

IN MEMORIAM.

Gov. John Wesley Hoyt, who during his long and distinguished career was for ten years editor of *The Wisconsin Farmer*, died recently at the residence of his son, Kepler Hoyt, at Chevy Chase, District of Columbia, at the advanced age of eighty-five years. Governor Hoyt was one of the most notable men who figured prominently in the upbuilding of the great state of Wisconsin and gave liberally of his time and talent to the beloved state of his adoption. He was honored not only in this state, but throughout the entire nation and had occupied numerous positions of trust and responsibility, being a prominent factor in the cause of educational work and political reform throughout the entire United States. Governor Hoyt was born on his father's farm near Worthington, Ohio, October 13, 1831, and graduated from the Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware. Following this he studied law in the office of Salmon P. Chase, and subsequently graduated both in law and medicine. He was connected with various medical colleges and institutions of higher learning in the East for the first eight years after graduating, removing to Madison, Wis., in 1857. Governor Hoyt had a vigorous part in the formation of the republican party, attended the conventions which nominated Fremont and Lincoln and campaigned effectively in a number of states for the republican party in most of its presidential campaigns. In 1859 he engaged Abraham Lincoln to deliver the annual address at the Wisconsin State Fair at Milwaukee, introducing him to the audience and at the close of the address naming him for president of the United States. From 1857 to 1867 Governor Hoyt was publisher and editor of "*The Wisconsin Farmer*", gaining for it prominence among agricultural journals, and while thus employed had a foremost part, through this paper and on the platform, in the advocacy of the Morrill bill for the endowment of colleges of agriculture and the mechanic arts, being credited by Mr. Morrill with more hard work than any other man of whom he knew. From 1858 to 1862 he was secretary and managing officer of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society, obtaining for it enlarged endowments and increased fa-

cilities. From 1869 to 1871 he was also secretary of the Chicago Historical Society, and at this period was vice president of the United States Agricultural Society.

In 1862 he was Wisconsin's commissioner to the London Universal Exhibition and in 1867 was United States Commissioner to the Paris Universal Exposition. At the close of this exposition, and by request of Secretary of State Seward, he visited every important educational institution in Europe and America, and submitted a voluminous report, which was printed by congress, and received the encomiums of the highest authorities at home and abroad.

He next reorganized the University of Wisconsin, addressing the legislature in its behalf, and obtaining for it increased lands and endowments, the incorporation of professional departments, and a higher university rank, as well as the location, at its seat, of the new state agricultural college. He was then invited by Pres. Daniel Read, of the Missouri State University, to visit that state, where he addressed the legislature in joint session and obtained the location of the Missouri State Agricultural College at the seat of the state university.

In 1870, he founded the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, and was its president until 1877, obtaining for it offices in the state capitol and the publication of its proceedings by the state.

During the "Granger war" in Wisconsin, 1874-6, he was state railway commissioner, and, with a view to effecting peace, traveled throughout the United States, investigating railway laws and systems, and submitted a report which he defended before the legislature and which settled the conflict, so that he received the thanks of the legislature, on behalf of the people, and the thanks of all the railway presidents. At this period he was also Wisconsin's commissioner of water routes to the seaboard.

In 1873 he was executive and final acting chief United States commissioner to the Vienna Universal Exposition of 1873 and president of its international jury for education and science, receiving a diploma of honor from the impèrial commission. In 1876 he was United States commissioner to the Centennial Universal Exposition at Philadelphia, and president of its international jury for education and science, and submitted a lengthy report on education in connection therewith, which was published by congress. He was endorsed by the entire Wisconsin delegation in Congress for the Austrian mission, but found that it had been promised to Hon. John A. Kasson, and declined the mission to Switzerland.

While devoting himself to the improvement of commercial relations between the United States and the Central and South American Republics, he accepted, against his will, and only at the earnest solicitation of President Hayes, the governorship of the Territory of Wyom-

ing, in 1878. In Wyoming he made himself active by explorations, pacification of Indian tribes, the formation of bureaus of geological survey, fish culture and protection of live stock, the improvement of the public school system, the inauguration of public libraries and industrial enterprises, including the extension of railways into the territory, and was unanimously endorsed by the legislature, one house being republican and the other democratic, for reappointment by President Arthur. In 1882 he secured a full exhibit of Wyoming's resources at the Denver National Exposition, and in 1884-5 was president of the international jury for education and science at the New Orleans Universal Exposition.

It was due almost entirely to Governor Hoyt's determined and untiring efforts that the National University, of which he was the chairman of the committee of 400 was promoted. In addition to his valued services as a teacher, editor and statesman, Governor Hoyt attained fame as an author, his numerous brochures on early Wisconsin history, on educational matters in general and on scientific research winning for him a well-founded reputation in the world of arts and letters. The death of Governor Hoyt removes a man whom the people delighted to honor and who invariably proved true to the trust and responsibilities placed upon him.