

HON. L. A. ROSING

SKETCH OF THE CAREER OF THE
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE
FOR GOVERNOR.

FROM FARM TO LEADERSHIP

HIS LIFE RECORD FULL OF HARD
STRUGGLES AND GREAT
ACHIEVEMENTS.

POPULAR IN HIS HOME TOWN

HIS BEST FRIENDS THE MEN WHO
HAVE KNOWN HIM FROM
BOYHOOD DAYS.

The following biographical sketch of Leonard A. Rosing, Democratic candidate for governor of Minnesota, is reproduced from the St. Paul Globe: There is no truer gauge of a man's worth than the life which he lives in his home and the estimation in which he is held by the men and women who have known him from childhood, as playmate, neighbor and citizen. No man has a more delightful home life or is held closer in the regard of those who know him well than Leonard A. Rosing, Democratic nominee for governor of Minnesota. In the picturesque little town, Cannon Falls, every man is Leonard A. Rosing's friend, every child knows his cheery smile, and his home, made brighter by a charming wife and three beautiful children, is the ideal American residence. Mr. Rosing is in no sense a revolutionist, and in every sense touching the affairs of men an evolutionist, consistent and faithful in his belief. His

went to Cannon Falls, only five miles from the home farm, and secured employment as a clerk in a general store. Four years later he married. Six years after, in 1888, he went into business for himself, at the stand which he now occupies as the senior member of the firm of Rosing & Kraft, dealers in boots, shoes and furnishings.

Debut as a Politician.
In 1890 he for the first time appeared on the political stage, as a supporter of O. M. Hall for congress. In 1894 he was a candidate for the state senate and made such a remarkable campaign that two years later he found himself called upon to accomplish the seemingly impossible task—reorganize the Democratic party as the chairman of the state central committee. The work was done. In 1898 John Lind was elected governor. In 1902 Mr. Rosing is the unanimous choice of the Democracy of the state to succeed Governor Lind as the party standard bearer.

Mr. Rosing's political career, remarkable as it is, is marked at every step by the man and the indomitable courage to do what he believes is right, regardless of the personal sacrifice the exercise of his conscience may involve. He was reared a Republican by a father who is still a Republican and whose pride in his son is still slightly tinged with regret that the son has broken away from the father's political faith.

It has been charged that Mr. Rosing has never made a political sacrifice. It is an unthinking and unjust charge brought by those who know neither the man nor his career. His retirement from the Republican party under the existing conditions was a sacrifice, at that time considered suicidal and a sacrifice made solely for principle.

In common with the Republicans of Minnesota, Mr. Rosing believed in tariff reform and in common with the majority of the Republicans who have stilled principle for the sake of party, believed that the tariff reform which the Republican party promised, meant tariff reduction. Instead of tariff reduction came the McKinley bill and true to principle Rosing left the party and affiliated with the Democrats.

Leaves Republican Party.
He was a delegate to the Goodhue Republican county convention in 1890 and his last act as a Republican was the introduction and passage at that convention of a resolution indorsing Senator Davis' bill putting binding

cesses. They worked against a normal Republican majority of 40,000 and without money sufficient to defray the postage bills of some of the Republican campaign.

It was a presidential year. Mr. McKinley carried the state by 58,000. On the face of the returns Governor Clough was elected but by only 3,300 or 55,000 behind his ticket. Republic

confidence's helper and with his immense capacity for detail acquired a comprehensive knowledge of the state and its government as great, if not greater, than any man ever connected with an administration.

Natural Choice of Party.

The campaign of 1900 which can only be considered in the light of a triumph



LEONARD A. ROSING.

ans were astounded. Democrats delighted and their faith in their new leader established safe from any attack.

Early in the spring of the following year Mr. Rosing began the work of organization for the campaign of 1898. In January, 1898, he had perfected organizations in every county in the state headed by capable, energetic men backed up by the best and intelligent co-operation of subordinate workers in every precinct. The actual workers were invited to the annual banquet and the largest political affair of the kind ever given in Minnesota was the result.

The ensuing campaign will be ever memorable in the annals of Minnesota's political history. Without money, indeed with funds barely sufficient to maintain a well equipped working force at the state headquarters, Chairman Rosing put thousands of men to work. Every man was given his part. His share of the campaign was turned over to him and he was not only made to feel but to realize that the chief of the great campaign organization was with him in every effort and had a watchful eye on every movement. Advice, suggestion, help, words of good cheer were constantly at hand and in St. Paul the silent man from Goodhue county, working eighteen or twenty hours every day, kept always in personal touch with them and their respective trials.

Complete Mastery of Details.

