

In politics Mr. Brown is a Republican and in 1902 he was appointed a member of the board of Police and Fire Commissioners of which he was President, until he resigned in 1905. He is also President of the Furniture City Driving Club, Director of the West Michigan State Fair Association, Chairman of the Executive Committee Michigan Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, President Michigan Hearse & Carriage Co., of Grand Rapids, Director of the Grand Rapids Board of Trade and until May 1st, 1905, was President of the Michigan Engraving Co.

Mr. Brown was married at Grand Rapids in 1891, to Miss Ella M. Phillips, daughter of the late E. C. Phillips who was prominent in Grand Rapids as a Fruit Grower.

The Wallin Leather Company.

The Wallin Leather Company is one of the oldest industrial institutions in the west. It was first established in Chicago in 1851 by C. C. Wallin, Thomas S. Wallin and Franklin B. Wallin under the firm name of C. C. Wallin & Sons with \$100,000.00 invested. Its Chicago store has been doing business continuously since it was established more than fifty years ago. A few years after the Chicago business was established the firm built tanneries at Saugatuck, Mich., where dry hide sole leather was made until 1881 when its manufacturing plant was moved to Grand Rapids, on South Front street, and in the same year the present firm was incorporated. Franklin B. Wallin was manager of the tanneries at Saugatuck and for many years was active manager of the Grand Rapids business. He still directs the business policy of the institution but is not active in detail work. The Grand Rapids Leather Company with its tanneries at Mill Creek is under the same general management as the Wallin Leather Company and the business of both institutions is transacted at the same office. It has now invested \$250,000.00 and employs about sixty men. Its products are almost wholly sold from the Chicago store to the trade in the Mississippi Valley. Its total sales are over a million dollars annually and the Grand Rapids products amount to about \$400,000.00 a year. The Wallin Leather Company for many years has practiced profit sharing with its employes with success.

C. C. Wallin, the founder of the firm, died in Chicago in 1896 in his 92nd year. Thomas S. Wallin, the first president, retired a