





## CHAPTER XLII.

### KITTSON COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

By  
**Edward Nelson.**

The early history of the territory of what is now Kittson county gathers around the fur trade carried on extensively in the Northwest by various fur companies and traders. There is nothing known of the first trader in Kittson county beyond a mere mention. As early as in 1789, Captain Alexander Henry established a trading post at Pembina for the Northwest Fur Company. At that time he says there was a trading post just across the river where St. Vincent now stands, kept by one Peter Grant, but that this post was abandoned a year later.

Kittson county was created by an act of the legislature approved February 25, 1879, with the following boundaries:

Beginning at a point where the line between townships 158 and 159 intersects the channel of the Red river of the north, thence east along said line produced to the point where said produced line intersects the line between ranges 38 and 39, thence northwardly along said range line to the boundary line between the United States and the British possessions, thence westerly along said boundary line to the middle of the main channel of the Red river of the north, thence up said river, along the middle thereof, to the place of beginning.

Within these boundaries was included the western part of what is now Roseau county.

The same act prescribed the boundaries of Marshall county, our neighbor on the south and provided "that the counties

of Kittson and Marshall in this state, be and the same hereby are declared to be organized counties, with all the rights, privileges and immunities of other organized counties of this state."

The governor was authorized to appoint, within thirty days of the passage of the above act, three qualified electors of the county as commissioners who should meet within thirty days

See Laws Minn. 1878 Chap. 10 sec. 2.

after appointment and qualify and enter upon their duties as such commissioners, their terms of office to be "until the next general election and until their successors are elected and qualified." The commissioners appointed and qualified as above were required "at their first meeting, or within twenty days thereafter, by resolution, temporarily to locate the county seat of said county and appoint qualified persons to fill the county offices in said county except clerk of the district court, who shall be appointed by the judge of said court; also three justices of the peace and three constables, which persons so appointed and having qualified shall hold their respective offices until their successors are elected and qualified."

By an act approved February 27, 1879, Kittson county was detached from the county of Clay to the county of Polk for judicial purposes.

The foregoing relates to the county of Kittson as most of us know it. Its earlier history goes under the name of Pembina county, which in the earliest maps is shown to extend from where St. Louis county now has its western border to the Missouri river. The name was changed from Pembina to Kittson by Chapter 59 of the laws of 1878.

See Chap. 46, sec. 1, Laws 1866.

#### **Organization of Towns.**

The township of Hampden was the first organized township. It consists of congressional township No. 162 N., R. 49 W., and was organized on July 28, 1879. The first town meeting was held August 12, 1879, at the house of Patrick Carrigan, on the south-east quarter of section No. 20 of the town.

The township of St. Vincent was organized March 19, 1880



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and consists of 163-50, and fractional townships 164-50, 164-51 and 163-51. The first town meeting was held April 1, 1880.

The township of Hallock was organized August 2, 1880 and consists of congressional township 161-49. The first town meeting was held August 18, 1880, in the hotel of the village of Hallock.

Red River, consisting of townships 161 and 160 N., R. 50 W., was organized January 5, 1881. The first town meeting was held January 22, 1881, at Jonas Sandberg's dwelling house.

Teien, organized April 5, 1882, consisting of fractional township 159 N., R. 50 W., held its first town meeting at the house of R. Solibakke, on April 24, 1882.

Davis was organized July 24, 1882 and consists of congressional township No. 159 N., R. 48 W. Its first town meeting was held August 8, 1882, at the school house, on section No. 21.

Thompson, 161-48, was organized July 24, 1882 and held its first town meeting at the house of Robert Thompson, August 8, 1882.

Tegner, 160-48, was organized July 24, 1882 and held its first town meeting at the store of H. W. Donaldson in Kennedy, August 8, 1882.

Jupiter, 160-47, organized November 10, 1883 and held its first town meeting, November 27, 1883, at the house of Carl Danielson, on section 19 in said town.

Spring Brook, organized January 2, 1884, consists of town 159, range 47. Its first town meeting was held January 17, 1884, at the residence of Fred Grose on section 20.

Svea, 159-49, organized February 15, 1884, and held its first town meeting March 4, 1884, at the residence of Daniel Ferguson on section 6.

Granville, 162-48, organized July 27, 1885, and held its first town meeting August 15, 1885, at the home of Charles McMillan on section 22.

Skane, organized May 10, 1887, consists of township 160, R. 49.

Deerwood, organized July 23, 1888, consists of township 159, R. 46.

Hazelton, organized July 23, 1888, consists of township 161, R. 47.

Poppleton, 162-47, organized April 8, 1893, and held its first town meeting at the house of Olof Dahlman, April 22, 1893.

Richardville, consisting of township 163-48 and fractional township 164-48, was organized January 8, 1895, and held its first town meeting January 26, 1895, at the house of Bowden Gardiner.

Pelan, 160-45, organized April 20, 1900, held its first town meeting at Peter Lofgren's store, in said town.

Percy, 161-46, organized July 9, 1900, held its first town meeting July 26, 1900, at the Percy school house, in district No. 28, in said town.

St. Joseph, 163-47 and fractional 164-47, organized January 9, 1901, held its first town meeting January 26, 1901, at the house of Albert Nowacki.

Norway, 160-46, organized January 9, 1901, held its first town meeting January 26, 1901, at the school house of district No. 40, in said town.

Hill, 162-50 and fractional 162-51, organized January 11, 1901, held its first town meeting January 29, 1901, at the home of D. Morrision, on section 16.

McKinley, 163-46 and fractional 164-46, organized July 14, 1902, held its first town meeting July 31, 1902, at John McIver's house, in said town.

Arvesen, 159-45, organized July 14, 1902, held its first town meeting July 31, 1902, at Lars Anderson's house, in said town.

Cannon, 162-46, organized July 11, 1904, held its first town meeting July 30, 1904, at Olof Peterson's house, on section 28.

Caribou, 163-45 and fractional 164-45, organized January 8, 1908, held its first town meeting January 27, 1908, at the store of E. M. & V. C. Bailey, in said town.

Congressional townships 161-45 and 162-45 are the only unorganized territories of the county, at the date of this writing, May 13, 1909.

#### **Churches of Kittson County.**

The first religious society formally incorporated in Kittson county was the Congregational church of St. Vincent, which was



incorporated May 25, 1882, at a meeting held in the school house at that place. The articles of incorporation recite that in accordance with law, fifteen days' notice of the meeting was given and the majority of qualified voters elected James Ford, Phillip LeMasurier, H. B. Ryan and William Ewing, trustees. William Ewing was the chairman and M. J. P. Thing the secretary of the meeting. A Misc. 199.

**The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Red River congregation** was organized October 8, 1881, but was not formally incorporated until December 27, 1887. B-284.

**Hope Presbyterian church** of St. Vincent was organized July 17, 1882 at a congregational meeting of the church, held in Christ church of that village. Robert J. Cresswell presided and John W. Shepard acted as secretary. The following persons were elected trustees: John W. Shepard, John G. Maxwell, Louis E. Booker, Harvey P. Smith and Robert J. Cresswell.

**The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Red River congregation** was the first organization of Swedish Lutherans in the county. Most of those who settled in the Red River neighborhood came from Goodhue county, where they had been members of Swedish Evangelical Lutheran congregations and so in their new homes they felt the need of religious society. Mr. Nils O. Sundberg, who still retained his membership in the congregation at Moorhead, wrote to its pastor, Rev. J. O. Cavallin, asking him to come to Red River, and in April, 1881, he visited the people there and preached at the homes of J. P. Strandell and L. Eklund. Rev. Cavallin was the first Swedish Lutheran who preached in the Red River community. Others followed later, and on October 8, 1881, at the residence of Lars Mattson, on section 24, the congregation was organized. It was not formerly incorporated until December 27, 1887. The trustees elected were: J. P. Strandell, Nils Hanson and Lars Mattson. Sten F. Stenquist, Peter Mortenson and J. P. Johnson were elected deacons.

The congregation has been served by but two regular pastors, Rev. S. G. Swenson, who served from 1886-1889, and Rev. L. P. Lundgren, who came in 1892 and still remains their minister.

The congregation celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in a most fitting manner in 1906.

B-284 and "Minnes-Album."

**The Swedish Lutheran Evangelical church** of the town of Jupiter was organized at an early date, for on May 15, 1884, permission was granted to it by the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway Company, to locate a church and graveyard on ten acres of land, in a square form, in the southwest corner of section 21-160-47, that land being then owned by the company. A-331.

**Swedish Evangelical Lutheran**, on January 6, 1888, at a meeting, at which Rev. S. G. Swenson presided, and H. C. Malmstrom acted as secretary, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Fridhem congregation of Hallock was formally organized. Eight members were present and elected A. M. Engman, Charles A. Johnson and Jonas A. Johnson, as trustees. B-208.

At a meeting held January 14, 1888, at the school house in district No. 16, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Saron congregation was organized. Rev. S. G. Swenson presided, and Anders Danielson acted as secretary. John Olson, P. O. Nordling and H. Nordin were elected trustees. B-281.

On May 10, 1888, the members of Lundeby congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran church, organized and elected Bernt Anderson, H. C. Rood and Tollef Skatrud, trustees. B-273.

**The Swedish Christian Mission congregation** of Teien was organized August 15, 1888, at a meeting held at its house of worship. A. Nordgren acted as chairman, and J. Westman, as clerk. A. Nordgren, P. Westman and C. E. Mostrom were the first trustees. B-276.

**The Evangelical Lutheran church** of Skjeberg, of Teien, was incorporated February 27, 1888, with Kristian Hansen, Ole Solibakke and Gunder Hansen, as incorporators. B-222.

**The Norwegian Lutheran church** of Oslo, in Spring Brook township, was incorporated January 1, 1889, with Bernt Bothum, Faltin Faltinson and Peter P. Kolden, as incorporators. B-396.

This is a list of the earlier religious societies organized in Kittson county. Many have been organized since and nearly all



denominations are now represented by flourishing congregations. The latest addition to existing religious societies is the Greek Orthodox church of Caribou.