In the latter days of the campaign, the Republicans resting secure in what they believed an overwhelming defeat of the Fusion candidate, laughed to scorn the confident claims of the man from Goodhue. He was not talking for publication or effect but when questioned touching the result of the campaign consistently claimed Mr. Lind would be elected. The day preceding the election he placed Mr. Lind's plurality at 20,000 and advised his friends inclined to speculate that it was entirely safe to place their bets on a plurality of that size. The Republicans laughed and took the bet.

The result is history. Mr. Lind was elected. His plurality was within 200 votes of the estimate given by Mr. Rosing and the difference was on the safe side. Mr. Rosing went with Governor Lind to the executive office as private secretary. There is no gainsaying that Mr. Lind was governor every minute of his incumbency, but that his

for both Governor Lind and Chairman Rosing was in many respects a repetition of the campaign of 1898. The Republican success was not of a kind that carries large credit with it and after 20,000 improperly marked ballots, through the grace of Tams Bixby and his Social-Democrat candidate were thrown out, Van Sant was declared elected by only a bare 2,000.

When John Lind declined to again make the race at the head of the Democracy of Minnesota, the party's choice naturally enough fell unambiguously on his trusted friend and tried lieutenant. Democrats know and like all men who know him place the most implicit trust in Leonard A. Rosing. Without any of the much flouted peace conferences of other states and harmony meetings which have resulted in only wily breaches, the Democracy of Minnesota is united. No man is responsible in so large a degree as Leonard A. Rosing and no man is more deserving of the loyal party support which he will receive, than he.

No sacrifice for the party's good has been too great for this leader. His business, his hope and all his personal interests have been relegated to secondary places when the party was in need of his services or his money. The party has been able to give him no substantial compensation for his years of toil. He stepped from his country store to the helm of the campaign. His business was neglected to give his party and the state the benefit of his trained mind as secretary to the governor and when his services were no longer required he stepped back to the country store, a poorer man, repaid only by the thought that his services had been well rendered.

Faith Stronger Than Self Interest.

Now that the party again calls for his leadership, this time as a candidate for the executive head of the state, he again accepts the call and again at a heavy personal sacrifice. Again his home and his business must be neglected. He responds cheerfully notwithstanding the fact that he can ill afford it for Mr. Rosing is not a rich man. Keen business man that he is his devotion to his party and his open handed generosity have kept him poor, but his faith in conservative reform, his large views of life and his loyalty to the Democracy are stronger than self interest.

Mr. Rosing is not a great orator yet there are few better campaign speak-

other impression. His success and ascendancy over men is easily understood when the man himself is known, but those successes mark innumerable battles against circumstances under which a weaker man would succumb.

Interesting as Mr. Rosing's career as a politician in the broader acceptance of the term politician is, his private career has a deeper interest. He is a fine type of the self-made, self-educated American and American he is always. Few men have reached the pinnacle of political success attained by Mr. Rosing with the handicaps he has successfully carried. And fewer men have successfully withstood the ravages of temptation practical politics present in hundreds of forms, as has the simple farmer boy, country merchant and great but simple party leader. He has come through all his battles with a reputation and a conscience unscathed. His disposition is no less sunny than when he was only the simple farmer boy and his faith in man is unabridged.

Early Life of Privation.

Only the older residents of Goodhue county, or those similarly situated in those strenuous frontier days can fully realize the hardships endured by the Rosing family. The father, a landowner, a gentleman of the court of Sweden. The sweet-faced mother, born in the lap of luxury; a lady in the highest sense, and their children, transferred from the highest social circles and a life of ease and pleasure to the tiny log cabin among the Goodhue grubs and a fight for existence.

It is to the good blood of his forebears and the culture of his parents that Mr. Rosing owes in the largest degree his success. Strong in the strength of good birth and clean hearts the parents never faltered in the long, weary struggle for a competency and children never enjoyed better precept. They were taught to labor and pray. Their home, humble as it was, was made the dearest place in the world and they were never allowed to forget that principle and clean hearts carry the highest honors and are symbolic of the truest nobility.

Leonard, the youngest of four children and least schooled in the mother country, received only the education of the country school, probably only typical of the backwoods school of that time. He was instructed in the given by his mother. He worked as only the sons of settlers have worked, but he was a thinker and at the age of fourteen had commanded the attention of several of the professional

enjoyed the fullest confidence of the entire community. In his business his remarkable abilities as a judge of human nature is vividly shown.

Loved as a Neighbor.

Mr. Rosing is perhaps best known in Cannon Falls as a neighbor. Scores of stories are told of his open handed generosity always carefully guarded from the public and a kindly thoughtfulness almost womanly in its depth of feeling and delicacy. This little story told by one of Cannon Falls' leading citizens is fully indicative of that side of his character.

