Mrs. Paige, Legislator, Dies at 91

Mrs. James Paige, legislator, lawyer and civic leader, who became the first woman member of the Minnesota legislature and served there for

23 years, died today. She was 91.

Born in Newport, Mass., in 1870, the daughter of Dr. Edward Payson Hurd and Elizabeth



C a m p b e l l Hurd, Mabeth Mrs. Paige Hurd Paige received her preliminary education there before going to the University of Nebraska.

Leaving Nebraska after one year, she attended the Normall Art school in Boston, Mass., before going to Paris where she studied at the Julian Art Academie in 1894.

Returning to America, she came to Minneapolis as supervisor of art in the Minneapolis public schools, and in 1895 married James Paige, professor of law and an acting dean of the law school of the University of Minnesota.

Gave Up Art

Giving up her career in art, she was admitted to the Minnesota bar five years later.

She became prominent in

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civic affairs, organizing an actice girls' club at the West-minister Presbyterian Church's Hope chapel on the north side.

She became president of the Women's Christian assosiation in Minneapolis in 1910, and during her 12 years in office she launched the building of four new residence clubs for working girls and the Phyllis Wheatley settlement in an integrated neighborhood.

An active supporter of the women's suffrage movement, and a charter member of the League of Woman Voters, Mrs. Paige was a delegate to the first International Congress of Women in Rome in 1923, and also to the two succeeding ones held in 1926 and 1929.

Represented U.S.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt appointed her to represent the United States at the first Pan-American Congress of Women in Washington, P. C., in 1922.

President Hoover, then secretary of Commerce, later selected her to attend a conference of women on housing and welfare during his term of office.

Elected to the Minnesota Legislature as its first woman legislator in 1922, Mrs. Paige served until 1945 authorizing bills relating to bettering conditions for working men and dependent children, hospital improvement, psychiatric care, served on the judiciary and welfare committees and the University Hospitals.

Was Honored

In 1949, at the state centennial banquet commemorating Minnesota's admission as a territory, the Minnesota Junior Chamber of Commerce selected Mabeth Paige Hurd as one of eight women to be named among the Hundred Living Great Minnesotans.

Mrs. Paige was a charter member of the Woman's club in Minneapolis; the Woman's Rotary club; the Business and Professional Women's club and the Faculty Women's Club.

She also participated in various educational activities, including the honorary Phi Beta, Phi Delta Legal society; the Legislators' association; the Glenwood Civic leagues, the Urban League; and the National League of American Pen Women, of which she was president for several years.

She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Milton S. (Elizabeth) Thompson, of San Antonio, Texas; three grand-daughters; and six great-

grandchildren.