

Michael J. Daly, Sr.

(March 13, 1861 – October 5, 1928)



MICHAEL J. DALY

PERHAM.

LAWYER; STATE SENATOR 59TH DIST. (1899—).

Michael James Daly, Sr., a graduate of the Iowa State College of Law, began practicing law in Perham, his wife's home town, in Otter Tail County, in 1886. He formed a partnership with Chauncey Baxter, a recent graduate of Ohio University Law School.¹ Public service beckoned.

In 1890 he was elected Otter Tail County Attorney. Re-elected three times, he served until 1899. That year, he placed the following profile in a subscriber-funded book of biographies of prominent residents of the Red River Valley:

M. J. DALY, of the firm of Baxter & Daly, attorneys-at-law, is one of the leading and most prominent lawyers in the village of Perham, Otter Tail county, Minnesota. He is a native of Minnesota, born in the city of St. Paul on the 13th day of March, 1861, and is the son of M. F. and Mary (Marky) Daly, natives of Ireland. The father, who was educated in the city of Cork, emigrated to the United States when he was twenty-one years of age and settled in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he remained for a period of fifteen years. He was engaged in book-keeping for Berkley, of St. Paul, and also Eddy & Archy, of that city. He is now a resident of Carver county, Minnesota, where he is extensively engaged in a general stock-raising business.

Mr. Daly, the subject of this biographical review, received his education in the public schools of Minneapolis, where he attended school until 1881. He then went to Iowa, where he entered the law department of the Iowa State University, at Iowa City. In two years, after graduating with high honors, the subject of this article removed to Minnesota and located in the city of Fergus Falls, Otter Tail county, Minnesota, where he opened an office for the practice of his profession. After remaining a short time in Fergus Falls he removed to the village of Perham, Otter Tail county, Minnesota, where he opened a law office in partnership with Mr. Baxter, of whom a sketch will be found in another department of this work.

¹ A biographical sketch of Chauncey Baxter is posted in the Appendix, at 11.

They have since been actively engaged in an extensive and rapidly increasing law business, and are among the prominent and influential lawyers of the northern part of the State.

Our subject is actively interested in all local matters and affiliates with the democratic party. He is a sympathizer of the doctrines of the Catholic church. He is one of the rising and independent young business men in the village and is highly esteemed by all who know him. ²

In 1898 he ran for the state senate from district fifty-nine, which covered Otter Tail County, on the Populist ticket. It was a bitter campaign but he prevailed. ³ The results of the election on November 8, 1898, were:

