

**GENERAL RICHARD KING HALE**

1880-1956

GENERAL HALE was born in Boston on March 17, 1880, the son of Joseph Little and Annie Skinner Hale. He graduated from Harvard College in 1902 and continued his professional training at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, graduating in 1904. During the next twelve years he engaged in private engineering practice in Boston with Metcalf & Eddy and other firms and later in partnership with Mr. Edward B. Richardson.

General Hale married Mary Dean Pierce. They had two daughters, Mary D. and Joanna M. Hale. They lived in Brookline, with a summer home at Dennis.

General Hale's military career started when he entered the Massachusetts National Guard in Artillery Battery A, where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1908, Captain in 1913, Major and Lieutenant Colonel in 1916, when he entered active service with the U. S. Army on the Mexican Border. In the First World War he served as Colonel with the 101st Field Artillery in France on the staff of the Second Army Corps and returned as Chief of Staff of the 26th Division. Colonel Hale was decorated with the distinguished service medal. After the war his military interests continued in the National Guard, in which he served as Brigadier General from 1922 to 1929.

On his return from France, he began his long and distinguished career for the Commonwealth, when he was appointed by the Governor as one of two Associate Commissioners in the Waterways Division of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works. He continued in that office until a reorganization of the Department in 1927 when he was appointed one of the Associate Commissioners, with jurisdiction over both Waterways and Highways. Later, in 1938, upon the re-establishment of the Division of Waterways in the Department, he was appointed Director of that Division, which office he held up to his retirement in 1955.

For some years General Hale was also a member of the State Reclamation Board, engaged in its endeavors to control and reduce mosquito breeding grounds. He was for many years also a member of

the Beach Erosion Board. This Board was appointed by the Chief of Engineers in the Corps of Engineers, and consisted of seven members, four of which were Engineer Officers and three Engineers of State Agencies, for devising effective means of preventing erosion of the shores of coastal and lake waters by waves and currents. Under certain conditions it made investigations and recommendations, which involved local contributions to cost of projects.

It is in his thirty years as Director of the Waterways Division that General Hale will be best remembered. This was an administrative position, dealing with engineering matters. The Division's jurisdiction over tidal lands of the Commonwealth included the development of harbors, the Port of Boston until 1945, State Piers of Gloucester, New Bedford, Fall River, Plymouth and Bourne and all shore protective works and dredging channels. Activities of the Division also included improvement of rivers and streams for the purpose of protection against floods, for stream clearance, channel improvement or any form of flood control or prevention work, and licensing of dams, roads or bridges or other structures or other work in streams where public funds had been spent for flood control or prevention work were included under his jurisdiction.

Starting when the Commonwealth undertook the building of the great Logan Airport at East Boston, General Hale was active in the design and construction of that project. His main desire was that sound judgment should determine the fundamental layout or pattern for the airport and the conception of the essential features and their magnitudes and general methods of construction, including the initial reclamation of tidal flats of the Commonwealth by the use of local material for the basic fill, and that the runway construction and building layout should be properly designed for a great airport.

General Hale's great knowledge and experience in all matters of hydraulics of rivers and harbors, beach and shore made a great contribution to the solution of many problems that came to the Division. His work included not only the general engineering work but many dealings with engineers, local, state and Federal authorities, legislators, committees, and the public.

Those who came in contact with General Hale must have been impressed by his personality, his open frankness and fair dealing, his integrity and also a certain serenity, which while it did not prevent a strong stand and effort for what he thought was right, did not become

ruffled at opposition. His was a great contribution to the service of Massachusetts.

General Hale's interest in the activities of the Engineering Societies has included membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers and the New England Water Works Association for which he served as Editor of its Journal for eight years. He became a member of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers in 1909, served in various offices, and became President in 1925, and was elected an honorary member of the Society in 1950.