

SUCCESSFUL MEN OF UTAH

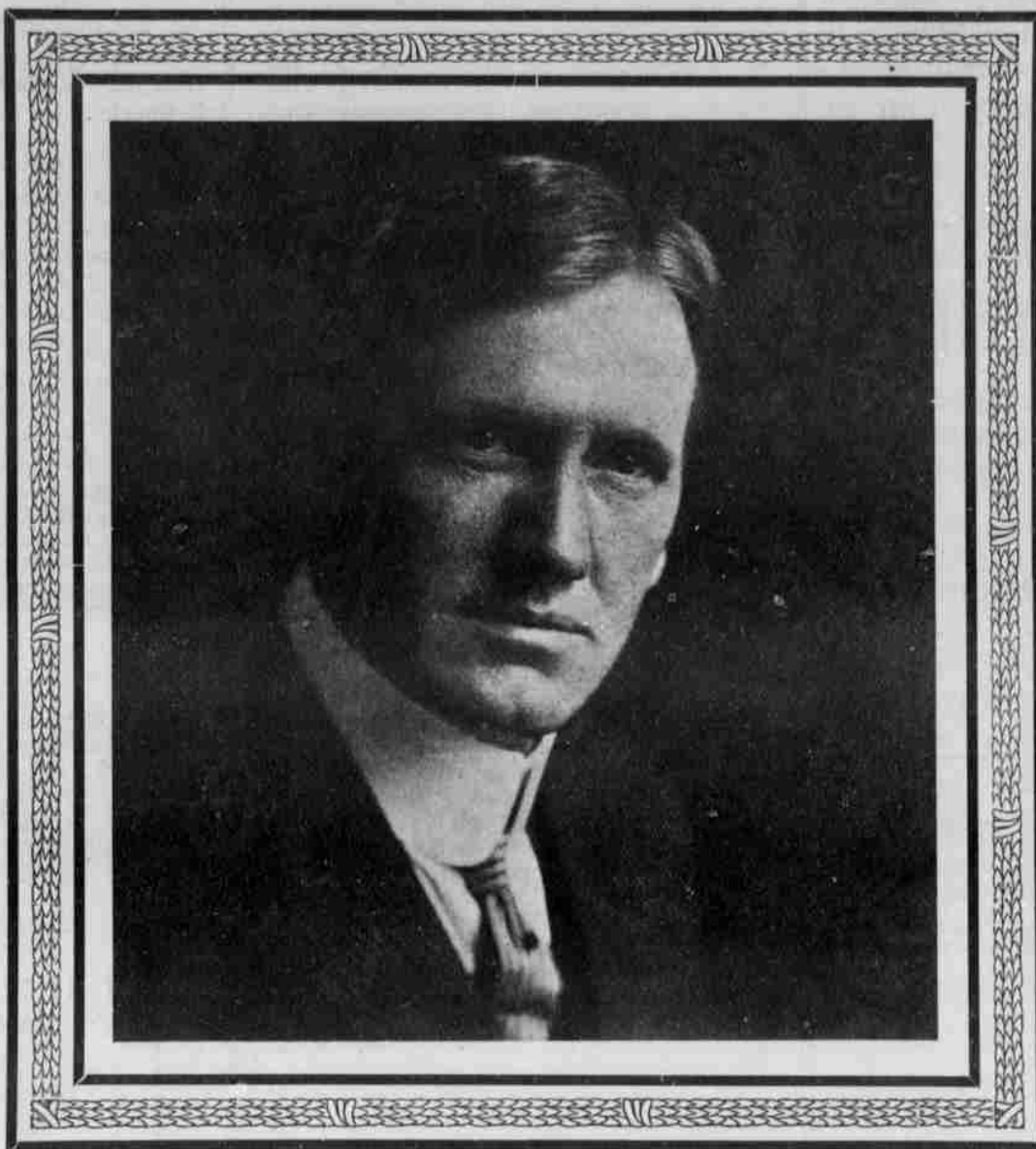
Nephi L. Morris

NEPHI LOWELL MORRIS native born and bred, personifies the highest type of Utah citizenship. He believes in Utah; he is true to her traditions, and he has devoted his life work to the development of her resources and the uplift of her people. He is essentially a man of many parts—an organizer of industry, a student of statecraft, a champion of public morals, an advocate of the highest and best in our modern civilization; and he practices what he preaches. By virtue of his high personal honor, his integrity, his intense public-spiritedness, and his devotion to duty as he finds things to do, he is respected and loved by all who know him.