Michael J. Daly (Populist).....1,414
John T. Johnson (Republican).....1,322 ⁴

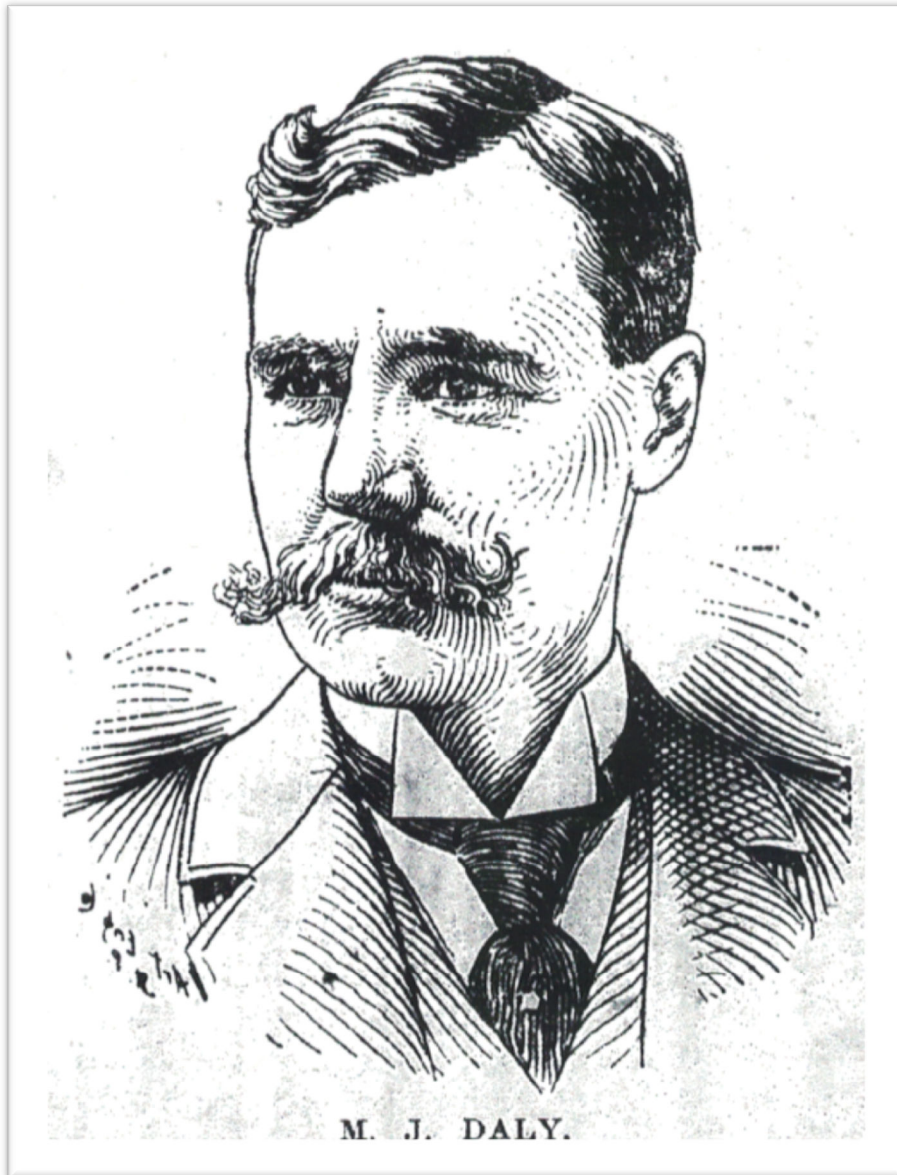
² *Illustrated Album of Biography of the Famous Valley of the Red River of the North and the Park Regions* 543-544 (1889).

³ E.g., front page editorial in the *Perham Bulletin*, November 3, 1898:

No more bitter fight has ever been waged in Otter Tail County, than as that now being carried on against Mr. M. J. Daly. Everything has been resorted to, that it was thought possible would injure him. Even H. G. Boen of the Globe, the populist sorehead of Fergus Falls, has been switched into line by Fletcher and Adams, his republican bosses, and is doing their dirty work – and Boen stops at nothing. All this is being done, in the hope that Mr. Daly might be defeated. But the people are up in arms and will not have it. They realize that with Mr. Daly in the state Senate, they will have a friend that will be staunch and that has been tried and not found wanting. With him there they can they realize that his voice and vote will be heard on their side, as against the trust and corporations that have sapped their very lifeblood out. It is the people that resent by their votes the vicious attacks of Boen and his cohorts and that by such a sweeping majority they will never again be heard from – at least politically.

⁴ 1899 Blue Book, at 517. His biographical sketch in the Blue Book reads:

M. J. Daly (Populist) was born in St. Paul March 13, 1861. He moved to Carver county with his parents in 1866 and lived with them on a farm until sixteen years of age; attended school in Minneapolis for five years; in 1882 moved to Otter Tail county and engaged in the farm insurance business; in 1884 took a law course for two years at the Iowa University; admitted to the bar in 1886; commenced practice of law in Perham that year. He was elected county attorney of Otter Tail county in 1890, which office he has held until his election to the Senate in 1898.



Portrait in political advertisement in state newspapers during campaign for congress in 1900.

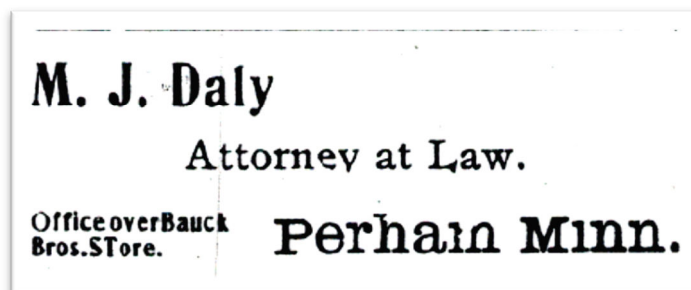
He served one term, from January 1899 to January 1903, and did not seek re-election. Midway in that term he ran on a fusion ticket of the Democratic and People's Parties to represent the sprawling Seventh Congressional District, which encompassed eighteen counties in northwestern Minnesota.⁵ Four candidates were in the race. The

