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THE NEW SUPREME COURT



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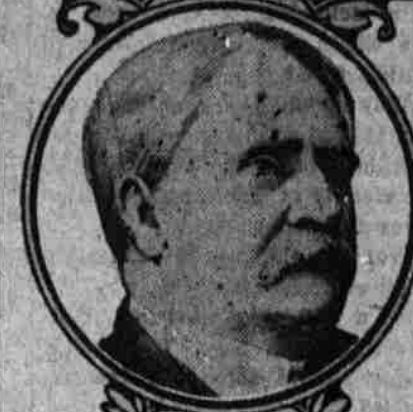
CHIEF JUSTICE MELVILLE W. FULLER



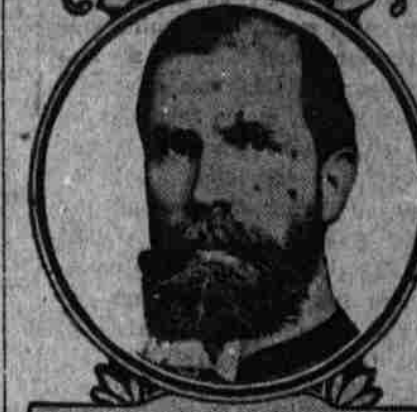
WILLIAM R. DAY



WILLIAM H. MOODY



HORACE H. LURTON



CHARLES E. HUGHES

By WALTON WILLIAMS.
WHEN Charles Evans Hughes takes his place on the United States supreme court bench on Oct. 10 he will be the youngest member of the court. Governor Hughes is forty-eight years old, and the youngest member next to him, Justice Moody, is eight years his senior. Of the other members of our highest judicial tribunal Chief Justice Fuller and Justice Harlan are each seventy-seven, or nearly thirty years older than Hughes. Justice Holmes is sixty-nine, Justice McKenna sixty-seven, Justice Lurton sixty-six, Justice White sixty-five and Justice Day sixty-one. The average age of the justices, including Hughes, will thus be a trifle over sixty-five years, or seventeen years older than the governor himself. Justice Hughes will have twenty-two years to serve before he reaches the age of voluntary retirement, and if he lives to the age of Marshall, Taney, Field and others of the great justices of the past he will be on the bench over thirty years, or till very nearly the middle of the twentieth century.

Should Justice Moody recover his health and take his place at the beginning of the October term of court there will be a full bench for the first time in more than a year. Owing to Moody's illness and the deaths of Justices Peckham and Brewer the court has met during the present season often with only seven members and sometimes with only six.

The supreme court that convenes in October will be a distinguished body aside from its own peculiar fame. Among its members will be three former cabinet officers, McKenna, Day and Moody; one former United States senator, White; one noted law writer and chief justice of the Massachusetts court, Holmes; one circuit judge that served with President Taft, Lurton; one former governor of the Empire State and presidential possibility, Hughes, and two white haired jurists who have gained fame through long service in the supreme court itself, Fuller and Harlan. Geographically there will be two members from Massachusetts and one each from New York, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana and California. Politically the court will stand six Republicans and three Democrats. Two of the justices, White and Lurton, were soldiers in the Confederate army, and two more, Harlan and Holmes, fought in the Union army.

Graduated at Thirteen.

Governor Hughes is a son of a Baptist minister. From the time of his birth in Glens Falls, N. Y., on April 11, 1862, until his father was called to New York city from Newark, N. J., about twelve years later, the family was more or less on the move. His mother had been a schoolteacher before her marriage, and, realizing the disadvantages that a child labors under in getting an education first at this school and then at that, she decided to teach the boy herself.

HUGHES' RECORD ON PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

Voted bill providing for two cent fare on the railroads of the state on the ground that passage of the measure would prove confiscatory to some of the smaller railroads.

Brought about passage of bills providing for creation of the public service commissions.

Voted the Coney Island five cent fare bill on the theory that the matter was one for the public service commission to pass upon.

