

distinct enunciation peculiarly fitting him for the duties of the position. He is a prominent Mason, and has held prominent offices in the higher Masonic bodies. Mr. Haney was married in 1881 to Augusta A. Cosad, by whom he has one son, Philip C. Haney, now seven years of age. He was married a second time in March, 1895, to Mary J. Parkhurst.

ROBERT JOSEPH WELLS.

Robert J. Wells is a successful farmer, lawyer and local politician of Wilkin County, Minnesota. He was born in Dane County, Wisconsin, October 4, 1856. His father is Andrew J. Wells, a native of Clermont County, Ohio, and now living with a competence on a fine farm in Wilkin County at the age of seventy-eight, looking back upon a useful and successful life. The elder Wells has always been a farmer except during a short period in Wisconsin when he operated a saw mill at Eau Claire. His only official position was on the board of commissioners appointed to make selection of the state school lands in the northern half of Wisconsin. His wife, whose maiden name was Eliza A. Wilson, was born near Port Republic, Maryland, in 1822. Her father was a soldier in the War of 1812 and her grandfather was in the War of the Revolution. In the early days her people were slaveholders, but during a religious revival, which swept across Maryland, nearly all of her relatives liberated their negroes. She is of a family related by ties of blood to old and noted Maryland families. Mr. Wells' boyhood was spent with his parents at their Wisconsin home. He attended the common schools until about fourteen years of age and then went to work. His first dollar was earned in his father's shingle mill at Eau Claire. When twenty-two years of age he was attracted to the Red River Valley by the stories of its wonderful fertility, and with a number of young men from the neighborhood emigrated to Minnesota. In May of the year 1878 he settled in Mitchell township, in Wilkin County, entering a homestead and "working out" for the first summer. His success was instantaneous. He took up more land and has ever since farmed from



one thousand to sixteen hundred acres each year. But while busily engaged in extensive farming operations, Mr. Wells found time to study law, and in 1888 was admitted to practice. He has been much interested in local politics and has held many minor offices such as justice, village trustee and president of the board. Shortly after he was admitted to the bar he was elected clerk of the district court, and in 1892 was chosen again by the citizens of the county. At present he is chairman of the county Republican committee and a member of the Seventh district congressional committee. Two years have been put in by Mr. Wells as a newspaper man—1890 as editor of the Breckenridge Mercury, and the year 1893 in the editorial chair of the Wilkin County Gazette. Mr. Wells belongs to the A. O. U. W. and Masonic orders. He has been secretary, senior warden and master of Frontier Lodge, No. 152, A. F. and A. M. of Breckenridge. He attends the Baptist church, though not a member. On January 17, 1889, he was married to Sadie E. Langford, at Dodge Center, Minnesota. They have two children, Carroll V. and Donald J. Wells. In recent years Mr. and Mrs. Wells have resided in Breckenridge.