### **Banks and Banking.**

**The Bank of St. Vincent**, a private institution, owned by John H. Rich, Edward L. Baker and Frank B. Howe, all of Red Wing, Minnesota, was the first financial institution of the county, and was established in 1880. John H. Rich was the first cashier, and in November of 1880, he was succeeded by Harvey P. Smith. Mr. Smith acted as cashier until 1884, when the bank was sold to Lewis E. Booker and closed.

In 1903, John Birkholz, of Grand Forks, N. D., and T. M. George, of Hallock, established a private bank in the village under the old name of Bank of St. Vincent, which was incorporated as a state bank, under the name of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of St. Vincent, December 22, 1904. John Birkholz is the president, T. M. George, vice-president, and R. E. Bennett, cashier. The bank's capital is \$10,000.00.

(Letter of H. P. Smith, T. M. George, G-96.)

In April of the year 1888, Joseph Kelso and his son, William, both of Bellevue, Iowa, established a private bank at Hallock, under the firm name of J. Kelso & Son. In 1891 William Kelso sold his interest to Walter C. Kelso, who then became the cashier, and acted as such until 1898, when Edward McVean was made cashier. On November 21, 1907, the bank was incorporated as the Citizens State Bank of Hallock, with a capital of \$25,000.00. The present officers are: Walter C. Kelso, president; Oscar Younggren, vice-president, and William Kelso, cashier. (Wm. K. & G-323.)

Lewis E. Booker, George W. Ryan and M. H. Douglas organized the Kittson County Bank of Hallock, in 1888. W. H. Douglas acted as cashier. In 1894, John Birkholz, of Grand Forks, N. D., purchased the interest of Booker and Ryan, and on January 17, 1897, the bank was incorporated under the state laws as the Kittson County State bank, with a capital of \$10,000.00. Mr. T. M. George acted as cashier of the institution until January 1, 1909, when he was made vice-president, and A. L. Bennett

was made the cashier. Mr. Birkholz is still the president of the bank.

(T. M. G. D-153.)

**The First National Bank of Hallock**, the only national bank in the county, was organized in September, 1903, by J. R. Mitchell, D. E. Tawney and P. F. Baumgartner, of Winona, J. W. Wheeler, of Crookston, and B. E. Sundberg, E. C. Yetter and C. J. McCollom, of Hallock, with other local men and capitalized at \$25,000.00. Charles Dure acted as the first cashier and was succeeded in 1905 by J. H. Bradish, who had acted as assistant. E. C. Yetter is president.

**The State Bank of Karlstad**, was incorporated February 8 1905, with a capital of \$10,000.00 H. L. Melgaard is the president, Peter Lofgren, vice-president, and C. O. Ofsthun, the cashier. G-130.

**The State Bank of Kennedy**, was incorporated May 19, 1902, with a capital of \$12,000.00, which in June 17, 1905, was increased to \$20,000.00. The present officers are: H. L. Melgaard, president, E. M. Engelbert, vice-president, and Lauritz Melgaard, cashier. E-268, G-155.

**The Citizens State Bank of Kennedy**, was incorporated September 16, 1907, with a capital of \$10,000.00. B. E. Sundberg is president, J. W. Wheeler, vice-president, and Johan A. Anderson, cashier. G-315.

**The State Bank of Donaldson**, was incorporated July 16, 1904, with a capital of \$10,000.00. Its present officers are: H. A. Johnson, president, G. J. Johnson, vice-president, and O. P. Olson, cashier. G-23.

**Bronson State Bank** was incorporated October 10, 1904, with a capital of \$10,000.00. M. G. Myhre was the first cashier and was succeeded by C. H. Earl, the present cashier, in 1907. E. M. Engelbert is the president, and Andrew Wik, the vice-president. G-55.

**The First State Bank of Orleans**, was incorporated August 29, 1905, and its capital is \$10,000.00. Edmund Franklin was its first cashier and was succeeded by R. M. Alexander on January 1, 1909. John Birkholz is the president, and T. M. George, vice-president. G-45.



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**The Bank of Orleans**, a private bank, established in 1904 by N. J. Nelson, J. W. Wheeler and Edward Florance, with C. W. Clow as cashier, was discontinued in 1907.

**The First State Bank** of Lancaster, was incorporated August 29, 1905, with a capital of \$10,000.00, and A. W. Dennis as cashier. In 1907 T. W. Shogren was made the executive officer. John Birkholz is the president, and T. M. George, vice-president. G-47.

**The First State Bank** of Humboldt, was incorporated April 18, 1904, with a capital of \$10,000.00. The officers are: J. W. Wheeler, president, N. J. Nelson, vice-president, and Edward Florance, cashier. F-627.

**The State Bank of Pelan**, was incorporated December 16, 1901, with a capital of \$10,000.00. The officers were Harold Thorson, president, Peter Lofgren, vice-president, and Anders E. Wahl, cashier. The bank was discontinued in 1907. E-173.

There are eleven state banks and one national bank in the county. The combined capital invested in these financial institutions is \$160,000.00. The total deposits in all banks on April 28, 1909, were \$821,597.13.

### **The County Building.**

When the first board of County Commissioners met at Hallock, on April 8, 1879, they met in a building then occupied by Hans Eustrom, the first county auditor, which building is described in a "bill of sale" as "one certain frame house located on lot 14, of block 2, in the Village of Hallock, the dimensions of which are 14 by 18 feet, one story high, and known as the house now occupied by Hallock and Swainson and formely by H. Eustrom, as county auditor's office." This bill of sale was made by Wenzel Newes to Charles Hallock, and reference to lot and block belongs to the old plat of Hallock, which was situated on the south one-half section 12-161-49, and not to the present plat on section 13. A Misc. 81.

On July 23, 1883, Robert Thompson, one of the commissioners, was authorized to rent for the term of two years, from January 1, 1884, from any private person or stock company, owning a large enough building, six rooms for the use of the county officers, at a rental not to exceed \$300.00 per annum. Previous to this, the

various officers had held their offices at their homes or places of business.

Pat Carrigan, who was the treasurer, resided at Northcote, but had Mr. Harvey P. Smith, as deputy, who kept the treasurer's books, at the Bank of St. Vincent. Mr. Smith was also deputy register of deeds, and kept those records in the bank. H. Eustrom, the auditor, had his office at Hallock. J. A. Vanstrum, sheriff, R. R. Hedenberg, county attorney, and W. F. McLaughlin, the clerk of court, all had their offices at St. Vincent.

Mr. L. B. Riddell, who owned the east half of section 14, of Hallock township, had erected in 1883, a large frame building two stories high, on a couple of lots in the west part of Hallock, and this building, sometimes called Riddell hall, was leased by the county, as the county building. This was occupied by the officers, and the county business transacted therein, until in 1896, when the present court house was completed, and the offices moved there. Riddell hall was afterwards purchased by Walter C. Kelso, who moved it to the northeast corner of block two, of Hallock, where it now serves as a business building. The upper story is used by the Hallock lodge of Masons, as their lodge room.

The first court was held at the Hotel Hallock, the proprietor, Mr. J. B. Peabody, having tendered to the commissioners the use of the same, gratis. On April 9, 1881, the commissioners accepted the same with thanks. However, they did not escape without pay, for on July 25, 1881, among the bills the commissioners allowed, we find that James B. Peabody was allowed "\$4.00 for the use of a jury room during the July session of the court and breaking of window lights."

In 1892, and the following years, the people of the county began to agitate the building of a suitable court house, and as usual in new counties, this brought up the question of the location of the county seat. At the first meeting of the commissioners a motion was made that St. Vincent should be made the county seat, but this was lost and the seat of government was located at Hallock. When the question of a new building came up, the county seat question was resurrected and a bitter fight was made to have the seat of government changed to St. Vincent. How-

ever, the attempt to change was abortive and the court house was built at Hallock. The county issued its bonds for \$5,000.00, and with other additions not then contemplated, brought the cost up to about \$20,000.00.

The present county officers are: Auditor, C. J. Hemmingson, deputy auditor, J. V. Hemmingson, treasurer, Ole Myre, county attorney, R. R. Hedenberg, clerk of court, E. A. Johnson, register of deeds, Edward Nelson, deputy register of deeds, Abbie West, superintendent of schools, Blanda Sundberg, sheriff, O. J. Anderson, deputy sheriffs, Oscar Johnson and J. K. Ross, judge of probate, George Baker, coroner, Dr. A. W. Shaleen, court commissioner, A. P. Holmberg.

The county commissioners are: 1st district, A. Arvesen, chairman, 2nd district, Louis Swenson, 3rd district, Boynard Anderson, 4th district, Thomas Coleman, 5th district, Charles Clow.

#### **Schools of Kittson County.**

School district No. 1., being the district in which the village of Hallock is located, was the first district organized, its organization having been completed July 28, 1879. District No. 2, at St. Vincent, and district No. 3, at "Joe River," were both organized on January 7, 1880.

The county has now has sixty-seven districts, with seventy-one schools. Two of these are high schools and twelve semi-graded schools. The remaining ones are common schools. Every village in the county has a fine school building, modern in every respect. Orleans, Humboldt, Hallock, Kennedy and Donaldson, all have brick buildings.

Matt Cowan was appointed the first county superintendent of schools, on August 4, 1880. Those who have since served in that capacity are: Rev. S. G. Swenson, P. H. Konzen, W. G. Peters, E. A. Nelson, Nellie O. Eklund, John C. Cowan, and the present superintendent is Blanda E. Sundberg.

#### **Miscellaneous.**

In regard to who made the first survey of the county, and having no definite information, I wrote to the clerk of government



surveys at St. Paul, inquiring about the matter, and in reply he says:

“The records show the following deputy surveyors: Jno. B. Fisk, Humason & Erwin, Stutz & Ward, Lewis Harrington, Buck & Taylor, William Milliken, each represent different townships, and survey was made in the years 1872 and 1873.”

When you go to St. Paul, call at the auditor's office, in the new state capitol, and ask for Martin C. Lund, who is the clerk of the government survey, and he will tell you when and by which one of these several deputies, the first survey was made.