Drafted the new insurance laws, following the investigation of 1906, which he as counsel conducted.

Fought for and obtained the passage of the anti race track betting bills.

Caused appointment of committee to investigate Wall street speculation, which resulted in a clean bill of health for the Stock Exchange.

Advocated the adoption of a system of direct primaries.

Recommended that the legislature reject the proposed income tax amendment because of objection to phraseology rather than principle involved.

Advocated legislation placing telephone and telegraph companies under jurisdiction of public service commissions.

In the one year that he went to public school in Newark and during his brief public school career in New York, ending with his graduation at the age of thirteen, he showed a proficiency beyond his years in mathematics and a memory for figures that proved astonishing to his teachers. While at Colgate university (then Madison) and later on at Brown university, where he graduated in 1881, he was frequently interpreter of higher mathematics for his fellow students.

Governor Hughes took up the study of law while a student at Brown university. After leaving Brown Mr. Hughes became a teacher at Delhi, N. Y., and between the hours when he was teaching Greek and mathematics studied law at an office there. As a clerk he took particular delight in illuminating the accounts of obscurity that fell to his lot, and in the early years of his practice it was frequently his habit to seek amusement in solving mathematical rebuses and puzzles and in inventing and solving problems.

After a year at Delhi Mr. Hughes decided that the only proper place to study law was at a law school, and he entered the Columbia Law school in 1882 at the age of twenty. Two years later he was graduated, taking a fellowship in his senior year, which entitled him to conduct a quiz for three years at a salary of \$500 a year. This was of great assistance to the embryo lawyer, just at the threshold of his career, and he also conducted a private quiz on his own account at the same time while he was getting started in a law office.

Mr. Hughes first had a desk in the law office of General Stewart L. Woodford, who was then United States attorney, and a short time later entered the law office of Chamberlain, Carter & Hornblower of New York city.

His First Case.

While a clerk with this firm Mr. Hughes got his first case and after twelve months of hard work won a decision, but no great financial reward. It was shortly after this, in 1887, that he became a member of the firm which was then known as Carter, Hughes & Cravath.

Mr. Hughes had always had a strong inclination toward teaching, and in 1891 he became a member of the law faculty of Cornell university, remaining there for two years. He then re-entered the law firm and in 1905 became the active head, Mr. Carter having died, of Hughes, Rounds & Schurman.

It was in this same year that Mr. Hughes first came prominently into the public eye, when he was made counsel for the legislative commission that investigated the cost of gas in

New York city. The idea of accepting the position did not appeal to Mr. Hughes, as he had always kept to a strictly private practice.

In this gas investigation Hughes set a new standard for work of the kind. His grasp of technical detail was amazing to the specially trained men who represented the gas companies, and his ability to extract facts essential to the commission was extraordinary.

Famed as an Investigator.

So thorough was his work in the gas investigation that he was generally regarded as the only candidate when the Armstrong commission met to choose counsel for the insurance investigation. Mr. Hughes conducted the investigation of the insurance companies with the same exactitude of detail that had characterized his work in the gas investigation and left the state staggered by the results accomplished.

By the time Mr. Hughes had conducted the gas and insurance investigations his fame as an investigator had spread abroad, and Attorney General Moody appointed him counsel for the federal investigation into the business of the coal carrying railroads with relation to their ownership of coal properties. The appointment was offered to Mr. Hughes and Alexander Simpson, Jr., and this work was as thorough as that of Mr. Hughes in the gas and insurance investigations. Then came the nomination that led to Mr. Hughes' election as governor of New York in 1906.

Mr. Hughes gets his powers of endurance primarily from an ancestry of Welsh, Scotch and Irish. His father came of Welsh and Scotch stock and his mother of Scotch and Irish. He has developed the heritage, however, by the practice of a theory in which he is a firm believer. He holds that under the right conditions a man cannot overwork his brain. He says a well organized and developed brain is like the muscle of a highly trained athlete, which is only bettered by constant hard work. "Exercise the brain" is one of his maxims, and he lives up to it.

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