

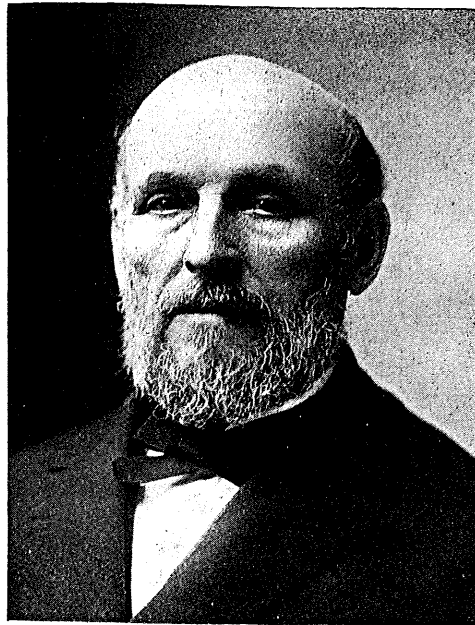
the men under sentence out of jail on writs of habeas corpus, carried their cases to the district court, argued them before Judge Smith and secured their release. Judge Canty was a Republican until recent years and aggressive in his defense of Republican principles, but the developments during Grant's second term cooled his enthusiasm considerably. His first vote was cast for the Hayes electors, but he never approved of the decision of the electoral commission, doubted Hayes' election and was particularly displeased with the action of the commission in refusing to go thoroughly into the evidence. He continued to vote the Republican ticket, however, on state and national matters until the passage of the McKinley bill. In local politics he was always independent. In the fall of 1890 Mr. Canty was nominated by the Democratic party for judge of the district court in Hennepin County. Up to that time he had never been a candidate for or held any public office. He was elected and held that office for three years. On July 14, 1892, he was nominated for associate justice of the Supreme Court by the People's Party of Minnesota, and was also nominated for the same office by the democratic party on the next third day of August, and was elected. He entered upon the discharge of his duties in that enviable and honorable position the first of January, 1894. His record on the district bench was that of a careful, painstaking, able jurist, and since his elevation to the higher office of the supreme bench he has sustained himself in that regard and justified the highest expectations of his friends. Judge Canty is a member of the Order of Odd Fellows, is a thirty-second degree Mason and a Shriner. He has never married.

SEAGRAVE SMITH.

Seagrave Smith is senior judge of the district court of the Fourth Judicial District, composed of Hennepin, Wright, Anoka and Isanti Counties. Mr. Smith is of Welsh and English Ancestry. His father was a farmer and dealer in livestock in Stafford, Tolland County, Connecticut, and was of Welsh descent. His ancestors

were among the early settlers at Scituate, Massachusetts, and those of his mother were English, and settled at Uxbridge, Massachusetts. Mary A. Smith's maiden name was Seagrave, from whom Judge Smith takes his name. Seagrave Smith was born September 16, 1828, at Stafford, Connecticut. When a boy he worked upon his father's farm and attended the school of the village until he was fifteen years of age. He was then placed under the tutelage of Rev. George W. Pendleton, a Baptist clergyman, of whose church his father and mother were members. After three years' study with a tutor, he entered the Connecticut Literary Institution, at Suffield, Connecticut, where he was graduated in 1848. Seagrave had made up his mind to be a lawyer, but his father was strongly opposed to that conclusion, and offered to transfer him one-half of his property and an equal partnership in the business, and threatened that if his offer was not accepted, he would furnish him no further financial assistance. This did not deter the young man from his purpose. He went to teaching school and reading law, entering the office of Alvin T. Hyde, September 9, 1849, at Stafford, his native town. Mr. Smith continued his studies until he was admitted to the bar, August 13, 1852. In the spring of 1851 he was appointed clerk of the Probate Court. Soon after his admission to the bar, he made up his mind to go west, but he was the only child of his parents and his mother objected to his going so far away, and prevailed upon his father to give him a thousand dollars with which to buy a law library, if he would remain in the east. Seagrave took the thousand dollars, bought his library, and settled in Colchester, Connecticut, in October, 1852, and began the practice of his profession. In the fall of 1854 he was elected town clerk, in 1855 he was elected as a Democrat to the state senate, and still later was appointed clerk of the Probate Court of the Colchester district, which office he held until his removal to the west in 1856. In July, 1856, Mr. Smith made a trip to the west, in accordance with his long entertained purpose; visited Kansas, but was not pleased with the prospect, and came to St. Paul. The outlook there was more promising and he decided to make that his future home. Settling up his business in Colchester,

he returned to Minnesota in the spring of 1857, and located at Hastings, bringing his family, consisting of his wife and two children. He formed a partnership with J. W. De Silva, and began the practice of law. He continued in that business at Hastings until 1877, when he removed to Minneapolis. During his residence in Hastings, he was the attorney for the Hastings & Dakota Railroad, the St. Paul & Chicago Railway, the Minnesota Railway Construction Company, and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. Mr. Smith is a Democrat, and took an active part in politics in Dakota County, holding many important positions, among which was that of County Attorney, to which he was elected in 1857; County Commissioner, to which he was elected in 1860, Judge of Probate, to which he was elected in 1861, and re-elected in 1863 and 1865, holding the office six years. In 1867 he was elected to the State Senate, and in 1873 was again chosen for County Attorney. In 1875 he ran as an independent candidate for the State Senate against Ignatius Donnelly, and was defeated by a small majority. He took an especial interest in the public schools, and was influential in establishing the graded schools of Hastings. But Hastings was too small a field, and in 1877 Mr. Smith moved to Minneapolis. He formed a partnership with W. E. Hale, which continued until the spring of 1880. For three years he conducted his business without a partner, but in 1883 he went into partnership with S. A. Reed, which continued until March, 1889, when he was appointed Judge of the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District, which position he now holds. In 1890 he was elected without opposition, being supported by all parties, and was elected again in 1896 on the Democratic ticket. In 1887 he was elected City Attorney by the City Council, and held the office for two terms. Judge Smith has been honored by his political friends with numerous nominations to important positions, among which were Judge of the District Court in the First Judicial District, in 1864, and again in 1874, and Attorney General of the State of Minnesota in 1869. In 1884 Judge Smith was the Democratic nominee for District Judge for the Fourth Judicial District, but was defeated by Hon. A. H. Young. In 1888 he was nominated by the Democrats as their candidate for Chief



Justice of the Supreme Court, but was defeated by Hon. James Gilfillan. He was nominated by the Democrats for the same office in 1894, but was defeated by the present incumbent, Hon. C. M. Start. In each instance he ran ahead of his party ticket, which was in the minority. Judge Smith as a lawyer and judge possesses superior ability and strict integrity, and has discharged the duties of the responsible position he now occupies in such a manner as to command the confidence and respect of the profession and the public generally. Judge Smith is very domestic in his habits. He enjoys the comforts of home and the society of his family, and can always be found at home when not engaged in business elsewhere. He has been married three times; first to Miss S. Almira Cady, the eldest daughter of Captain John P. Cady, of Monson, Massachusetts. The issue of this marriage was four children, two sons and two daughters; two of these are still living, Cady and Claribel. He married for his second wife, Mrs. Fidelia P. Hatch widow of Professor Homer Hatch, of Hastings, Minnesota. By this marriage he had one son, Theron S., who is now living. For his third wife he married Mrs. Harriet P. Norton, of Otis, Massachusetts, widow of Albert T. Norton, who had lived and died in Hastings, Minnesota. She is still living, but has no living children.