The last survey of lands in Kittson county, owned by the United States government, was made in 1904, by John E. Mulligan, who surveyed the fractional township of 164-45.

The first permanent white settler in the county, as far as can be ascertained, is Andrew Jerome, who squatted on lots 3, 4 and 5, southeast one-quarter, northeast one-quarter and northeast one-quarter, southeast one-quarter, section 32, in Hill town, where he still resides and which he proved up as a homestead, in 1883. Mr. Jerome came here from Canada in 1872 or 1873.

Other early settlers were, Robert Thompson, John O'Malley and Dennis Stack, who settled here near Hallock, in 1874. A. E. McLeod came here in 1875, and squatted on what is known as Muir's Point, where he raised the first wheat ever raised in the county. A part of this he sold to Hall and Jadis, who used it for seed on their farm west of Hallock. The rest was hauled to Pembina and sold there.

In the northern part of the county the oldest settlers were Perry Walton, Nelson Finney and William Ford. In the southern part E. N. Davis settled near Donaldson, A. C. Teien in Teien township, and Nels Hansen in Red River township. James Smith and William Ward made their homes near the Red river, on the north branch lived John Sullivan, John Corcoran, George Richards, William Miller, Patrick Carrigan and James Pritchard. The following entered homesteads in the early days: Mike Fortune, P. Boyne, S. Hynes, M. Deegan, Higgins Brothers, D. McDonald, D. Morrison, Eric Norland and Thomas Cannon.

The early settlers of Kittson county were a healthy lot, but such of the old timers, who happened ill, were taken care of by

the post physician at Fort Pembina. The first physician was Thomas Duhig, of St. Vincent, and about the same time as he arrived, Dr. Gustav Demars, came to Hallock. Dr. Demars is still practicing, although at an advanced age and his fellows in the medical profession are: Dr. A. W. Shaleen, the coroner of Kittson county, E. Engson, of Hallock, G. W. Dahlquist, of Lancaster, and C. B. Stone, of Kennedy.

The first druggist of the county was A. Smid, of St. Vincent.

Hans Eustrom, who was the first auditor of the county, was the first real estate man with an office in the county. He came to Kittson county in May, 1879, and acted as agent for the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway Company, in the sale of its lands, and assisted many of his contemporaries in obtaining and locating homesteads. Another early real estate man was Jas. L. Fisk, who acted as the agent for General Richard W. Johnson, in the sale of St. Vincent town lots.

Kittson county has seven creameries. This is a new industry in the county, the first having been organized in 1904. All of them are co-operative, and are owned by farmers and business men of the towns where located.

Kittson county has eight incorporated villages. St. Vincent, Hallock, Kennedy and Donaldson, on the Great Northern, Karlstad, Lancaster and Bronson, on the Soo line, and Pelan, located about nine miles east of the Soo line, in Pelan township.

Unincorporated villages are Humboldt and Northcote, on the Great Northern, Halma and Orleans, on the Soo line, and Robbin a small village, in Teien township, about twenty miles west of Donaldson.

#### **Newspapers of Kittson County.**

The earliest official publications of Kittson county were made in "The Northern Tier," a weekly newspaper, published in Crookston, Minn., by Captain J. K. Arnold. This paper was made the official organ on January 8, 1880. On March 17th, of that year, the county commissioners made the "St. Vincent Herald," the official newspaper of the county. This paper was founded in the early part of 1880, by F. G. Head, who was the first newspaper man in the county. He did not remain long, for

he soon sold out to W. C. Mitchell. A very small building, a Washington hand press, and a small layout of type, constituted the equipment. The press still has its weekly say through the columns of the "New Era" of this day. Mr. Mitchell, in the early 80's, sold out his paper to William G. Deacon, who changed the name to the "St. Vincent New Era" and "Kittson County Record," under which name and with the familiar motto of "Tell the Truth—Cleveland," the paper has become well known to residents of the county.

Mr. Deacon is the dean of Kittson county editors. He came to this county in the early days and located at St. Vincent. During his period of residence he has held many positions of public trust, in county and village. He was for many years the postmaster at St. Vincent, and he has served that village from time immemorial, as clerk of the board of aldermen. He was one of the early commissioners of the county. A forceful pen and genial disposition, has won for him the veneration of his fellow citizens. "The Era" is Republican in politics, although many times during its career, it has refused to be bound by strict party ties, when its editor deemed a breaking of them necessary to the cause of justice.

On January 3, 1883, a new paper, the "Kittson County Enterprise," was made the official newspaper of the county. This paper was founded at Hallock, by W. F. Wallace, then the clerk of court of the county, some time in 1882. The paper was afterwards sold to Ed. H. Love, who conducted the same until 1894, when it was purchased by J. E. Bouvette and S. E. Thompson, two graduates of the office of the "Pembina Pioneer Express." They published it jointly until 1900, when Mr. Bouvette became the sole owner and publisher. Mr. Bouvette is a Democrat, and for the past fourteen years he has been the chairman of the county committee of his party. He is a member of the Pioneers' association, and is deeply interested in the early history of the valley.

The "Hallock Weekly News" made its first appearance December 15, 1888, under the guiding influence of William G. Deacon, of "The Era," and E. P. LeMasurier, who is now the postmaster of Hallock. Two years later, Mr. Deacon sold his



interest in the "News" to E. A. Nelson. In 1902, Mr. Le-Masurier disposed of his interest to Frank J. Nelson, a brother of E. A., and Nelson Brothers now constitute the management. The paper is Republican in politics and has a wide circulation.

The "Kennedy Star" was founded in 1902, by Chas. S. Clark, of Stephen, Minn. Mr. Clark soon sold the paper to E. M. Engelbert, who transferred it to C. J. Estlund in 1905. Its politics is Democratic.

G. J. Johnson, the vice-president of the State Bank of Donaldson, founded the "Donaldson Record" in 1905. It is a Republican newspaper.

The "Karlstad Advocate," published by the C. J. Forsberg Land & Loan Company, with C. O. Ofsthun as editor, is a continuation of the "Pelan Advocate." It is Republican in politics.

The "Bronson Budget" was founded in 1905, by A. E. Babcock, who had once been the editor of the "Pelan Press." It is Republican in politics.

The "Lancaster Herald" was founded in 1905, by J. E. Bouvette, the publisher of the "Kittson County Enterprise." It is Democratic in politics.

The "Halma Pilot" once flourished at Halma, Minn., but was discontinued.

#### **Village of Hallock.**

The village of Hallock, which is the county seat of Kittson county, is situated in the township of Hallock, and was so named in honor of Charles Hallock, the veteran sportsman and writer. It lies twenty-two miles south of the international boundary line on the south branch of Two Rivers, and was originally located by its founder as a sort of sportsman's headquarters.

The town was originally platted and laid out on the south half of Section 12 of the town of Hallock by John Swainson, a graduate of the University of Upsala, Sweden, on December 31, 1879. Mr. Swainson had a contract with the old St. Paul and Pacific Railway Company to locate its depot and sidings on his plat, and in consequence a couple of stores, a saloon, H. Eustrom's auditor's and real estate office, Peter Daly's tavern and postoffice were built thereon. When the railroad passed into the hands of

James J. Hill and his associates a new townsite was platted on the northwest quarter of Section 13 of the town of Hallock, which was land granted by the state of Minnesota to the railroad company.

Mr. Hallock, while still a resident of New York and in ignorance of the removal of the townsite, purchased a half interest in the old townsite and five additional acres adjoining the new town on the north, which was platted as Hallock & Swainson's first addition to Hallock, and on which Mr. Hallock afterwards erected a large hotel. Mr. Hallock, who was and still remains even at the ripe age of seventy-six, a true and interested sportsman, was attracted to this country by the abundance of game, big and little, and built his hotel accordingly.

Mr. S. W. Chaffee, a contractor from Red Wing, built the hotel in the months of June to September, 1880. The real builder of the place was our present state senator, Mr. Sundberg, who did the work. It was located about a block from the depot and cost about \$10,000. In an advertising prospectus of that early day it is said that the hotel "has water on every floor, bath room, set water basins, speaking tubes, barber shop, kennel rooms, gun room, etc., and is replete with every needed convenience for sportsmen and the traveling public. It is eighty-five feet in length, three stories high, with wide double verandas and inclosed promenade on the roof, and has a wing of twenty-five by twenty-five feet." Four stores were located in the lower story.

Hotel Hallock became at once the center of the new town. Most of the public business was transacted there, and on August 18, 1880, the first town meeting of the town of Hallock was held there and formal organization of the township completed. The following were elected town officers: W. R. Bell, Charles Hallock and C. J. McCollom, supervisors, of which W. R. Bell was the chairman; C. H. Pelan, town clerk; Henry Graham, treasurer; Peter Daly and John Forbes, justices of the peace; Pat McCabe and Henry Hale, constables; Eric Nordland, roadmaster; J. Lindgren, assessor; M. A. Holther, poundmaster.

The village of Hallock had at that time 125 registered voters, representing a population of about 500. There were seven stores,



CHARLES HALLOCK

three boarding houses, livery stables, two saloons, blacksmith and carpenter shops, land office, county offices, a lumber yard and postoffice.

The first term of district court held in the county was held in the hotel building, with Judge O. P. Stearns presiding and W. F. McLaughlin acting as clerk.

A Rev. Mr. Curry, of Euclid, held the first Protestant Episcopal service in Hallock in the hotel dining room.

Many sportsmen made the hotel their headquarters while here on hunting trips from all parts of the United States, especially from New York, and many of Mr. Hallock's literary friends spent their vacations here. On Christmas eve, 1892, the structure was totally destroyed by fire and now nothing remains of the old landmark except the hole in the ground that was once the basement.

On the old townsite, Peter Daly, the first register of deeds of the county, built a tavern and small store in November, 1879, and was appointed the first postmaster. He did considerable business with the Indians, buying furs and seneka root in exchange for groceries, provisions and some cash. When the townsite was moved, Mr. Daly went to Northcote and built a store there and became the first postmaster of that village.

Hans Eustrom, the county auditor, had a small building on the old townsite used as an office for his real estate business, and here the old county commissioners met to transact the county business. Dennis Stack, who came from Fishers Landing, ran a saloon in the old town.

