

machinery. He was the first man in the United States who introduced what is known as the "patent process" for the manufacture of flour, and the Hungarian roller system, that has proved so valuable. He visited the old country for the purpose of investigating all the improved processes for making flour, determined to secure the very best for his own mill. His efforts, though attended with much hard labor and large expense, were crowned with complete success, and his mill at Minneapolis is recognized as the most extensive and best in the world, capable of turning out 2,000,000 barrels per annum of the finest quality of patent flour. His flouring mills were his greatest pride, and to them, for the last few years of his life, he gave a large share of his personal attention, becoming thoroughly informed in all the details of the vast machinery. It was generally admitted that no man in this country was so thoroughly versed in milling, or possessed so complete a knowledge of every detail in the manufacture of flour, as was the late General Washburn.

He was one of the early projectors and builders of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad, and was largely interested in many other business enterprises that required skill and energy to manage. His life was one of activity and hard work, and evinced tremendous will power and physical endurance.

His immense business success was not the result of accident or luck; but resulted from a keen foresight and from great thoroughness in the discharge of every duty in life. He never shirked any responsibility, but gave his personal attention to the work in hand. Integrity of character was his strong hold. His word was as good as his bond. An illustration of this is found in his conduct relating to the location of the astronomical observatory on the University grounds at Madison. He had made an appointment with a member of the board of regents to meet him at nine o'clock the next morning to stake out the ground upon which to locate this observatory. During the intervening night his great mill at Minneapolis was totally destroyed by fire. In the morning the regent presumed the governor had left for the scene of destruction on the night train and did not expect to meet him; but prompt at the moment, the noble governor appeared on the ground, as cool as though nothing had happened, ready to proceed with the work.