



WILLIAM EDWIN LEE.

William E. Lee, president of the Bank of Long Prairie, is better known to the people of Minnesota as an active public man and as the efficient superintendent of the State Reformatory at St. Cloud. During the spring and summer of 1896 he has been brought into special prominence as a candidate before the state Republican convention for the nomination for governor. Mr. Lee is of English origin, though born in this country just after his parents settled here. His father, Samuel Lee, came to America with his wife (who was Miss Jane Green), from Bridgewater, Summersetshire, England, in 1851. Mr. Lee was a contractor and builder and a millwright by trade. During the financial panic of 1856 he suffered losses at Alton, Illinois, where he first established himself. He came to Minnesota in June, 1856, and settled at Little Falls. He served in Company E, of Hatch's Battalion, Minnesota Volunteers, during the war. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are still living at Long Prairie. Their son William was born at Alton on January 8, 1852. He received his education in the public schools and from private instructors after leaving school. While a boy he worked on a farm and with his father at the millwright trade. During his experience in this trade he invented a wheat cleaning machine, known as Lee's wheat and cockle

separator. Mr. Lee was unable to manufacture the machine and put it on the market; but, although he held a patent, a Milwaukee concern commenced the manufacture and placed the machines in nearly every flour mill in the world where spring wheat is ground. After many unsuccessful attempts to secure a settlement, Mr. Lee commenced suit against users of his machine, which were prosecuted successfully and became famous among patent litigation. In company with R. H. Harkens, Mr. Lee, when a young man, started a small country store at Burnhamville, Todd County, which was afterwards removed to Long Prairie and became one of the leading mercantile establishments of the county. In January, 1882, he established the Bank of Long Prairie, which was the first bank in Todd County. Mr. Lee's political service began in 1875, when he was elected justice of the peace. Two years later he was elected register of deeds of Todd County and held the office for four years. In 1885 he represented Todd County in the legislature and took an active part in the railroad and warehouse legislation of that year—the first important legislation of the kind in Minnesota. He was re-elected to the legislature in 1887 and again in 1893, when he was chosen speaker of the house. For twenty years he has been actively identified with the public affairs of northern Minnesota. Though of a democratic family he has been from the time he cast his first vote, an enthusiastic Republican. In 1894 Mr. Lee was surprised by being tendered the post of superintendent of the State Reformatory at St. Cloud. During the nineteen months of his term of service at the head of this institution its affairs were economically managed and many improvements in the methods and management of the reformatory were introduced. During the winter of 1896 the stockholders of the Bank of Long Prairie, desiring to organize the institution into a National Bank, urged Mr. Lee to accept the presidency of the reorganized concern, and he accordingly resigned his position as superintendent of the reformatory and returned to Long Prairie. In 1875 Mr. Lee was married to Miss Eva A. Gibson, daughter of Ambrose H. Gibson. They have three sons, Rudolph A. Lee, a student at the state university; Harry W. Lee and Raymond A. Lee, students at the St. Cloud Normal

school. Mr. Lee has taken an active interest in educational matters and served six years on the state normal school board. He has been actively identified with the building up of the village of Long Prairie, where he has been engaged in the banking, mercantile and real estate business.

FRED CARLETON PILLSBURY.

The name of Pillsbury is inseparably connected with the history of Minnesota and the development of her greatest manufacturing interests. The youngest of the four men of this name who came to Minnesota in early days was Fred C. Pillsbury. He was a son of George A. Pillsbury, brother to Charles A. Pillsbury and nephew of ex-Governor John S. Pillsbury. His death in the prime of life, on May 15, 1892, deprived the city of a leading business man and an active and useful member of the community. Fred C. Pillsbury was born in Concord, New Hampshire, on August 27, 1852. He was educated in the schools of Concord and graduated from the high school of that place. He did not attend college. His brother Charles was a graduate of Dartmouth, but Fred's strong desire to enter active business life led him to forego a college education, and in 1870 he came to Minneapolis and entered the store of his uncle, John S. Pillsbury, who at that time carried on an extensive wholesale and retail hardware business. The natural business instincts of the young man and the careful training of his uncle brought him rapidly to a high rank as a business man. His business judgment, his common sense, his calmness, and his quickness and readiness to act in business matters soon marked him for a successful business career. In 1876 he became a partner in the milling firm of Charles A. Pillsbury & Co. An experience of fourteen years as an active manager in the largest milling concern in the world gave him a mastery of the business. Upon the sale of the Pillsbury properties to the Pillsbury-Washburn Flour Milling Company he joined with other gentlemen in Minneapolis in organizing the Northwestern Consolidated Milling Company, of which he became a director and one of the managing committee. Up to the time of his death he was recognized as one of the leading millers of the



United States, and his judgment in the milling business, and in fact in all business matters, was regarded as of the highest quality. Outside of the milling business he was interested in many of the enterprises of the city. He was a director in the First National Bank and the Swedish-American Bank. Mr. Pillsbury was always greatly interested in agriculture. At Wayzata, Minnesota, on the shores of Lake Minnetonka, he maintained a model farm which was famed for its blooded stock and was the pride of its owner. For two years Mr. Pillsbury was president of the State Agricultural Society, and gave much time and personal attention to the management of the state fair. In political faith Mr. Pillsbury was a Republican, though he never held an elective office. He was a student of the political questions of the day and alive to the issues before the people. As a member of the building committee of the Minneapolis Club, Mr. Pillsbury had much to say in the construction and furnishing of the beautiful club house of that organization. He had a taste for art matters and took great pleasure in building, and ornamenting with specimens of the highest art, a beautiful home on Tenth Street, in Minneapolis. Mrs. Pillsbury was Miss Alice Cook, of Minneapolis. She was married to Mr. Pillsbury on October 19, 1876.