The pioneer merchant of the new town was Thomas B. Newcomb, who occupied part of the building now occupied by the Farmers' Co-operative Mercantile Company. C. J. McCollom bought him out at an early day and was later joined in the business by A. P. T. Suffel, his brother-in-law.

Other early merchants were A. Nordenmalm, Lindegard Bros., Claus Lindblom, Dure and Eklund. Sterrett, Hill and Childs operated the first elevator on the site of the St. Anthony and Dakota Elevator Company's warehouse. Eklund Bros., consisting of L. N. Eklund, once the register of deeds of the county,



and A. M. Eklund, Jr., and McCollom and Suffel also bought grain in the early days.

A cheese factory operated by W. L. Beaton and owned by McCollom and Suffel did a thriving business in the later eighties and early nineties. The building used by them has now been converted into a flat.

Hallock roller mills was the first mill in the county and was built by John Cochran, of Drayton. It was burned in 1905.

The village of Hallock was incorporated on June 11, 1887. The first officers were: President, Dr. G. Demars; trustees, C. J. McCollom, A. Nordenmalm, J. Westerson; treasurer, L. N. Eklund; recorder, W. H. Alley.

### **Hallock of Today.**

The Hallock of the present day is a thriving village of 1,200 inhabitants, the county seat of a county now containing more than 10,000. A brief mention of its present business men is proper.

**General Merchants**—N. G. Brown, Farmers' Co-operative Mercantile Company, Hanson Bros., L. & C. A. Lindblom, N. P. Lundgren, Lindegard Bros.

**Implement Dealers**—Schmauss & Lamb, Ellis & Olander and H. C. Malmstrom.

**Hardware Dealers**—T. Inglis & Son, Johnson & Tengblad, Nelson & Gullander.

**Attorneys**—E. C. Yetter and Ralph V. Blethen, of the firm of Yetter & Blethen; P. H. Konzen, of the firm of Konzen & Henry, and R. R. Hedenberg, who is the present county attorney.

**Doctors**—A. W. Shalen, G. Demars and E. Engson.

**Restaurants**—N. A. Nelson, A. E. McLeod, B. T. Thrane, G. J. Vidstrand, Hjalmar Nelson, Mrs. Swanstrom.

**Banks**—Citizens' State Bank, Kittson County State Bank and the First National Bank. These banks represent a banking capital of \$70,000, and on April 28, 1909, their aggregate deposits were \$403,734.74.

**Real Estate**—J. A. Swenson Land & Loan Company, of which J. A. Swenson is the senior member. He was judge of probate of the county for ten years. G. A. Gunnarson, who was county

auditor for sixteen years, established an office in April, 1909. Hallock Land Company, represented by George E. Richardson, of LeMars, Ia.

**Barbers**—William Hayden and William Krumholz.

**Furniture**—J. P. Sjolholm and R. B. Johnson.

**Hotels**—The West Hotel, run by John Nelson, and the Pacific Hotel, managed by Gilmore & Labossiere.

**Drugs**—A. P. T. Suffel, D. A. Robertson.

**Elevators**—St. Anthony & Dakota Elevator Company, J. C. Powers, agent; National Elevator Company, Christ Erickson, agent; Imperial Elevator Company, F. L. Peterson, agent; Woodworth Elevator Company, Matt Kramer, agent.

**Lumber Yards**—Robertson Lumber Company, N. St. Albans, manager; St. Hilaire Retail Lumber Company, A. M. Nilsestuen, agent.

**Livery Stables**—Ferguson & Blid, William Truedson.

**Hallock Gaslight Company**, R. B. Johnson, manager.

**Hallock Building & Loan Association**, J. H. Bradish, secretary.

**Photographer**—William Hartvig.

### Schools.

School District No. 1 is located at Hallock and was organized July 28, 1879, being the first school organized in the county. The personnel of the first board of directors is as follows: Robert Thompson, president; C. Anderson, clerk, and Dennis Stack, treasurer. Miss Mary Rogers, an elderly lady, was the first teacher in the county, and she taught school in a little frame building in the southeast part of town and incidentally held down a homestead claim. Later a two-story frame building was erected on the present school site. P. H. Konzen was the first teacher to occupy this building. This building was afterwards moved to the business part of the town and is now occupied by Nelson & Gullander as a hardware store.

In 1894 the west part of the present brick structure was put up and the addition thereto was erected in 1900. In 1908 the northern part of the building was added at a cost of about \$15,000.

A full high school is now given. E. B. Bothe, a graduate of

the University of Minnesota, has been the superintendent for the past six years. Ten teachers assist him in providing mental pabulum for the enrollment of 355 pupils.

#### Hallock Churches.

**The First Presbyterian Church** of Hallock, organized July 6, 1885, was the first incorporated religious society at the county seat. C. J. McCollom, George Thompson and L. B. Riddell composed the first board of trustees. Rev. Henry Long was the first pastor, and Rev. G. E. Moorhouse, Ph. D., the present pastor.

On January 6, 1888, at a meeting at which Rev. S. G. Swenson presided and H. C. Malmstrom acted as clerk, the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Fridhem congregation of Hallock was formally organized. Eight members were present and elected A. M. Engman, Charles A. Johnson and Jonas A. Johnson as trustees. Rev. S. G. Swenson was the first pastor and also served one term as county superintendent of schools. He was succeeded in 1892 by Rev. L. P. Lundgren, who still remains the pastor of the congregation.

**The Methodist Episcopal Church** was built in 1902, during the ministry of Rev. E. A. Cooke. Rev. D. L. Clark is the present pastor.

**The Swedish Mission Church** has a commodious house of worship and Rev. C. L. Anderson is the minister of the congregation.

**St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church** was built in the early nineties and T. H. M. Villiers Appleby was the first rector of the parish. Rev. F. J. Cox is the present rector.

**The Roman Catholic Parish** was formally organized July 8, 1902, but had long previously built a church and held services therein. At present the parish has no regular priest, but mass is celebrated occasionally by priests from neighboring towns.

**Charles Hallock**, for whom the town and village of Hallock were named, is the veteran journalist and author. He was born in New York March 13, 1834, and is the son of Gerard and Eliza Allen Hallock. He was graduated from Amherst College with the degree of bachelor of arts in 1854 and received the master's degree from that institution in 1871. On September 10, 1855, he married Amelia J. Wardell. Mrs. Hallock died in 1901. He

was the editor of the New Haven "Register" from 1855 to 1856, of the New York "Journal of Commerce," 1856-1861, and of the St. John, N. B., "Telegraph and Courier," from 1863-65. He became the financial editor of "Harper's Weekly" in 1868. In 1873 he founded the "Forest and Stream," and while the editor of this paper he founded the town of Hallock, Minn. He was the editor of the "Northwestern Field and Stream" from 1896-1897. He has done a great deal of collecting for the Smithsonian Institute and is a member of many clubs and historical societies, among them our own Minnesota State Historical Society. He is the author of many books of a wide range of subjects. He has also written many pamphlets and monographs on several subjects, especially on game and sports.

His latest works are a genealogy of the Hallock family and a book on Alaska. He is at present engaged in the writing of his autobiography, which is awaited with interest by many of the oldtimers of Kittson county, who remember with pleasant recollections the early efforts of this genial nature lover whose hopes for this great country were unbounded.

The details of Mr. Hallock's part in the founding of Hallock are given at length in the article dealing with that village.

#### **St. Vincent.**

**St. Vincent, Minn.,** is the oldest town in the county, the first meeting of the township board being held on May 15, 1880. R. W. Lowery, G. A. Hurd, F. M. McLaughlin, L. A. Nobels and F. M. Head were the township officers. The village was organized on April 16, 1881; first president was James L. Fisk; recorder, J. W. Morrison. John A. Vanstrom, the first assessor, afterwards served as register of deeds, and later was elected sheriff.

St. Vincent at the present time has a population of about 400. It is located in the northwestern part of the county, directly opposite Pembina, N. D., 390 miles northwest of St. Paul. It is the terminal between the Great Northern and the Canadian Pacific Railways, and a port of entry for collection of customs.

The first newspaper published in Kittson county was a weekly. W. G. Mitchell was the editor. It was known as the "St Vincent Herald." It was succeeded by the "New Era," published by William G. Deacon, the present owner and proprietor. The vil-



lage is well supplied with churches and religious societies, including Episcopal, Methodist and Presbyterian churches; has a graded school, and is composed of an energetic and high class people. The officials of the village for 1909 are: President, A. Dorrah; treasurer, Mr. Kruse; trustees, E. Cameron, J. R. Ryan, R. E. Bennett and W. Russell; recorder, William G. Deacon; Dr. C. B. Harris, health officer.

### **Bench and Bar of Kittson County.**

By

**P. H. Konzen.**

Kittson county, having been since its organization successively a part of the eleventh and the fourteenth judicial districts of this state, the personnel of the bench is treated of elsewhere in this volume. It remains to speak of the court with special reference to the earlier terms held in this county.

The first term to be held, after the separation of this county from the county of Polk, to which it was attached for judicial purposes immediately after its organization, was fixed by an act of the legislature for the third Monday in June, 1881, but for some reason this term was adjourned until the 5th day of July. It was held in the south store room under Hotel Hallock, where a temporary platform was built for the judge, with a small office table in front of him. Judge O. P. Stearns presided, Frank McLaughlin, of St. Vincent, was clerk, and John A. Vanstrum, sheriff, while R. R. Hedenborg, who had been elected to that office in the fall of 1880, was county attorney. There were three cases on the calendar. The first criminal case tried in the county was the case of the State of Minnesota vs. Hugh Drain, indicted upon the charge of grand larceny for stealing a yoke of oxen from one J. J. Conrads. He was duly convicted and drew a sentence of three years in the penitentiary. The first civil action was the case of M. I. Northrup vs. J. A. Vanstrum, sheriff, being an action in conversion for the seizure and sale of certain goods under an execution.

The bar of this county was at that time represented by County Attorney R. R. Hedenberg, who located at St. Vincent in 1879.



