



The Nation Back of Us, The World in Front

Out West

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LOS ANGELES, CAL.

HUGHES, THOMAS, was born at Rice's Landing, Green County, Pennsylvania, August 25, 1859. His father was James Hughes, and his mother Fanny Cline. In June, 1881, he married Mrs. Perry Mosher in New Mexico.

Mr. Hughes attended the public schools of his home town, and after finishing his education left there in 1878 and went to Kansas, where he stayed for a short period. In 1880 he proceeded to Albuquerque, where he engaged in the contracting business until 1883, when he left to come to Los Angeles, believing that there were great opportunities here. On



THOS. HUGHES
Portrait by Steckel

his arrival here he sought and obtained employment in a planing mill, and worked there for one year, when he left to go into business on his own account. In 1884 Mr. Hughes purchased a mortiser and a tenoning machine, representing a cash investment of \$500 (all he had), and entered into the sash manufacturing business. This he carried on with continuous success for ten years, adding additional machinery and broadening the lines of the business as opportunity arose. In 1896 he organized the firm of Hughes Bros., and the firm was carried on under this style until 1902,

when it was incorporated as the Hughes Manufacturing Company, with Mr. Hughes as President. In this position he has continued until the present time, and the record from start to finish has been one of continued enlargement. The plant is now the largest and best equipped in the West in its line, covering about eleven acres of ground, representing an investment of some \$700,000, employing at times almost 500 men, and turning out sashes, doors, furniture, and indeed practically everything made of wood. He has done much building, and has uniformly been among the men who could be counted upon to take an active part in any movement for forwarding the interests of the community.

Mr. Hughes has been particularly active in oil matters, and in conjunction with Ed Strassburg and others was one of the first men to organize an oil company in this section, by forming the American Oil Company, which is one of the pioneer companies of this field. He located the first well, and was the pioneer of the Western Union Oil Company, and has been actively interested in this company ever since, also holding large interests in several other companies.

Important as have been the commercial and manufacturing enterprises which Mr. Hughes has built up, his service to the community has been quite as significant, if not more so, along the line of political affairs—this in spite of the fact that he has never held nor desired any political office. He construes it to be the first duty of a citizen, as a citizen, to interest himself vigorously, actively and effectively in politics, and this he has done for many years. A staunch Republican in politics, he has been one of the foremost leaders in the fight against machine domination of his party, actuated neither by any desire for personal advantage or position, nor by personal enmities or preferences, but solely by his judgment of what was for the real public interest. So careful has he been to keep himself free from any obligation which might tend to hamper his political action, that he has never taken a public contract, nor, although one of the largest shippers of freight in Los Angeles, has he ever ridden on a railroad pass. This habit of thought and action, together with his inherent gift of political generalship, has made him count heavily in the struggle to elevate the political standards of city and State.

He is a member of the Order of Elks, the Union League Club (of which he has been President), Driving Club, Los Angeles Country Club, and San Gabriel Country Club.