

## ENTITLED TO MEDALS

STUTSMAN COUNTY MAN MARRIED A WIDOW WITH EIGHTEEN CHILDREN AND WEARS HONORS MODESTLY.

Stutsman County has a candidate for one of the Carnegie hero medals. He is George Hoffman and his deed of valor was the marrying of a widow who was the mother of eighteen children.

The details of Hoffman's matrimonial experience became public last week when he made commutation proof on 120 acres of land in Stutsman County. His proof was excellent and he had little difficulty in securing a patent for the land.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman resided in South Dakota before coming to this state. Mr. Hoffman worked on his present wife's farm and after the death of her first husband an attachment sprung up between them. In spite of the eighteen children Hoffman wooed and won the lady's consent to act as father for her eighteen.

Apparently not more than 32 years of age, Mr. Hoffman's statement that he had eighteen children nearly paralyzed the landoffice officials who had asked him the extent of his family. And when Hoffman supplemented his statement by explaining that they were his step-children he was more than ever the subject of considerable admiration.

"A man with great nerve," commented one of the officials.

"Ought to have a medal," was another comment and one which is being seriously considered.

Mr. Hoffman evinced a strong desire to rush through the proof on his claim and it developed that his hurry was on account of his step-children. There is no school near the claim and it was his desire to move to a quarter section which he had recently bought near a school house so that about half a dozen of the youngsters might attend school. Until the final proof was made it would not have been wise to have moved.

Mrs. Hoffman is apparently several years older than her husband, although it would never be suspected from her appearance that she is the mother of so many youngsters. Her first husband left her a farm of 200 acres in South Dakota.—Forum.