

Dr. P. A. Hilbert, State Board of Control Member, Dies at 56

State Democratic Leader Succumbs to Brief Illness.

'U' Graduate Was Prominent in Minnesota Politics-28 Years.

Dr. P. A. Hilbert, 56 years old, member of the state Board of Control, died yesterday afternoon at the Miller hospital, St. Paul, after a brief illness.

At 5 o'clock Thursday afternoon Dr. Hilbert appeared to be in his usual good health. A few hours later he was taken to the Miller hospital, where he died shortly after noon yesterday.

Dr. Hilbert had been a prominent figure in Minnesota Democratic politics for 28 years. He was appointed to the state board of medical examiners by Governor John Lind and was reappointed by Governor John A. Johnson.

He became a member of the state Board of Control on July 1, 1920, when appointed by Governor J. A. A. Burnquist to fill the unexpired term of Charles E. Vassaly, who was ap-



Dr. P. A. Hilbert.

pointed as superintendent of the state reformatory at St. Cloud.

Reappointed by Preus.

Dr. Hilbert was reappointed this spring by Governor J. A. O. Preus, following a political fight on a bill, which finally passed, to increase the membership of the Board of Control from three to five members. The understanding was that the Board of Control was to have at least one woman member.

Dr. Hilbert was an especially valuable member of the Board of Control because of his long experience as a physician and his advice in state hospital matters was important, according to his associates.

Mrs. Blanche La Du and Miss Caroline Crosby of Minneapolis were appointed under the provisions of the 1921 law as the fourth and fifth members of the board.

Graduate of 'U'

Dr. Hilbert was born in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in 1865 and had been a resident of Minnesota since 1911, graduating from the University of Minnesota. In 1904 he was a delegate to the National Democratic convention. In 1914 he was elected to the state Senate without opposition from the senatorial district centering at Melrose.

The Board of Control member was the head of the Melrose hospital for a number of years and had been one of the most prominent physicians of that part of Minnesota. He also had extensive holdings in bank stocks and farm lands.

Governor Preus associate members of the Board of Control, and other state officials were unanimous in their expressions yesterday afternoon that through the death of Dr. Hilbert Minnesota has lost one of its most valuable public servants.