A few years ago the little town was visited by an epidemic. This gentleman saw two of his children carried away to the little city of the dead on the hillside, without benefit of clergy or attendance of sorrowing friends. The attendance of the public at the funeral was forbidden by the health authorities nearby, frantic in their efforts to stop the epidemic.

And then his little son, the apple of his eye, died. Friends were shut out. He was alone with his wife in their sorrow, deepened by the chill of winter. When the gentleman alone with the body of his child arrived at the burial place, he found that some one, unable to express his sympathy in another manner, had covered the frozen walls of the little grave with pure white cloth. The mounds of ugly clouds were similarly hidden and knots of evergreen held the lining in place. It was an attention that the grief-stricken father will never forget but it was not until long after, when one who saw the grave draped and disclosed the identity of the Samaritan, that he knew his comforter was Mr. Rosing.

A Glimpse of the True Man.

That is only one of many incidents which the citizens of Cannon Falls delight to tell of their friend and neighbor but it illustrates the depth of his feeling and his keen appreciation of the sensibilities of the human heart.

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MRS. LEONARD A. ROSING.

own career, leading from the station of the humble emigrant boy on an isolated frontier farm to the leadership of a great political party and managerial successes unprecedented warrant his faith in the evolutionary political tenets to which he clings most tenaciously.

He is a strong man. In his veins flows the blood of strong nations. He thinks as a German; he acts as a Swede. The German conservatism is nicely balanced with the Swedish activity and coupled with an entire lack of policy for policy's sake make him a character clean, interesting, and accounts in a large degree for his successes that accomplished by another would be as surprising as they are complete.

Born in Air of Politics.

Leonard August Rosing was born at Malmo, Sweden, Aug. 29, 1861. He is the son of August George Rosing, an attaché of the Swedish civil government and the grandson of a German citizen of Sweden. His mother was the daughter of the colonel commanding one of the regiments of the imperial Swedish troops, a beautiful and accomplished lady. Leonard is the youngest of four children.

Until he arrived at the age of nine years, the life of the Rosing family under the sunshine of government and family connections foreshadowed none of the hardships its members were soon to undergo, poor and alone in a strange land. Then came reverses. The sturdy, self-reliant father and the proud mother gathered their little family and what was left them from the wreck and set their faces toward free America, to build anew a home and to struggle on the strange frontier for an independent, if sadly circumscribed life.

They came directly to Minnesota, settling on a rented farm in Bell creek, Goodhue county. Five years later they removed to the little forty-acre patch of grubs which has since been transformed into a typical Minnesota farm and which is still the home of Rosing senior. The Rosing children were in the dame schools in the fatherland and in their new home no privation was permitted to prevent them from receiving the meager tutoring of the district schools.

Leonard stayed on the farm until he was twenty years of age. In 1882 he

twine on the free list. From that convention he walked out a Democrat to what seemed inevitable political oblivion but held cheap at the price of personal freedom.

Mr. Rosing took the stump for O. M. Hall, the Democratic congressional candidate, who was re-elected. Again in 1892 he stumped the county for Hall who was re-elected and in 1894 he accepted the Democratic nomination for the state senate to assist Hall. Out of 7,000 votes in Goodhue county only 1,200 were Democratic, yet Mr. Rosing of remarkable considering the discontent among Democrats over the Cleveland administration.

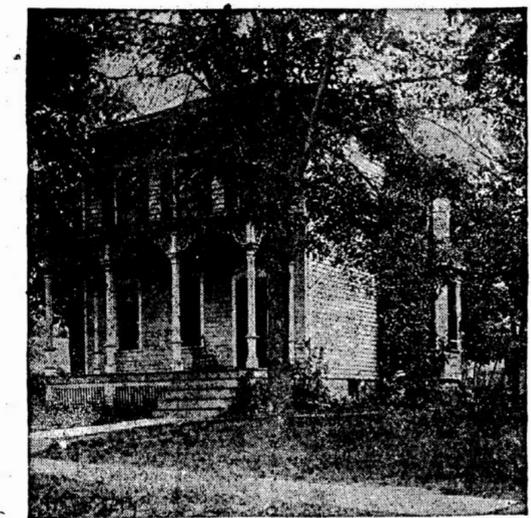
His services on the congressional committee in 1892 and 1894 and his stirring, logical tariff speeches in the latter campaign made him a marked man in the Democracy of the state. He was invited to address the Jefferson banquet and left a profound impression.

