

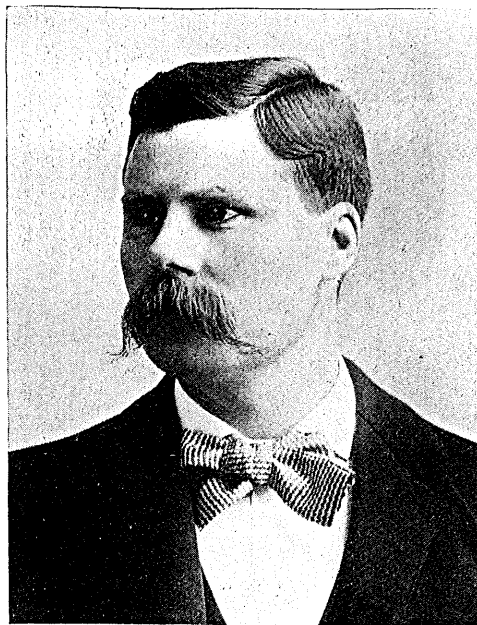


ROBERT L. PENNEY.

Robert L. Penney is a native of Connecticut. He was born at Watertown, in that state. William Penney, his father, for many years followed the occupation of farming. In 1870 he moved to New Haven, Connecticut, and engaged in the boot and shoe business, at which he was moderately successful. He died at New Haven in 1884, at the age of seventy-six years. Julia Maria Weller (Penney), the mother of the subject of this sketch, was a daughter of Justus Weller, of Bridgewater, Connecticut, who for many years was a justice of the peace in Litchfield County, and had the confidence of the community in which he lived for his honesty and integrity. Mrs. Penney was for many years a contributor to the popular magazines of her time, and was a woman possessed of rare graces of mind and person, her life being an inspiration and a benediction to her children as well as to all with whom she came in contact. Her demise occurred at New Haven a year previous to her husband's death. The parents were not able to give their son a collegiate education, but Robert possessed a strong will and sufficient courage to work his way, which he ultimately did, but only

after suffering many hardships. Up to his thirteenth year his education was received in the district schools. He then went to Millertown, Dutchess County, New York, and for three years attended an academy at that place. Desiring to enter the Oneida Conference Seminary at Cazenovia, New York, and not having sufficient funds to do so, he set about earning money for that purpose. By working on neighbors' farms he was able within a year to accumulate enough money to pay for the first quarter's tuition at that institution. Additional funds were obtained by teaching school. He graduated from the Seminary as salutatorian of his class. He then entered Yale College Law School, graduating in 1876. He stood third in his class and received honorable mention by Chief Justice Waite, of the United States Supreme Court, who delivered the graduating address. For some time afterward he lived at Newark, New Jersey, but thinking the West afforded him better opportunities, he came to Minnesota in October, 1880, and located at Minneapolis. His practice at first was rather limited, but in 1882 he went into partnership with L. L. Baxter (now judge of the district court at Fergus Falls, Minnesota,) and Anton Grethen, under the firm name of Baxter, Grethen & Penney. This partnership continued until Mr. Baxter's elevation to the bench. He continued in practice alone for some time until the law firm of Jordan, Penney & Hammond was formed. This partnership was dissolved by the removal of Messrs. Jordan and Hammond to Tacoma, Washington. In 1886 Mr. Penney was elected to the office of special judge of the municipal court, but the supreme court declared the election unconstitutional and void. Two years later he was on the Democratic ticket for county attorney, but was defeated by Robert Jamison. In 1890 Mr. Penney was nominated on the legislative ticket, his former opponent being nominated by the Republicans to the same office. Mr. Penney won, and his nomination had not been announced more than ten minutes before he and Mr. Jamison had formed a law partnership, under the name of Penney & Jamison, which continued until Mr. Jamison's appointment to the district bench. Mr. Penney then

formed a partnership with Victor Welch and Marcus P. Hayne, under the name of Penney, Welch & Hayne. This partnership was dissolved in April, 1895, since which time Mr. Penney has practiced alone. He has enjoyed a large practice, and one that has proven quite remunerative. In national politics he is a sound money Democrat, but independent in local matters. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M., Royal Arch Masons, B. P. O. E., and the A. O. U. W., also of the Commercial Club of Minneapolis. He was married in 1875 to Mary E. Leete, daughter of Thaddeus Leete, of Madison, Connecticut, and has one child, Florence J. Mrs. Penney is a direct descendant of William Leete, one of the first governors of Connecticut.



#### CHRISTOPHER A. FOSNES.

C. A. Fosnes is an attorney of Monevideo, Minnesota. He is a native of Fosnes, Norway, where he was born on July 2, 1862. When only five years old he came to this country with his parents. Amund Fosnes, his father, was a farmer, and, like many of the emigrants from the Scandinavian peninsula, was very poor. His wife was Miss Britha Sherdahl. Upon arriving in this country Mr. Fosnes settled in Winona County, Minnesota. He afterwards removed to Faribault County, and it was in the district schools of these two Minnesota counties that young Christopher obtained his early education. As is common with farmers' boys, he went to school in the winter only and worked on the farm in the summer. Even when going to school he worked for his board. As he approached manhood he determined to become a lawyer, and he left the farm and went to Winona, where he attended the State Normal school and afterwards studied law. In the fall of 1884 he was admitted to the bar at Montevideo, Minnesota, and has since practiced law in that place. For the first year of his legal practice Mr. Fosnes was associated with Owen J. Wood, the firm being Wood & Fosnes. After the dissolution of this partnership the firm of Smith & Fosnes was formed, the senior member of the firm being Lyndon A.

Smith. Mr. Fosnes continued his partnership with Mr. Smith until May, 1890, and since that time he has practiced alone. He has a large and well established business which consists almost exclusively of court work. During his twelve years of legal life Mr. Fosnes has accumulated one of the best law libraries in the state, west of Minneapolis. He has had numerous important cases, one of which was the defense of George M. Clark, undertaken in 1896. Clark was charged, at Milbank, South Dakota, with securing from New York bankers the sum of forty thousand dollars on forged paper. He left the country last January, but has since been arrested in Mexico and brought back for trial. Mr. Fosnes is independent in politics. He was a candidate for congress in 1888 on the Prohibition ticket and a delegate to the National Prohibition Convention in the same year. In his home town he has been mayor, member of the school board and for several years city attorney, and in 1896 was elected to the state legislature on the fusion ticket. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and Masonic bodies. On July 3, 1883, Mr. Fosnes and Miss Sarah Arneson were married. They have four children, Walter, Alfred, Ernest and Carl.