PETER H. KUNZEN

and P. H. Konzen, who had located at Hallock in April, 1880. The cases on the calendar numbered three civil and one criminal case and, except for the county attorney who looked after the criminal case, they were taken care of by Reynolds & Watts and Ives & McLean, of Crookston, and Warner & Stevens, of St. Paul. The term was finished in two and a half days, and the balance of the last day, awaiting the arrival of the train south, was spent fishing by the court and attorneys, after each catching his own frogs for bait. To the younger members of the bar it was rather an amusing circumstance to see Judge Stearns, then well up in years and of a very dignified and patriarchal appearance, lay aside his judicial dignity and pursue the diminutive amphibians with an agility which surprised them all.

Annual terms were held thereafter until the year 1903, when regular spring and fall terms were provided for by the legislature. The office of clerk of the court was held successively by Frank McLaughlin, W. F. Wallace, Olaf A. Holther, Charles Clow, N. G. Ehrenstrom and E. A. Johnson, the latter being the present incumbent. The office of sheriff was held successively by John A. Vanstrum, Oscar Younggren and O. J. Anderson, the latter the present incumbent. The first grand jury summoned for this county consisted of the following: J. Peter Johnson, W. H. Miller, F. W. Wagoner, John O. Sullivan, Lars Eklund, E. G. Thomas, John Finney, T. B. Newcomb, N. C. Moore, N. P. Peterson, J. McGlashen, Knute O. Wold, J. S. Lindgren, Alfred Larson, Andrew Murphy, E. N. Davis, Mathew Cowan, F. Chase, Albert Hams, Henry Graham, Robert W. Lowery, W. R. Bell and D. F. Brawley.

The first petit jury was composed of the following: M. A. Holther, John B. Fee, Thomas McGlothlin, C. Pelan, W. H. Moore, John Jenkins, Jr., F. Almey, Charles Clow, James I. Kirk, George Ash, John Long, H. J. Moore, Thomas Toner, Hugh Kennedy, Lars Mattson, Jonas Sandberg, Ralph Brown, John Buie, Richard Forbes, Ole Norland, John Lindblom, Edward Cammeron, W. H. Alley and Michael Fortune.

While there were no important cases tried here in an early day and, as in most agricultural counties of the state, but little of importance transpired during our terms to vary the monotony

of legal routine, the following may be cited as among the amusing incidents and happenings: At the May, 1883, term an indictment was returned by the grand jury against one Kate Rafferty, an Irish woman of rather more rustic than criminal proclivities, charging her with having made assault upon one, Donald Morrison, with a dangerous weapon, to-wit., a firearm commonly called a pistol, which was then and there loaded with powder and leaden bullets, with intent then and there to do him, the said Donald Morrison, great bodily harm. In order to explain the circumstances of the assault it is necessary to state that Mrs. Rafferty was "holding down a claim," which she was guarding very jealously, and, on account of her husband being away at work on the railroad in Manitoba, she was suspicious that certain evil-disposed persons were casting covetous eyes upon her claim. On the day in question Morrison, with a companion, was seen walking across the tract which she called her own, in a suspicious manner, as she thought, and seizing the "dangerous weapon" in question she started in pursuit, and with its gaping muzzle pointed in Morrison's direction, ordered him peremptorily to vacate the premises. Morrison promptly swore out a warrant against her, and the grand jury returned "a true bill." Kate appeared in court with the weapon which she claimed to have used. It was an old-fashioned, muzzle-loading horse-pistol, of formidable size, thoroughly rusted, with the nipple completely battered down. It had probably not seen service for twenty-five years or more. W. W. Irwin, of St. Paul, then in the prime of his reputation as a criminal lawyer, was retained to defend Mrs. Rafferty. In due time she took the stand in her own behalf, and Mr. Irwin drew from his pocket the weapon and handed it to Mrs. Rafferty with the question, "Is this the gun that you had?" Mrs. Rafferty took the weapon and answered in a rich Irish accent, "Yis, your honor, that is it," at the same time snapping the hammer several times. Judge Stearns, with his brow knit and his eyes flashing fire, cried out in excited voice, "Stop, stop, stop snapping that weapon in here!" By this time Kate realized that the judge was afraid that the weapon might be discharged and, in order to assure him of its absolute safety, cried out, "Oh, your honor, it ain't loaded," and pointing it directly at him, snapped



it again several times. At this time the court sat in the school-house and the judge's position was behind the teacher's desk. Forgetting his dignity, he slipped from his seat and crouched behind the desk, shouting, "Stop, stop, or I'll have you arrested!" After recovering himself from the floor, with his eyes darting vengeance upon the prisoner, he blurted out, "Woman, if you were a man, I'd have you arrested right now." The "Tall Pine of the North" regarded this episode with infinite amusement.

At the general term of court held in March, 1888, the action of Thrane vs. Holmberg came up for trial. Plaintiff had sued for the killing of a dog and claimed damages in the sum of fifty dollars. Attorney P. H. Konzen appeared for the plaintiff and Hon. H. Steenerson, of Crookston, for the defendant. Plaintiff had testified that a certain party had offered him fifty dollars for the dog and which offer plaintiff had refused. This testimony was given for the purpose of fixing the value of the dog, and as the person referred to had left the country, this was about the only corroborative evidence as to the value. Mr. Steenerson began to cross-examine the plaintiff as to the offer and requested him to repeat the conversation he had had with the party, and the exact language used by him in making the offer, when the following colloquy ensued:

Mr. Steenerson—"Will you please state the exact language used?"

Mr. Thrane—"Well, we were out hunting together with the dog, and after we got back this party asked me what I would take for him, and I told him fifty dollars."

Mr. Steenerson—"Well, did he say that he would pay you that for him?"

Mr. Thrane—"No."

Mr. Steenerson—"Well, what did he do when you told him you would take fifty dollars for the dog?"

Mr. Thrane—"Nothing; he went to North Dakota and I have not seen him since."

Mr. Steenerson—"Then let me go over that offer again. As I understand it, he asked you what you would take for the dog, and you told him fifty dollars, and then he left the state and went to North Dakota and never came back—is that right?"

Mr. Thrane—"Yes, sir."

Mr. Steenerson—"I don't blame him; I would have done the same thing."

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff in the sum of six cents.

Among other old attorneys who practiced in Kittson county there was Frank MacGowan, of St. Vincent, who was admitted to practice in the court room in Hallock. He is now in Lewiston, Mont. He taught the first term of school in the Joe river district.

**W. H. Alley**, at one time the partner of Mr. Konzen, was the county attorney of the county for one term. He is now located in Roseau.

**George E. Holcomb** practiced law in Hallock in the later eighties. He afterwards went to the Pacific Coast and became interested in a townsite of a growing town, and when he had sold out his lots there he went to Cuba, where he superintended a large estate for many years. At present he resides on his large farm near Argyle in Marshall county.

The bar of Kittson county is now made up of P. H. Konzen and R. R. Hedenberg, heretofore mentioned, and the following:

**Elmer C. Yetter**, who came to Hallock in 1893 and the senior member of the firm of Yetter & Blethen. Mr. Yetter is the present mayor of Hallock and the president of the First National Bank of the village. His junior partner, Ralph V. Blethen, is a graduate of the law department of the University of Wisconsin, was admitted to practice in this state in the fall of 1902, and came to Hallock immediately afterwards.

**C. O. Ofsthun**, of Karlstad, the cashier of the State Bank of that place, is also an attorney, having been admitted to practice in 1904. He is a graduate of the law department of the University of the State of Minnesota.

**Edward Nelson**, the present register of deeds of the county, is the latest addition to the bar. He passed the state examination in May, 1909, and took the oath of an attorney at the June term of court at Hallock the same year.

In this connection, mention may also be made of J. D. Henry, the junior member of the firm of Konzen & Henry, who, while

not admitted to the bar, is no inconsiderable factor in the firm. Mr. Henry handles the commercial collections of the firm.

**R. B. Hedenberg** is a pioneer resident of Kittson county. He was born in Carlstorp parish, Sweden, November 16, 1854. In 1867 he came with his parents from Sweden to Red Wing, Minn. He was then twelve years old, the eldest of a family of eight children. Within a month after their arrival in this country, his father and five of the children died of cholera. His remaining brother and sister died while children, and after the death of his mother he was the only one left of this family.

He studied law in the law office of Colonel William Colville and Charles N. Akers, at Red Wing, and was admitted to practice as an attorney May 16, 1879. He located in St. Vincent, where he remained till the spring of 1890, when he removed to Hallock, where he now resides. At the first county election held in the county, being in 1879, he was elected county attorney and has held that office ever since except during the years of 1889-1892, when he was the judge of probate of the county. He is still the county attorney of Kittson county.

He has been a painstaking, trustworthy, energetic prosecuting attorney, and his conservatism and carefulness have been the means of much saving in a financial way to the county.

Mr. Hedenberg was married July 8, 1893, to Corinne L. Davidson. They have had six children, of which Anna Corinne, Robert Davidson, Winfred Giroux and Margaret Elizabeth are living, two having died in infancy.

**P. H. Konzen**, the present village attorney of Hallock, is one of the pioneers of Kittson county, having located here in the spring of 1881, then a young man of twenty-four years. He was born on the 27th of May, 1857, in Chickasaw county, Iowa, on a farm embracing the present site of the village of Lawler. His parents emigrated from Germany in 1852 and the following year located upon the farm upon which the subject of this sketch first saw the light of day. He was the third child of a family of five, three sons and two daughters, all still alive. He was educated in the public schools of Lawler, afterward attending an academy at Bradford, in that county, and completing his education by a term at the University of Iowa City, and a course at Baylee's mer-

cantile college at Keokuk, Ia. His boyhood life was spent upon the farm until the age of seventeen, when he began teaching school, which profession he followed during the formative period of his career and while completing his education.