⁵ For an account of the People's Party convention in Fergus Falls, see *Willmar Tribune*, June 27, 1900, at 8. It is posted in the Appendix, at 14-15.

favorite was the incumbent, Republican Frank M. Eddy, first elected in 1894. Daly received hearty endorsements from newspapers supporting both the Democratic and the fledging People’s Party.⁶ History records Republican triumphing in 1900 from the presidential race to the lower rungs of the ticket. And so it was in the Seventh Congressional District. The results of that election on November 6, 1900, were:

Frank M. Eddy (Inc. & Rep.).....	25,738
Michael J. Daly (Dem. & People’s)....	21,012
Hans H. Aaker (Prohibition).....	2,483
Haldor E. Boen (Referendum).....	448 ⁷

He resumed practicing law, and placed a short profile in *Little Sketches of Big Folks* in 1907.⁸ He also continued to run his business card in the local newspaper:⁹



In 1916, a history of Otter Tail County, edited by John Mason, a fellow lawyer, had a much longer profile (to which Daly undoubtedly contributed):

⁶ Samples of newspaper endorsements are posted in the Appendix, at 14-19. A biographical sketch of Daly was published in the *Willmar Tribune* (special edition), October 20, 1900. The *Tribune* also published a long editorial favoring Daly on the eve of the election. *Willmar Tribune*, November 3, 1900, at 1 (“It is your plain duty to vote for M. J. Daly for Congressman.”).

⁷ Bruce M. White, et al, *Minnesota Votes* 88 (Minn. Hist. Soc. Press., 1977).

⁸ *Little Sketches of Big Folks* 99 (1907):

DALY, M. J. Perham. Lawyer. Born March 13, 1863 in St. Paul Minn. son of M. F. and Mary Daly. Educated in the public schools of Minneapolis. County atty of Otter Tail county 1891-1899; state senator from Otter Tail county 1899-1903. Engaged in practice of law in Perham to date.

⁹ *Perham Enterprise*, January 23, 1908, at 8.

M. J. Daly holds a place of sincere regard in the hearts of his fellow citizens, as evidenced by the positions of trust which he has been elected. He is a son of M. F. and Mary (Malarky) Daly, both natives of Ireland, emigrated to America in 1847. They located in New York City until 1856 and then removed to St. Paul, Minnesota, where M. F. Daly was employed as a bookkeeper. Some years later they removed to Carver County, Minnesota, where they both died. They were the parents of eight children.

M. J. Daly was born on March 13, 1861, in St. Paul, Minnesota, and his education was received in the public schools of Minneapolis. He was graduated from the Iowa State University in 1886, having studied law at that institution, immediately began to practice law in Perham, Minnesota. During the first seven years of his practice he was associated with a Mr. Baxter, but has since been independent in his vocation. He is connected with the First National Bank in the capacity of vice president, and service County attorney from 1891 until 1899. He also served as State Senator from 1899 until 1903. His fraternal affiliations are with the Benevolent and Protective order of Elks and the Knights of the Pythias. Religiously, he is a devout member the Roman Catholic Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

In 1893 M. J. Daly was united in marriage to Emma Mohr, and to them have been born two children, whose names follow: M. J. Junior and Lenora. Emma (Mohr) Daly is a native of Perham, Minnesota, and is also a member of the Roman Catholic Church. M. J. Daly is a member of the ancient order of United Workmen in which order he is held in high esteem.¹⁰

In early October 1928 Daly undertook the defense of John W. Wilcox, who was charged with dynamiting the apartment of Myrtle Hallowell, the clerk of the Bemidji Municipal Court. She claimed Wilcox was

¹⁰ John W. Mason, ed., *2 History of Otter Tail County, Minnesota* 284-285 (1916).

jealous because she had been seeing other men and refused to marry him. It was a sensational case and, according to one newspaper “the greatest crowds ever assembled at the Bemidji court room have been seeking admission.”¹¹ Daly and his co-counsel put up a vigorous defense, sparing with the victim and other witnesses. Suddenly, on Friday, October 5, just before the noon recess, he collapsed and died instantly of a heart attack. He was sixty-seven years old. The *Perham Enterprise-Bulletin* reported his funeral:

