

to look for opportunity to earn money, one of the first things which presented itself was employment in the office at the Fair Grounds, when the fair was known as "Bill King's Show." He began his business career in the real estate office of J. Goldsbury, and continued there until going into business for himself in 1886, in the same line of trade. In 1890 he became a special partner of the firm of Corser & Co., and remained with that firm three years. He then withdrew and resumed the business alone in the New York Life Building, where he built up a good business and has charge of a number of large estates, including the real estate business of the Northern Trust Company, and some other prominent corporations. Mr. Badger is a Republican, although he has never taken a very active part in party matters. His principal interest in politics relates to municipal affairs, and he is an active promoter of municipal reform. He is a member of the Commercial Club of Minneapolis, the Royal Arcanum, a director of the Board of Trade, and also of the Northern Trust Company. He is an active member of Plymouth Church, and has been for a number of years treasurer of the Sunday school. He was married in 1890 to Miss Anna Dawson, of Keokuk, Iowa. They have two children, Lester Roberts and Norman Dawson, aged four and two years, respectively.

#### GEORGE ROSS SMITH.

The ancestors of George Ross Smith belonged to that courageous band of men who, with Daniel Boone, were the pioneers of civilization in Kentucky. The descendants of this branch of the Smith family have lived there since that time, for the most part engaged in agricultural pursuits. They have been patriotic, too, when the country needed their services. Robert Smith fought in the War of 1812; Edward and James Smith, a generation later, served in the Mexican War, and David Smith responded to his country's call at the outbreak of the Civil War, serving in the Second Minnesota. David is the father of the subject of this sketch. He came to Minnesota from Kentucky in 1854, settling on a farm in Stearns County, where he still resides. His wife's



maiden name was Katharine Crowe. Their son George was born May 28, 1864, at St. Cloud. He was provided by his parents with educational advantages somewhat better than the average farmer boy of that period received. Up to his fifteenth year he attended the district school in the winter, working during the summer months on the farm. He then entered Lake View Academy, from which he graduated in 1886, receiving the gold medal awarded by this institution for proficiency. After his graduation he taught for a while in this school, and later became its principal, which position he filled until 1891. At this time, having a predilection for the law as a profession, he entered the law department of the State University, from which he graduated in 1893. He was elected president of his class in the senior year. Upon his admission to the bar Mr. Smith opened an office in Minneapolis and began active practice. He has gradually advanced in his profession by conscientious work and commands the respect and esteem of the bar and the bench. In politics he is a Republican, but has never been very active in party work. His society membership is confined to the Delta Chi law fraternity. January 9, 1895, he was married to Mrs. F. J. Horan.