

JOHN ALLEN BAGLEY



*John A. Bagley*

PROGRESSIVE MEN OF SOUTHERN IDAHO.

HON. JOHN A. BAGLEY.

To epitomize the life and character of Hon. John A. Bagley, the present attorney general of the state of Idaho, within the limits of which this work allows is impossible, but none the less the record of his useful life and activities must be a constituent portion of any volume that claims to deal with the life record and character of the representative and progressive men of this section of the state; far less than many of the residents of the county does he need a written statement for the clearness of his purpose, the soundness of his judgment, his tireless activity and his pronounced ability have impressed the "very age and body of time," making his life a positive factor and controlling force in many of the leading industries and enterprises of the place and period.

Hon. John A. Bagley was born in Draper, Utah, on May 16, 1862, a son of John and Mary J. (Allen) Bagley, the father being a native of New Brunswick, and for further ancestral data we would refer the reader to the sketch of John Bagley published on other pages of this book. General Bagley received his pre-

liminary educational training in the primitive schools of Idaho, as he was but two years of age when he accompanied his parents to this then lonely land, and the education he here acquired was supplemented by an attendance at the excellent high schools of Utah and further increased by a full course in the Brigham Young College, from which he was graduated with distinct honors in 1882, his first instruction, however, being under Dr. John Park, now of Salt Lake City, who taught him his alphabet. Immediately upon graduating he became connected with railroad construction and assisted in completing the Oregon Short Line Railroad from Granger to Huntington, in this manner earning the necessary money to defray his expenses as a student of Michigan State University, at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in the law department in 1888, being thoroughly reinforced and equipped with the necessary technical and legal erudition to pass the prescribed examination and be admitted to practice. Coming immediately to Montpelier, he at once engaged in a legal practice that his ability soon made extensive, far-reaching and lucrative, his services being demanded not only in the courts of Bear Lake county, but in every county of the state of Idaho and extending into Wyoming, Utah, Montana and Nebraska, becoming known as one of the most eminent members of the bar of the state, which has been from the first signally favored in the personnel of its legists and jurists.

In the departments of industrial activity that so long lay dormant in this portion of the West General Bagley is the owner of valuable interests in mines in this vicinity, holding an interest also in the electric light plant in Montpelier, and in numerous other prosperous industries. He is the president of the Montpelier Copper and Mining Co., which has such a fine development and showing for a good mine that

the company expects soon to install expensive machinery to continue the development to a dividend-paying state.

General Bagley has always rendered a loyal allegiance to the principles and policies of the Republican party, is one of the leading members of that political organization in the state and one of its most eloquent and talented advocates, and it is recognized by all political elements that his services in that direction have been invaluable and due recognition of this has been shown by his receiving the nomination of his party for attorney general in 1896 and for district judge for the Fifth judicial district in 1898, but, as a minority candidate in each instance, he shared in the defeat of the whole ticket. In 1902, however, he again received the nomination for attorney general and at the subsequent election received the highest majority of any candidate on the state ticket and was most triumphantly elected, the voters of the state doing themselves honor by their indorsement of his nomination, and he is now in the incumbency of this most important office, in which his ablest efforts are used for the furtherance of justice and the true interests of the state.

In Salt Lake City, Utah, on August 2, 1883, occurred the marriage ceremonies uniting in the bonds of wedlock General Bagley and Miss Sarah E. Lawson, a native of Lehi, Utah, and a daughter of John and Margaret V. (Vance) Lawson, her father being deceased, and her mother now maintaining her home at Coalville, Utah, both being among the early pioneers of Utah territory. On April 5, 1885, Mrs. Bagley passed over to those activities that have no weariness, leaving one child, L. Lorraine, now a student at Provo, Utah. Mr. Bagley contracted a second marriage on August 15, 1888, with Miss Mina V. Furrow, a native of Clinton, Iowa, daughter of John and Amanda (Vanhorn) Furrow, and of this marriage union

has resulted six children: Vanhorn, Moretta, Almorean, Hawley, Lucile, Nina B.

The elegant residence of General Bagley at Montpelier deserves especial mention. It is the largest and most pretentious home of the entire Bear Lake country, containing as it does twenty-one rooms, with three stories and an attic, all lighted by electricity and heated by furnaces. It is very artistically arranged, showing the fine taste of both the General and his cultured wife, the large entrance hall and the three adjoining parlors being finished in clear Georgia pine and connecting with ample folding doors, having also large grates and mantels, appropriately placed to send out an atmosphere of cheer and radiance in the pleasant winter evenings. All through the home modern science has been brought to play in producing the best sanitary and domestic effects, everything being in the latest fashion. One leading feature is the attic, so generally consigned to the fate of a mere storehouse and lumber room. Here is a notable exception. The chief portion of this is a children's romp room and sanctum, the walls being covered with paintings and chalk drawings of more than ordinary merit. Off from this has at one of the front corners been projected a room, called the "den," being really an elegant combined study and library, where the genial owner can in quiet pass thoughtful, meditative and studious hours, free from the annoyance of interruptions. From the ample windows one of the most beautiful vistas of the noted scenery of the Bear River and Lake country spreads itself before the enraptured vision.

General Bagley is financially interested in the Montpelier Lumber Co., the Pacific Irrigation Canal Co., the Fossil oil fields of Wyoming, and the North Star Cattle Co., being attorney for all these corporations and a director in each. Few men have a stronger hold upon the hearts of the people than General Bagley, as

he believes in the theory of making the world better by having lived in it, and his friends are numbered without regard to political partisanship or party bias. Modest in his demeanor, courteous and cultured in his personal intercourse with all, he has attained one of the highest positions in the gift of the people of his state from his most admirable qualities of character and ability, which have been equal to every demand; and in the annals of Idaho he will ever stand as one of her most distinguished citizens and able and upright public men.