Early in August, 1896, the Democratic state ticket was nominated. Two weeks later the young Goodhue county leader was elected chairman of the state committee and confronted with the task of organizing a party popularly supposed to be disrupted beyond repair. There was absolutely no state party organization. What little there had been in the preceding years had disappeared like dew before the sun in the strife of honest differences which divided the party between gold and silver.

The election was only ten weeks distant. There was no money. Rosing was unknown in many counties and in fully as many knew no one in whom he could trust or to whom he could look for advice. With the most popular candidate ever nominated at the head of a Minnesota ticket and his own indomitable pluck, he began the work of organization. The organization could be only superficial but the results achieved startled the Republicans not alone of Minnesota but of the United States.

First Great Work.

Democrats in every county in Minnesota responded loyally to the call of the magnetic leader at the helm. They were loaded with responsibility and worked as they had never before dreamed of working in the apathetic days of the conceded Republican suc-



CANNON FALLS RESIDENCE OF L. A. ROSING.

private secretary was close to the governor is equally true. Governor Lind, free from the practice of anything like policy for policy's sake, the governor who did things because he believed them right and allowed the advocates of policy to do the worrying, found a worthy and esteemed lieutenant in the man who managed his wonderful campaign. Mr. Rosing was the governor's

ers or more interesting and convincing argumentative conversationalists. He is a thinker. His heart works with his brain. He knows what he wishes to say and he says it in a manner at once clear, convincing, comprehensive and unassuming. His manners are simple. His smile genial, genuine. The grasp of his hand is warm, earnest. He is a man. Contact with him leaves no

men of the country, who were attracted to the humble Rosing home by the culture of the parents.

The boy was a deep reader of all the good literature that came in his way. Naturally enough his largest opportunity lay in the instruction given by the newspapers and they were few in those days. His interest in current events touching policies of government and vital questions of society was especially deep.

Broad and Deep Thinker.

He first attracted the attention of the men who have since watched his career with the pardonable pride of personal interest, by the discovery that the boy of thirteen was thoroughly conversant with a vigorous war of rhetoric being waged by a prominent newspaper man and a leading divine of the Swedish church over a question of canonical practice which involved the funeral rites.

As a boy he was always able to bring other boys around to his way of thinking. He went to the bottom of a question probed every side of a problem and summed it up concisely, logically. When he was twenty years old he left the farm to enter the business world as clerk in a general store. His parents were able to give him nothing but health and clean morals. He at once attracted the attention of the leading citizens of Cannon Falls, however, by his gentlemanly manners and clean personal life and by the time he had attained his majority he was established as one of the recognized leaders of thought and promoters of civic interest in the little town.

His early manhood and business career were marked by the dominant characteristics that have made him a power in politics. A careful student of the young man divided his prominent character marks under three heads. That was twenty years ago. Today he has not changed his estimate in the slightest particular. His chart of Rosing's character is: First—Tenacity of purpose; self-reliance.

Second—Large faith in men, high ideals and unbounded good nature.

Third—Indomitable courage and loyalty to the point that knows no turning back from a friend.

The young clerk rose rapidly. In a few years he embarked in business for himself and as a business man in the same degree as an employe he has

ness center of the town, which he hopes will some not distant day be the suburban home of many St. Paul and Minneapolis men.

His home life shows the best side of Mr. Rosing. In 1886 he was married to Miss May B. Season. His bride was at native of Cannon Falls and a lending a helping hand for Cannon Falls. Now he is deep in a scheme to secure public title to a beautiful, natural park site within three minutes walk of the bus-

His Family and His Home.

His children, George Leonard, aged fourteen, a quiet, studious boy; Marguerita Ebba, twelve, a spirituelle little miss, and Willis Season, a lovable little fellow of six years just arrived at the dignity of knickerbockers, reverence their father not alone as a parent but as a friend and a companion. With his wife and children about him he is at his best and admits that then his life is full.

An hour's conversation with Mr. Rosing leaves the stranger in amazement at the depth of his self-education. A peep in his compact little library and den explains it all and reveals the man. Close in his favorite corner is his private book case. Its shelves contain only a few dozen volumes but they furnish an index to the curriculum of his school, the school of men and conditions. At the top in the place of honor are the complete writings of Thomas Jefferson. Then the Messages and papers of the presidents of the United States, World's Best Orations, Encyclopaedia Britannica, complete bound sets of the Review of Reviews, Kent's Commentaries and kindred text books on various phases of the law. John Flisk, McCauley, Gibbon, Washington Irving, Byron, Shakespeare, Milton. It is the library of a busy man. It and the men in every day life have furnished the text book of an education as liberal as practical. G. A. VAN SMITH.

DULUTH Union Directory.

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