



makee County, Iowa, at the time of the breaking out of the war, and enlisted in the Fourth Iowa Cavalry, serving three years. At the close of the war he removed to Dickinson County, where he lived until 1877, when the family removed to Minneapolis. Philip was born in Allamakee County, on October 2, 1864. He was the oldest of seven children. During his early childhood he attended the public schools near his home in Iowa and in Minneapolis. In the fall of 1878 he had resolved to prepare for the Lutheran ministry, and entered Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, but the next year his father died suddenly leaving Philip at the head of a family of seven and with little means for their support. Putting aside the plans which he had made, the boy commenced a struggle for a livelihood. He obtained such employment as he could, first as clerk in a fuel office, then bookkeeper and later as court officer in the municipal court. All this time he was studying as best he could, sometimes attending evening school and again employing a private instructor. He managed to get a course in a business college and at last entered the university law school, from which he graduated in 1892, taking the degree of LL. B. He was admitted to the bar in the supreme court during the same year. In 1893 he completed a post-

graduate course in the law school and received the degree of LL. M. Mr. Megaarden commenced the practice of law, but on January 1, 1895, discontinued it to accept the office which he now holds. He intends to resume practice upon leaving the sheriff's office. Since coming of age Mr. Megaarden has been a staunch Republican, and has taken an active part in political affairs. He is a member of the Union League and other political clubs. He has taken a prominent part in the order of the Knights of Pythias and is at present Chancellor Commander for the second time of Monitor Lodge No 6, K. of P. He has at times filled nearly every office in this lodge. Repeatedly elected to represent his lodge in the Minnesota Grand Lodge, and being a member of the Grand Lodge of the Domain of Minnesota, he has taken a prominent part in the affairs of the order in the Northwest. He has held the office of Deputy Grand Chancellor of the Grand Lodge. Mr. Megaarden is also a member of North Star Division, No. 1, Uniform Rank, Knights of Pythias. He holds membership in the Khurum Lodge, No. 112, A. F. and A. M., and is also a member of Ridgely Lodge, No. 85, I. O. O. F., and of Minnewa Tribe, No. 11, of the Improved Order of Red Men. He is a member of the Minneapolis Commercial Club. Mr. Megaarden is unmarried.

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#### GUSTAV THEDEN.

On the twelfth day of November, 1862 Gustav Theden was born at Nor, Vermland, Sweden. He was educated in the schools of his native country, and graduated from Karlstad College in 1880. Shortly after taking his degree he emigrated to the United States, settling in Chicago, where he became editor of Missions Vannin, a position which he held for eight years, when he came to Minneapolis, since his home. Since his residence in Minneapolis, Mr. Theden has been editor of the Minneapolis Veckoblad, a religious and political newspaper in Swedish, having a circulation of about fourteen thousand. He is now one of the proprietors of that paper. He has a good understanding of military tactics,



having had a careful training along this line in the mother country. He is a member of the Swedish Mission Covenant Church, and is unmarried. It was in the campaign of 1892 that Mr. Theden first made himself felt in politics. He was engaged by the Republican State Central Committee to make a number of speeches in the Swedish tongue at various points over the state. Having studied law with a marked degree of success, and having many of the arts and graces of the public speaker, he made a reputation in that campaign which two years later secured him the nomination as a candidate for the state senate from one of the Minneapolis districts. He was elected by a large majority, and his term of office will not expire until the first of January, 1899. During his first term as member of the state senate he became known as the champion of measures designed to benefit labor, notably the lien law, which owes its present efficiency in this state in large part to his efforts. He was also back of legislation intended to give voice to the demand for additional safeguards to be thrown around the liquor traffic. His chief work as a temperance reformer is embodied in a bill nullifying an ordinance of the city of Minneapolis providing that only members of the police depart-

ment should be qualified to swear out warrants for a violation of the Sunday closing law, so-called. At the opening of the present session of the legislature (in January, 1897), he became the champion of that large and growing class of citizens who believe that the modern department stores are against public policy. He moved the committee of investigation that was busy for a large part of the session sifting out the facts connected with that system, and was made its chairman. Mr. Theden is a striking representative of the successful young man in politics, and his career so far has been an honorable one. He enjoys the confidence of a rapidly widening circle of acquaintances and friends, and his future is very promising.

#### LORAN CHARLES STEVENSON.

The subject of this sketch is a lawyer practicing his profession in Minneapolis. He was born in Oakland County, Michigan, August 20, 1861, the son of John W. Stevenson and Frances A. Bird (Stevenson). John Stevenson was a farmer and followed that occupation until recently, when he moved into a small village near Detroit. He is of Scotch descent, his grandparents having both been born in Scotland. Mr. Stevenson's descent on his mother's side is from the Wentworth family, quite numerous in New York. The grandparents of Loran, both on his mothers' and father's side, settled in Michigan in the early days. Loran began his education in a country school about a mile and a half from his father's home, to which he was obliged to walk every day. Later he attended the Michigan state normal school for about three years, and after that spent one year at the state university at Ann Arbor, but did not complete the course of study or graduate from any institution of that kind. In 1883 he located in Minnesota. He was then engaged as a commercial traveler and made his headquarters in Mankato. He followed this business for about three years, and while a resident of Mankato, was married, November 8, 1887, to Miss Jenne Lettus. The following day he came to Minneapolis to live, and soon afterwards