

Politically, Mr. Stennes is a staunch advocate of independent principles. He has never been a seeker after office. Of all movements in the community which are initiated for its moral and material betterment, Mr. Stennes is a hearty exponent and loyal supporter.

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### WILHELM NICKEL.

Wilhelm Nickel, deceased, formerly a well-known farmer of Hagen township, Clay county, where he lived for several years, was a native of Russia, but had been a resident of this country since 1878, first settling in Cottonwood county, this state, and later becoming a prominent and influential citizen of Clay county, where he spent the remainder of his life since coming here in 1898, his death, which was generally regretted, occurring in 1901. He was born in Russia on July 29, 1843, a son of Henry and Katherine (Martins) Nickel, who were farmers in that country.

Henry and Katherine Nickel were natives of Prussia and when children, went with their respective parents to Russia, settling in the southern part of that country, where they spent the remainder of their lives, respected citizens of their home community. They were the parents of eight children, Henry, Katherine, Jacob, Maria, John, Elizabeth, Wilhelm and Helena, all of whom are deceased with the exception of Helena, who is living in Russia. Wilhelm was the only one of the family to come to this country.

Wilhelm Nickel was married on January 14, 1875, to Maria Neufeld, also a native of Russia, in which country the marriage took place. In 1878 they came to this country and located near Mountain Lake, Cottonwood county, this state, coming to that part of Minnesota with the second Russian settlement. Wilhelm Nickel bought a tract of land in that place and continued to farm the same until 1898, in which year he moved to Hagen township, Clay county, where he operated three hundred and twenty acres of prime land up to the time of his death in 1901, the same being now in the possession of his widow. He carried out some substantial improvements, including a fine barn, the other buildings now on the place being erected by his family. Wilhelm and Maria (Neufeld) Nickel were the parents of the following children: Gerhart, who was born in Russia and who died in that country at the age of two years; Maria, born in Russia, who died in Cottonwood county, this state; Wilhelm, born in Cottonwood county, who died in Clay county; Gerhart, born in Cottonwood county, who



MR. AND MRS. WILHELM NICKEL.

died in Clay county; Mrs. A. F. Toavs, living at Wolf Point, Montana, and Henry W., born September 7, 1886, in Cottonwood county, who came with his parents to Clay county. He has always lived on the home place and operates three hundred and twenty acres of land, one hundred and sixty of which he owns, and on which he carries on general farming, being regarded as one of the progressive and substantial farmers of Hagen township.

On January 1, 1912, Henry W. Nickel was united in marriage to Susie Evert, who was born in Cottonwood county, a daughter of Jacob Evert and wife, natives of Russia. To Mr. and Mrs. Nickel three children have been born, Wilhelm, Orlando and Ruth. The Nickel family, both sides, are members of the Mennonite church. Mr. Nickel formerly was a member of the school board and he and his wife take a proper interest in the general social activities of the community in which they reside. factors for good in all that appertains to the welfare of the township.

Mrs. Maria (Neufeld) Nickel was the daughter of Rev. Gerhard Neufeld and wife, natives of Russia. The former was born in that country in 1827. In 1878 he came to Cottonwood county with the Russian settlement and there died on December 15, 1916. He served as pastor for thirty-eight years at Mountain Lake. His wife, Anna Tiecroew, who also was born in Russia, died in that country. They were the parents of the following children: Katherina, Anna, living in North Dakota; Maria, who became the wife of Wilhelm Nickel; Gerhart, Peter and Henry. All the foregoing children, with the exception of Anna and Maria, are living in Cottonwood county. Three other children, Susie, Henry and John, died young.

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### HARRY RICHARDS.

Harry Richards, one of the most extensive landowners and progressive farmers of Norman county and chairman of the board of directors of the First State Bank of Perley, is a native of the old Keystone state, but has been a resident of this section of the Red River valley since 1879 and is, therefore, very properly regarded as one of the real old settlers of this region. He was born at Erie, Pennsylvania, in August, 1858, son of John S. and Adelaide P. (McAllister) Richards, the former of whom also was born at Erie and the latter, near Watertown, New York.