ress and improvement of Polk county and all the
country adjacent to it and tributary to its industrial,
commercial, mercantile and social life.

Mr. Peterson was born in Sweden August 7, 1860,
the son of Peter and Anna Peterson, farmers in their
native land and also in this country after their arrival
here in 1882, when they took up their residence at
what is now the thriving and progressive city of
Thief River Falls. Their son Edward was twenty-
two years old when the family came to the United
States. He had completed his education in his native
place, and was ready for any suitable opening he
might find in his new home. He remained at Thief
River Falls four years, then moved to Crookston in
1886 and accepted a position in the employ of the
waterworks department.

In the course of a little while Mr. Peterson worked
his way up to the post of engineer for the company
and some time afterward was appointed superintend-
ent. He was elected treasurer of the company in
1892, and since then he has been practically in charge
of all the operations of the department in the dual
capacity of superintendent and treasurer. He was
one of the organizers of the Crookston Building and
Loan association; is a director and president of the
Crookston Cordage company, a director of the Elec-
trical Development company, and chairman of the
development committee of the Crookston Commercial
club. He is also a member of the Crookston school
board.

On January 1, 1888, Mr. Peterson was united in
marriage with Miss Hannah Anderson, the nuptials
being solemnized in Minneapolis. This Mrs. Peter-
son died in 1892, and on August 22, 1894, Mr. Peter-
son contracted a second marriage, which united him
with Miss Anna Pherson, of Chicago. They have
eight children, Julia, Esther, Agnes Ethel, Albert
Edward, Herbert K., Florence, Adeline and Paul,
all of whom are still members of the parental family
circle.

EDWIN E. LOMMEN.

Edwin E. Lommen, of Crookston, a prominent citi-
en and one of the early settlers of the county, was
born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, February 9, 1856,
the son of Anders O. and Sigrid (Hoyme) Lommen,
natives of Norway. His father was a well known
pioneer farmer in Iowa, having located on govern-
ment land there in 1850, after living two years in
Wisconsin. He was widely identified with the pub-
lic activities of the time, was a member of the lower
House of the Legislature and served in a number of
local offices.

Edwin E. Lommen taught school at eighteen years
of age and clerked in a hardware store at Decorah,
Iowa. In 1878 he came to Polk county and took up
a Homestead claim five miles west of Crookston, on
which he lived for 19 years, cultivating and improv-
ing his farm. Since locating in Polk county he has
been actively and prominently associated with the
interests which have contributed to its progress and
welfare. He has marked the rapid evolution, which
has replaced the log cabin store, saloon, and tem-
porary frame shacks, which occupied the site of
Crookston in 1878, with the thriving, progressive
city of nine thousand inhabitants, with its brick
blocks and paved streets. No less remarkable has
been the development of the county, which as an
agricultural community, ranks second to none in the
State. In this development he feels a just pride in
having taken part. While living on his farm, he
held various local offices and in 1890 was elected to
the State Senate and was a member of the legislative
body during the sessions of 1891 and 1893. Among
the enactments for which he was responsible, there
were two which directly affected his home county;
the law reducing the salary of county officials, which
has saved many thousand dollars annually and the
First Red River Valley drainage law, which carried
an appropriation of $100,000 from the state and pro-