MANY HERE FOR FUNERAL

Rites for M. J. Daly Held Monday
Brought Many Outsiders to Perham—
Death Came Suddenly

The funeral of M. J. Daly, whose dramatic death occurred in the courtroom at Bemidji last Friday morning, was held here Monday morning [October 8] at St. Henry’s

¹¹ *Fergus Falls Daily Journal*, October 5, 1928, at 4 (“Sensational Case Is On Trial at Bemidji”). The paper noted “several sharp tilts” between Hallowell and Daly:

Several lively exchanges occurred between the witness and Mr. Daly both on cross examination and in the re-cross which followed the re-direct examination by Mr. Pegelow [the Beltrami County attorney].

“Do you hate me as much as your manner would indicate,” inquired Mr. Daly after one exchange?

“Mr. Pegelow cautioned me to be extremely nice to you, Mr. Daly,” the witness replied.

“I certainly thank Mr. Pegelow,” commented Mr. Daly. “I hate to think what might have happened if he had not.”

....

Miss Hallowell had testified previously she had no friendly feelings for the defendant. When asked by Mr. Daly if she would enjoy seeing Wilcox sent to the penitentiary, she half rose from her chair and said, “Yes, I would.”

Asked if she ever took a drink, Miss Hallowell answered, “Once in a while, just like you do, Mr. Daly judging from the button you are wearing.” Mr. Daly was wearing a Smith campaign button.

Judge [Benjamin F.] Wright cautioned her as to her demeanor, stating her experience in Municipal Court educated her as to proper conduct.

church, and was, in the point of attendance, the largest Perham has witnessed in recent years. Between 150 and 200 members of legal fraternity were here to pay the last tribute in addition to hundreds of friends of the family from this neighborhood and relatives from friends from other places. The church was crowded to capacity and many who are unable to gain admission remained at the front of the church during the services.

....

Death came to Mr. Daly in the crowded courtroom at Bemidji in the closing hours of a bitterly contested criminal case, of which he was defense counsel. A rebuttal witness of the state had just been examined and Mr. Daly had resumed his seat after addressing the court. He had just finished saying: "That is all" and leaned back in his chair when he was seen to straighten up. A woman spectator cried "look" and the attention swerving in his direction, Mr. Daly was seen to slump forward unconscious. Attorneys at the counsel table caught him and laid him on the floor and applied first aid in an attempt to bring him to. A physician was hastily summoned but he was dead when Dr. T. F. McCann reached him. A heart attack had proved instantly fatal.

Mr. Daly had complained of feeling ill the night before. He had a pain through his chest and thought that he had a touch of pleurisy. He had taken a dose of aspirin and applied a porus (sic) plaster. The following morning he had asked County attorney Pegelow to recommend a good physician and said that he would see him during the noon recess. It was about an hour before noon that he succumbed. Mrs. Daly left about ten that morning from Perham to drive him back, and although efforts were made to overtake her and appraise her of the death of her husband, she could not be found, and she arrived there to find her husband dead.

M. J. Daly was born March 13, 1861 in St. Paul, his parents moved to Carver County and settled in Hancock Township. He attended the common schools there and afterward the old Minneapolis Academy in southeast

Minneapolis. Later he taught school in Carver county for three winters. In 1882 he moved to Fergus Falls where he worked for the firm of Sawbridge & Lowry soliciting farm insurance. Later he was for time in partnership with Mr. Sawbridge. In 1884 he entered the law school in Iowa State college, Iowa City, and from there he graduated in 1886. He located in Perham, Dec. 10, 1886 in partnership with C. L. Baxter, the firm of Baxter & Daly continuing until Feb. 15, 1893, when Baxter removed to Fergus Falls.

Mr. Daly was elected [Otter Tail] county attorney in 1890 and served in that office for eight years. In 1898 he was elected state senator from this district and served in the session of 1899, 1901 and the special session of 1902. In 1900 he was the democratic candidate in this, the Ninth (sic) Congressional District, against Frank M. Eddy, but failed of election. From then on he sought no political office but retained a keen interest in the success of the democratic party and spoke during political campaigns. As an orator he was in demand at Fourth of July celebrations and upon other locations when an address was wanted. Following the resignation of Judge Parsons he was prominently mentioned for district judge and was given endorsement for the position by the bar of Otter Tail and several other counties. During his 42 years as a resident of Perham, 23 years were served as village attorney, and 12 as member of the school board.

