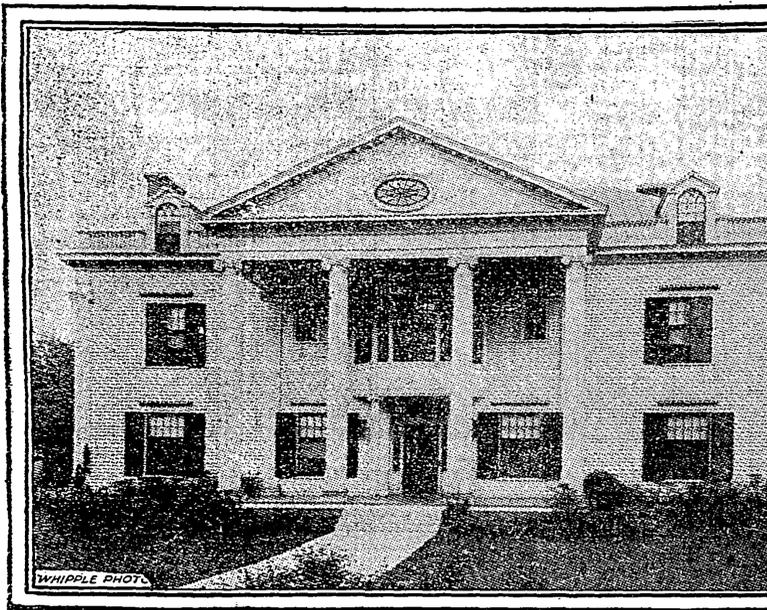


EMPIRE STATE'S INCOMING CHIEF MAGISTRATE



THE HIGGINS RESIDENCE AT OLEAN

Close Range Character Sketch of Francis Wayland Higgins--Plain "Frank" to His Fellow-townsmen--Fond of Bowling and Golf--His Varied Business Interests--A Charming Family Circle.

FRANK WAYLAND HIGGINS, Governor-elect of New York State, is just plain Frank Higgins to his fellow-townsmen in Olean. Until he was nominated for Lieutenant Governor two years ago, probably not half a dozen people in his home city knew what the initial "W." in his name stood for, and to the average Oleaner Wayland has an unfamiliar sound. The Governor-elect has always signed himself "Frank W. Higgins," and the more pretentious and dignified "Frank Wayland" is none of his doing, for the Empire State's new Chief Executive never has, and probably never will, put on any airs.

Said a prominent Oleaner the day he was elected: "Frank Higgins is direct, modest, and approachable; is dignified without being cold, and is utterly lacking in pose. Frank by name and frank by nature, he says what he means and means what he says. His word is as good as his note, and his note is good for a million."

When the late Mark Hanna was rounding up the delegates for William McKinley in 1896 Mr. Higgins was committed to the candidacy of his friend, Gov. Levi P. Morton. His district was demanding the naming of McKinley, and, despite the fact that he knew McKinley's nomination was a foregone conclusion, he persisted in his support of the Morton boom and gave up being a delegate to the National Convention rather than desert the forlorn hope of his friend. He had given his pledge to Gov. Morton, and that settled the matter.

During the recent campaign the Governor-elect was often called "Francis Wayland Higgins," but the official ballot read "Frank W. Higgins." In explanation, he said: "My mother was a great admirer of Dr. Francis Wayland, a celebrated Baptist clergyman, author and educator, who was born in New York City in 1796 and died in 1865. He wrote 'Limitations of Human Responsibility,' 'Domestic Slavery Con-

sidered as a Scriptural Institution,' &c., and when I was born my mother named me after him. From early boyhood, however, I was always called Frank, and I consider that my name."

