

the church. From 1882 to 1884 he served the Lutheran congregation at Decorah as its pastor. In the years 1868-1888 he was editor-in-chief of *Kirketidende*, a work he was again asked to resume when he resigned his position as president. At the beginning of January, 1913, he turned over this work to his successor and is now enjoying a well earned rest having the distinction of being Decorah's foremost citizen and the "grand old man" of the Lutheran synod. Dr. Larsen is- the oldest educator among Norwegians of America. He has exerted a great influence on the life and thought of his countrymen through his work as a teacher, pastor and editor, and there is hardly a person of Norwegian descent in America who does not know him personally or by reputation. He is now living in retirement near the college where he spent the best years of his life. His home is a large and imposing residence, a gift to him from old students and friends, made in 1897. On the occasion of the celebration of the semi-centennial of the founding of the Lutheran synod the Concordia seminary of St. Louis conferred on him the degree of D. D. and later on the king of Norway made him a knight of the Order of St. Olaf. The recognition of his life work has thus come to him from the sovereign of his native land—an honor well merited. The chief testimonial of his labors, however, is found in the lives of the hundreds of students who, prompted by his teachings, have gone out in the world to uphold the high ideals which he inculcated in their lives, thus proving their worth as factors in the citizenship of America and as elements in the great civilizing force which is slowly but surely making the world better.

WILLIAM H. SMITH.

William H. Smith, after a long and successful agricultural career, lives retired in Decorah, enjoying in well earned rest a comfortable competence. For many years he was engaged actively in farming a four hundred acre tract of land in Bluffton township, being one of the important factors in the agricultural development of Winneshiek county. A native of England, he was born on March 21, 1837, a son of William and Sarah (Hutton) Smith, both natives of the mother country. The father was a tailor by trade and passed away in his native land. In 1855 the mother and six of her children crossed the Atlantic to the United States and, coming to Winneshiek county, made their home with George, an elder brother of our subject, who had previously come to the United States in the late '40s, taking up a large tract of government land in Canoe township, this county. Subsequently the mother purchased forty acres of land, her son William H. taking charge and remaining with her until her demise in 1862.

He is the youngest of seven children, the remainder all having passed away. He received his education in England, coming to the United States when eighteen years of age and locating in this county, where he later engaged in farming. He purchased a small farm and as his means increased extended its borders until he today owns four hundred valuable acres of land on sections 13 and 14, Bluffton township. Mr. Smith successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits, specializing in stock-raising and, employing modern and up-to-