

and develop the same, establishing his permanent home there after his marriage in 1901. Mr. Altenbernd has done well in his farming operations, and has increased his original holdings until now he is the owner of a fine place of four hundred and eighty acres. He is now regarded as one of the most securely established farmers in that section of the county, his place being well improved and profitably cultivated. In addition to his general farming, he has, of late years, gone somewhat extensively into potato raising and has done well in that line, having discovered, along with many other thoughtful agriculturists hereabout, that potatoes constitute one of the most profitable crops raised in the Red River valley.

In 1901, Frederick W. Altenbernd was united in marriage to Wilhelmina Schroeder, who was born in Elmwood township, daughter of Henry Schroeder and wife, pioneers of Clay county, further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Carl and Clarence. Mr. and Mrs. Altenbernd are members of the German Lutheran church and give proper attention to the various beneficences of the same, as well as to the general good works and social affairs of the community in which they live, and are doing well their part in advancing the neighborhood's common welfare.

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#### PROF. H. R. EDWARDS.

Prof. H. R. Edwards, superintendent of the Moorhead city schools, past president of the Minnesota State Association of School Superintendents, an active member of the National Education Association for more than twenty years and for years one of Minnesota's best-known and most influential schoolmen, is a native of the great Empire state, but has been a resident of Minnesota, actively engaged in school work here, for nearly a quarter of a century. He was born in the village of Alfred, in Allegany county, New York, December 1, 1870, son of Joseph and Harriet (Williams) Edwards, both natives of that same state, who spent all their lives there. Joseph Edwards was a substantial miller and landowner and a man of influence in his community. He and his wife were members of the Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, all of whom grew to maturity and of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Horace G., Allison



PROF. H. R. EDWARDS.

J., Elsworth J., William S., Lillian M. and Lewis D. Professor Edwards is of distinguished lineage both on the paternal side and on the maternal side, being a lineal descendant of Jonathan Edwards, the great American divine, theologian, metaphysician and early president of Princeton College, and of Roger Williams, Welsh clergyman and Puritan, who fled from England to escape persecution and settled in New England in the early days of the Pilgrim colony, where he hoped to enjoy the religious freedom he was denied at home.

Reared at his home village of Alfred, H. R. Edwards spent his youth as an assistant in the labors of his father's mill and farm, meanwhile giving careful attention to his studies, and after his graduation from the Alfred high school entered the university at that place and was graduated from the same in 1894. Upon receiving his diploma Professor Edwards entered at once upon his long and useful career as an educator and has since taken post-graduate work in the University of Wisconsin and in the University of Minnesota. He began his high-school work in Minnesota in the fall of 1895 and has ever since been actively engaged in school work in this state, before entering upon his present position of superintendent of city schools at Moorhead in 1909 having had successive connection with the schools at Wheaton, at Browns Valley, at Redwood Falls, at Worthington and at Morris. It was in 1909 that he accepted the position of superintendent of schools at Moorhead and he has been retained in that useful and influential position ever since. During the past fifteen years Professor Edwards has occupied his summers as a teacher in the State Normal Schools at Mankato and at Moorhead and has long been one of the best-known schoolmen in Minnesota. For the past twenty-one years he has been a member of the National Education Association and has attended most of the meetings of superintendents. In 1915 he was the president of the Minnesota State Association of School Superintendents. For years he has taken an active interest in the deliberations of this association and in the general school work of the state, and was a member of the state high-school committee that formulated the present high-school curriculum in use in this state.

In 1894, the year of his graduation from the university, Professor Edwards was united in marriage to Harriet M. Potter, of Albion, Wisconsin, and has two children, Carrol and Helen. Professor and Mrs. Edwards are members of the Baptist church and take an active interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social and cultural activ-

ities of the community in which they live. Professor Edwards is a member of the local lodges of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and of the Knights of Pythias and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same and is an officer in the Royal League.

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### JOHN McGRATH.

John McGrath, former member of the Legislature, former mayor of Barnesville, city treasurer for several years and in other ways identified with public affairs, is a native of the state of Wisconsin, born in Outagamie county, on October 20, 1857. He is a son of Dennis and Ellen (Cashman) McGrath, both of whom were natives of Ireland, and who came to this country in 1847—the year of the great immigration from that country—and soon located in Wisconsin.

Shortly after his arrival in Wisconsin, Dennis McGrath settled in Outagamie county, and commenced operations as a farmer, success attending his efforts from the very beginning. He continued thus engaged until 1867, when the family moved to near Owatona, Steele county, Minnesota, where he bought a farm and operated the same for a short time only, death claiming him that same year. His wife survived him several years. Dennis and Ellen (Cashman) McGrath were the parents of eight children as follows: Alice, Mary Anna, Thomas, John, the subject of this sketch; Johanna, D. F., Michael and Edward. Dennis McGrath and his wife were earnest members of the Catholic church, always interested in its good works, and their children were reared in the same faith.

John McGrath was ten years old when his parents left Wisconsin and came to Steele county, Minnesota, and he was educated in the public schools of that county. At the age of twenty-two, in 1879, he came to Barnesville, Clay county, and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Barnesville township. At the time he settled here there was no town where the present village is located, and the place at the time Mr. McGrath settled there, consisted of two or three stores. He continued to reside on his homestead for about two years, at the end of which time he came to Barnesville, where he has since lived. His first residence was northwest of what is now the main portion of Barnesville.

On settling in Barnesville John McGrath started in the butcher business and was engaged in that branch of work up to 1909, meeting with encourag-