Mr. Daly was twice a delegate to National Democratic conventions, first in 1912 in Baltimore and again in 1916 in St. Louis.

The marriage of Mr. Daly to Miss Emma Mohr took place March 12, 1893 and to them two children were born, M. J. Daly Jr., Lenora, now Mrs. M. J. Goblirsch, all of whom have the sympathy of the community in their sorrow.

Mr. Daly was a man of vigorous physique and it is thought that he did not realize the seriousness of his condition. He never had a serious illness and arrived near the biblical threescore and ten without losing a tooth.

During the past summer, when the family lived at the lake he walked the distance twice daily for the exercise.

The esteem in which he was held by members of the bar was shown by a large shown in the large number who attended his funeral. Those present included Judge Roeser of St. Cloud, Judge Nye of Moreland, former Judge Parsons of Fergus Falls, the entire bar of Otter Tail, Wadena and Becker county, a delegation attorneys from Bemidji, the sheriff and clerks of courts of Becker and Otter Tail counties, the sheriff, clerk of courts and attorneys from Todd County, a delegation of the Clay county bar, attorneys from Little Falls and St. Cloud, and attorneys from other points in the state. Mr. Daly was perhaps better known among the legal fraternity of the state than any other country lawyer, particularly in the northern part of the state. He was known as one of the ablest trial lawyers in the state.¹²

The trial was halted. The court was in recess on Monday for the funeral. The trial resumed on Tuesday, October 9. The next day both sides rested and Judge Wright finished instructing the jury at 3:40 P. M. After deliberating twelve hours, it found Wilcox guilty of first degree assault at 3:25 A. M., Thursday, October 11. Later that morning, Wilcox was sentenced to an “indeterminate term of from five to ten years in the Stillwater State Penitentiary.”¹³

¹² *Perham Enterprise-Bulletin*, October 11, 1928, at 1 (details of funeral services and names of other surviving family members omitted).

A bar memorial has not been located.

¹³ *Fergus Falls Daily Journal*, October 11, 1928, at 4 (“Bemidji Dynamiter Given Prison Term. Man Who Tried to Kill Girl Who Would Not Marry Him Is Found Guilty”).

APPENDIX

The following profile of Daly's partner, C. L. Baxter, was published in a collection of biographies of prominent residents of the Red River Valley (1889):

CHAUNCEY L. BAXTER. Prominent among the leading and successful attorneys in the Park Regions of Minnesota is the subject of this article, a resident of the village of Perham, Otter Tail county, Minnesota, where he is engaged in a large and increasing law practice. He is a native of Carver county, Minnesota, born on the 14th day of May, 1859, and is the son of Judge L. L. and Emma (Ward) Baxter, natives of Vermont and Wisconsin, respectively. The father was raised and educated in Cornwall, Vermont, and in 1858 settled in Carver county, Minnesota, where he remained until 1881. He was in the service during the war and returned in 1861. The mother of our subject died in 1872. They were devoted members of the Episcopal church. They were the parents of four children, named — Chauncey, Arthur, Mabel and Mary.

Mr. Baxter, the subject of this biographical review, received his education in the various schools of the State and completed at the State University, from which he graduated with high honors in 1882. He then entered the newspaper business in Valley City, Dakota Territory, and after remaining there one year sold out and removed to Fergus Falls, Minnesota, where he ran a paper for some time. He then took a trip through the East and South, and finally returned to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he entered the law office of Eugene Wilson, with whom he remained six months. He then entered the law department of the State University of Ohio, from which he graduated in 1885.


He at once returned to his native State, and located at Wadena, Minnesota, where he opened a law office and for eighteen months was engaged in his profession at that place. At the expiration of that time he went to Perham, Otter Tail county, Minnesota, where he has since remained, engaged in the practice of law. He is prominently known as a lawyer and citizen throughout the northern part of the State. He is actively interested in all political matters and affiliates with the democratic party. It is unnecessary to say much of the personal character of our subject, after introducing him as the son of so prominent and well known a man as Judge Baxter.¹⁴

¹⁴ *Illustrated Album of Biography of the Famous Valley of the Red River of the North and the Park Regions*, note 2, at 708-709. For an amusing anecdote about Chauncey Baxter, and his father, see John W. Mason, "The Otter Tail County Bar" 4-7 (MLHP 2008-2012) (published first 1916).

