live for the remainder of his life. This is an attractive frame house, of colonial architecture, always painted buff with white trimmings, and situated on a bend on the west side of the avenue just off of Summit Avenue. From it one catches pleasant glimpses of the bluffs across the river, seen between the houses on Summit Avenue.

In 1889, after his first trip to the Pacific coast, Mr. Noyes was occupied with plans for the new building which Mr. Cutler's father was erecting for the firm at Sixth and Sibley streets and in which the business is still conducted. The summer of 1892 he spent in Europe, but after that for the next

decade he did not leave St. Paul for any length of time. The end of the wonderful growth and prosperity of the eighties had now come. The firm had more than doubled its business in this time, but during the depression of 1893 the business was checked, though probably less so than that of most firms in St. Paul. Still it required the careful attention of its proprietors.

During the railroad strike of 1894 Mr. Noyes served on the local arbitration committee. As these troubles passed business soon began to recover, especially after the defeat of Bryan in 1896. In 1897 Mr. Noyes was elected president of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, his year of service covering a period of very active business revival. In the following year he was a member of the Minnesota commission appointed by the governor to represent the state at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition at Omaha.

For some time Noyes Brothers and Cutler had been the oldest name in the jobbing trade in St. Paul, and the firm had existed unchanged for a longer period than any other concern in the city. The business continued to grow and develop and by 1903 its capital had reached a million dollars, the amount at which it was to remain during the rest of Mr. Noyes's life. In 1908 his brother died and additional responsibilities devolved upon him as senior partner. The firm was at this time completing a large addition to its building in order to take care of the expanding business.

In the decade that followed 1900 the sons of the original partners were made full partners in the firm. Mr. Winthrop G. Noyes, Mr. Noyes's nephew, was admitted in 1900; his own son, Mr. C. Reinold Noyes, who had been graduated from Yale in 1905 and had immediately entered the business, was, soon after his marriage, admitted as a partner in 1910; and at the end of the same year the son of his partner, Mr. Cutler, gave up the practice of law to become a partner in the business. This admission of the members of the younger generation

and their gradual assumption of the larger responsibilities was a source of pride to Mr. Noyes. He looked forward with pleasure to the prospect of their being able to carry forward the business successfully after he should retire.

For over twenty years a substantial part of the assets of the business had been tied up in real estate that the firm no longer intended to use. In 1912 the Smith Park Realty Corporation was formed to take over this property. Mr. Noyes was a director and president of this company and took an active part in its management. In the summer of 1915, in pursuance of the policy of putting the business in shape for the younger generation to handle, the old partnership was dissolved and Noyes Brothers and Cutler, Incorporated, was formed with Mr. Noyes as president and the other partners as officers and directors. At this time the trustees of his brother's estate sold their interest in the business and the junior officers acquired larger interests, which thereafter were increased yearly under an agreement with the two senior owners.

The prosperity of the drug business enabled Mr. Noyes to make investments in other local industries—investments which in after years proved very profitable and took a considerable share of his time and attention. The first venture in this line was made in 1887, when, through his friendship with Mr. Charles W. Ames, he invested in the stock of the West Publishing Company, publishers of law books and of the *National Reporter System*. Mr. Noyes was made a director of this company in the fall of that year, and after 1908 he was its vice president. During this period the company became one of the largest publishers of law books in the country, doing a nation-wide business and known perhaps the most widely of St. Paul's industries.

In 1895 Mr. Noyes began acquiring stock in the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company, which had been established in the early days of the city. Mr. Charles H. Bigelow, another friend of Mr. Noyes, was president of this company,

which was one of the largest and most successful of the fire insurance companies in the Middle West. Mr. Noyes became a director of the company in 1899, and he took great interest and pleasure in its constantly increasing prosperity.

In 1896 Mr. Noyes became vice president and a director of the Capital Bank of St. Paul, taking the place of his friend, Mr. Kenneth Clark, who, upon his election as president of the Merchants National Bank, had severed his connection with the Capital Bank. Mr. William D. Kirk, the president, was an intimate friend of Mr. Noyes. Upon his death in 1906 the bank was sold to outside interests and Mr. Noyes severed his connection with it. In the same year he was elected a director of the Merchants National Bank, of which his brother had long been a director and with which Noyes Brothers and Cutler had always banked.

