

MR. HIGGINS BURIED; PUBLIC MEN ATTEND

Gov. Hughes and Other Officials
at the Funeral at
Olean.

HIS CAREER PRAISED

Dr. Ashton Speaks of the ex-
Governor's Public and
Private Life.

OLEAN, N. Y., Feb. 15.—The body of ex-Gov. Frank Wayland Higgins was laid at rest this afternoon in the receiving vault in Mount View Cemetery, there to remain until the completion of the mausoleum for which Mr. Higgins had provided.

Gov. Charles E. Hughes, ex-Gov. David B. Hill, Lieut. Gov. Stuyvesant Chanler, Supreme Court Justice M. Linn Bruce, who served as Lieutenant Governor with Gov. Higgins, and delegations representing the State Senate and Assembly and the Court of Appeals joined with the people, not only of Olean, but of this entire section of the State, in showing honor to the memory of their distinguished fellow-citizen.

The Episcopal burial service was read at the ex-Governor's residence at 2 o'clock by the Rev. Dr. James W. Ashton, rector of St. Stephen's Church, of which Mr. Higgins was for more than twenty years a Vestryman. A male quartet from Buffalo, led by ex-Judge George A. Lewis, sang "Abide With Me" and "Lead, Kindly Light."

Prior to this service, from 11 A. M. to 12 noon, the body lay in state in the drawing room, and was viewed by hundreds of people, including the official delegation. Beside the casket stood ex-Mayor N. V. V. Franchot, who was, perhaps, Mr. Higgins's closest personal and political friend, and who served under him as Superintendent of Public Works.

The house was filled with flowers. Among those who sent them were the President and Mrs. Roosevelt, Gov. Hughes, the legislative committees, the Legislative Correspondents' Association, ex-Superintendent of Insurance Francis Hendricks of Syracuse, "The House of Lords," comprising a group of Mr. Higgins's legislative and official intimates, living together at Albany and including ex-Lieut. Gov. Bruce, State Tax Commissioner Frank E. Perley and Col. Selden Marvin, who were, respectively, Gov. Higgins's secretary and Military Secretary; ex-Secretary of State John F. O'Brien, ex-Controller William C. Wilson, ex-Attorney General Julius M. Mayer, ex-Treasurer John C. Wyckser, Supt. Kelsey of the Insurance Department, ex-Bank Superintendent Frederick D. Kilburn, Labor Commissioner Sherman, Game Commissioner Whipple, Speaker Wadsworth, Railroad Commissioner George W. Aldrich, and others.

During the funeral services all business houses and shops were closed, and the city wore a general aspect of mourning. The work in the city schools was suspended during the funeral hour, and the teachers in the various grades gave talks to the pupils on the life of ex-Gov. Higgins.

The services at the church were simple but very impressive. Dr. Ashton, Mr. Higgins's pastor, preached the sermon and paid a loving tribute to his lifelong friend and co-worker in the church. In his sermon he said in part:

"Ex-Gov. Higgins was a man of no ordinary creation. His life as a private citizen was of such a character that his passing away seemed to have caused an irreparable loss. There is hardly a characteristic concerning which it must be said that it is worth the having in order to make life worth the living, except good health, of which he was not a distinguished example. His whole soul was wrapped up in his home, and his spirit was one of serene joy in the presence of his family.

"I venture to speak also of the public career of Gov. Higgins, for I knew him even in that relation of his life. His sincerity has never been questioned. Never have the high offices of State been filled more honorably than by him. Slander has not dared to touch his motives or his aims. Political jealousy may have coiled about him like a viper, but he remained unterrified and unharmed. The question has always been with him as he once said to one close to him: 'Not what public opinion might pass upon my acts, not what men or newspapers say, but what I myself shall think of them after they are done.'

"He never did a wrong act consciously or intentionally. He was not cold and unsympathetic as political virtue sometimes makes a man, but made allowances for the mistakes of others, even some by whom his misplaced trust had been abused."