

elevator on its way to the sea as soon as it was completed has just begun. For years he waited and hoped and strove, but saw only one to two million bushels per year go by. Last year the expected flow commenced, the shipments being upwards of eleven millions of bushels from New Orleans. He did not live to reap the benefits nor to see this realization of his expectations. In October, 1878, his whole family; self, wife, sister, and his son Len, wife and boy—were stricken down with yellow fever. Harriet Higby, his only sister, died. She was well known and highly respected in Milwaukee as a school teacher for many years. The other members of the family recovered, but Mr. Higby's constitution was shattered. He never recovered his strength and sank into a decline and died March 12, 1879. Mr. Higby married Miss Sophia Higby, of Fey Creek, Otsego County, New York, in 1836. She is still living in New Orleans. Their surviving children are: Theron Higby, now a resident of Milwaukee, and Len, still residing in New Orleans.

While a resident of Milwaukee Mr. Higby was a business power in the city, and ranks among the foremost in energy, skill and all other attributes required to make up an efficient and invincible business character. He was one of the organizers of the Chamber of Commerce and its first President.

JOHN BRADFORD was born, October, 1815, in New Boston, N. H. In 1839 he came to Detroit, and was there engaged in mercantile business for four years, with the late Zach. Chandler. He settled in Milwaukee in 1846, when, in company with his brother Joseph, he established the wholesale dry goods firm of Bradford Bros. He was an active partner till 1858, at which time he retired from the firm. He was subsequently, for several years, a partner in the carpet house of Bradford & Stark, but took no very active part in the prosecution of the business. For nearly ten years preceding his death, he ceased active business, further than the management of his ample estate. He died May 3, 1879. During the business period of his life in Milwaukee, he was an active and public-spirited citizen, and did much to foster the trade of the city, and otherwise enhance its growth and prosperity.

HORATIO HILL was born in Bangor, Maine, October 11, 1815, where he spent his early years, and acquired a good practical education in the common schools. His father was a furrier, and previous to coming West young Hill was engaged in that business, and also learned the wool and wool-pulling business. He made his first business visit to Milwaukee in 1847, and spent the Summer of that year in the city and towns in the eastern portion of the State, buying wool. His head-quarters were with the old firm of Wells & Dousman, in the Yellow Warehouse, where he received, packed and shipped his purchases. Mr. Daniel Wells, Jr., himself a native of Maine, held out such business inducements to the young wool-merchant as to decide him to remove to Milwaukee. He accordingly returned in 1848, and entered into partnership with Mr. Wells, thus establishing the well-remembered pioneer firm of Wells & Hill. The business of the firm was under the immediate management of Mr. Hill, the immense lumber interests of the senior partner, Mr. Wells, engrossing a large share of his attention. The house was, during the entire period of its existence, the leading, if not the heaviest, produce concern in Milwaukee. It dealt in every kind of farm produce, as fast as the farmers had any surplus above their home wants to dispose of. There are many of the old farmers of that time living who remember that the first wool, the first wheat, oats, rye, or hogs that they sold off their new farms, were sold to Horatio Hill. He did more than any one of his contemporaries in the trade to establish a reliable market in Milwaukee as the first surplus overflow from the Wisconsin farms began to seek an outlet. He was one of the earliest shippers of wheat and wool, and was a member of the syndicate that is believed to have packed the first Boston mess pork that was ever packed in Milwaukee, which was shipped to Eastern markets and there passed inspection. This occurred in 1850. The parties to the pork-packing speculative enterprise, with interest held by each, were as follows: Wells & Hill, one-third interest; — Dickerman, one-third; Charles H. Wheeler, one-sixth; Joseph F. Hill and Ralph C. Johnson, one-twelfth each. After six years Mr. Wells retired from the firm, and Joseph F. Hill, a younger brother, became associated in business, and it was so continued till the breaking out of the war, under the name of H. & J. F. Hill. This firm, like its predecessor, continued as a leading wheat and produce and shipping firm during its existence. Mr. Horatio Hill took an active outside interest in the early development of the railroad interests of the city and State. He was one of the organizers and the President of the Milwaukee & Beloit Railroad Company. Good progress was being made towards the completion of this important feeder to Milwaukee when the panic of 1857 overwhelmed the enterprise, as it did all others at that time, where further outlay of money was needed. He was also largely interested in the Penokee Iron Company, which, like the Beloit railroad, came to a standstill during the same season of business depression. He was one of the organizers of the Chamber of Commerce, and one of its leading members till he left the city. He was one of the first Board of Directors, served as Vice President in 1859-60, and as President in 1860-61. He left Milwaukee with the Sixth Wisconsin Regiment, Colonel Cutler, as Sutler. After leaving the army, he went to Portland, Maine, where he was engaged for some years in the flour and grain trade, then moved to Burlington, N. J., where he was engaged in fruit farming when he died. His death occurred in January, 1875, the exact date is inaccessible. Mr. Hill is still remembered as one of the most public-spirited and noble-hearted citizens that walked the streets twenty years ago, and by all now living who were his contemporaries, and by his personal friends, to whom he was ever true as steel, with undimmed affection.