

KNUTE NELSON.

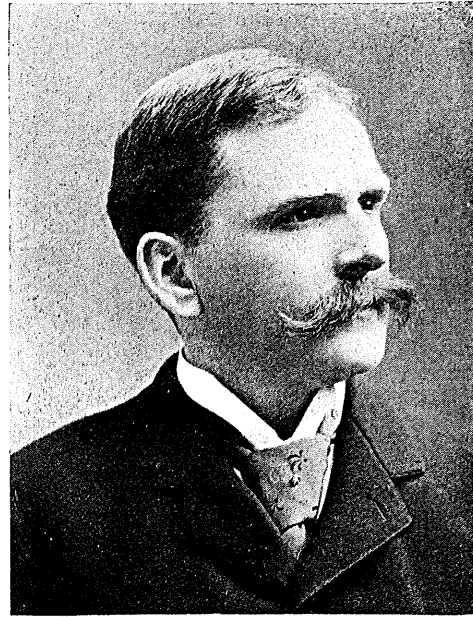
Senator Knute Nelson, of Minnesota, is a native of Norway. He was born at Voss, near Bergen, Norway, on February 2, 1843. For generations his ancestors had lived in that vicinity as farmers. When three years old Knute lost his father, and when six, he came to this country with his mother. When they arrived in Chicago in July, 1849, the cholera epidemic was raging in that city. The young boy contracted the disease, but his rugged constitution successfully resisted its attacks. During the succeeding year his mother moved to Walworth County, Wisconsin, and soon after to Dane County, where young Nelson grew up. His common school education was obtained with difficulty, but after encountering many obstacles he was able, in 1858, to enter Albion Academy. But three years of his course there had expired when the war broke out, and Nelson entered the army in May, 1861, with a group of his fellow students. They became members of the Fourth Wisconsin Infantry. The young soldier served with his regiment until the fall of 1864. He participated in the capture of New Orleans, in the first siege of Vicksburg, the

battle of Baton Rouge and Camp Bisland, and was at the siege of Port Hudson. In the great charge at this siege, on June 14, 1863, he was wounded and captured, and remained a prisoner until the fort was surrendered on July 9. At the close of the war Mr. Nelson returned to Albion, finished his course, and after graduation became a law student in the office of Senator William F. Vilas, at Madison. He was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1867, and immediately commenced practice. In the fall of the same year he was elected to the state assembly, and was re-elected in the following year. Soon after the close of his second term he moved to Alexandria, Douglas County, Minnesota, where he has since made his home. In Douglas County Mr. Nelson found many people from his native country and from Sweden. In fact, those nationalities predominate in Northwestern Minnesota. As a strong man, and one whose characteristics fitted him to become a leader, he naturally took a prominent place from his first settlement in the region. He entered a United States homestead and opened a farm near Alexandria, and commenced farming and practicing law. In 1872, 1873 and 1874 he was county attorney of Douglas County. In 1875, 1876, 1877 and 1878 he served the Thirty-ninth Legislative District as state senator. By this time he had attained great prominence and influence in the northern portion of the state, and his name was placed on the Garfield electoral ticket in 1880. Two years later he secured the Republican nomination for congress, for the then Fifth District of Minnesota. The campaign was an extremely bitter one, but he was elected by a plurality of four thousand five hundred votes. Re-election followed in 1884 by over ten thousand plurality, and in 1886 he received for his third term forty three thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven votes to one thousand two hundred and thirty-nine cast for a Prohibitionist, his only opponent. Mr. Nelson's record in congress was that of a hard worker, and an independent and fearless voter. He favored tariff reform, and even went so far as to vote for the Mills bill, as well as introducing a measure looking to the entire abolition of the tariff on several articles. He was

instrumental in securing the passage of bills opening the Indian reservations and making permanent disposition of the red men of Minnesota. With no material opposition to him he nevertheless declined a renomination in 1888, and the following spring resumed his law business and farming at Alexandria, but in 1892 he was unanimously nominated as the party candidate for governor, and was elected by a plurality of fourteen thousand six hundred and twenty votes. A renomination and election by sixty thousand plurality followed in 1894. He had hardly entered upon his second term, however, when he was elected to the United States senate and resigned as governor to accept the higher office, which he now fills with great ability. Mr. Nelson's career has been of the kind that romances are made of, and his success stands as a living refutation of the complaint that there is no longer any chance for the poor boy in this country. Nelson was certainly poor enough and sufficiently dependent on his merits and his own efforts which have advanced him from the station which he occupied as a lad in 1849, with all its discouraging conditions, to the honorable office which he now fills with credit to himself and to the profit of the state.

LOUIS N. SCOTT.

The subject of this sketch was born at Petersburg, Kentucky, May 10, 1858, a son of Robert Scott, now a hotel proprietor in Missouri, and Ellen Coneff (Scott), now deceased. Robert Scott was of Scotch descent, and his wife of Irish lineage. Louis was afforded the advantages of a common school and business education only. In April, 1875, at the age of seventeen, he came to Minnesota and located at St. Paul, having obtained employment there as a clerk in the steamboat business. He was employed as freight clerk on the levee by the St. Louis & St. Paul Packet Company, and afterwards became the agent in St. Paul for that line and still later general Northwestern agent for the same company. In 1883 he engaged in the theatrical business as manager of the opera house in



St. Paul. In October of the same year, he was made manager of the Grand Opera House and conducted it up to the time it was destroyed by fire in January, 1888. He then managed the Newmarket, a temporary theatre, for nearly two years, and opened the Metropolitan Opera House in St. Paul, December 29, 1890. Mr. Scott is now in charge of this property. In 1894 he was made manager of the Grand Opera House in Minneapolis and handled that property up to the time it was closed in October, 1895. On the sixth day of October, 1895, Mr. Scott was placed in charge of the Metropolitan Opera House and the Lyceum Theatre in Minneapolis. In May, 1894, he took the management of the Lyceum Theatre, in Duluth, and is now conducting these four places of amusement. The Metropolitan in Minneapolis, the Metropolitan in St. Paul, and the Lyceum in Duluth, are operated together. He has been highly successful in his extensive business, aiming to present to the theatre-loving public of these three cities the best available attractions. Mr. Scott is a member of the Minneapolis Club and the Minnesota Club in St. Paul. He was married in December, 1886, to Mrs. Elizabeth Haines. They have no children.