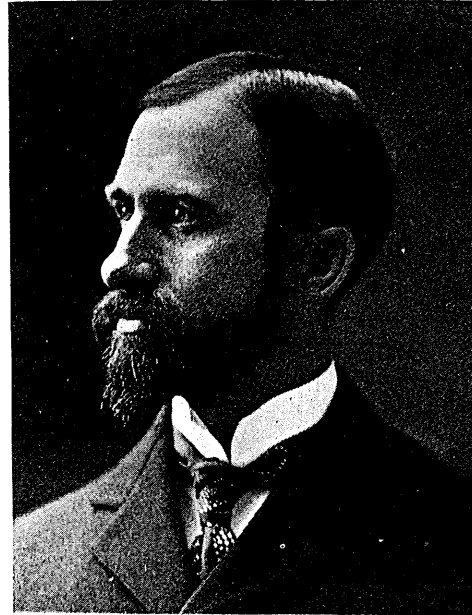


FRANCIS BENNETT VAN HOESEN.

Minnesota has comparatively few people of the old Dutch stock, but wherever they are found they are valuable citizens and men of affairs. One of these, of almost unmixed Holland blood, is the Hon. F. B. Van Hoesen, of Alexandria, banker, legislator, lawyer and capitalist. The Van Hoesens came from Holland and settled in what is now Columbia County, New York about 1650. They bought a tract of several hundred acres of land, on a part of which the city of Hudson now stands. Mr. Van Hoesen's great grandfather, Garrett Van Hoesen, emigrated to Cortland County, New York, in 1806 and purchased a tract of land in the Tioughinoga Valley, in the town of Preble. This tract, with certain additions which the thrifty settler acquired, came into the possession of his three sons, Garrett, Francis and Albert, who all married and reared large families. They and their descendants were respected citizens, filling offices of trust and acquiring large properties. Garrett, Mr. Van Hoesen's great grandfather, was a soldier in the Revolution. His grandson, John Van Hoesen, father of the subject of this sketch, came west. He is now retired from business in moderate financial circumstances. His wife was also of direct Holland descent. She was Rhoda Bennett, daughter of Gershom Bennett, a farmer of

Onondaga County, New York, whose ancestors came from Holland to Green County, New York, and later came to Onondaga County to the town of Tully, where Mrs. Van Hoesen was born in 1814. Francis Van Hoesen was born at Tully on January 8, 1839. When he was fifteen years of age his parents came to Hastings, Minnesota, then but a frontier village. His early schooling was obtained at the common schools of New York and Minnesota. Later he went for two years to the Oneida Conference Seminary at Cazenovia, Madison County, New York, and to the Law School of the University of Michigan, from which he graduated in 1864. This education was not obtained without much hard work. Mr. Van Hoesen taught school and engaged in other employment as he could in order to obtain the funds to maintain himself at college. After being admitted to the bar by the supreme court of Michigan in 1864 he read law for a short time at Hastings and then commenced practice on his own account at Owatonna, Minnesota, with Julius B. Searles, brother of J. N. Searles, of Stillwater. Being offered an attractive partnership by T. B. Waheman, of McHenry County, Illinois, he went there in 1865, but his health failed after a few months and he was obliged to give up office work for a time. He returned to Minnesota and spent the following year in the woods and on the prairies most of the time engaged in examining government lands for entry by private parties. On one of his visits to St. Cloud then the location of the United States land office, he became acquainted with T. C. McClure, one of the famous triumvirate of Clark, Wait & McClure, who for many years were dominant spirits in the business and politics of the northwestern part of the state. Mr. McClure offered young Von Hoesen a place in his bank. The offer was accept and the position was held until 1867 when he went to Alexandria and branched out for himself. Mr. Van Hoesen attributes much of his success to the influence and training of Mr. McClure, for whom he has always had the greatest regard and respect. At Alexandria, then but a scattered village, eighty-five miles from a railroad, Mr. Van Hoesen recommenced the practice of his profession. He was almost immediately elected county attorney, but his services to the public consisted largely in keeping the county out of litigation rather than

trying cases. The country filled up rapidly after the war, and in 1869 Mr. Van Hoesen interested other parties and started the Bank of Alexandria. He was cashier and manager and so continued until 1883 when the bank was reorganized into the First National Bank of Alexandria, of which he became president. He has continued to hold that position. Though brought up a Democrat, Mr. Van Hoesen says that in the second year of the war he saw that the only political party which was trying to save the nation's life was the Republican party. So he came to believe in its principles. Since locating in Alexandria he has taken an active part in political affairs. He has been county attorney, clerk of the district court, register of deeds, first president of the village council, member of school board and its treasurer for a dozen years, member of the legislature in the house of 1872 and 1881, and in the senate in 1883 and 1885. He has been a Mason since 1866, and has held prominent offices in the local lodge. In 1879 he was married to Miss Mary C. Gunderson, daughter of James Gunderson, a farmer, and sister of C. J. Gunderson, of Alexandria. They have no children.



#### FRANK M. PRINCE.

The above name is that of a man who has grown up with the state, and by his strict fidelity to business and persevering industry has won for himself a place among the financiers of this commonwealth. F. M. Prince is vice-president of the First National Bank of Minneapolis. He is the son of George H. Prince and Sarah E. Nash (Prince.) George H. Prince is at present not engaged in active business, being in comfortable circumstances financially. Frank M. was born at Amherst, Massachusetts, July 23, 1854. He received a good common education in the public schools of his native town and the high school. The first money he ever earned was carrying mail while attending school from twelve until he was sixteen years of age. He worked in a general store after that age until he was twenty years old, when he came to Minnesota, in December, 1874, settling at Stillwater. He was for a year employed in the general store of Prince & French in that city, and in the winter of 1875 taught school. In April of that year he obtained em-

ployment in the First National Bank of Stillwater, working as an office boy and general clerk. He continued in this position until July, 1878, when he obtained employment in the First National Bank of Minneapolis, as correspondent and teller. He held this position until November, 1882, when he returned to the First National Bank at Stillwater, taking the position of cashier, January 1, 1883. He remained in this position for nine years. On August 1, 1892, he entered upon his duties as secretary and treasurer of the Minnesota Loan and Trust Company, of Minneapolis. He held this position, however, only two years, when he returned to the First National Bank of Minneapolis, August 1, 1894, taking the position of cashier. He was holding this office when he was elected vice-president of the bank, January 1, 1895. Mr. Prince is held in high esteem by all his business associates for his sound judgment and his qualifications as a shrewd and conservative financier. He is also interested in other business enterprises, being a director in the Minnesota Loan and Trust Company, of Minneapolis; the Stillwater Water Company, the C. N. Nelson Lumber Company and the Merchants' Bank at Cloquet. Mr. Prince's political affiliations are with the Republican party. He is a member of the Minneapolis and Commercial clubs. He was married April 26, 1883, to Mary Bell Russell. Mrs. Prince died July 27, 1888. They had no children.