In 1878 he began the study of law, at first in the office of H. H. Potter at New Hampton, and afterwards under the direction of John R. Geeting, a gentleman who has since risen to considerable distinction as a criminal lawyer in the city of Chicago, Ill. Mr. Konzen first came to Minnesota in 1879, and entered the law office of a Mr. Parker, at Sleepy Eye, where he remained until the fall of that year, when he again returned to Iowa to accept the nomination tendered him by his friends for the office of county superintendent of schools of his native county. He was defeated in the election and entered into the newspaper business, editing the Lawler "Herald" until the spring of 1881, when he sold out, and coming to the Red River valley, he at once recognized the grand possibilities of this garden spot of the world and settled at Hallock, then a hamlet numbering not more than half a dozen buildings, where he opened a law office and, in the words of the immortal Horace Greeley, has "grown up with the country."

In the fall of 1881 Mr. Konzen was elected county superintendent of schools for Kittson county, which position he held for some years, having been three times re-elected. He has since held various public offices as county attorney, president of the Kittson County Agricultural Association, and in 1898 was the Republican nominee for member of the state legislature for the sixty-third legislative district. Although defeated by the tide of Populism, he received a creditable vote and conducted a model campaign. Mr. Konzen is one of the most progressive and public-spirited citizens of Kittson county, was for many years a member of the school board of Hallock, and it is chiefly owing to his push and perseverance that that thriving village can boast of a high school second to none in the state. Mr. Konzen was elected mayor of Hallock in 1897, which position he held until 1906, to the eminent satisfaction of its people. Mr. Konzen is recognized as one of the ablest and most prominent attorneys north of Crookston, and during his residence at Hallock has amassed a snug little fortune,



besides building up a professional and business reputation of which he may well be proud. He has helped in an eminent degree to shape the destiny of his city, and when the history of Kittson county shall be written he will appear as one of its most conspicuous figures.

In the spring of 1901 Mr. Konzen and J. D. Henry formed a co-partnership for the purpose of conducting a real estate business in connection with the law business, and so far have been very successful, especially in the sale of Manitoba lands.

**Edward Nelson**, the present register of deeds of Kittson county, was born in Gladstone, Ill., February 6, 1877. He received his early education in the public schools of Monmouth, Ill. Thereafter he attended Augustana College of Rock Island, Ill., and was graduated from that institution with the degree of bachelor of arts in 1897.

In September, 1897, he came to Kittson county and taught school in St. Vincent and Humboldt. In the spring of 1899 he returned to Illinois and entered the law office of J. B. Oakleaf and read law there until the fall of 1901, when he returned to Kittson county. In March, 1902, he entered the employ of Captain John A. Vanstrum, who was then the register of deeds of the county. On October 28, 1902, Captain Vanstrum resigned from his position and on that day the county commissioners appointed Mr. Nelson to succeed him. Captain Vanstrum had received the nomination on the Republican ticket, and this he also resigned with a recommendation to the county committee of that party that they appoint Mr. Nelson to fill the place on the ticket. This was done and Mr. Nelson was elected by a large majority. He was re-elected in 1904, 1906 and 1908.

On September 23, 1903, Mr. Nelson was married to Miss Annie Ferguson, of Drayton, N. D.

Mr. Nelson is a member of the Minnesota State Historical Society and was admitted to the bar in 1909.

**Emil Alfred Nelson** was born in Goodhue county, Minnesota, of Swedish parentage, March 18, 1870. He received his first learning in the public schools of that county and in 1897 he was graduated from Augustana College of Rock Island, Ill., with the degree of bachelor of science. He afterwards took a post gradu-

ate course at the University of Minnesota and received the degree of master of science from that institution in 1902.

He came to Kittson county in 1888 and taught school for many years. In 1889 he became part owner of the Hallock "Weekly News," and still remains its editor. With his brother, Frank J. Nelson, he manages a large farm in Red River township in addition to his editorial duties.

Mr. Nelson was superintendent of schools of Kittson county from 1894 to 1900, and served as state librarian from 1901 to 1905. In 1906 he was a prominent candidate before the state convention for the nomination for secretary of state, but through a combination of interests was defeated. In the legislatures of 1907 and 1909 he served as engrossing clerk of the senate.

Mr. Nelson was married December 22, 1897, to Miss Florence Dure, of Hallock, and two children bless their home.

Mr. Nelson is one of the pillars of the Republican party in the state, and largely through his efforts the northern part of the state was rescued from the throes of Populism. He is a member of several clubs and fraternal societies and a member of the Swedish Lutheran church.

**Bengt E. Sundberg**, the state senator of the sixty-third legislative district, was born in Småland, Sweden, January 26, 1851, and lived there with his parents until 1867, when he went to Germany, where he remained for four years. In 1871 he came to Minnesota and located in Red Wing, where he went to school to learn the English language, all the time supporting himself by carpenter work. Having mastered the carpenter's trade, he entered the employ of S. W. Chaffee, a well known architect and contractor, and remained in his employ for ten years.

In 1881 Mr. Sundberg went to Hallock and built the hotel there, Mr. Chaffee having contracted for the work with Charles Hallock, the editor of "Forest and Stream." While at Hallock Mr. Sundberg was induced by Colonel Hans Mattson and Captain Hans Eustrom to locate in Kittson county. In the winter of 1881 he severed his connection with Mr. Chaffee and came to Kennedy and took up a homestead in the town of Davis, where he still resides.

During the thirty years of his residence in Kittson county,

Mr. Sundberg has been very successful, having acquired extensive real estate interests. The farm on which he resides is one of the best in the county, being composed of 840 acres of excellent land furnished with large and comfortable buildings, equipped with the best of machinery and stocked with fine breeds of cattle.

Mr. Sundberg was married at Red Wing, March 17, 1877, to Anna Johnson. Two children were born of this union—Blanda E., who is the present county superintendent of schools, and John Edward, a student in the law department of the state university. Mrs. Sundberg died January 28, 1889, and Mr. Sundberg thereupon married Albertina Estlund, of Kennedy, and they have two children—Roy A. and Anna E.—both of whom reside at home with their parents.

Senator Sundberg is a man of exemplary habits, a thorough business man and a progressive citizen. He is a staunch Republican and deeply interested in the welfare of the state. He has held various offices in village, school district, town and county, having been postmaster of Kennedy, county commissioner, school clerk and town treasurer. In November, 1902, he was elected state senator and was re-elected without opposition in 1906. He has often been mentioned as a gubernatorial possibility and his record in the state senate is one that has brought him honor and recognition in all parts of the state.

### **Lower Red River Valley.**

From

### **Kittson County Enterprise.**

By the treaty of peace of 1783, England recognized the independence of the United States of America; and the land east of the Mississippi and northwest of the Ohio was open to settlement by American citizens. In 1786, when congress met in New York city, a graduate of Yale College, a puritan divine of some scientific attainments, had frequent conferences with Dane and Jefferson relative to the colonization of the Ohio valley, and securing the placing of certain provisions in the celebrated ordinance of 1787, and also that precious boon, the grant of land in each town-

ship for the support of common schools. Under his auspices, and of a few other gentlemen, in December, 1787, the first colony left Massachusetts for the northwest territory. Upon the covers of the wagon which was built for their accommodation were the words, "For Ohio," and on the 7th of April they reached a point called Marietta, and erected homes of peace and contentment—  
 "Dwelt in the love of God and of man. Alike were they free  
 from

Fear, that reigns with the tyrant, and envy, the vice of republics.  
 Neither locks had they to their doors, nor bars to their windows;  
 But their dwellings were open as day and the hearts of their  
 owners;

There the richest was poor, and the poor lived in abundance."

Among these pioneers of the Ohio valley was one who had a daughter, and that daughter became the wife of a delegate from Michigan, and the mother of the first delegate from the territory of Minnesota, Hon. Henry H. Sibley.

It is an interesting fact and ought not to be forgotten, that while the eastern division of Minneapolis was once a part of the old Northwest territory, the western wards of the city at the time of the ordinance of 1787 were in Spanish territory, a part of Louisiana, that was in 1800 restored to France, and purchased in 1803 by the United States of America.

#### **Immigrants from Rupert's Land.**

The first agricultural immigrants to the plains of Minnesota came not by New Orleans, nor by Detroit, but by the river which Groselliers had named after his wife, St. Theresa, an outlet of Winnipeg's waters to Hudson's bay.

Thomas Douglas, Earl of Selkirk, conceived the idea of planting an agricultural colony within Prince Rupert's Land, and in the year 1812 brawny Scotchmen—Presbyterians in their religious faith—arrived upon the banks of the Red river by way of Hudson's bay, and tarried for a time at Pembina, within the limits of the United States.

#### **Wheat for Red River.**

The Scotch in a few years became successful hunters of the buffalo and fleet walkers upon snowshoes, but they did not for



their children's sakes wish to be Nimrods, and sent a deputation under Laidlaw, a Scotch farmer, to Prairie du Chien, the nearest farming settlement in the United States, to procure seed wheat. The men were three months making the journey, and purchased 200 bushels for about \$500. Leaving the Wisconsin river with three Mackinaw boats, they commenced, on the 15th of April, 1820, their return. Upon reaching Lake Pepin the ice had not disappeared, but on the 3d of May they were able to pass through. Ascending the Minnesota they came to Lake Traverse, and from thence the boats were drawn on rollers a mile and a half to the Big Stone lake. Crossing this body of water, they ascended the Sioux Wood river to the Red river, and arrived at Pembina.

#### **Coming of the Swiss.**

In the spring of 1821 there might have been seen huddled together on the banks of the Rhine, not far from the cathedral of Basle, which has been the architectural pride of Switzerland for more than eight centuries, a party of emigrants of the same faith as Groselliers and Raddison, the pioneer explorers of Minnesota, about to leave their native land and embark for the wilds of America. Having descended the Rhine to the vicinity of Rotterdam, they went aboard the ship Lord Wellington, and after a voyage across the Atlantic and amid the ice floes of Hudson's bay, they reached York fort, which had been first established by Groselliers. Here they debarked, and entering batteaux, ascended Nelson river for twenty days until they came to Lake Winnipeg, and coasting along the west shore reached the Red River of the North, which rises in Minnesota in Otter Tail lake.

