

As one of the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Canyon county and as one of the most prominent of its business men as well, Oscar V. Badley, candidate for the office of secretary of state, is entitled to recognition among the representative men of Idaho, for the state holds no more loyal subject than he, nor one who has a firmer faith in its future. This deep and abiding interest is sufficiently supported by the most earnest effort on his part in contributing to its material upbuilding. its progress and its advancement along all lines.

At White Rock, Republic county, Kansas, on September 8, he was born to Durbin L. and Nancy Elizabeth Badley, the first of a family of five sons and one daughter that came to them. The father, who was born in Indiana in 1851, had been one of the young men to locate in Kansas in the early seventies, but in 1881 had pushed farther westward to Idaho and located at Boise. Here for twenty-five years he was engaged in blacksmithing, but he is at present owner of a one-half interest in the Independent Coal Company of Boise. He has always been a Republican and has always taken an active and prominent part in the local and state affairs of his party, but is now a member of the Progressive party and of Ada County Central Committee. From 1884 to 1886 he represented Canyon county in the state legislature of Idaho and during the Phillipine insurrection following the Spanish-American war he served one year, enlisting as sergeant-major in the United States army and was retired a captain. In religious belief and church membership he is a Methodist. Through the paternal line of descent he comes of English lineage, while from his mother's side he is from Scotch ancestry. Nancy Elizabeth Greer, his wife, also is a native of Indiana. Her father was a captain in the Union army during the Civil war and he died while in the service.

Oscar V., the first born of their six children, was educated in the public schools of Caldwell, and Boise and later in the Boise Business College, to the age of nineteen. He took upon himself the responsibilities of life at the early age of ten years and by his own exertions paid for his business training. After leaving school he followed mining at Silver City, Idaho, for three years, then he farmed for a year, and following that he entered the railway mail service as a government employee and continued in that work for five years, during which time his headquarters were at Portland, Oregon. For the ensuing two years he delved into journalism as editor of the Caldwell News, having had some training for this work while he was in the employ of A. K. Stuenenberg and his brother, the late Governor Stuenenberg. In 1907 he was elected clerk of the district court and *ex officio* auditor and recorder of Canyon county and continued in this official service for four years, or until 1911. At that time, he, together with R. S. Madden, engaged in the real estate business, with which line of endeavor he has since been connected, the firm now being known as Madden, Nichol & Badley is interested in horticulture as well, as is the owner of a number of very fine orchards in Boise and Ada counties, his holdings aggregating some five hundred or more acres of land in those and Canyon counties. This fact speaks well for Mr. Badley's superior business acumen, for he began his career with absolutely no resources save his own energies and abilities.

Mr. Badley was a Democrat until the organization of the Progressive party of which he was one of the founders and the first nominee for secretary of state on that ticket.

He has always taken an active part in political affairs. He is especially interested in the temperance movement, was one of the organizers of the State Anti-Saloon league, of which he has been a committeeman ever since its organization. In church membership he is a Methodist and is very active in the work of the church. He was a member of the building committee that recently erected the handsome church edifice of that denomination in Caldwell, and assisted in raising the building fund of \$30,000 and an additional \$5,000 for the installing of a fine pipe organ. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and its auxiliary branches, the Encampment, the Chevaliers of the Patriarchs Militant and the Daughters of Rebekah, and has passed all chairs in each of these with the exception of the last named.

At Meridian, Idaho, on July 3, 1898, Mr. Badley was united in marriage with Flora Louise, the daughter of William J. and Isabel (Smith), both natives of the state of Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Badley have six children: Jay E., born at Meridian, Idaho, August 9, 1899; Vernon Clare, born November 16, 1901 at Portland, Oregon; Lulu May, born at Caldwell, in 1906; Thomas W., born in 1908; Nellie, whose birth occurred on January 1, 1910, and Elizabeth, who was born October 20, 1912.

Further light on the life of this interesting subject is found in an article appearing in the Capital News, of Boise, Idaho, under date of September 29, 1912. Direct, comprehensive and appreciative, this article werves as an expression of the popular opinion held with relation to Oscar V. Badley, and as it contains facts concerning the early life of the man which do not appear in the matter above, it is here reproduced, practically in toto, only such matter being omitted as is already presented. The article follows: "A little more than a quarter of a century ago, a little boy was seen hustling through the Oregon Short Line trains in the city of Caldwell with lunches to sell. He got up early in the morning and made all the trains daily, and by his diligence and industry added much to the family exchequer. That little boy, now grown to manhood and to successful, conscientious and progressive manhood, is O. V. Badley, the Progressive candidate for secretary of state. Somehow the leaders of American thought and enterprise in all the past have reached the heights of success by triumphing over hindrances. American biography is but a record of these great achievements, and an illustration of what an earnest soul can do, when it gives itself to a lofty purpose. What Mr. Badley knows in the way of book learning he gathered at the public schools, but the exigencies of pioneer life pushed him early into its activities. When he was sixteen he entered the printing office of Stuenenberg Brothers in Caldwell, and there he learned the printing trade. His coming into contact with Frank and A. K. Stuenenberg, both recognized as among the strong and forceful men of Idaho, no doubt had much to do with shaping the issues of his life. On account of ill health a little later on Mr. Badley went back to the land and worked for his father on the farm near Meridian. Here he got back to nature, developed a husky physical organism which has stood him in good stead in his up-hill journey. To him, as to the poet fields of wheat and alfalfa. He saw not only poetry and literature, but he had visions and dreamed dreams, and among these dreams was one for a wider education and a broader field of life. He went to a business college finally, paying his tuition by working in the mines at Silver City in the summer and 'baching' and going to school in the winter. After completing his business course, he accepted a position with the Capital News as city editor under Judge Flenner, putting in odd moments in studying for the civil service, to which he eventually received an appointment as mail

clerk. He followed this occupation for five years, and received five promotions in that time. He resigned this position, purchased the Caldwell News, which he edited until he was elected clerk of the district court and auditor in ex-officio of Canyon county, and since his term of office expired has been engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business.

Mr. Badley has been an attache of the legislature on various occasions, the last time being secretary of the senate, and chosen to read Governor Stuenenberg's first message to the legislature. Mr. Badley is not a politician merely. He is a progressive and wide awake citizen. He is a live wire. He is identified with all the civic reforms of the state. He is a strong man, a vigorous thinker, and a most persistent worker in any cause which he advocates. He is a Progressive because that means the rule of the people, and he is above all a people's man. He believes that all power originates with the people and should be referred to them. He believes in the direct primary, in initiative, referendum and recall, in the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people, and a publicity commission."