

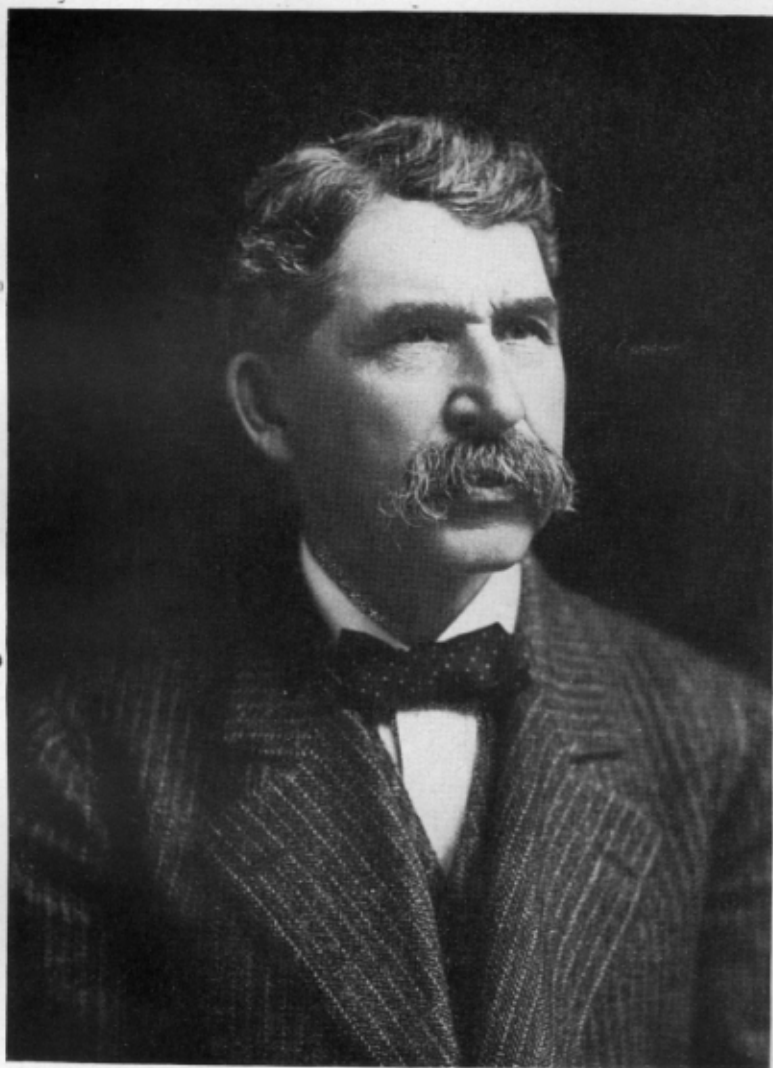
in the general good works of the community, helpful in promoting all worthy causes. Mr. Betcher is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

W. H. DAVY.

W. H. Davy, former mayor and one of the most substantial citizens of Moorhead, was born in Bath, Ontario, Canada, June 19, 1844, a son of William H. Davy and Sarah M. (Perry) Davy, both of whom were born in Ontario, Canada. William H. Davy was a shipbuilder in Bath, Ontario, and lived there practically all his life. He was the father of three children: Sarah Minerva, Mary Perry and W. H. Mr. Davy, Sr., was a member of the Episcopal church.

W. H. Davy was educated in the public schools of Bath, Ontario, Canada, where he spent his early years. During the Civil War he came to Chicago, Illinois, and lived there until the close of the war and then returned to Canada. In 1869 he came again to this country and located in Duluth, Minnesota, where he remained for about three years. About 1872 he came to Moorhead and spent one winter, and in the following year he came here to live and has since made this his home. For the first three or four years after coming here he was employed as bookkeeper and cashier for the firm of Bruner & Finkle, and also was agent for the American Express Company. At that time express matter was carried by a stage line running from Breckinridge by way of Moorhead, to Minneapolis, also from Moorhead to Ft. Gary. Following this employment Mr. Davy was for several years engaged in the grocery business. Later he started in the grain, flour, building-material and fuel business, in partnership with F. Goodsell, under the firm name of W. H. Davy & Company. After about eight or nine years in that business Mr. Davy retired from active management and left the business in the hands of Mr. Goodsell, his partner.

For the past thirty years Mr. Davy has been interested in farming and has large land investments. He now owns about three sections of land in Clay county and carries on farming on an extensive scale. His time for the past eleven or twelve years has been mostly occupied in superintending his farms. In 1914 he had a patch of potatoes within the city limits, adjoin-



W. H. DAVY.

ing the Normal School grounds, on which was produced over fifteen thousand bushels of potatoes.

For the last twenty-five years Mr. Davy has spent most of his winters in Florida or California and has thus been able to escape the rigor of Minnesota winters. He is among the wealthiest farmers in the state, yet he is very unpretentious and lives in Moorhead in a modest way. He is a member of the Episcopal church of Moorhead and has served for many years as warden in that church. He served several years as county commissioner of Clay county, and was chairman of that board for several years. He served two terms as mayor of Moorhead.

Mr. Davy is one of the living pioneers of Moorhead and is still one of the citizens of the town who is actively interested in public affairs.

ERNEST POEHLS.

Ernest Poehls, proprietor of a well-kept farm of two hundred and sixty acres just north of the village of Sabin, in Elmwood township, Clay county, former constable for that township and former supervisor of highways in his district, was born in Scott county, Iowa, November 23, 1876, son of Chris and Elizabeth (Krabbenhof) Poehls, who became residents of Clay county in 1883 and are still living, prominent and influential residents of Elmwood township.

Both Chris Poehls and his wife are of European birth, natives of Schleswig-Holstein, who came to this country in 1866, settling with their respective families in Scott county, Iowa, where they were married in 1868 and where they remained, engaged in farming, until the latter part of 1883, when they came to Minnesota and established their home in Clay county, arriving at their new home there on December 10 of that year. Chris Poehls had bought a farm in Elmwood township, during the previous summer, and came well-equipped for successful farming. As he prospered in his operations, he gradually added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of eleven hundred and fifty-three acres of excellent land. Despite the fact that he is now past seventy-five years of age, he is still hale and hearty and continues to give his active attention to the general direction of his extensive farming interests. During eight years of his residence in Iowa, Mr. Poehls was supervisor of roads in his home district, and, since taking up his resi-