The Governor-elect was born in the little village of Rushford, N. Y., on Aug. 18, 1856, and is consequently in his forty-ninth year. As a boy he was not particularly studious, but when he reached manhood he began making up for lost time, and years of careful reading and travel have done the work. Rushford Academy, Review Military Academy, Poughkeepsie, and a commercial college were the only institutions of learning he attended in his youth, but he has since been a diligent student in the great school of experience. He is interested in everything, from State finance and taxation to the making of half-tone cuts, from glass manufacture to the care of the insane, and from "The Simple Life" to "The Strenuous Life." He is a good listener as well as a good conversationalist, and he tries to learn something from every man, woman, and child he meets. He became an ardent politician at sixteen, during the Grant-Greeley campaign, and even at that early age displayed independence, for while his father supported Greeley, he was a sturdy boomer of Grant.

Politics, from this time on, had a great fascination for him, but he could never be induced to run for public office until 1893, when he was unanimously nominated for State Senator and elected by a plurality of 8,046 votes. In 1896, 1898, and 1900 he was re-elected by increased pluralities, and two years ago was chosen Lieutenant Governor. On the floor of the Senate he made no reputation as an orator, but he developed into a good public speaker, and in repartee often more than held his own with Grady, the wit of the upper house.

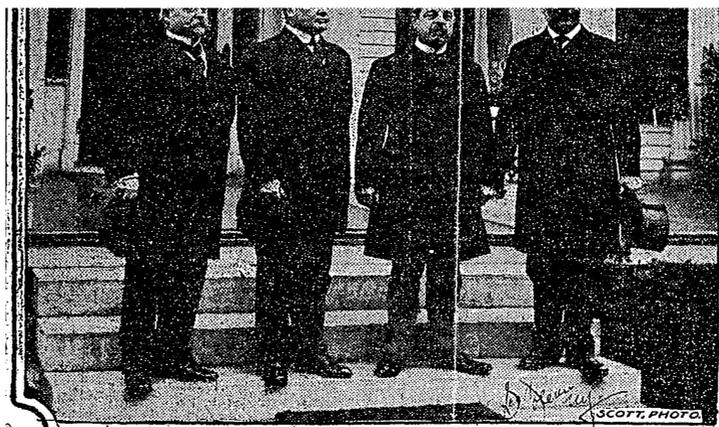
The Governor-elect is often seen with a cigar in his mouth, but it is usually un-



GOV. ELECT FRANK W. HIGGINS
PIRIE MAC DONALD, PHOTO.



MISS JOSEPHINE B. HIGGINS



ELIBUTLER TIMOTHY L. WOODRUFF GOKELECZ HIGGINS NKKFRANCHOTT
AN INTERESTING GROUP

lighted; he owns several horses, but rarely drives them, and his only athletic diversions are bowling and the "royal and ancient" game of golf. Like Walter J. Travis, he learned the game after he had passed thirty-five--beyond which age few men ever learn to play well--and it must be admitted, however reluctantly, that he is like Travis in no other respect. He does his eighteen holes somewhere around 100 strokes, and, as he is a Vestryman of good standing in St. Stephen's Church in Olean, his language naturally needs little editing even after he has buried his faithless niblick three times in the base of a bunker. When he and the

celebrated "Colonel Bogy" are running on opposite tickets, so to speak, the "Colonel" usually holes out by a very respectable majority.

The Governor-elect plays on the links of the Clean Golf Club, of which he is an ex-President and of which he was one of the founders. As a bowler he shines in a more favorable light. The annual Winter tournament of the City Club of Olean invariably draws him to the alleys, and few men in his home city roll more "strikes" and

"spares" than he. Coatless and chewing an unlighted cigar, he keeps the pin boys busy, and apparently displays as much interest in his score as he does in the election returns when he is a candidate for office at the polls.

