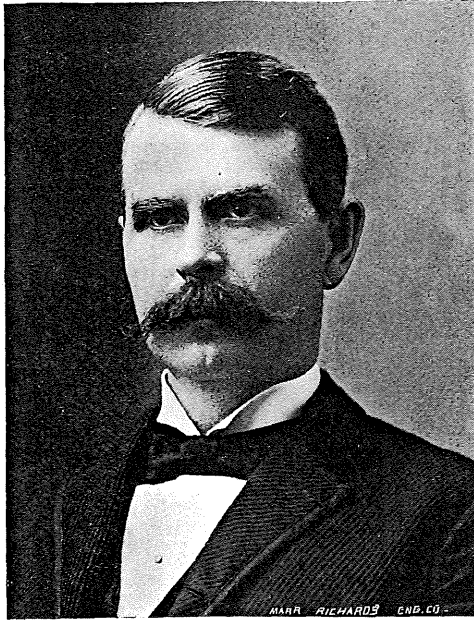


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CHARLES RUSSELL DAVIS.

C. R. Davis, of St. Peter, is easily one of the best known men in southwestern Minnesota. For nearly twenty-five years he has been actively engaged in politics and the practice of law. As a speaker before the bar and on the platform he has a high reputation. The preparation for this active and successful life was of the kind so frequently noted in the lives of successful men. Mr. Davis was born in Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois, in 1849. His father, Sidney W. Davis, was then a farmer. His mother died in 1851, and two years later the father removed to Minnesota and settled on a farm in LeSueur County. He was foremost in those pioneer days and soon took a prominent position in the community. He was present at New Ulm during the Indian massacre of 1862 and materially aided in the defense of the place. In 1866 he moved to St. Peter and was engaged in merchandising until 1870. From 1870 to 1880 he was in the meat and provision business and after that took up stock raising and shipping. He has become a leading dealer and shipper in the Minnesota valley and is in good circumstances. Until sixteen years of age Charles remained on the farm with his father, attending school from three to six months each winter, and after they removed to St. Peter receiving the best education which the schools of the place afforded. This was sup-

plemented by a business college course in St. Paul in 1867. For the next two years he engaged in business in St. Peter but, in the latter part of 1869, believing himself adapted to the law, he commenced study for admission to the bar in the office of Hon. Alfred Wallin, now chief justice of the supreme court of North Dakota, and then a practicing lawyer in St. Peter. Mr. Davis was admitted to practice on March 6, 1872, and at once associated himself with Mr. Wallin, having offices in St. Peter and New Ulm, and during the continuance of this partnership, which lasted five years, did a large and lucrative business. While thus engaged in the practice of law, and ever since, Mr. Davis has been a constant student. His reading has covered works essential to his profession as well as a large range of subjects in the fields of history and literature. He soon began to take a hand in politics as a Republican, and his abilities were recognized by his election to the office of county attorney of Nicollet County in 1872. He was again elected to this office in 1878, 1880 and 1882. He was always a successful prosecutor. In 1878 he was elected city attorney and city clerk of St. Peter and has since held these offices almost continuously—during a period of sixteen years. Mr. Davis' services to his party and his eminent qualifications for legislative work led to his nomination and election to the legislature in 1889. He was prominently mentioned as a candidate for speaker of the house. During this session of the legislature Mr. Davis was one of the leaders of the house. He was a frequent speaker, and an active member of the judiciary committee. One of the important measures which he introduced was the bill abolishing capital punishment, which gave him a wide reputation as an advocate of the abolition of the death penalty. In 1880 Mr. Davis was elected to the state senate for the term of four years. He introduced the first bill of the session, Senate File No. 1, a bill providing for the reduction of interest and to punish usury. This bill was stubbornly fought but passed the senate though it met with defeat in the house on the last night of the session. During each session Mr. Davis was a member of the committee on judiciary, and in the session of 1893 was chairman of the Committee on Hospitals for the Insane. In the latter capacity in the session of 1893 he was instrumental in securing

the passage of the present law for the management and control of the various insane asylums of the state. In 1892 he was a prominent candidate for the nomination for congress in the Second district of Minnesota, lacking but a few votes in securing the nomination. At the present time Mr. Davis has an extensive law practice and is considered a very successful jury and trial lawyer. Mr. Davis was married to Miss Emma Haven in St. Peter in 1874 by the Rev. Dr. Clinton Locke, of Chicago, where Miss Haven had formerly lived. They have two children, Isabel H. Davis and Russell Davis.

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FRED BEAL SNYDER.

Mr. Snyder is president of the City Council of Minneapolis; was born in the first house built in what originally constituted the city of Minneapolis. This was the home of Colonel J. H. Stevens. The house stood where the union depot now stands. The date of Mr. Snyder's birth was February 21, 1859. His father, Simon P. Snyder, came to Minneapolis from Pennsylvania in 1855, and soon became actively identified with the interests of this community, operating extensively in real estate and as a banker. He brought a great deal of capital to this locality, and contributed in a large degree to the development of its resources. Mr. Snyder's ancestry on his father's side was Dutch, and settled in Pennsylvania. The name was formerly spelled Schneider. On his mother's side his descent is from the Ramseys and Stevensons, both Scotch families. His early education was received in the public schools of Minneapolis, but before graduation from the high schools he entered the University of Minnesota, from which institution he graduated in 1881. His first business experience was as a clerk in a book store at \$4.50 a week. During this time he began the study of law, and went into the office of Lochren, McNair & Gilfillan; afterwards he was with Koon, Merrill & Keith. He was admitted to the bar in 1882 and began the practice of law with Robert Jamison, now on the district bench. The style of the firm was Snyder & Jamison from 1882 to 1888. At that time Mr. Snyder joined with others in organizing the Minnesota Saving Fund and Investment Company, of which he has been



president since its organization. Mr. Snyder is rather independent in his political views, but Republican in his political affiliations. He was elected alderman of the Second ward in 1892 by the Republicans for a term of four years. In 1895 he was elected president of the City Council. Perhaps his most notable service as a member of that body was his leadership in the Council of the controversy between the city and the Minneapolis Gas Light Company, as a result of which the price of gas for all consumers was reduced from \$1.60 to \$1.30 net. He also drew up and secured the passage of the ordinance creating and regulating the department of inspector of gas. In 1896 Mr. Snyder was elected to the state legislature from the Thirtieth District. Mr. Snyder is a member of the Commercial Club, of the Six O'Clock Club, of the Chi Psi college fraternity, and in recognition of his scholarship and ability he was elected to membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society of the University of Minnesota. His church relations were formerly with the Episcopal church, but more recently he has become an attendant of the First Congregational church. On September 23, 1885, he married Sue M. Pillsbury, daughter of ex-Governor John S. Pillsbury. He has one son, John Pillsbury Snyder, born January 8, 1888. His wife died September 3, 1891. Mr. Snyder was again married February 18, 1896, to Leonora S. Dickson, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.