

## ANTON KOST.

Anton Kost, one of the early settlers of this part of Minnesota and a substantial landowner, of Mary township, Norman county, now living retired in the village of Downer, in Clay county, is of European birth, a native of the republic of Switzerland, but has been a resident of Minnesota since the days of his young manhood, having settled up here in the Red River country, a homesteader in what later came to be organized as Mary township in Norman county, at that time a part of Polk county, and became one of the organizers of that township and chairman of its first board of supervisors. He was born on December 24, 1850, son of Joseph and Mary (Hellmiller) Kost, also natives of Switzerland, who spent all their lives in that country. Joseph Kost was a butcher. He died in the middle fifties and his widow survived him many years, her death occurring about the year 1880. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Joseph, Jack, Robert, Fitzmons, Katie and Christina.

Anton Kost was but a child when his father died. He grew to manhood in his native country and there learned the carpenter trade, remaining there until some little time after reaching his majority, when, in 1873, he came to the United States and proceeded directly on out here to the Red River country, marrying in that same year a Swiss lass who had come out here and had located in Clay county in that same year. For a short time after his marriage Mr. Kost worked as a butcher at Moorhead, working for John Erickson, and then he entered a homestead claim on a quarter of a section of land in what later came to be known as Mary township, now in Norman county, but then a part of Polk county, and there established his home. One of his first steps in the way of developing and improving that virgin tract was the planting of a grove, which in the years since then has grown to noble proportions, one of the finest groves in that part of the county. When it came time to organize that pioneer community as a township for civic purposes, Mr. Kost took an active part in the work of organization and was chairman of the first board of supervisors of the township, a position he held for four years. He was the second treasurer elected in his school district (district No. 20) and held that position for twenty-one years, a strong and able factor in the work of developing the school system of the community in an early day. As he prospered in his farming operations Mr. Kost added to his holdings until he became the owner of an excellent farm of two hundred

and eighty acres, on which he erected substantial buildings, and gradually created there one of the best farm plants in that section. He also paid considerable attention to the raising of live stock and did very well. On that farm Mr. Kost made his home until his retirement in 1912 and removal to the village of Downer, where he built a fine house and where he and his wife are now making their home, comfortably situated and enjoying in quiet retirement the rewards of their labors during the pioneer period of the development of this region.

In 1873, shortly after his arrival in Clay county, Mr. Kost was united in marriage to Nina Heflicker, also a native of the republic of Switzerland, who had arrived here in that same year, and to this union four children have been born, Katie (deceased), Anton, Adolph and John. Mrs. Kost's parents, John and Katherina Heflicker, who also were born in Switzerland, spent all their lives in their native land. Mr. and Mrs. Kost are Catholics and aided in the organization of the first Catholic church in the community in which they settled in Norman county—St. Mary's church, which now is a strong and flourishing parish. As pioneers of this region they are thoroughly familiar with the details of the development of the country hereabout and both have many interesting tales to tell of the early days.

---

#### FRANK AUGUSTINE WELD, M. A., LL. D.

Dr. Frank Augustine Weld, president of the Minnesota State Normal school at Moorhead, is a native son of the old Pine Tree State, but he has been a resident of Minnesota for the past thirty-five years or more. He is thus as much a Minnesotan in spirit, and in the ardor of his service to this state as one "native and to the manner born." Doctor Weld was born in the city of Skowhegan, Maine, December 10, 1858, son of George and Lucy Ann (Robbins) Weld. His father was a cabinet-maker and farmer, who came to this state in 1899 and spent his last days in Moorhead.

Upon completing the course in the Skowhegan high school and Bloomfield Academy in 1877, Frank A. Weld entered Colby College at Waterville, Maine, where he received his collegiate training, having made his way through college by teaching country schools, the grammar school at Machias, Maine, and by serving as principal of the high school at Cherryfield, in that same state. In 1882 he came to Minnesota, where for a short time he was engaged in newspaper work in Minneapolis and St. Paul, but not long