

James P. Hooley.



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JAMES P. HOOLEY was born of Irish parents July 12, 1855, in Port Chester, Conn. He came from New York to Troy in 1865. He attended St. Peter's School until he was twelve years old, and then he entered a public school, where he remained two years. He was apprenticed to learn the trade of a molder at the age of seventeen, and after serving four years was admitted to membership in the Iron Molders' Union. In 1882 he was chosen a delegate to the International Molders' Convention held in Brooklyn. He was elected third vice-president. Thereafter he became actively engaged in the work of organizing labor societies. He was chairman of the organizing committee of the Workingmen's Assembly, and was three times elected organizer of the Knights of Labor. Mr. Hooley personally investigated the contract labor system in the State prisons. In the fall of 1884 he was elected to the Assembly from the First District of Rensselaer County. During the session of the Legislature which followed contract prison labor was abolished, Mr. Hooley having charge of this most important reform in the Assembly. He was reelected to the Assembly in 1885, but was defeated for a third term. In 1886 he attended the convention of the International Iron Molders' Union held in London, Canada, and was reelected a member of the Executive Board and of the Board of Trustees. In June, 1887, he was appointed a factory inspector. The following year he was chosen vice-president of the International Iron Molders' Union of North America at the Convention held in St. Louis. Mr. Hooley is an accomplished musician, having been a member of Doring's Band since 1876. Mr. Hooley's career in politics was one long and determined effort to improve the condition of the working classes, and the measure of success he attained gave him a reputation wider than the State in which he labored.