



JAMES ALBERTUS TAWNEY.

The representative in congress from the First Minnesota District is a self-made man in all that the term implies. James Albertus Tawney was born near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in Mount Pleasant township, January 3, 1855. Tawney pere was a farmer and blacksmith, in very modest circumstances, and when fifteen years of age the son began to learn the blacksmith's trade in his father's shop. After graduating from the bellows and forge, young Tawney learned the trade of a machinist, and it was for the purpose of going to work at this trade that he came to Winona, Minnesota, August 1, 1877. On January 1, 1881, he began to read law in the office of Bentley & Vance, in Winona, having read at his home for two long years prior to this time, a little while each morning before going to the shop, and in the evening after the day's work was done. It thus happened that when he entered the office of Bentley & Vance and began to devote all of his time to the work he made rapid progress. In 1882, July 10, he was admitted to the bar. Then it was that he became a student in the law department of the University of Wisconsin, the only school he had

attended since he was fourteen years old. After finishing the course, Mr. Tawney returned to Winona, which city has ever since been his home. In 1890 he was sent to the state senate from Winona County. He was a delegate in the Republican state nominating convention of 1892, and made an eloquent speech nominating Knute Nelson for governor. He served with great honor in the legislature in 1891 and 1893, and was elected to congress as a Republican in November, 1892, before his term as state senator had expired. In 1894 he was returned to congress for a second term, and in 1896 for a third term. Mr. Tawney's congressional record has been a bright one. He made his maiden speech in congress October 6, 1893, in opposition to the bill of H. St. G. Tucker, of Virginia, providing for the repeal of the federal election laws. This speech was regarded as one of the strongest that was made against the bill. January 19, 1894, he made the famous speech which gave him the sobriquet "Barley Jim." It was against the proposition to reduce the tariff on barley, and showed conclusively that if the tariff were reduced Canadian barley would come into the American market, and to a large extent drive out the home grain. The speech appealed with great force to every member of the house, any part of whose constituency was interested in raising this cereal. January 24 1894, he made a speech in favor of the maintenance of the McKinley tariff on iron ore, and the day following spoke in opposition to the effort of Mr. Wilson and his friends on the floor to repeal the reciprocity clauses of the McKinley bill. All of these speeches added to his reputation as a forceful and logical debater. His congressional record in connection with pension legislation is good, and the old soldiers of the First District are his friends to a man. The main sections of his bill providing for the settlement of disputes between labor and capital by arbitration were incorporated in the Olney bill, which passed. Mr. Tawney was a member of the ways and means committee of the Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth congresses, and took a leading part in constructing the tariff bill presented at the extra session in 1897. As an attorney he stands in the front rank, and his practice has included

some of the most important cases ever tried in the state. In 1883, December 19, Mr. Tawney was married to Miss Emma B. Newall, at Winona. They have five children.

ANSEL OPPENHEIM.

Ansel Oppenheim, of the firm of Oppenheim & Kalman, was born in New York City, on January 5, 1847. His father, Isaac Oppenheim, was a merchant of New York. He gave his son an academic education, and fitted him for his profession. Ansel studied law and was admitted to the bar in Minnesota in 1878. Seeing in the Northwest a promising future, the young lawyer commenced the practice of his profession at St. Paul, forming a co-partnership with Hon. John B. Brisbin. He was well fitted for success in the law, but the remarkable chances offered for the dealing in real property led him to abandon an extensive practice and to engage in the real estate business. His judgment in this matter proved to be most excellent, as in the succeeding ten or fifteen years Mr. Oppenheim was successful, and through his extensive influence has been enabled to do a great deal for the advancement of the interests of his city. It was to his firm and its associates that the city of St. Paul is largely indebted for the Union Stock Yards in South St. Paul, the Metropolitan Opera House and several other large enterprises. Mr. Oppenheim was one of the leading promoters of what is now the Chicago Great Western Railroad, which was the first railroad to enter St. Paul from the west side of the river. He is now vice president of the company. During the construction of the Union Stock Yards he was president of the company, but now retains official connection with the concern as vice president. Mr. Oppenheim is also a director of the Bank of Minnesota, and is and has been identified with many leading financial and commercial enterprises in his city. In 1880 Mr. Oppenheim was appointed by Governor Hubbard as a member of the State Board of Equalization. For one term he served as assemblyman in St. Paul, and was conspicuous in this capacity as an active promoter of the city's wel-



fare. He has a large and valuable acquaintance with foreign and eastern capitalists, which has been exceedingly useful to him in his great enterprises. Mr. Oppenheim was married in 1869 to Miss Josie Greve, daughter of Herman Greve, one of St. Paul's prominent citizens. Mr. Greve was a native of the province of Westphalia, Germany. He came to St. Paul in 1855, and invested largely in real estate. Much of his life was spent in farming in Vernon County, Wisconsin. In 1880 he moved to St. Paul and engaged actively in business, and at the time of his death was one of the largest holders of real estate in that city. Mrs. Oppenheim is prominent in St. Paul society and is a writer of no mean ability. She was educated in a convent and added to this the culture obtained by extensive travel. For years she was the companion of her father, Mr. Greve. Mr. and Mrs. Oppenheim have three sons. The oldest, Herman, is at the present time Assistant Corporation Attorney of St. Paul. The second son, Lucius, is the traveling freight agent of the Chicago Great Western Railroad. The third son, Greve, now ten years of age, is attending school. Mr. Oppenheim is a member of the Minnesota Club, of St. Paul, and is a Mason in good standing. In politics he is a Democrat.