With the exception of an English bull and two cows purchased of the Northwest Company, the first cattle brought to the Red river settlers was a drove of 300 driven up in 1821 from Missouri. When the drovers were ready to go home five Swiss families accompanied them as far as the military encampment, which has since become Fort Snelling, and they became the first tillers of the soil in Hennepin county. In 1823 another party left the Red river region and with six carts proceeded to Lake Traverse, where, hollowing cotton trees into canoes, they descended in the same to Fort Snelling. After the great flood of 1826, an-

other party came in Red river carts to the fort. On the 26th of July, 1831, twenty-five more of the Red river colonists came down, having been informed that they could have land near the fort and the use of farming implements. On the 1st day of July, 1835, Red river emigrants again arrived with sixty head of cattle and twenty or twenty-five horses, making, since 1821, 489 persons who had entered Minnesota from the north, many of whose descendants are still among us.

#### Central Position.

D'Auvagour, on the 4th of August, 1663, wrote the king of France relative to the region beyond Lake Superior in these words: "This, according to general opinion, ought to be the center of the country."

Today we have abundant evidence that we are standing at the threshold of a new dominion that is to arise on this plateau of North America. A few months ago, upon rails of steel, the locomotive found its way from the Falls of St. Anthony, under the flag of the Republic, to the city of Winnipeg, in the province of Manitoba, near the shores of that lake which Grosellites first visited; and it is only a few weeks since a steamboat, built at Moorhead in our state, after descending the river and passing through Lake Winnipeg, ascended the Saskatchewan river, in the Dominion of Canada, nearly a thousand miles through a region capable of producing the finest of wheat.

With unshackled hands, free thought and liberty of conscience, the people of the valley of the upper Mississippi and Red River of the North may add much to the luster of the great Republic, born on the 4th of July, 1776. Let us pursue no narrow policy. Let us welcome the Dane, the Swede, the Norwegian, the Russian, the German, and all newcomers, with the words of Basil, the blacksmith, in Longfellow's *Evangeline*:

"Welcome, once more, my friends, who so long have been friendless and homeless;

Welcome, once more, to a home that is better, perchance, than the old one!

Here not stony ground provokes the wrath of the farmer;  
Smoothly the plow-share runs through the soil as a keel through the water;

Here, too, lands may be had for the asking, and forests of timber, With few blows of the axe, are hewn and framed into houses.”

The spring of 1870 was a lively one in the lower Red River valley owing to the so-called rebellion in Manitoba under Louis Riel and O'Donhue, of Fenian fame, and many who were on their way to Fort Garry that year, among which was the writer of this article, were forced to make an unwilling sojourn at Pembina, waiting for the suppression of the rebellion in order to go on to their destination. The quelling of the insurrection in June by the British troops once more restored tranquillity and the noise attached to the whole affair seemed to have drawn the attention of the outside world and caused quite a stream of emigration into the valley. In the summer of 1870 the first United States troops arrived and consisted of two companies of the Twentieth regiment, under command of Colonel Lloyd Wheaton, now of the Philippines. During the summer and fall they encamped on what is now South Pembina, and when winter came they moved into Fort Pembina, which had been built during the time they were lying encamped. Fort Pembina was abandoned in May, 1897.

In 1870 Hill, Griggs & Co., of the Red River Steamboat Company, opened an extensive general store and carried as a rule a stock value of \$100,000, the establishment being managed by a Mr. D. C. Kinzie. In October of that year a gentleman who is now numbered among the valley's best known public men located at Pembina, namely, Judson LaMoure. He came as United States marshal and attache of the United States survey department. He was afterwards deputy collector of customs, and has served in every legislature of the state of North Dakota since its territorial days. At present he holds the office of state senator. Altogether 1870 was a lively year for this portion of the valley, and among other institutions established at Pembina that year was a United States district court and the running of the stage between St. Cloud and this place commenced. With the opening of navigation in the year 1871 the Selkirk steamboat of Hill, Griggs & Co. made her first trip down the river and made matters lively for the International's owners. Henry McKinney opened a saw mill that year near the junction of the Red and Pembina rivers, opposite St. Vincent, and the late Nathan Myrick,

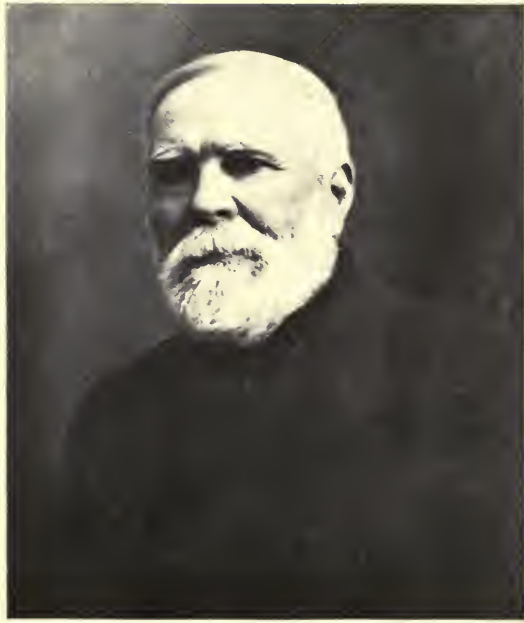
of St. Paul, opened a trading post near Fort Pembina. Business was moving along smoothly until October, when the Fenian invasion of Manitoba under General O'Neil caused some stir, but was soon quieted by the arrest of the invading chief by the United States troops. A United States land office, which did a lively business all season, opened in December, 1870, with N. B. Brasher as commissioner. The first patent for a quarter section being issued to Hon. N. E. Nelson, of the United States customs at Pembina.

#### **From 1873 to 1882.**

The year 1873 opened with brighter prospects than ever for this part of the valley, and within the limits of Pembina there was a custom house, a postoffice, a signal station, three stores were in operation, while the manufactories were represented by McKinney's saw mill and Daniel's blacksmith shop. A stage line, a telegraph line and two lines of steamboats now tapped the valley and in every other way presented appearances of coming prosperity. The St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba, or what is now the Great Northern Railway, had reached Crookston, only ninety miles south, and was expected soon to reach this vicinity, but the great panic of 1873 struck like a thunderstorm and put an end to all commercial confidence, and as a natural consequence to all railroad construction and other such enterprises in the West. The hopes of the people were suddenly blighted and hard times were felt all over the then frontier. For a few years, therefore, little progress was made in business, and although the rich lands of this portion of the Red River valley were open for settlement, few immigrants came into the country. In 1875 the mercantile business was even less than in 1871, and farming operations on both sides of the river of this immediate vicinity did not cover more than 800 acres in crop. In 1876 settlers began to come in thick, and with the close of 1878 the construction of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba railway was completed to St. Vincent, and from that date the active settlement of Kittson county and this part of the Red River valley began.

The wise policy of the United States government was to parcel out its land in small farms to actual settlers, selling none to non-





WILLIAM S. DEACON

residents, and allowing no one rights to secure more than three-quarters of a section, or a total of 480 acres. This large amount was possible to be obtained from the government only by use of three separate rights, each securing a quarter section, according to the respective laws for homesteads, pre-emption and tree culture. Most of the farms received from the government comprise only 160 acres, and these were deeded, upon payment of small fees at the land offices, to any citizens, including naturalized foreigners, those affirming their intention to become naturalized legal voters, and widows and unmarried women, all of whom were required to take the land to be their permanent homes. For these free gifts of the fertile prairie of the Red River valley, surpassed by no other era of the world in its natural value for agriculture, multitudes came, bringing housekeeping equipments in their immigrant wagons (prairie schooners), which passed in long processions through St. Cloud and Alexandria, Minn., on their way from older portions of this state and from states further east and south. Many also came directly from the old world, especially from Sweden and Norway, being carried from the Eastern seaports by railroads, and soon established on their own freeholds in near neighborhoods with others of their countrymen who had come to the United States many years earlier.

A considerable number of very large farms were acquired, however, by discerning capitalists, who saw the capabilities of this district for the convenient employment of large companies of laborers, marshaled with almost military order in the various operations of farming, as in plowing, seeding and threshing, and who at an early stage in the rapid progress of settlement foresaw the profits of wheat-raising on a grand scale. These "bonanza farms," as they were afterwards called, were made up in great part by purchasing from the railroad corporations the odd-numbered alternate sections, which had been given as government subsidies to foster the early railroad enterprises that opened this region to settlement. But the railroad lands formed no compact tract, being in square miles, touching each other only at the corners, like the spots of a single color on a checkerboard. To remedy this difficulty and fill out a continuous tract, many of the intervening portions were obtained by purchase from the

settlers who had received the land from the government in good faith, with full intention of continuing to live on it, but in some instances claims were also obtained from the government by fraudulent agents, who professed their intention to comply with this legal requirement in taking land by pre-emption. Among the most famous and successful of these extensive farms were the Lockhart and Keystone farms in Minnesota; the Dwight, Fairview, Keystone, Cleveland, Downing and Antelope farms on the Dakota side; the Dalrymple farm near Fargo, comprising some 30,000 acres; the Grandin farm, 40,000 acres, and the Elk Valley farm near Larimore. In some fields of these great farms the teams plowed three and four miles straight forward, only being interrupted by roads on the section lines, where the plow was thrown out of the ground for a few rods. The first breaking on both the Dalrymple and the Grandin farms was in 1875, the same year in which the land was mostly purchased, and their first crop of wheat was harvested in 1876, with an average yield of nearly forty bushels to the acre. During every year since that time the harvest on these lands and in general throughout the valley have been good, with no failure on account of drouth, which for several years (from 1885 to 1889 and again since 1892) has been very severe upon many other portions of the country east, south and west of this fertile valley of the Red River of the North.

