

M E M O R I A L

FITZHUGH BURNS
(1870 - 1933)

RAMSEY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

March 31, 1934

FITZHUGH BURNS

Fitzhugh Burns was the son of Colonel and Mrs. Robert Burns and was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, October 1, 1870. His early, common school education was had in the local schools at Kalamazoo. Thereafter he entered the University of Michigan, graduating with the Class of 1892. In the winter of that year he came to St. Paul and entered the office of Flandrau, Squires and Cutcheon. While with this firm he entered the law school of the University of Minnesota and graduated in 1895, and a year or two later formed a partnership for the practice of law with George O'Reilly, under the firm name of O'Reilly and Burns, with offices in the New York Life Building. In 1900 this partnership was dissolved, and he was associated with James A. Nowell, who was then the general agent of the American Bonding Company. Subsequently Mr. Nowell's other and divers interests occupied so much of his time that Mr. Burns took entire charge of the bonding company, and about 1907 he was appointed vice-president and Northwest manager of the American Bonding Company. In 1913 the American Bonding Company consolidated with the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, and Mr. Burns was retained as Northwest manager of the consolidated business under the name of Fidelity and Deposit Company. In 1915 Mr. Burns associated with him his brother Robert A. Burns, and thereafter

a general line of casualty, bonding and fire insurance was carried on until the death of Mr. Burns on August 10, 1933. About 1920 Mr. Burns became interested with Mr. Nowell in the development and operation of different coal mines in the Northwest, and took an active interest in conducting their business.

Although Mr. Burns never devoted any considerable time to the actual practice of the legal profession, he always retained a very keen interest in legal matters and took an active part in all the meetings and, proceedings of the Bar Association. By reason of his delightful personality, he formed and retained until the time of his death an ever-widening circle of devoted friends. He had a keen legal mind and, had he seen fit to devote his time to the practice of his chosen profession, he would undoubtedly have made an indelible mark in the legal literature of the state. In the distressing conditions which curtailed his physical activities but left his mind clear and alert he never lost or dispelled the cheerful and stimulating atmosphere which had always surrounded him.

Mr. Morton Barrows, Chairman
Mr. William H. Oppenheimer
Mr. Alvin B. Christofferson
Committee