Daly's Campaign for Congress in 1900.

Democratic Ticket,
Willmar Tribune,
October 3, 1900, at 3.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 3, 1900.



For President,
WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN,
OF NEBRASKA.
For Vice President,
ADLAI E. STEVENSON,
OF ILLINOIS.

—

For Congressman, Seventh District,
M. J. DALY,
OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

—

COUNTY TICKET.

For Representative,
JOHN WICKLUND.
For Auditor,
P. R. SLETTEN.
For Treasurer,
P. J. DALE.
For Sheriff,
N. O. NELSON.
For Register of Deeds,
O. A. HEDIN.
For County Attorney,
P. H. FRYE.
For Judge of Probate,
J. H. STYLES.
For Clerk of Court,
D. J. PRICE.
For County Superintendent of Schools
MISS INGA S. SYVERTSON.
For Coroner,
DR. W. E. MACLAUGHLIN.
For Surveyor,
N. G. HIGHSTROM.
For County Commissioners:
First District, Jerry Leary; Third
District, A. J. Smithson; Fifth Dis
trict, C. E. Johnson.

People's Party ticket,
Fergus Falls Ugeblad,
October 25, 1900, at 2.

PEOPLE'S PARTY TICKET

NATIONAL TICKET.

For President,
WM. J. BRYAN.

For Vice President,
ADLAI E. STEVENSON.

Presidential Electors:

At large. RUDOLPH SCHIFFMAN,
M. R. PRENDERGAST.

First District, O. W. ANDERSON.

Second, GEORGE LESTER

Third, OLE T. RAMSLAND.

Fourth, DAN ABERLE

Fifth, F. D. NORENBURG.

Sixth, JOHN JENSWOLD, JR.

Seventh, THOS. C. HODGSON.

CONGRESSIONAL TICKET.

For Member of Congress,
MIKE J. DALY.

STATE TICKET.

For Governor,
JOHN LIND

For Lieutenant Governor,
T. J. MEIGHEN.

For Secretary of State,
M. E. NEARY.

For State Treasurer,
H. C. KOERNER.

For Attorney General,
R. C. SAUNDERS.

For Chief Justice Supreme Court,
F. T. BROOKS.

For Associate Justice Supreme Court,
J. C. NETHAWAY.

For Railroad Commissioners
for four years.

P. M. RINGDAL,
T. J. KNOX.

For Railroad Commissioner
for two years,
SIDNEY M. OWEN.

Editorial in the *Willmar Tribune* on June 27, 1900, describing the People's Party convention that endorsed Daly for Congress:

DALY FOR CONGRESS.

The People's Party congressional convention held at Fergus Falls last Saturday was a large and enthusiastic gathering. From the most remote corners of the immense district had come large delegations of earnest men, who had sacrificed time and money to help select a candidate that could redeem the district from the power of the present misrepresentative. There were only two active candidates in the field Prof. Aaker, of Moorhead and A. R. Holston, of Crookston. T. C. Hodgson of Elbow Lake had at the last moment consented to allow the use of his name, but would not lift a finger to secure his nomination. He was not even present at the convention. And yet he showed fully as strong as the two active candidates.

M. J. Daly of Perham would not consent to the use of his name, but his friends refused to listen to him and resolved to come the Roosevelt act on him. The enthusiasm displayed by the audience whenever Daly appeared, or when his name was mentioned, showed plainly that the convention could be easily stampeded towards him. When after several fruitless ballots Kandiyohi cast its 14 votes for Daly the stampede started in earnest. Several other Hodgson delegations followed. A. R. Holston withdrew from the race. Roseau and Kittson counties withdrew for consultation, but before they had come to any conclusion as to their course Polk county had swung its 10 votes to Daly, and he was nominated. The Aaker forces moved to make it unanimous, and the motion was carried by a thundering "aye" that rattled the building. The chair appointed Aaker and Holston as a committee to bring Mr. Daly into the hall. When they appeared with him he was given a most enthusiastic reception. In a few words, quivering with suppressed emotion, he thanked the convention for the honor bestowed on him. He had not sought it, had not desired it,

but it was not in human nature to refuse such a strong call, and he therefore accepted it. He promised to put up the strongest campaign possible, and those who know the earnest character of the man realize that that means a good deal. The election will not go to Eddy by default this year.