#### **Transformation.**

The transformation, growth and development of this great valley was the product of omnipotent though invisible forces. But yesterday, seemingly, an unbounded expanse of prairie, a vast unknown country, the abode of savagery, the happy hunting ground of the nomads of the plains. The world is familiar with its phenomenal growth. In one brief generation we have looked with amazement at the flight of vast herds of Buffalo, and hordes of painted men before the advancing caravans of the immigrants, seen the locomotive climb chamois-like over its hills and valleys, seen a web of steel spread over its surface by the great spider of commerce, the tepees of the Indian swept away to make room for the factory, church and schoolhouse, and amid the roar of mill

wheels, the din of factory whistles and the clatter of wheels of trade, the people of the East have swept with their telescopes this great fertile valley for new homes and one county at least in this land of golden grain,

### **Kittson County,**

has caught their eye and now comes the query, What new wonders has nature's storehouse given to enrich? Most aptly it has been said, "The home is the bulwark of civilization." It is the nucleus around which clusters in rich profusion the sublimest memories of the most beautiful sentiments and the truest and noblest aspirations of the human race. Poverty and pain, penury and want may oft be unbidden guests and the hubbub and turmoil of life's fierce conflict may rage with fury unrestrained—the home remains—a refuge sublime. Mid storms and tempests, sunshine and shadows, and through all the quick changing scenes of life's great drama, still stands the home. An oasis in the desert—the solitary star in all the firmament whose faithful rays guide unerring the feet of wayward humanity into higher, nobler and better paths.

Going back to the first actual settlement of Kittson county in 1878, we find that the county was organized the following year, when Gov. John S. Pillsbery appointed the following board of county commissioners: Robert Thompson, chairman; E. W. Jadis and D. F. Brawley. The first meeting of the board was held April 8, 1879, when the following county officers were appointed: H. Eustrom, auditor; Patrick Carrigan, treasurer; Peter Daily, register of deeds; John A. Vanstrum, sheriff; George B. Elliott, county attorney. The first term of district court was held in July, 1881, with Judge O. P. Stearns presiding and F. M. McLaughlin, clerk. From this period we find that in a few years Kittson county has grown from almost a wilderness to a population of nearly 10,000, and that among the first who came here to make their homes were Robert Thompson, R. Doran, N. D. Murray, Alexander Turner, J. W. Stewart, John McFarlane, John Finney, Eric and Ole Narlund, and last, but not least, Andrew Jerome, who may be honored by being called the father of Kittson county, having settled on his farm at the junction of the Two and Red rivers, and has made his home there ever since. While



Kittson county has a variety of natural resources, agriculture and stock-raising is the main corner stone of its prosperity. It has long ago gained a world-wide reputation as being the banner county of the Red River valley, the bread basket of the world.

#### **The Climate.**

The climate advantages of the Red River valley and Kittson county are of a high order. A distinguished feature is its dry air, which modifies summer heat and winter cold. Markings on the thermometer do not indicate the effects upon the constitution by the extremes of temperature. The summer air is not sultry and debilitating, nor is the winter atmosphere charged with moisture, which gives one the chilly feeling common to lower latitudes. The mercury often falls considerably below zero, but the severity of the cold is so tempered by a dry atmosphere that extremely cold weather and storms never come together. The winter overcoat you wear in Illinois or Iowa will keep you warm on the coldest day in Kittson county, but it will be a cold day for a citizen from this section if he visits the windy city of Chicago in winter with no better protection than the clothing he wears in Kittson county. It would be advisable for him to supplement his outfit by a chest protector, a woolen jersey, a heavy muffler, a pair of ear muffs and a pair of felt shoes, if he would escape an attack of pneumonia. The Red River valley has long enjoyed a reputation as a sanitarium for persons suffering from lung and throat trouble. Malaria here is unknown; it is a country exempt from complaints common to the fever ridden valleys of the warm belts. The average annual rainfall is about twenty-eight inches. There is nowhere on the continent a more healthful climate than that of the Red River valley and here in Kittson county. The new-comer does not have to be acclimated. The chill and fever and malarial troubles generally, which used to be regarded as an unavoidable incident to the settlement of a new country, are unknown here. The stranger from the East takes delight in inhaling the health-giving air of this section. He finds in it something that invigorates. He is told that it is ozone and from thenceforth, especially if he has weak lungs, he thanks God for ozone even if he has but a vague idea of what ozone is.

### The Wonderful Fertility of the Soil

and the entire absence of sloughs and waste lands will continue to attract new-comers here, and from this time on the further development of the county will be rapid and continuous, so when you have the opportunity of buying a farm and home in the Red River valley at the present low prices, why not come to Kittson county, the most productive district in the entire valley, whose grand rolling prairies and timbered openings intersected by rippling streams and beautiful lakelets of pure sparkling water present the ideal of farm homes? Here nature bountifully provides all that is desirable for the most successful agriculture. The soil is of wonderful productiveness, being a rich black loam with a clay subsoil. Other sections of the country have perhaps as good surface soil, but the distinguishing features of that of Kittson county is that it is not so sandy as that portion of the valley west of the Red river, but is a black loam, made from vegetable compound during the overflow of the Red river in ages past, and it is very like that on the Missouri river bottoms of Iowa and further south, and is productive as the made lands of the Yazoo Delta of the Mississippi or along the Euphrates or River Nile. It contains a sufficient amount of sand to make a quick growth of all grain or vegetables, and is especially adapted to the growing of grain and roots. It is the only soil in the world that will produce a crop without rain or without irrigation and there must be a plausible reason for this fact, and we will tell what it is.

The ground freezes to a considerable depth here, and as a consequence there most always is frost in the ground as late as July. Any one who is familiar with farming will tell you that so long as there is frost in the ground that it continues to send up a dampness, which comes in contact with the roots of the crop, and affords ample moisture from nature's own way. Here is the theory for the raising of No. 1 hard wheat of this country. All wheat has a "tap root" which penetrates the earth to a great depth, thus it not only reaches the damp ground, but acts as a conductor of the coolness up and into the stem, thus making hard

wheat. This theory has been thoroughly demonstrated, which accounts for the country withstanding a drouth.

Never in the history of the Red River valley of Minnesota did the farmer ever suffer a failure of crops, and the average for wheat has never been less than eighteen bushels per acre. In the report of the British delegation of farmers who visited this section a few years ago we find that they give the enormous yield of forty-two and a half bushels, which they saw harvested on the field of Hon. W. F. Kelso, four miles from this city. James Ingles, also of this county, was awarded a diploma at the World's Fair in 1893 for the excellence of his grain. But it is not on wheat alone that the Kittson county farmer need depend. Corn flourishes in the most northern counties of the state. At the World's Fair Minnesota secured some twenty-five awards for corn, most of the specimens exhibited having been grown in the counties of the Red River valley. Awards were also made for barley, oats, rye, flax, field peas, beans, etc. Altogether Minnesota secured at the World's Fair 230 awards on grain and seeds, a greater percentage in proportion than obtained by any other state or by any foreign country, and the column containing specimens of grain, small seeds and grasses from the Red River valley of Minnesota, contributed by the Great Northern Railway Company, collected from the settlers on its lands, took the highest awards for that class of exhibits at the fair, a gold medal and two diplomas.

#### **Potatoes and Other Vegetables.**

The Red River valley potato is a large, robust fellow who will not take a back seat for anybody. The tubers of this section are dry, mealy and excellent keepers. They yield from 150 to 500 bushels to the acre and bring a good price. Everything in the line of vegetables which grow in the north temperate zone grow to perfection here. Peas ripen by the middle of June, onions flourish excellently, while beets and cabbage attain an enormous size.

#### **Wild Fruits.**

Cranberries, high bush and those growing upon vines in wet, low places, are found growing wild in this country, requiring

no care or attention save that of picking and making into pies and jellies, and are much better, command a higher price in the market than those from cultivated fields in the East. Plums and other small wild fruits abound, and the many baskets sent away, saying nothing of those used here, show this to be true. Hundreds of bushels of blueberries are picked and shipped out of this country—that is, from the eastern portion of the county, as that section contains more timber. Tame fruit, such as strawberries, crabapples, etc., grow very prolifically.

**Joseph E. Bouvette**, editor and proprietor of the "Kittson County Enterprise," is one of the well known men of his profession, as well as one of the pioneers of the Northwest. He was born in this state and his life has been spent in this region. It is filled with incidents, many of them connected with the Indian times in this section, and of later years he has been identified with the growth of civilization and has aided materially in the same. He is a native of St. Cloud, Stearns county, Minnesota, and was born August 17, 1866. He is the third in order of birth of a family born to Frank and Mary (Gandri) Bouvette. The family started for Fort Garry in 1869, and spent some time at Georgetown, Fort Abercrombie and McAuleyville. Upon reaching the international boundary line their outfit with which they traveled, consisting of Red river carts, was captured by Louis Riel, of the Northwest rebellion, and O'Donahue, the Fenian leader, and they were detained several days. This delay, and afterwards meeting with British forces who were coming to garrison English Fort (now West Emerson), which Riel had under capture, and the frequent Sioux Indian outbreaks west of Pembina, caused his father to change his course, and he accordingly settled near Fort Pembina, N. D., which was then being built and in command of Col. Loyd Wheaton, now of the Philippines. Fort Pembina was at that time garrisoned by several companies of the Twentieth United States infantry, affording good protection against Indians to white settlers who were at that time pushing west. This was the wildest of wild country at the time, and amid these surroundings our subject was reared. He, however, received a good common school education in English and also speaks French, and is fairly versed in the Indian language. He made the best



of his opportunities and entered the office of the "Pioneer Express" when a boy and remained there eight years, learning the newspaper business thoroughly. He was appointed inspector of United States customs at Fort Pembina under the Harrison administration, and also served two years as deputy state game warden at large for the State of Minnesota, under Governor John Lind. In 1894 he purchased the "Kittson County Enterprise," which he has since conducted. The paper was established in 1882, by W. F. Wallace, who sold the plant to Ed. H. Love, from whom our subject purchased the same, and he has made a success of the paper. It is a strictly Democratic organ and has a good circulation, and is considered one of the bright exchanges of the newspaper world of northern Minnesota. Mr. Bouvette was married in 1895 to Miss Nellie E. Chevins. Two children have been born to bless their home, upon whom they have bestowed the names of Clifford W. and Mildred E. Mr. Bouvette is quite prominent in public affairs of local importance, and has served ten years as chairman of the Democratic county committee and is also member of the congressional committee. He is prominent in fraternal circles, and holds membership in the I. O. O. F., A. O. U. W., M. W. A., O. E. S., and A. F. and A. M. societies.