



*Henry T. Gage*

Governor Gage is the fifth resident, and the second lawyer, of Los Angeles county, who has occupied the executive chair. John G. Downey was Governor in 1860-61; George Stoneman, 1883-86; R. W. Waterman, 1887-90, and H. H. Markham, 1891-95. Downey and Waterman were elected each as lieutenant governor, but were called to fill vacancies, and served nearly full terms.

Henry T. Gage was born near Geneva, New York, in November, 1853. He grew up in the state of Michigan, whither his parents had removed, and received a good education. He began the practice of law at Los Angeles, in 1877, at the age of twenty-four. It was just at the dawn of an era of unexampled activity and prosperity in that city and section, and he made good use of his abilities and opportunities. He acquired very soon a good law practice, which grew larger and larger for many years. Early entering into politics on the Republican side, he became, by reason of his strong personality and general capability for leadership, a controlling spirit in the councils of his party, presiding over committees and conventions, and helping to shape platforms and make tickets. He was a delegate to the National Republican convention at Chicago in 1888. In that body, as the selected spokesman of the California delegation, he made a speech seconding the nomination of Levi P. Morton for the Vice-Presidency, and was otherwise prominent.

Governor Gage never served in the legislature. Only eight of our twenty Governors passed through that body. He was nominated as a man who was distinguished at the bar, successful in business, a student of public questions, and one of the ablest and most aggressive exponents of party principles. He was elected to his present high office in November, 1898, his Democratic opponent being James G. Maguire.