

Club, the Commercial Club, the Town and County Club, and the Nushka Club, of St. Paul. Mr. and Mrs. Scott have one child, Ann Lee, about two years old. They are regular attendants of the House of Hope Presbyterian Church, of St. Paul.

JOHN PETERSON.

John Peterson, of St. Peter, is a type of the successful Swedish-American citizen of Minnesota. He was born in the province of Vermland, Sweden, on July 6, 1841. His parents, Peter and Carrie Johnson, were people of strong character and earnest Christians. Although a farmer in poor circumstances, Mr. Johnson managed to give his son a fair education and taught him the value of integrity. Upon his graduation from the public schools the young man followed for several years the trade of mechanic and builder, and was soon promoted to the position of superintendent of the construction of railroad bridges on the governmental railways of Sweden. In the spring of 1869 he emigrated to the United States and settled in the Minnesota valley at St. Peter, where he still lives. He commenced at the bottom. His first dollar earned in this state was as a grader on the new railroad—then the St. Paul & Sioux City—now a part of the Northwestern system. He also worked on the farms in the vicinity during the harvest of 1869. But the railroad work offered an attractive field. His acquaintance with railroad matters in the old country fitted Mr. Peterson for taking an active part in construction. He soon commenced operations as sub-contractor on the Winona & St. Peter railroad, and in 1871 became a member of the firm of C. J. Larson & Co., which until its dissolution in 1888 took a most active part in the construction of the railway systems of the Northwest. In 1886 Mr. Peterson entered into a partnership with Fred. Widell, of Mankato, and for several years engaged in stone quarrying and building. He has also been connected with extensive farming operations in Northeastern Nebraska and with the iron interests in the northern part of Minnesota. He believes that the iron industry will shortly be the chief contributor to the wealth of the state. During his active career, Mr. Peter-



son has held many positions of trust and has given evidence of ability and devotion to the interests of his constituents. In political faith he has always been a Republican. From 1881 to 1896 he was a member of the city council of St. Peter, and for two years was its president. For several years he has been a director of the Nicollet County Bank. He is president of the Northwestern Publishing Company, of St. Paul. As a delegate to numerous congressional and state conventions Mr. Peterson has exercised considerable influence. He has been a member of the congressional committee of his district, and in the fall of 1894 he was elected state senator, winning a brilliant victory over the regular Democratic and an independent Republican candidate. He was twice appointed a member of the Board of Trustees of the State Hospitals for the Insane by Gov. Merriam and once by Gov. Nelson. Mr. Peterson has taken a special interest in educational matters, and has been a member of the building committee, treasurer and director of the Gustavus Adolphus College of St. Peter since its establishment. Since 1874 he has been a member of the Swedish Lutheran church, during which period he has also served as a member of the church council. In 1873 he married Frederica Elizabeth Lundberg. They have seven children, Agnes L., Adolph C., Bernard R., Hjalmar N., Mabel F. C., Vernan J. C., and L. Russell F.