

and thirty-eighth sessions. He has the notable distinction of having been the only republican ever elected from Chickasaw county to the state legislature for three successive terms in the history of this county. His course has been marked by absolute fidelity to duty and devotion to the interests of his constituents.

On the 12th of December, 1883, Mr. Kepple was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Rumbaugh, of Charles City, Iowa, by whom he had six children, five of whom survive; Madge L., who is the wife of Dr. W. L. Hanson, of Greene, Iowa; Carl D., a ranchman residing in Montana; Trula F., who is a stenographer employed in the state dairy and food department at Des Moines; Glenn D., who has succeeded his father in the conduct of the mercantile establishment at Ionia; and Gladys W., who is a public school teacher and lives at home. Excellent educational privileges have been accorded by Mr. and Mrs. Kepple to their family, for they have ever recognized the value of thorough intellectual training.

Mr. Kepple is a member of Bradford Lodge, No. 129, A. F. & A. M., of Nashua, and is a worthy follower of the teachings of the craft. His life has ever been guided by high and honorable principles and over his official record there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil. He has done important work as a member of the state legislature and was chairman of the state dairy and food committee in the thirty-eighth general assembly. In his political career he has ever placed the general welfare before partisanship and the upbuilding of the state before personal aggrandizement. The record of no man in public office in Chickasaw county has been more faultless in honor, fearless in conduct or stainless in reputation than that of Hon. Presley L. Kepple.

LOUIS A. LARSON.

Louis A. Larson is widely known as a leading merchant of Lawler, where he has been continuously and successfully engaged in business for almost a third of a century, while the period of his residence in the town covers thirty-seven years. He was born in Norway on the 13th of April, 1848, his parents being Baker and Josephine (Peterson) Larson, who emigrated to the United States in 1853 or 1854. They established their home in Crawford county, Wisconsin, where the father entered a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres and later purchased an adjoining tract of eighty acres. The cultivation and improvement of that property claimed his attention throughout the remainder of his active business career and both he and his wife continued to reside thereon until called to their final rest. The place is still in possession of the family, being now owned by one of the sons of Baker Larson.

Louis A. Larson, who was but five or six years of age when brought by his parents to the new world, was reared to manhood on the home farm in Crawford county, Wisconsin, and acquired his education in the district schools. On attaining his majority he went to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and entered the employ of the general mercantile firm of L. Case & Company, with which he remained for thirteen years, gaining knowledge and experience that proved the basis of his later business success. After severing his connection with the house in 1882 he came to Lawler, Iowa, as manager of the elevator of Bassett, Hunting & Company, spending five years in the service of that concern as a grain buyer. In 1887, feeling that his capital and experience justified the step, he embarked in the mercantile business at Lawler on his own account and through the intervening period of thirty-two years has continuously conducted his establishment with a steadily growing and gratifying patronage. He carries an extensive and well selected line of general merchandise, enjoys a justly merited reputation for thorough reliability and fair dealing and has long been numbered among the foremost business men of the town.

In 1874 Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Miss Bridget A. O'Malley, of Allamakee county, Iowa, by whom he has seven children, as follows: Nora E., who is now the wife of T. H. Goheen, a practicing attorney of Calmar, Iowa; Jose-