

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.

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-

ing success during the long period he was in that trade. In addition thereto, about 1885, he opened up an implement and harness business, in which he was equally successful and which he continued to operate until 1909, when he disposed of the harness branch of his store. He still conducts the implement department which he first opened in 1885, being thus one of the oldest merchants in that branch of commercial enterprise in Clay county, and from the operations of which he has reaped a handsome competency.

On September 1, 1885, John McGrath was united in marriage to Alice Brislaim, formerly a resident of Steele county, this state. Mr. and Mrs. McGrath are the parents of seven children, namely: Frances, Alice, Cecilia, Lucy, Ruth, John and Harold Robert. The McGrath family are members of the Catholic church and are warm supporters of all the good works and societies attached to the church. They take an active interest in the affairs of the community and are earnest advocates of all movements designed to further the general welfare of the township and county.

Mr. McGrath is a supporter of the Republican party and was returned by the votes of that party to the Legislature, in which he served for one term, giving general satisfaction in that important office to the interests he represented. He was elected mayor of Barnesville and served the public very acceptably for a period of six years, during which period many improvements of an important character were carried out. Mr. McGrath was elected to the office of treasurer and occupied that responsible office for the long term of thirteen years—a period during which he enjoyed the undiminished confidence of the public. For many years he was a member of the local council and is now serving as justice of the peace in and for the Barnesville township. Mr. McGrath holds membership in the Knights of Columbus and in the affairs of that popular order takes a warm interest.

H. R. BURRILL.

H. R. Burrill, dealer in farming implements at Hawley, Clay county, was born on September 19, 1858, in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, a son of Jacob Burrill, who was born in 1818 and died in 1891. He was educated in the common schools of his native town, and at Keene, New Hampshire, until 1876. After that, he worked in a store at Dana, Massachusetts. In the spring of 1878, he came to Hawley, Minnesota, arriving in Clay county on April 19th. He took up a homestead in Keene township, which