

Howard M. Gore



Howard M. Gore, Harrison County, was a leading livestock producer and merchandizer in West Virginia and the nation. His service to numerous state and national elective and appointive positions was of tremendous influence to agriculture.

Just a list of the important positions that Mr. Gore held is indicative of his tremendous influence on the agricultural affairs of the nation. For instance, he served as the West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture and as the United States Secretary of Agriculture. He was a director of the American Farm Bureau Federation during its formative years and helped shape the guidelines that determined its future development and influence. In 1920, he was appointed to the State Board of Education.

Two other activities also indicate the extent of his influence and ability. He was a member of the American Livestock Committee of Fifteen which drafted the regulations adopted by Congress as the Livestock Commissions and Packers Act. It remains in force to this day with only a few fundamental amendments. Shortly after World War I, there was an outbreak of the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease in California. Mr. Gore immediately called a meeting of the most influential livestock producers in the United States and worked out a plan for the isolation, quarantine, and slaughter of every clove hooped beast in its infected area. The group then persuaded the Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, U.S. Department of Agriculture, to enforce the program to prevent the escape of the disease from Southern California.

Howard Gore was a graduate of West Virginia University. He was a forceful and convincing speaker, has a rare sense of humor, and was a great teller of humorous stories based on actual happenings. He was a man of great personal integrity.

And, of course, perhaps his most important contribution of all to West Virginia – he was elected Governor in 1924.