

## Hon. Patrick R. Vail



ONE of the men of prominence in the iron regions of Northern Minnesota and Michigan was the late Patrick R. Vail, whose active career brought him the substantial proofs of material prosperity and the honors of public life and whose name deserves the permanent tribute of a memorial record in the history of this state. Mr. Vail was a resident of Minnesota more than a quarter of a century.

Patrick Roger Vail was born in Shulesberg, Lafayette County, Wisconsin, March 20, 1859, and died at his home in Virginia, Minnesota, January 30, 1913, in his fifty-fourth year. His life was one of strenuous self-accomplishment and advancement. His parents died when he was six years old and he then went to the home of an uncle at Ontonagon, Michigan. He was started on his career of self-supporting industry after only a common-school education. From Ontonagon when a young man he went to the Menominee iron range, where he engaged for a short time in mining, proved his fitness for more important responsibilities, and also at an early age became identified with local politics.

From the time he located at Ely, Minnesota, in 1887, Mr. Vail had a record of continually increasing influence and prosperity. He acquired extensive business interests in Northern Minnesota, had a genius for making friendships, was well known throughout three states, and possessed a considerable fortune at the time of his death.

In 1894 Mr. Vail was elected mayor of Ely, and in 1896 was sent to the State Legislature from the Fifty-fourth District. After that for several years he was out of politics, giving all his time to mining operations and other affairs. He erected and organized the business of the Virginia Brewing Company, and was president of that business at Virginia at the time of his death. His home was in Virginia for a number of years. In 1906 he re-entered politics and was elected to the Senate from the Forty-ninth District, retiring at the end of

a four-year term. Senator Vail was a republican, and long a familiar figure in party councils.

On March 21, 1888, at Ironwood, Michigan, Senator Vail married Mary Gleason of Ironwood. Mrs. Vail and four children, Lenore, Leo, Nicholas and Byron, survive. The late Patrick R. Vail was affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of which he was a life member, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and was a member of the Catholic Church. He is well remembered by all his associates not only for his success in business but also for his philanthropy and charity, though much that he did was done with the quiet lack of ostentation that leaves no record except in the hearts of the recipient. He possessed a thorough knowledge and experience of men, and as he had strength and resources above the average man, he always played the game fair, whether in business or in politics. Probably no man in the iron range had more staunch friends than the late Patrick R. Vail. In the cemetery at Virginia has been erected one of the finest monuments in the state to his memory, a symbol of what he represented to his devoted family and what he stood for in his individual life.