

WALTER B. HOLMES, M. D.

Rising above the masses there have been men in all ages and in all places, who by force of character and intellectual powers, leave a deep and abiding impression upon the institutions of their time. The life record of Dr. Walter B. Holmes, McDonaldsville township, Norman county, seems an exemplification of the words of Gladstone, who said: "Be inspired with the belief that life is a grand and noble calling, not a mean and groveling thing, that we are to shuffle through as best we can, but an elevating and lofty destiny."

Dr. Walter B. Holmes, city health officer of Ada and for years one of the best-known physicians of that city, is a British-American, a native of the Dominion of Canada, from the province of Ontario, where he was born in 1866, in the city of Lindsay, the eldest son of Benjamin Alexander and Lucia Ann (Holt) Holmes. His father was a native of Toronto, Canada, and the mother of Concord, New Hampshire, who moved to the United States in the seventies and settled in Minnesota. In this state Walter B. Holmes grew to manhood and commenced his educational career, graduating from the high school, valedictorian of his class. At an early age he moved to the city of Minneapolis and became an active participant in the business affairs of that city, and held the important position of assistant secretary of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce until 1884. Some time later Doctor Holmes entered the University of Minnesota, matriculating in both the classical and scientific courses, and in the college activities organized and directed the first mandolin and guitar club on the campus for several years.

After receiving his degree of Bachelor of Science in 1888, Doctor Holmes occupied the position of hydraulic engineer of the Ramsey county water board until 1891. In the latter year he entered the medical department of the University of Minnesota and was graduated from the same at the head of a class of thirty-two members, with the *Cum Laude* degree and degree of Doctor of Medicine, in 1894. During the last two years of his course at the University, Doctor Holmes was a member of the University Press Club, representing the department of medicine on the editorial staff of the *Education Herald*, of the university. He was elected class quizzitor in anatomy in 1892, and acted as prosector to the chair of pathology during the junior and senior years of his course. During his college days Doctor Holmes was an active member of the Epsilon chapter of the Nu Sigma Nu fraternity, and still continues to take a warm interest in the affairs of that popular Greek-letter society; he is at present one of the projectors and stockholders of the magnificent chapter house erected on the campus.



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In 1897 Dr. Walter B. Holmes came into the Red River valley country and opened an office for the practice of his profession at Ada, where he has since made his home, for years having been recognized as one of the leading county physicians of the Red River valley. The Doctor has served as county physician and also as chairman of the board of health; as a registered pharmacist he is an active member of the State Pharmaceutical Association, and active member of the Red River Valley Medical Association and of the American Medical Association. He has ever given his earnest attention to the general civic and commercial affairs of his home town, serving as president of the Ada Commercial Club, of which he is an active member. Doctor Holmes is deemed by the state board of health and by the department of epidemiology of the State University, as one of the most efficient and capable executives in the service of the state, and is now serving his seventh year as city health officer. In 1907 Doctor Holmes was appointed physician and surgeon of the Great Northern Railroad, in which capacity he has enlisted his services under the council of the railroads and national defense committee, for the duration of the war. The Doctor is a Royal Arch Mason, a Knight Templar and belongs to the commandery; he is a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Zurah Temple No. 23 at Minneapolis, and for years has taken an active part in high Masonic affairs.

In 1906 Dr. Walter B. Holmes was united in marriage to Mrs. Valborg (Schriver) Norby, widow of Joris C. Norby, a former county auditor and newspaper editor, a memorial sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Holmes was born in Christiania, Norway, and came to the United States in 1888. Doctor and Mrs. Holmes are members of the Protestant Episcopal church and are warmly interested in the general social and cultural activities of the community in which they have resided for several years, helpful in promoting all movements designed to advance the common welfare. Mrs. Holmes is vice-president of the Norman County Red Cross Chapter and has successfully organized the Red Cross branches throughout the towns and villages of the county. She is an active member of the board of education, president of the Womens Civic League, former president of the Womans Christian Temperance Union, a member of the State Federation of Womens Clubs, president of and actively connected with the Schiller Literary Club, and ever giving of her time and abilities to the calls of benevolence and charity, and is recognized throughout the community as a woman of more than ordinary cultural and social attainments. Doctor Holmes was appointed member of the exemption board by Governor Burn-

quist, for the Norman county draft, and in that capacity has been rendering excellent service. The Doctor's surviving kinsman is an only brother, Dr. Eugene Holmes.

Doctor Holmes is possessed of many pronounced natural attributes, and brings to his labors in any direction a virile personality. While firm in his convictions, he is none the less tolerant of the opinions of others, and is held in high regard in and about the county and outside of it. He is an extensive reader and student, well versed in world history and is accounted one of the foremost scholars in the county. He has written many articles on sanitary science and the prevention of disease, especially in schools, and which have been published in the local press and copied into many papers in the larger centers. Doctor Holmes assisted in the preparation of the history of the medical profession in Norman county for the historical portion of this work.

C. JOHN SALOMONSON.

One of the energetic tillers of the soil in Highland Grove township, Clay county, is C. John Salomonson, who not only seems to know how to carry on the various departments of modern agriculture, but when to do a thing and when not to do it, which requires discriminating tact.

Mr. Salomonson was born in Sweden, May 19, 1866. He is a son of Bent Salomon and Anna Breta (Johnson) Peterson, both natives of Sweden, where they grew up, married and spent their lives on a farm, dying there. They never came to America. To these parents six children were born, named as follow: C. John, the subject of this sketch; August Wilhelm, Stena, Gustav, Arne and Mange. They are all living at this writing.

The subject of this review spent his boyhood on the home farm in Sweden, and there he attended the common schools. He went to school only two days in the United States. He came to this country in 1889, locating at once in Sibley county, Minnesota, where he worked one year, then crossed the line into Nicolett county, remaining there a year, then spent two years in Brown county, working out as a farm hand all these years. He then farmed for himself on rented land in Nicolett county. He then came to Clay county and located in Highland Grove township on the farm on which he still lives. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and is now owner of a finely improved and productive farm of two hundred and sixty-five acres. Ninety-six acres are in Clay county