M. J. Daly is a native born American and Minnesotan. He has been a resident of this district for 18 years. In 1890 he was elected county attorney of Otter Tail county, which position he held till elected to the state senate in 1898. His record there is a good one, and will help to elect him to congress. He is a man who wins friends wherever he goes. We believe that the voters of this district will ratify this action of the convention, and send M. J. Daly to congress.¹⁵

From the *St. Paul Daily Globe*, September 29, 1900:

SKETCH OF HON. MICHAEL J. DALY.

Brief Outline of the Life of the Democratic Candidate of Congress in the Seventh District.

M. J. Daly, candidate for congress in the Seventh district, was born in St. Paul, on March 31, 1861. In 1866 the family moved to Carver county, where Mr. Daly Sr., engaged in farming. With one or two winters of study away from home, young Daly remained on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age. He went to school winters and during the summers took his full share of the farm work, following the plow and harrow, spring and fall, and learning the vicissitudes of farming in a new country. It was during this formative period of his life that he imbibed those feelings of respect for the farmer's calling and of

¹⁵ *Willmar Tribune*, June 27, 1900, at 8.

sympathy for the hard conditions which surrounded him and that desire to do all in his power to relieve those conditions, which have ever since been such a marked characteristic of Mr. Daly's career. As a boy he determined to acquire an education which would fit him for a profession. When he was fifteen years old he went to Minneapolis to school, attending the Minneapolis High School, and the well-known Marvin academy. It was not a flowery road that he traveled, for he worked for his board, and thus paid the expenses of his way through the schools.

Several winters of this sort of study fitted Mr. Daly to teach school. He worked on the farm during the summer. And taught school to and taught school in Carver county for three winters— another experience that remains of value through life. Shortly after this he came to Otter Tail county. He had no difficulty in finding work, for there is always an opening for young men of energy and correct habits.

At the end of three years he had saved enough money to take a course of study in law. He entered the law department of the state university of Iowa, at Iowa City, worked hard and graduated the following year. He was admitted to the bar in 1886 with high honors. Immediately afterwards he opened an office at Perham, Otter Tall county, and has lived there ever since. He married In 1893 to Miss Mohr of that village. They have two bright children, a boy of six and a girl of four.

In 1890, Mr. Daly was nominated for county attorney by the Farmers' Alliance and Democrats, and elected. His record in this office was one of faithful service, and he held it for four terms, defeating successively the most

popular men the Republicans could name against him. He made a record for energy and ability in defending the laws, and prosecuting law breakers that brought him large majorities, year after year.

In 1898, he was nominated by the reform forces for state senator, in the senatorial district of Otter Tail county, and elected in spite of a coalition against him, led by ex-Congressman H. E. Boen, who induced an independent candidate to run in the hope of defeating him. His record in the state senate was a good one. He took high rank from the outset, and was on the side of the people against corporations and rottenness from start to finish.

As a speaker and debater, Mr. Daly is ready and brilliant. As a lawyer, he is experienced and sound. He is a hard worker and a friend of the people. What better service can the people of the Seventh district do themselves than send such a man to represent them in the congress of the. United States? ¹⁶

Endorsement by *The New Ulm Review*, October 17, 1900:

M. J. Daly, the Democratic-Peoples Party candidate for congress in the Seventh district, was born in St. Paul on March 31, 1861. In 1866 the family moved to Carver county. With one or two winters of study away from home, young Daly remained on the farm until he was 21 years of age. He went, to school winters and during the summers took his full share of the farm work. It was during this formative period of his life that he imbibed those feelings of respect for the farmer's calling and of sympathy for the hard conditions which surround him and that desire to do all in his power to relieve those

¹⁶ *St. Paul Daly Globe*, September 29, 1900, at 3 (photograph omitted).

conditions, which have ever since been such a marked characteristic of Mr. Daly's career.

When he was 15 years old he went to Minneapolis to school, attending the Minneapolis high school and well known Marvin academy

He entered the law department of the state university of Iowa, at Iowa City, worked hard and graduated the following year. He was admitted to the bar in 1886 with high honors. Immediately afterwards he opened an office at Perham, Otter Tail county, and has lived there ever since.

