



SAMUEL A. LANGUM.

The life record of S. A. Langum, of Preston, newspaper man and politician, affords a good example for the possibilities which lie in the path of an enterprising and ambitious young man in a growing western state. Though not yet forty years of age, Mr. Langum has held a number of positions of trust and responsibility, and has reasonable aspirations toward still higher things. Mr. Langum's parents were both born in Norway. His father, Andrew J. Langum, came to this country in 1855 and settled with his wife, whose maiden name was Julia Swenson, in Fillmore County, where he has since been engaged in farming and has achieved independence. He is prominently known as a layman in the Norwegian Lutheran church, and has traveled extensively among the people of this denomination doing missionary work. Mr. and Mrs. Langum have raised a family of nine children, two boys and seven girls. S. A. Langum was born in the town of Bloomfield, Fillmore County, on August 18, 1857. He first attended school in a little log school house on the banks of the Root River, near his home. The schools of those days in the country districts of Minnesota were not of the best and the requirements expected in a teacher were not high. Samuel's father intended him for the ministry, and gave

him much instruction at home. When he was only six years old he could read Norwegian fluently. At the age of fifteen he was sent to the Marshall Academy, Marshall, Wisconsin, a school conducted by the Augustana Synod. After two years this school was discontinued and for one year Samuel studied Norwegian literature and theology with Rev. Mr. Lysness, near Decorah, Iowa. He continued his studies during the next year at Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis. But he was beginning to discover that the ministry was not to his taste, and after a year of school teaching he entered politics and became deputy register of deeds of Fillmore County. He held this position for four years and in 1880, when only twenty-three years of age, was elected sheriff of Fillmore County. He was the youngest sheriff in the state and the first boy born in Fillmore County to be elected to a county office. Mr. Langum held the sheriff's office for six years. In 1886 he purchased the "Preston Democrat," changed its politics from Democratic to Republican—of the stalwart kind and re-named it the "Preston Times." He is still its publisher, and has made the paper a distinct success. It is largely due to the position of the paper that the move for municipal improvements has taken a firm hold in Preston, which is now the proud possessor of the finest system of water works and electric lights, on the municipal ownership plan, of any town of its size in Minnesota. Under Mr. Langum's management and editorial direction the Preston Times has been very aggressive in politics. In December, 1889, Mr. Langum was appointed deputy warden of the Minnesota State Prison at Stillwater, retiring with Warden Randall, in February, 1891. He served in the legislature of 1893, after having been elected by a handsome majority over a fusion candidate supported by Democrats, Populists and Prohibitionists. Two years later he was elected secretary of the state senate, and made such a record for efficient service that at the session of 1897 he was unanimously re-elected. Mr. Langum has his eye on the office of secretary of state in 1898, and is known as an active candidate for this nomination. He is a member of Malta Commandary No. 25, K. T., of Preston, and has been its recorder since its organization. Mr. Langum was married on September 14, 1878,

to Miss Emma McCollum, of Milwaukee. They have had four children, Alfred, William, Nora and Winnie, of whom William died in infancy. Mr. Langum is a member of St. Paul Norwegian Lutheran church of Preston.

PLYMPTON AYERS WALLING.

Dr. P. A. Walling is a prominent physician of Hubbard County, and one of many examples of the self-made, successful Western man. His early life was surrounded by conditions which would have discouraged a boy not possessed of an unusual amount of pluck and determination. Born on a Pennsylvania farm—Columbus, Warren County—his father, Asaph Walling, always a poor man, young Plympton found his boyhood anything but easy. Even the school facilities of the region were scarcely up to the frontier grade. Until he was nine years old Plympton had not sat at a school desk. His school seat was on a bass wood puncheon set against the wall of a log school house. Later on he attended better schools, but necessarily in an intermittent way which interfered with complete courses of study. Much of his education was obtained at home. He was determined to have an education and he secured it; but by force of circumstances was unable to graduate from any institution which he attended. After a term or so at the Northwestern Normal School of Edinborg, Pennsylvania, he entered the medical department of the University of Buffalo, from which he graduated on February 23, 1876. Thus, at the age of twenty-six, Mr. Walling found himself equipped for the practice of his chosen profession. It had been a hard struggle, but it had fitted him for the exacting and trying life of a physician. He had taught school and "boarded 'round," worked at anything and everything which would support life and furnish funds for his education. But, though he stepped out of the medical college without a dollar, he had learned the lessons of self-reliance, independence, industry and confidence which lie at the foundations of success. When Dr. Walling came to Minnesota and settled in Park Rapids, in May, 1882, there were not fifty people in that village. All the discouragements of pioneer life confronted him. Roads, business, houses, railroads, mails and



even people were wanting. But Dr. Walling had cast his lot with the young village and he stayed—stayed to see a thriving town grow up surrounded by fine farms, with good railroad facilities and excellent prospects for the future. It has been his fortune to see public opinion regarding the northern part of the state change from an attitude of skepticism regarding its value to one of open interest and appreciation. The few pioneers who had courage to stake their success on the excellence of the soil of northern Minnesota are now reaping their reward. Dr. Walling went in for a country practice and has secured it—and the best of its kind. He has built a pleasant home in Park Rapids, been honored by two elections to the position of coroner, and has held since 1883 the office of secretary of the United States Board of Examining surgeons. He is a member of the Minnesota State Medical Society and of the American Medical Association, and is an occasional contributor to medical magazines and to the literature of the societies. On August 11, 1875, Dr. Walling and Mrs. Rosaline E. Knowles were married at Corry, Pennsylvania. They have three children. The eldest, Jason Marion, is now eighteen, and is studying at Pillsbury Academy. He intends to practice medicine. Iva Ellen, aged fifteen, and Ivan Elmer, aged eleven, are at home with their parents.