A friend seeking him in Olean will usually find him in one of four places, his beautiful Colonial home on the south side of City Hall Park, his office in the Masonic Temple, the City Club, or the office of his intimate friend and political manager, ex-

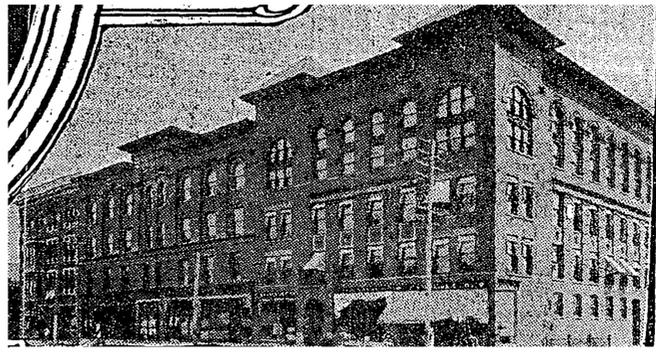


SCOTT PHOTO.

MRS. HIGGINS



SCOTT PHOTO. F. HARRISON HIGGINS



MR. HIGGINS' PLACE OF BUSINESS

Mayor N. V. V. Franchot. If a search of these places does not disclose him he will doubtless be found on the links of the golf club, a mile and a half distant. The three places where he is not at all likely to be in evidence are the three grocery stores in Olean bearing the Higgins name, for, while he is nominally Olean's leading grocer, he is actually only the inactive partner and capitalist in the stores, the management being intrusted to faithful associates. Olean's oldest inhabitants find difficulty in recalling the time when "Frank" was seen behind the counter, but the stores were started during the lifetime of his father, they have been profitable ventures, and he has continued to run them during his eight years as State Senator and his two years as Lieutenant Governor. Doubtless many men of his prominence would have been annoyed at times by delivery wagons which rattled through the principal streets placarded with the virtues of "Higgins' Bread," but all that the Senator or Lieutenant Governor demanded was that the bread should be as good as it was advertised to be.

When Gov. Odell was accused two years ago of being a stockholder in a concern that sold groceries to State institutions, every Olean wit stopped Mr. Higgins on the street and sprang this on him:

"Say, Frank, if they ever accuse you of being in the grocery business you'll be caught with the goods on!"

It was a good joke then, and the future Governor always smiled, but it ceased to be a joke during the late campaign when cer-

tain newspapers, with sinister meaning, began calling him the "groceries candidate." It is only fair to say that no one has ever charged the Olean stores with having sold a single pound of groceries to the State, but the innuendo of the cartoonists, no matter how unjust, was a dangerous factor in a close campaign, and the candidate for the first time in his life wished that some one else owned the wagons that were booming "Higgins' Bread."

The Governor-elect owns vast tracts of pine and mineral lands in Michigan, Wisconsin, Washington, and other Western States, and is interested in banks, glass factories, an electric light company, and numerous enterprises. His business career began at the age of nineteen, and the fortune won by his father and himself has largely increased in recent years under his wise management. His ancestors were early settlers of the Connecticut Valley, and his grandfather, Dr. Timothy Higgins, located in Allegany County, New York, in 1818. His father, Orrin T. Higgins, who died fifteen years ago, was Rushford's richest citizen, and a very successful business man.

Governor-elect Higgins married young, and has one daughter, Miss Josephine, and two sons, O. T. Higgins and F. Harrison Higgins. O. T. Higgins is married and resides in Colorado. The children, like their father and mother, are unaffected and modest, and Miss Josephine is one of the prettiest girls in Western New York. The Higgins home is filled with antique Colonial furniture and is a most attractive place. In the yard near the house is a tree planted by President Roosevelt, who has long been a friend and admirer of the Governor-elect. When he is in Olean Mr. Higgins usually drops into the City Club in the evening to chat with his friends and swap stories. He is a good story-teller himself, and greatly appreciates a witty yarn. One of his friends not long ago built an expensive fireplace which was flanked by two seats, one of which was the top of a dumbwaiter, designed to raise firewood from the cellar to the fireplace. The friend was complaining of the great expense of his dumbwaiter and fireplace, when Mr. Higgins began to laugh.

"Never get into politics, my friend," he said with a return to solemnity.

"Why not?" asked the other in astonishment.

"If you ever get into politics," the Governor-elect continued solemnly, "and people find out you have a five-hundred dollar wood-box, I can see your finish!"