

## WILLIAM E. JOHNSON.

William E. Johnson is a member of the Minnesota senate, elected from the Twenty-ninth District, which comprises a part of the city of Minneapolis. He is a son of the late James Johnson, and was born at Palestine, Columbiana County, Ohio, February 8, 1850. His ancestry were among the early settlers of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio. They settled near Cleveland, Ohio, in the year 1810, and took part in the Revolutionary War and in the Indian wars of the early history of Ohio. Senator Johnson was educated in the common schools, and began business in the railway service in which he was engaged until 1891. He went to South Dakota in 1881 as assistant superintendent of the Dakota division of the Chicago & North-Western Railroad, and was the principal mover in the organization and settlement of Hand County having it surveyed by the United States government and opened for settlement. This was done, too, in a time which required nerve, enterprise and perseverance to secure an economical and business-like management of public affairs, there being so many men ready in those days to take advantage in the organization of new counties to set up schemes for their private advantage, but both Hand and Beadle Counties owe to Mr. Johnson's prudence and careful management the fact that they were unusually free from the burdens which were laid upon many of the new Western communities. When he left that country some ten years later the people gave him a handsome testimonial in recognition of his public services. He came to Minneapolis in 1891 and accepted the presidency of the Guaranty Savings and Loan Association in Minneapolis. He has taken an active interest in building up this line of financial investment, and has a national reputation as a promoter of building and loan associations. He is a member of the executive committee of the Interstate League of National Building and Loan Associations of the United States. This committee consists of seven members, and is organized on lines similar to that of the American Bankers' Association. Mr. Johnson never took a very active part in politics until 1894, when he was selected by his district as a candidate for the state senate. He was elected as



a member of that body, and in the session of 1895 received his first introduction to public affairs. He is a Republican in his affiliations, and occupied an important position in the delegation which represented his city in the senate. As a member of that body he took an active interest in labor legislation; was a member of the committee on labor, and exerted an important influence in shaping the legislation of the session. Mr. Johnson is thoroughly in sympathy with the labor classes, and a firm believer in their improvement and betterment through education, believing that a better understanding of the relations between labor and capital by both employer and employe will greatly promote a more harmonious relation and more judicious co-operation between them. Mr. Johnson is an attendant on the services of the Episcopal church, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances, who hold him in high regard for his personal qualities and devotion to public interest. He takes an active interest in municipal questions, and is a diligent student of the problems of municipal government. He is a firm believer in the mayoralty system of municipal government, believing that that office should have large powers and a wide range of authority. Mr. Johnson was married at Lima, Indiana, to Harriet I. McNabb, June 2, 1860, and has five children.