

The news of the death of **John W. Ela** yesterday at **Philadelphia**, where he had been taking a prominent part in the national civil service reform convention, will be received with sincere and widespread regret in this city, of which Mr. Ela had been a useful citizen for more than a quarter of a century. Prior to his coming to Chicago he had done excellent service for the national government during the war of the rebellion, and his first few years in Chicago were devoted actively to the practice of the profession of law. Though he occupied a leading position at the bar, he will be remembered chiefly for his labors in behalf of purity in municipal and state government. Though a democrat by personal conviction he was nonpartisan as a public man and never sought for public office—two qualifications of the highest kind for his work as a civil service reformer. He was a master of all the details of the merit system from long observation and study of its workings, and this aided him and his associates in securing the passage at Springfield of the Chicago civil service law, of which he was the author, having framed that measure while president of the Civil Service league. As president of the board he has worked faithfully and beyond his physical strength for honest government, and he died in the harness after addressing the national body upon the subject as to which he was a recognized authority. By his death Chicago loses a useful citizen.