## Men of the Hour: John A. Decker

http://digitalmaine.com/men\_of\_the\_hour/102

Transcription:

HON. JOHN A. DECKER OF WELD.

IN the growth of inland cities, he has played important part;

Rumford Falls and Millinocket, -- was behind them from the start: --

For he early saw a future, for the wheels of industry.

Where the waters idly tumbled o'er the barriers to the sea;

And now mills for pulp and paper with their smoking chimneys tall

Mark the place where all was silence, save the roaring water-fall.

A man of strong convictions, he much rather fight than run,

As you'll learn, on all occasions, when there's fighting to be done;

And one instance I'm recalllng, just to make my meaning plain,

Was when Decker joined with Ricker -- to "Save the Lakes of Maine,"

To this task he lent his service, with an energy and zeal,

That did wonders for a movement, that he spoke the commonweal.

He has lands along the lakeside -- but no catalog will do

For the best of all his holdings are his friendships, strong and true –

They outclass blocks in Millinocket or all that title gives;

For they bespeak the friend and neighbor, in the spirit that he lives.

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