the next three years he was employed in various ways to his advantage. In 1886 he started a mercantile career in the dairy trade, and in this he has ever since been actively and profitably engaged.

Some years before leaving his native land Mr. Brown was married there to Miss Mary S. Johanason, the marriage being solemnized in 1874 in Christiania, the capital city of the country. Mrs. Brown was also a Norwegian by nativity and was born in 1851. They have had eleven children, four of whom have died. Three passed away in infancy, and a daughter named Josephine died February 17, 1904, when she was twenty-six years old. The children who are living are: Anna, who is the wife of Jacob Knudson, of Minneapolis; Julia, whose home is in Montana; Thea and Carl J., who are living at home; Sophia, who is the wife of James Calverwell, of the state of Washington; Mary, who is a teacher in Polk county, and Minnie, who is also living at home.

JOHN A. JOHNSON.

The city of Crookston, which is the home of John A. Johnson, one of the leading carpenters of Polk county, and the country surrounding that city contain many evidences of the most substantial character of the productive usefulness of his life and his skill as a mechanic. For he has erected a large number of houses in the city and its vicinity, and they all stand forth visibly and tangibly to his credit. He was born at Smolands, Sweden, December 18, 1855, and remained in that country until 1882, growing to manhood on his father's farm and then learning his trade as a carpenter and working for some years in a sash and door factory.

In the summer of 1882 Mr. Johnson emigrated to the United States, landing at New York and coming at once to Polk county. He took up his residence at Fisher's Landing, but moved to Crookston at once, and in this city he has since resided. He has made working at his trade and contracting in the erection of buildings his principal occupation throughout his residence in this county, and he has reached a high rank in his business. He is also esteemed as a progressive and public-spirited citizen deeply interested in the welfare of his home community.

Mr. Johnson was married in his native place September 27, 1875, to Miss Augusta Johnson, who was of the same nativity as himself and born April 19, 1856. They have had twelve children, one of whom died in infancy. Those living are Mary, Pauline, Ida, Amelia, Albert, Gustav, Louisa, Esther, Elizabeth, Ella and Elmer. The parents are active members of the Swedish Lutheran church, and the children have been reared in the same faith. All the members of the family stand well in popular esteem and are deservedly respected.

KNUTE E. MESSELT.

Having followed the vocation of a farmer in his native land of Norway, where his life began December 16, 1836, and in two counties of this state in succession, through a long career of useful and productive labor, Knute E. Messelt of Winger, this county, has rendered good service to two of the progressive countries of the world and has lived in each according to the requirements of upright and manly citizenship.