

Growers Exchange, also a director in the Orange Products Company. As a director in the Fumigating and Supply Company of Pomona, the Lemon By-Products of Corona, and the Fruit Growers Supply Company of Los Angeles, Mr. Crookshank takes an important part in the fruit industries in this section of the state, and has, since his first locating in Pomona, been a factor for progress and an incentive toward the amalgamation of the citrus growers' interests for mutual benefit. Gifted with the faculty for seeing into the future as regards the growth and expansion of a district, he has given of his time and influence with that end in view and has done as much as any one man for the advancement of Pomona Valley along these lines, the backbone of its prosperity. Mr. Crookshank was one of the organizers of the Chamber of Commerce, is a charter member, served as president one year, and has been a director since the start of the organization.

In the midst of his business cares Mr. Crookshank has found time to devote to the social and educational upbuilding of the community and has been active in Y. M. C. A. work, in donating and collecting for the new building in Pomona, and in various other ways has shown his public spirit and broad humanitarian ideals.

ELMER W. HART, L.L.M.

A gentleman of broad education and special scientific accomplishment who has come to devote his attention and experience to the many and important problems of citrus growing, is Elmer W. Hart, L.L.M., who was born in Racine, Wis., on February 8, 1863, the son of John S. and Susan (Hawkins) Hart, both natives of Meredith Village, N. H., who migrated to Racine, where John S. Hart was a successful woolen manufacturer. Enjoying the balmy climate of Southern California, he was in his later years accustomed to spend each winter in Pasadena. During this time the wisdom of his judgment caused him to purchase an orange orchard, in the culture of which he took much pride. His demise occurred in Pasadena in February, 1901, his estimable wife having preceded him to the Great Beyond several years before, the mother of six children, four now living, of whom our subject is the fourth eldest.

Elmer W. Hart was educated at Racine Academy, after which he entered the George Washington University, Washington, D. C., from which he was graduated with the class of 1889, when he received the degree of Master of Laws. Following that excellent preparation, he practiced his profession in Chicago. He had made several trips to California to visit his aged parent and then in the fall of 1900, on account of his father's serious illness, he came again to be with and cheer him. Having enjoyed the climate and country more and more each time, he concluded to locate here and after his father's

demise, he took up his residence in San Dimas and began the growing of citrus fruits, in which he has been so successful, applying the same zeal that characterized him in his profession, resulting in his becoming one of the best-posted men in the care and cultivation, as well as the marketing of oranges and lemons. He came to own two orchards, which he sold in 1909. This left him free to fulfill a cherished desire of visiting Europe, so with his wife, he spent two years traveling in the British Isles, as well as on the Continent. After his return, he again purchased an orange ranch and since August, 1911, has resided on his present place on Cienega Avenue. He has thirty acres devoted to citrus fruit and having applied the latest and most approved methods, he has obtained results commensurate. As a result of his general experience in this field and in the locality, Judge Hart has come to have great faith in San Dimas and its promising future. His influence for progress is recognized, and at present he is the president of the San Dimas Orange Growers Association as well as the San Dimas Fruit Exchange. To this latter position he was elected when the Exchange was organized in 1912, at the same time being elected by the Exchange as representative to the California Fruit Growers Exchange with headquarters in Los Angeles, and was by them in turn elected a member of its board of directors. In the deliberations of this body he is active, deeply conscientious, working for the growers' interest and doing all he possibly can to build up the citrus industry of the state of his adoption.

Judge Hart has been twice married. His first wife was Miss Esther Grey of San Francisco and the daughter of John Grey, a merchant of that metropolis, to whom he was wedded in 1902, and who died on January 15, 1918; while for his second marriage he chose for his companion, Miss Stella Lucas of Kansas City, an accomplished and attractive woman.

Mr. Hart was made a Mason in Home Lodge No. 508, F. & A. M., Chicago, from which he was demitted and he became a charter member of San Dimas Lodge, F. & A. M.; he is a member of Pomona Chapter, R. A. M., Chicago Consistory, thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Masons, and Al Malaikah Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., Los Angeles. He is a past exalted ruler of Pomona Lodge of Elks and is a popular member of the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles.

His veracity and integrity are unquestioned and his word once given is as good as his bond. For six years, Judge Hart was special examiner in the U. S. Pension office in Washington during the administration of President Harrison. Being a firm believer in protection, he is an ardent Republican, and is justice of the peace of his district, having accepted the office for the good he may do and not for its emoluments. Judge Hart is an inveterate worker and is never idle, always striving for the greatest good in the cooperation of the fruit

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men. His energy, ambition, as well as years of valuable experience make his advice much sought after and this, coupled with an amiable and pleasing personality, makes it little wonder that he has been selected as a director in an association that has done the greatest good and brought the most wealth to California of any association of its kind. He is a truly good, kind and considerate man, being highly esteemed and much honored, and his example is worthy of emulation.

IRA F. WHITE

The preservation of pioneer history in the state has become more and more valuable as the years vanish into the distance, and the life stories of the men and women who have helped to make it are so woven into the warp and woof of the progress made here within the past fifty and more years that to get the real history of California and her different localities we must write of their early struggles and development work, carried up to the present hour. It is they who have made possible our present and future prosperity and we are anxious to give them full credit for their achievements.

Ira F. White was born on a farm in Warren County, Ill., January 15, 1836, the son of William and Charity (Oglesby) White. The father was a building contractor, and his death occurred when Ira was ten years of age, which made it necessary for the lad to go to work on a farm. In the meantime the family had removed to Iowa, and William White died in Burlington, of that state.

Remaining on the farm until reaching the age of seventeen, Ira F. then learned the trade of tinsmith, in Illinois, and went to Minnesota, and for fifteen years he remained there, going into business for himself in 1861, at Hastings. In 1865 he moved to Owatonna, that state, where he remained for four years. In the year 1869 he came to San José, and for four months he traveled over California, at the end of that time returning to Minnesota, and early in 1870 he engaged in the hardware business in Hampton, Iowa, continuing for eight years.

The West proved too strong a lure, however, and 1878 found Mr. White back in California. He first located on a ranch in the foothills near Sacramento and engaged in raising fruit, a pioneer in that industry, and for seven years he remained in that location, then for one year resided in Solano County.

In 1885 Mr. White came to Pomona, and that same year he bought out John Johnson, taking possession on January 1, 1886, under the name of Ira F. White and Son. He was a member of the first horticultural society formed in California, joining in Sacramento, and since coming to the Valley has also engaged in ranching, now having disposed of his interests in that line. In 1898 he sold out his business to J. W. Wilkinson and Son and has since that time lived retired from