Another local enterprise in which Mr. Noyes became very much interested was the H. L. Collins Company, which printed labels and advertising materials. He first acquired stock in this company in 1902 and was elected vice president and a director in 1904. The business grew so rapidly that it was considered desirable to secure control of the raw materials, so in 1907 the Waldorf Box Board Company was organized, with Mr. Noyes as one of the incorporators and vice president. After some initial setbacks this company became prosperous, and in 1916 the two companies were consolidated as the Waldorf Paper Products Company. Shortly thereafter Mr. Noyes resigned as vice president, but he continued to the end of his life as a director. During Mr. Noyes's connection with this enterprise it had a wonderful development, its capital increasing more than twenty-fold.

In all of these outside ventures Mr. Noyes took as keen and active an interest as was possible with the limited time at his disposal, for all through life by far the greater part of his time was devoted to the drug business. But his associates always found that his business judgment, based on a long and

varied business career, was of great value, and that he was always loyal to his associates in any new venture; if things looked dark for a time, he did not desert, and if more funds were called for, he was not one to refuse. These sterling qualities attracted business men and brought to him valuable opportunities to join in new business ventures. Mr. Noyes also invested in St. Paul real estate and, in later years, in stocks and bonds generally, with very profitable results.

A business activity that was really in the nature of a public service sprang from Mr. Noyes's connection with the State Savings Bank of St. Paul, the only institution in the city organized under the state laws as a mutual association for the sole benefit of depositors. He became a trustee in 1894, and in 1904 he was elected president, a position which he retained until his death. In 1906 the present handsome bank building was erected on East Fourth Street. During the period of Mr. Noyes's presidency the bank's deposits increased from two million to over seven million dollars and the number of depositors from less than ten thousand to over twenty-five thousand. Mr. Noyes was also for years a trustee of the Oakland Cemetery Association and after 1918 its president. He was much interested in the development and beautification of its cemetery.

During this quarter of a century of active business life, Mr. Noyes still found time for many other activities. His coin collecting continued to furnish an outlet to his antiquarian interests, and he became actively interested in genealogical research and in the various patriotic societies that were coming into prominence in the country at that time. He was active in forming the local chapter of the Sons of the Revolution in St. Paul, was its president in 1893, and was long a member of its board of managers. He was also active in the formation of the Minnesota Society of the Colonial Wars in 1895. He was its first registrar in 1896, deputy governor in 1898, and governor in 1899, and for many years a member of the council.

He took a deep interest in the meetings of these organizations, which endeavor to preserve the memory and emulate the patriotism of the colonial forefathers whom he so greatly revered. Mr. Noyes was a capable and pleasing presiding officer, and the wide range of his interests always made him a most entertaining companion at these business and social gatherings. In 1893 he also became a member of the Minnesota Historical Society and the following year he was elected a member of the council, a position he continued to hold until his death.

It was during these years that, with the assistance of Mrs. Noyes, he was laboriously accumulating and preparing material relating to his and Mr. Noyes's ancestors — material which was eventually published as has already been related. He found in this work great pleasure and relaxation from his business cares. While the book is in a rather unusual form among genealogical works, since it gives the ancestors of two individuals instead of tracing the descendants of an early ancestor and thus on its face appeals to a limited number of people, still investigators in New England genealogy will find it valuable to them, for it contains interesting details regarding many prominent people who figure in other family trees.

In 1902, to celebrate his sixtieth year, Mr. and Mrs. Noyes made a trip around the world, going east to India and returning by way of China and Japan. Mr. Noyes made a winter trip to the West Indies in 1906, and in 1907 and again in 1910 he made trips to Europe. Except for a number of winter trips to California this completed his longer travels.

In 1911 he was one of the chief organizers of a St. Paul branch of the Archæological Institute of America. He was president of this for the remaining ten years of his life, and many of its meetings, at which representatives of the national organization gave illustrated lectures, were held at his home. Those who were privileged to attend these gatherings remember with keen enjoyment the popular presentations of new dis-

coveries and especially Mr. Noyes's gracious hospitality, his intelligent interest in archeological subjects, and his great desire to build up an enduring local organization.

In 1915 Mr. Noyes began his three-year term as president of the Minnesota Historical Society. This period was one of the most important in the history of the society, for it was during these years that its present home was constructed. Authorization by the legislature and approval by the board of control were necessary for the project. At first an unfortunate site at the rear of the capitol was selected by the authorities, but after a long struggle the society secured the present appropriate site, which adds to the effectiveness and usefulness of the handsome building which was erected. The completed project redounded much to the credit of the officers of the society. Mr. Noyes's wise advice, untiring interest, and influence were not the least important factors in the successful conclusion.