In 1898 he was nominated by the reform forces for state senator, in the senatorial district of Otter Tail county, and elected, in spite of a coalition against him, led by ex-Congressman H. E. Boen, who induced an independent candidate to run in the hope of defeating him. His record in the state senate was a good one. He took high rank from the outset, and was on the side of the people against corporations and rottenness from start to finish.¹⁷

Endorsement in *Willmar Tribune*, October 20, 1900:

A vote for Eddy is an endorsement of the sentiment that a public officer can disregard public opinion. A vote for Daly is a rebuke to that dangerous sentiment. A vote for Eddy endorses taxation without representation. A vote for Daly is a protest against such a system. A vote for Eddy is a vote for the sugar and tobacco trusts. A vote for Daly is a protest against trust domination of public affairs. A vote for Eddy is a vote for government without constitutional limitations. A vote for Daly is an endorsement of the constitution. A vote for Eddy is a protest against the Declaration of Independence, for he has persistently voted to sustain a policy that denies that "all men are created equal." A vote for Daly is an endorsement of that fundamental principle of our government. With such a

¹⁷ *New Ulm Review*, October 17, 1900, at 8. The drawing of Daly on page 4 is from this endorsement. The same ad was published in other newspapers around the state. E. g., *Willmar Tribune*, October 17, 1900, at 9, and *The Irish Standard* (Minneapolis), October 20, 1900, at 10.

choice of principles and with such a clean, able man as Daly to vote for a man ought to be able to rise above party and vote for principles more important than party issues, and at the same time give notice that a man who leads a sober life is preferred to any other.¹⁸

Willmar Tribune (weekly), October 24, 1900:



GOV. LIND COMING.

Will Speak in Willmar Tuesday, Oct. 30, at 8 P. M.

A grand parade, with torchlights, several brass bands, transparencies, etc. will take place before the speaking.

Hon. M. J. Daly.

our candidate for congressman, is also expected to be present.

Meetings will be held in the opera house and Bonde hall. If necessary an overflow meeting will be arranged for. Lind and Daly will speak at both places.

A reception will be held at Bonde hall in the afternoon.

Everybody invited to come in and get acquainted with Lind and Daly.

Come one and all and hear the great issues of the day intelligently and fearlessly discussed.

¹⁸ *Willmar Tribune* (Special Edition), October 20, 1900, at 5.

On November 1, 1900, *The Independent*, a St. Paul newspaper that supported the Middle of the Road Populist ticket, republished the following from the *Fergus Falls Globe*:

Two Bad Eggs.

Droves of little political runts are worrying themselves because "Boen is running for congress to beat Daly." But they forget to state that Daly is running to prevent Boen's election. Boen was nominated months before Eddy and Daly.

There is something sacred about the caucus. The voter is required to bend his knees before the caucus boss. Whosoever fails to do so is politically unclean.

Daly was nominated in caucus, and, therefore, he is sacred.

Boen was nominated directly, and, therefore, he should give way to the saintly caucus nominee. Our claim is that there is no essential difference between Frank M. Eddy and Michael J. Daly. One is a Republican machine politician; the other is a Democratic machine politician. That is all the difference between them. And that reminds one of a story:

A stranger visiting a small village noticed that there were two churches in the place. They were alike in build, but different in color.

The stranger addressed one of the residents and asked what denominations owned the churches.

"Presbyterians," was the answer.

"But why have two churches alike in a small place like this?"

"They are not alike."

"What is the difference?"

"Well, in one they teach that Eve tempted Adam and that he fell; in the other they teach that he was a bad egg from the start."

That is about all the difference between Republican Eddy and Democratic Daly. Adams tempted Eddy, and he fell; Daly was a bad egg from the start. — Fergus Globe.¹⁹

Afterword

Michael J. Daly, Jr., followed in his father's footsteps. He was admitted to the Minnesota bar on March 10, 1926.²⁰ He died on April 12, 1986.

Credits

The photograph of Michael J. Daly, Sr., on the first page is from *Men of Minnesota* (1902).

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¹⁹ *The Representative* (St. Paul), November 1, 1900, at 4.

²⁰ Roll of Attorneys, Supreme Court, State of Minnesota, 1858-1970, at 192 (Minnesota Digital Library).