Advance Praise
for Justus S. Stearns: Michigan Pine King and Kentucky Coal Baron, 1845—1933

“This is an excellent biography of an important man and a major contribution to business and Michigan history. The analysis and insight into a man who might be called a ‘robber baron’ is really remarkable. Highly recommended for all with even a minor interest in the various subjects covered.

—Donald Wisenhunt, professor emeritus, Western Washington University

Michael W. Nagle’s book Justus S. Stearns is another strong example of an overdue treatment of a significant figure in Michigan and Kentucky. Justus Stearns personifies the long-held belief in the American dream. Working as a farmhand milking cows was the entry-level job that ultimately led to his becoming a lumber baron, owner of major business interests, and Michigan secretary of state. Professor Nagle has tenaciously researched the life and times of Stearns and written a compelling narrative.