Mr. O'Brien was born in County Mayo, Ireland, July 14, 1849. His parents, Michael and Mary (Tighe) O'Brien, were also County Mayo folks and their ancestors lived for many generations in that part of the Emerald Isle. The father came to the United States in 1849 and the family joined him in this country in 1852. He took up his residence at Belvidere, Illinois, and there worked at his trade of stonemason and carried on business as a building contractor. He died at Belvidere in 1867, and the mother died there in 1898. They had seven sons, six living, and two daughters, one dead. One daughter and three of the sons are residents of Crookston, and the other son lives at Devil's Lake, North Dakota, and two reside in Illinois.

John W. O'Brien came to Minnesota and located in Duluth in 1869. He worked on the Lake Superior railroad for a time and was then employed on the Northern Pacific when that road was building into Moorhead, Minnesota, his position on each road being that of foreman, and in this capacity he helped to build the Great Northern into Beltrami. In 1873 he passed a short time in Crookston and in 1878 located in that city permanently. There he started in business for himself, which he followed until 1885, when he opened a hardware store in partnership with his brother James, and this is the one the brothers still own.

Mr. O'Brien is a Catholic in church affiliation and has been a zealous and serviceable Democrat in political allegiance from his youth. In 1882 he was united in marriage with Miss Johanna Donovan, a native of Canada but of Irish parentage. She died in 1907 leaving no children. Throughout her married life she met every requirement of her duty with energy and a cheerful spirit, and she stood deservedly high in the good will and regard of the whole community of her home, as Mr. O'Brien does now and always has wherever he is known.

CHARLES A. HITCHCOCK.

In the twenty-two years of his residence in Crookston Charles A. Hitchcock, one of the city's leading men, has built up an extensive business and an excellent reputation as a shrewd and far-seeing businessman and an enterprising, progressive and public-spirited citizen, warmly and intelligently interested in the welfare of the community and willing at all times to do his part of the work necessary to promote it.

Mr. Hitchcock was born in Dubuque, Iowa, December 2, 1864, a son of Rollin G. and Lucy E. (Nelson) Hitchcock, natives of Vermont. The father was a farmer in his native state and continued to be one after he came West. In 1855 he located in Iowa, where he purchased a tract of wild land which he converted into a well improved and valuable farm. He and his wife died at the home of their son Charles at the age of eighty-nine years, their deaths occurring within one month of each other. They were the parents of three sons and four daughters, Charles A. being the only one of the seven living in Minnesota, of which he has been a resident for twenty-seven years.

Charles A. Hitchcock grew to manhood and was educated in Iowa, and followed farming until 1888. In that year he removed to McIntosh, this county, and began auctioneering stock, and this has been his principal occupation from then until the present time. In 1893 he changed his residence to Crookston, which has ever since been his home. But his business takes him periodically to Illinois and Iowa, where he is