



JOHN LOUIS MACDONALD.

The subject of this sketch is a native of Glasgow, Scotland, where he was born February 22, 1838. His parents were Dr. John A. and Marjory (McKinley) Macdonald. Dr. John A. Macdonald was a successful physician, who emigrated from Scotland to Nova Scotia when the subject of this sketch was quite young. In 1847 the family removed to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. While they resided there our subject obtained an academic education. In the spring of 1855 the family moved to St. Paul, and in the fall of that year located at Belle Plaine, Scott County. Here he began the study of law, and in the spring of 1859 was admitted to the bar. At the next election he was chosen probate judge of Scott County and held that office for two years. He then held successively the offices of county superintendent of schools and prosecuting attorney. Mr. Macdonald has also had some newspaper experience. In 1860 and 1861 he edited the Belle Plaine Enquirer, and in the fall of the latter year removed to Shakopee, where he founded the Shakopee Argus, which he edited for about a year. The war having broke out he was commis-

sioned to enlist and muster in volunteers for the union army. Mr. Macdonald's abilities and sterling qualities of character had come to be recognized, and in 1869 and 1870 he served as a member of the house of representatives of Minnesota, and from 1871 to 1876 as a member of the state senate. In both branches he served on the judiciary and other important committees. It was he who introduced and secured the passage of the constitutional amendment requiring that any law amending or altering in any way the provisions that the railroads of the state should pay, in lieu of all other taxes, a percentage upon their gross earnings, should be referred to the people and adopted by a majority of their votes before it could take effect. This was clearly the introduction into Minnesota legislation of the principle of the referendum. In 1872 Mr. Macdonald was chosen as the candidate of his party (the Democratic) for the office of attorney general of the state, but the times were not favorable for the Democracy in Minnesota, and he was defeated with his party ticket. In 1875 he was honored by his fellow townsmen of Shakopee with the office of mayor, and the following year was elected judge of the Eighth judicial district for a term of seven years. At the expiration of his term he was re-elected without opposition and served until 1886, when he resigned to take up the more lucrative business of practicing his profession as a lawyer. He was not allowed, however, to remain long in private life, as the Democrats of his district the same year elected him to the Fiftieth congress from the Third district of Minnesota, a district which had previously been Republican by three thousand majority. Judge Macdonald served on the committee on public lands, merchant marine and fisheries. He was re-nominated by his party in 1888, but the political tide had returned, and, failing of re-election, he retired at the expiration of his term, to the practice of his profession at St. Paul, where he now resides. Although he has always been affiliated with the Democratic party, he maintains a high degree of independence in his political beliefs, and at present regards himself as an independent in politics. Being an ardent advocate of the free coinage of

silver, he joined the People's Party in 1892, and afterwards served as chairman of the state central committee of that organization. He was married June 22, 1861, to Miss Mary Hennessy, of Belle Plaine, Minnesota. Judge Macdonald has had a highly successful career, his chief success having been achieved in the honorable and dignified position of judge, where he discharged the duties of his office with such ability and great satisfaction to the public that he was the choice of both the Republicans and Democrats as his own successor after the expiration of his first term.

JOHN BAPTIST SCHMID.

Mr. Schmid, as his name indicates, is of German origin on his father's side, and on his mother's side of French extraction. The Schmid family to which the subject of this sketch belongs emigrated from Hungary to Germany in the Sixteenth century, where they engaged in manufacturing glass. On his mother's side Mr. Schmid is of Bohemian descent. His father, Clement Schmid, is a farmer living at Mulligan, Brown County, Minnesota, having come to this country from Bavaria, Germany, in 1868. His mother's maiden name was Anna Leibel. John Baptist was born February 27, 1852, in Stadlern, Upper Palatine, Bavaria, Germany. He received a common school education. Coming to this country with his parents in 1868, he settled on a farm in Brown County, Minnesota, in the town of Siegel. By profession Mr. Schmid was a musician, and the first dollar he ever earned was in that vocation. For some years he worked in the breweries in New Ulm, Minnesota. He then took a homestead in the town of Mulligan, Brown County, and proceeded to improve it. In 1878 he engaged in the hotel business at Sleepy Eye, and in 1882 established a general merchandise store in the same city, continuing in the same line of business until January 1, 1885, when he was nominated by the Democrats and elected sheriff of Brown County. He served in the office for three terms, after which, in 1890, he went into partnership with A. C. Ochis, of New Ulm, purchasing the Springfield



roller mill. In 1893 this partnership was dissolved, the mill having been sold and Mr. Schmid engaged in the elevator business and also deals in coal and other articles. To this business he gives his whole attention. He also owns and operates three large farms. He was also nominated for state senator in 1894, but failed of election by a small majority. He served for five years in the village council in Springfield, and has been a member of the school board for the last five years, acting as its treasurer. He is a member of several different Masonic bodies, was a charter member of the Springfield lodge of Odd Fellows, No. 225, serving for two terms as Noble Grand. In 1895 he was the representative of the I. O. O. F. to the grand lodge. He is also a member of O. D. H. S., and was president of the New Ulm lodge. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Schmid is connected with the Catholic church. He was married in New Ulm in 1872 to Anna Mary Adams, and has ten children living. His eldest son John R. is at present and has been for the past three years, assistant cashier of the State Bank of Springfield. The other living children are Emma, Louise, Bertha, Edward, Adolph, Victoria, Benjamin, Constance and Elmer.