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JENS KRISTIAN GRONDAHL.

Jens K. Grondahl enjoys the distinction of being one of the youngest men in the state to serve in the legislature. He was elected in 1894 when but twenty-five years of age. He is a newspaper man and a resident of Red Wing, where he came with his parents from Norway in 1882. His father, Lars Grondahl, was a farmer of limited means but with advanced ideas as to the education and training of his children; a man of warm heart and generous disposition. Mr. Grondahl died in 1895 at the age of seventy-two. His wife, whose maiden name was Marthe Margrete Julsrud, is still living aged sixty-seven. She is a woman of most estimable character. Their son Jens was born at Eidsvold, near Christiania Norway, on December 3, 1896. He attended the public schools at the place of his birth and, after coming to America, at the age of thirteen, at Red Wing. He graduated from the Red Wing Seminary in 1887 with high honors. Later he attended the University of Minnesota for one year. Shortly before graduating from the seminary in 1887 he won the oratorical prize of fifteen dollars. This, rather oddly, led him into the newspaper business. He invested the money in the confectionery business, starting a tiny shop, where he soon accumulated enough debts to last him for several years. To mend the

failing fortunes of his enterprise he carried papers and later acted as correspondent for some of the city dailies. When the "Red Wing Daily Independent" was started in 1891 he was engaged to conduct the paper—a post which proved to consist in preparing all the local and editorial "copy," distributing it among three printing offices, and, after the matter was set up, collecting the type and carrying it to the office where the paper was printed. Occasionally these manifold duties were supplemented by the light work of running off the edition on the cylinder press and delivering the paper to the waiting subscribers. During the summer of this year Mr. Grondahl made a brief excursion into the lecture field, assuming the role of humorous lecturer—an experience which he now looks back upon as one of the most humorous in his career, whatever the public may have thought about it. A one-night stand, and an audience of one, discouraged the budding lecturer, and he has since devoted himself to journalism and politics. The campaign of 1892 found Mr. Grondahl an active worker in the Republican ranks. Two years later he was a candidate for the legislature to represent Goodhue County in the lower house. A bitter campaign against the "boy" candidate ended in his election by a large majority. During the succeeding session he took an active part in the affairs of the house and made some very effective speeches on prison labor reform, the training school bills and other measures which he regarded especially worthy of support or denunciation. He was also successful in securing various important legislation for the benefit of his own county. He was one of two men who were present at every session of the legislature. With this record behind him, Mr. Grondahl went into the representative convention in 1896 and received the re-nomination by acclamation. In 1892 he became connected with the "Red Wing Daily Republican," and in 1894 assumed charge of "Nordstjernen," a Norwegian weekly which was then started by the same company. In the spring of 1896 he was elected secretary of the Minnesota Republican Editorial Association. Mr. Grondahl has taken an active part in the Republican state conventions for the past two years. He was chosen as one of the delegates to represent Minnesota in the national convention of Republican clubs at Milwaukee, in August, 1896. Mr. Grondahl is unmarried. He is a Lutheran.