In 1879 Mr. Thompson organized the Fisher bank as a private banking house and as president, capably directed its affairs during the first years of its operations. This bank became a State bank in 1896 and is one of the most substantial and prosperous financial institutions of the county. In 1885 Mr. Thompson became associated in his various business interests with Marcus Johnson, buying the mercantile business owned by Andrew D. Stephens and erecting a flour mill which they operated for nine years when it was merged with the North Dakota Milling Association, of which Mr. Thompson became president. This corporation had extensive milling interests in North Dakota and Minnesota and Mr. Thompson remained at the head of its board of directors for several years. During these busy years of commercial enterprise, he found time for active co-operation in public affairs and gave his services in public offices, as county commissioner, and was the first postmaster appointed at Fisher. In 1891 he was appointed registrar of the United States land office at Crookston and during the four years of his incumbency of that position, resided in Crookston. He removed to East Grand Forks in 1896 and since that time has given his attention largely to the direct service of public interests in the various official positions to which the confidence and regard of his fellow citizens have called him. Aside from the local offices which he has held, Mr. Thompson was also an able member of the State board of Equalization for ten years, being first appointed to the board in 1882. He has been prominently identified with civic affairs as mayor and president of the town council and for four years was county commissioner from the fifth district. As a pioneer citizen, merchant and banker, his career has been notably marked with that intelligent and constructive citizenship which lays the foundation for the steady prosperity and rapid development of all commercial and social activity. Mr. Thompson has been twice married, his first union was with Luella May Thompson in 1875. She was born in St. Paul and was a teacher in the first school of Polk county, at Crookston. Three children were born to them, two of whom died in infancy. The death of the mother occurred at Fisher in 1888 and she was survived by one daughter, Luella M., who is the wife of Bert Townsend. Mr. Thompson’s marriage to Lees McMaster, a native of Olmstead county, Minnesota, and a teacher in the Fisher schools at the time of her marriage was solemnized in 1891 and they have two children, Charlotte H. and June.

REVEREND J. B. A. DALE.

Reverend J. B. A. Dale, pastor of the United Lutheran church at McIntosh, was born at Avue Bergen, Stift, Norway, June 29, 1854. He remained in his native land until his seventeenth year, coming to the United States in June, 1871. For several months he made his home in Columbus, Wisconsin, and then located in Chicago, where he spent three years and then returned to Wisconsin, living for a time in Eau Claire. Being ambitious to secure an education and prepare himself for the ministry, in the fall of 1875 he went to Minneapolis and enrolled in the Augsburg Seminary. He completed a four years’ course of study in that institution, meanwhile working during the vacation months and finding further employment as a teacher in parochial schools. He then attended the Normal school at Winona, Minnesota, during one winter and subsequently entered the University at Columbus, Ohio. In 1882 he became a student in the Red Wing Seminary and completed his studies in the following two years, receiving his degree in June, 1884. He was ordained in Lee county, Illinois, and his first pastorate was in Newman Grove, Nebraska, remaining with that congregation for some fourteen years. On leaving he came to Minnesota to accept the charge at Twin Valley in Norman county, where he served for six years. In July, 1904, he removed to McIntosh, as pastor