

THOMAS BLYTHE SCOTT.

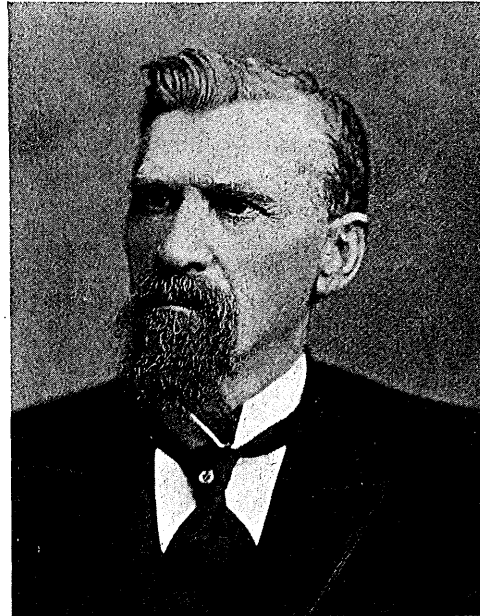
Thomas Blythe Scott is an investment banker in St. Paul. Mr. Scott is a native of Wisconsin, having been born at Grand Rapids, in that state, November 1, 1863. He is of Scottish and English ancestry, his father, Thomas Blythe Scott, having been born in Scotland in 1828. He came to this country in 1836, spent his boyhood in New York state, and in the early '50's removed to the state of Wisconsin where he engaged in the lumber business. During his residence in that state he was connected with all the principal financial operations which were carried on in the Wisconsin Valley, and assisted in building the Wisconsin Valley railroad, which has since become a part of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul system. He was president of the First National Bank, of Grand Rapids, Wisconsin, and for a number of years was prominent in the politics of the state. He served his district as state senator for twelve years. About 1880 he removed with his family to Merrill, Wisconsin, where he founded the T. B. Scott Lumber Company, which is still in operation, and of which the subject of this sketch is secretary and treasurer. He also engaged in banking there and founded the First National Bank of that city. He died August 7, 1886, leaving his family in comfortable circumstances. His wife, Ann Eliza

(Scott), was a native of Pennsylvania, but of English descent, her parents having come to Grand Rapids, Wisconsin, about the same time that her husband's family located there. Thomas Blythe Scott, the subject of this sketch, lived in Grand Rapids until 1875, when his parents moved to Evanston, Illinois, to provide him and their other children with the educational advantages there afforded. He entered the preparatory school of the Northwestern University, and in 1880 went to the Pennsylvania Military Academy, at Chester, Pennsylvania, and was there one year. The following year he went to Boston, where he engaged a private tutor and prepared for Harvard. He was admitted on examination, but at the last moment changed his mind and went to Yale, where he entered the class of 1886, but only stayed a few months, leaving on account of sickness. The next year he entered Harvard College with the class of 1887. Mr. Scott was a good student, but this did not prevent him from taking a prominent part in athletics, and being a member of his class teams. He was also a member of Beta Theta Pi and the Institute of 1770. In the spring of 1886, in his junior year, he was obliged to leave college because of the illness of his father, who died the following August. Immediately following his father's death Mr. Scott went to Iowa and took charge of a ranch which his father had in Franklin County, and engaged in farming and the cattle industry, where he remained until the spring of 1889. During his residence in Iowa he took some part in local and state politics, but he was never an office holder, and has never striven to become one. He was a delegate from Ramsey County to the National Republican League convention at Cleveland in 1895. He married Mary E. Clare, at Nashville, Tennessee, June 5, 1889, and came to Minnesota September 1, of that year. He soon afterward began to deal in investment securities and continued in that business until March, 1895. Mr. Scott is identified with a number of important commercial and financial institutions. He is president of the Northern Exchange Bank, of St. Paul, is a director of the Merchants' National Bank, of that city, of the Life Insurance Clearing Society, and the Edison Electric Light and Power Company. He is a member of the Minnesota

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.