



JOHN W. LEWIS.

The life of Mr. John W. Lewis, the subject of the present sketch, perhaps illustrates better than any long praise of him could possibly do, what rugged character, strong common sense, unyielding faith and consistent industry can do to overcome the handicap of the lack of early opportunities.

Mr. Lewis was born in Caroline county, Virginia, in 1868. His opportunity for formal schooling was extremely limited, the sum total of such training being about three months. In 1894, when he was twenty-four years of age, he came to Washington a tramp with Coxe's Army, secured a job as a hod carrier, at which work he was employed for the next fifteen years.

Being possessed of the elements of leadership, Mr. Lewis organized, in 1907, The Laborers' Mercantile Realty Company. This was successful, and soon the public came to realize the true worth of the man, who had come to make Washington his home. Not satisfied with this enterprise, however, he organized, in 1913, The Industrial Savings Bank, an institution which now has three thousand depositors, with savings amounting to \$137,682.25.

The whole community now appreciates Mr. Lewis as an enterprising, public spirited, progressive citizen, who reflects credit both on himself and the community in which he lives.