Mr. Noyes took an ever increasing interest in the House of Hope Presbyterian Church. He had been treasurer for a number of years, and in 1906 he was elected president of the board of trustees. With the growth of the city and the westward expansion of its residence district, the down-town site of the church was felt to be more and more inconvenient. After long consideration a new site was acquired on Summit Avenue in the center of the newer residence district, and in 1913 Mr. Noyes was made chairman of the building committee charged with the erection of the new edifice. It was partly through his efforts that Mr. Ralph A. Cram, the most noted exponent of Gothic architecture in the country, was employed to design the new church. During the period of construction, the building committee had many problems to consider, and Mr. Noyes found pleasure in this work. More than all did he enjoy the completed result, for the church as it stands is one of the best examples of Mr. Cram's work and an architectural monument of the city. It furnishes a large and growing congregation with a worthy church home. Mr. Noyes was a liberal contrib-

utor of money as well as of time to its erection and equipment, — he gave the organ for the new edifice, — and by his will he contributed to the endowment fund for its maintenance.

With the outbreak of the European war Mr. Noyes assumed increased business responsibilities for the drug company. He entered with zest into the hunt for new sources of supply elsewhere when the European markets were largely closed, and by his enterprise in this line he helped to make large profits for his house. When this country entered the war he had his share of the worries of the time. His youngest son entered the naval service and later his oldest son, who was associated with him in the business, left to enter the chemical warfare service, thus leaving more work to be done and all the difficult labor problems to be solved by those who remained in the business. The early armistice shortened this period of strain, and with the peace reaction the business entered upon a new period of prosperity.

In the summer of 1920, just after the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the firm had been fittingly celebrated and while the house was enjoying the greatest success and expansion it had ever known, the joint ownership and management of the business by members of the three families came to an end and Mr. Noyes retired. His son, Mr. C. Reinold Noyes, had with a number of outside investors formed a syndicate to buy out all the other interests in the business and to take over its entire management. Notwithstanding Mr. Noyes's natural parental pride in seeing his son left in full control of the organization, it was not without reluctance that, even at the age of seventy-eight, he gave up the active business life in which he had always found so much enjoyment. He soon accustomed himself to this change, however, and during the last year of his life he retained his desk at the store and spent much time in arranging his private affairs. He passed a pleasant winter and appreciated his freedom from responsibility during a period of business difficulties.

Mr. Noyes entered upon his eightieth year apparently well and strong, little realizing that he had but one more week of life. A few days later, the last time he was at his desk, he announced to one of the older men at the store that he had just had a birthday and remarked that he had just 362 good sound days ahead of him before he would be eighty years old. The man congratulated him on the prospect and wished that the next twenty-five years of his life would be as happy and fortunate as the last twenty-five years during which they had been associated. Mr. Noyes stopped a moment, as if reckoning up, and then said with a twinkle in his eye, "That is fine, but why limit me, why limit me?"

On the very next day he suffered from an acute attack of appendicitis. He was operated upon at once, but at his age the chance of recovery was small. He failed to rally and passed away early in the morning of April 30, 1921. The funeral services were conducted by his pastor, the Reverend Henry C. Swearingen, at the church he loved, and the burial was in the family lot at Oakland Cemetery.

Mr. Noyes's career was a happy one. He enjoyed good health and all his faculties during a long life, experienced few personal sorrows, and was spared a lingering illness at the end. He started life with very limited worldly advantages and had to give up a college education; but with application, thrift, a keen business mind, and observation of the highest standards of business honor, he built up step by step during a long life a comfortable fortune. He married happily, and saw four children grow up, the three boys securing the education at Yale that had been denied to him. He saw the three oldest children married and independently established in comfortable homes of their own. He found increasing pleasure in his later years in his grandchildren and the widening family circle. In a time of change he never faltered in his devotion to the faith of his fathers.

Mr. Noyes took a helpful and important part in the varied life of his city, except in the one field of politics. He never ran for office, nor was he ever actively engaged in political work. Probably the thought to do so never occurred to him, since, like the rest of us, he realized that the industrial conflict has rendered it almost impossible for a successful business man to use his great abilities in the public service. In this his career differs from that of many of his ancestors who not only had the ability but actually did render the body politic efficient and loyal service.

The record of his life shows him a worthy descendant of these men and women who lived such useful lives and whose careers he delighted to study and preserve from oblivion. Assuredly Mr. Noyes enjoyed that "purest and most enduring of human pleasures . . . the possession of a good name among one's neighbors and acquaintances. . . . Such reputation regards not mental power, or manual skill, but character; it is slowly built upon purity, integrity, courage and sincerity. To possess it is a crowning satisfaction."

WILLIAM W. CUTLER

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA



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