Mr. Morris was born in Salt Lake City in 1870. His father, Elias Morris, and his mother, Mary Lois Walker, both of British birth, were Utah pioneers in 1853. During his boyhood he attended the public schools of the day and in vacation time assisted his father in his business enterprises. While still a boy he made bricks, tended masons, and used the trowel as an apprentice brick layer. He also learned the miller's trade and was for several years associated in the operation of a flour mill. By the time he attained young manhood, he had not only mastered several trades, but had also pursued his studies at the Brigham Young Academy at Provo, the Salt Lake Stake Academy, and the University of Utah.

In 1891, Mr. Morris was called on a mission with fifty other young men and for several months he travelled in northern Utah and southern Idaho, engaging in the church work which afterwards became known as the Renaissance of Mutual Improvement work. On December 2nd, he departed for a three years' mission to Europe. The first year he labored in the city of Manchester. Then he moved to Liverpool and was called upon to preside over the London conference, which position he held for the remainder of the time spent abroad.

Upon his return home in 1895, he was associated with the superintendency of the Y. M. M. I. A. of the Salt Lake stake which then embraced the entire county. The following year he was named a member of the general board of the Y. M. M. I. A. in which capacity he labored for a number of years, travelling throughout the various stakes organizing the work, and contributing to the Improvement Era, the official publication of the association. In 1898 he was called to the bishopric of the Fifteenth Ecclesiastical ward, over which his father before him had presided for many years. In 1904 he was elected to the



presidency of the Salt Lake stake, one of the largest organizations of its kind in the Mormon church. As an exponent of the faith, Mr. Morris has few equal and his volunteer services have been as varied in number and character as his official duties.

In business affairs Mr. Morris has always been a strong advocate for home industries, and has expended considerable of his time and means in their development. In 1898 his father died and the heavy responsibility of conducting the affairs of the Elias Morris & Sons Company was shifted to his shoulders. The concern was more of a liability than an asset at the time, and he set to work to put it on a sound footing. He succeeded in his efforts. The company is now on a substantial basis and is about to mark its fiftieth milestone.

Mr. Morris has perhaps devoted more attention to the development of the concrete industry than any other person in the state, and has succeeded in building up a business of national reputation. The Utah Concrete Pipe company, of which he is the founder, principal owner and directing genius, is recognized as one of the most substantial of the home industries and is liberally patronized in this and other states. Just recently, through the personal enterprise of Mr. Morris, this company has extended its field into South America and has succeeded in placing a heavy order for its products in that territory. These achievements, all due to the tireless efforts of its manager, have placed the company among the foremost of its

kind in the United States.

Besides his other business enterprises, Mr. Morris is heavily interested in the Desert Building Society. He was one of the original incorporators and has been its president for the past ten years. This association, founded on the mutual plan, has made a splendid record and its assets have grown to approximately one million dollars.

Notwithstanding the extent of his sectarian work and his business enterprises, Mr. Morris devotes more time perhaps to the serious study of statecraft and the exposition of public issues than any churchman or business captain in the state. He was a prominent Republican member of the second state legislature. He has well defined views on all matters affecting the general welfare of the state, and stands out as the fearless champion of the cause of the common people. No private citizen in Utah stands higher, wields a greater influence in public affairs, or commands as large a personal following.

In 1912 as the Progressive candidate for governor, Mr. Morris received the votes of upwards of twenty-five thousand citizens who disregarded party affiliations to endorse his candidacy. He made an active campaign, but reiterated again and again that his fight was lodged, not against the Republican party as a party, but against the system of bossism by which that party was ruled and its policies controlled. With marked consistency he demanded that the private citizen, the rank and file of all parties, be given representation in the party councils and on the ticket. He led the fight also against the practice of farming out the state's funds to favored banks without recompense to the state.

Mr. Morris lost the fight for the governorship, but today the state is receiving interest on the deposit of its funds, and the great mass of the body politic have taken up his cry for representative rule in the state and for the overthrow of the political bosses.

Nobody would begrudge some congressman all the mileage they want, if it were not for the return trip.—Springfield Republican.

Krupp firm subscribing \$10,000,000 to the fourth German war loan does not have our national prejudice against rebates.—Wall Street Journal.

If every congressman had been naturalized he would at least have read the American constitution.—Wall Street Journal.