Although his interest in politics is only such as is due from every true American citizen, he has been alive in party matters, once at least serving as a delegate to a state convention.

He is a Knight Templar and a member of Acacia Fraternity of the State University.

His marriage, June 17, 1903, at Mabel, Minnesota, to Miss Marion E. Wilcox, a graduate of the Central High School of Minneapolis, has resulted in the birth of three children—Helen Marion; Margaret Elizabeth; and Conrad George.

AUGUST C. SCHMIDT.

One of the leading painters, decorators and paper-hangers in the Northwest, and chief of the fire department of the city of Crookston, August C. Schmidt contributes essentially and substantially to the service of the people around him by pleasing their taste and promoting their safety and aiding greatly in the protection of their property as well as their lives. He was born in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, August 3, 1859, and came to Minnesota in 1878, locating at Stillwater. He had learned his trade in his native state and was in charge of a shop in Stillwater two years. He then passed six months in Minneapolis, and at the end of that time moved to Hastings, where he was in charge of a shop until 1880.

At that time he saw an advertisement from McKinnon Bros. of Crookston, stating that they were in need of a first class carriage painter, and as he had heard much in favor of the Red river valley, he determined to seek this job. He came to Crookston and for two years was in charge of the McKinnon Bros.' paint shop, and then started his own business in 1883. He has adhered to his enterprise continuously since that time, and his is now the only business that has been in operation in Crookston steadily for thirty-three years. He has given his attention mainly to interior decorating, and he is sought for to do this kind of work on all of the best residences and public buildings nearly all the way from Crookston to Duluth. His sons, E. W. and Harry F., are associated with him in the work, and he employs regularly twelve to fifteen men in addition.

In 1882 Mr. Schmidt helped to organize the Crookston fire department, which was a volunteer hook and ladder company with a truck and a chemical engine, which was familiarly called "The Old Soap Boiler." The company had sixteen members, and Mr. Schmidt is the only one of the number who is still active in the department, which is a volunteer one to this day. When the company started its work he was foreman in charge of the apparatus at fires. In 1895 he was elected chief, and he served as such for two years. After the end of that period he served in the ranks until January, 1915, when he was chosen chief again, and he is still filling that office. He has had some thrilling experiences and some narrow escapes from serious injury, and has rendered valuable service at many big fires, especially the largest one Crookston ever had, the one that destroyed the Auditorium and some adjoining buildings at a loss of $250,000. At present the department has twenty-four members, three of whom are paid officials and devote their whole time to the work. The department also owns two hose wagons, one hook and ladder truck, forty-five hundred feet of hose and four horses, besides chemical engines and other apparatus. Usually five of the members sleep at the engine house. The company formerly took part in many tournaments of the Northern Minnesota Firemen's association, and carried off many honors in them. In these tournaments Mr. Schmidt's son Harry was the leader in ladder climbing contests and won glory for his organization in many a hot one.

Mr. Schmidt was a member of the city council from the Second ward in 1894, when the Northern Pacific Railroad was built through Crookston. He was made a Freemason in 1886 and is still active in his lodge,