

few better or more highly improved farms in his locality. He has a large, substantial dwelling and numerous convenient farm buildings. Mr. Ford planted a grove in the early days here, which is now large and inviting, a most valuable addition to his farm and a distinctive feature of the landscapes thereabout. He later added one hundred and sixty acres to his original farm, making one of the best three-hundred-and-twenty-acre farms in the township. He raises a large quantity of grain and big herds of live-stock, especially sheep. He has been a breeder of Shropshire sheep for the past thirty years. He also raises Berkshire hogs and Red Polled cattle. Mr. Ford is also a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Creamery at Hawley, which he helped organize.

On August 29, 1867, Mr. Ford married Mary A. Parsons, who also was born in Wiltshire, England, a daughter of Nehemiah Parsons, a carpenter by trade, who spent his entire life in England. There Mrs. Ford grew to womanhood and attended school. Mr. and Mrs. Ford have one child, a son, Sidney, who lives on the home farm, which he helps operate. Politically, Mr. Ford is independent. He helped organize Cromwell township and was the first township assessor. He has also served as supervisor and as treasurer of the township, and has been a member of the local school board ever since the school district was organized, with the exception of one year when he was out of the county. When the district was first organized it embraced the entire eastern half of the township, known as district No. 44, which he helped to organize. When it was subdivided he helped to organize district No. 104.

JOHN P. NYGAARD.

John P. Nygaard, former president of the village of Halstad, manager of the Halstad Auto Company and of the electric-light plant in that village, a former deputy Indian agent and former grand chief templar of the Independent Order of Good Templars for Minnesota, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota and of Norman county since he was about seven years of age. He was born near the city of Trondhjem, a seaport town of Norway, at the mouth of the Nid, May 7, 1874, son of P. J. and Jonette (Moen) Nygaard, both natives of that country, the former of whom is now living at Halstad, an honored pioneer resident of Norman county.

P. J. Nygaard was trained as a carpenter in his native land. He mar-

ried on April 9, 1860, and continued to make his home at Trondhjem until 1881, when he came to the United States with his family and proceeded on out to Minnesota, settling in Hendrum township, Norman county, among the early settlers of that part of the county. In 1883, upon the establishment of the station at Halstad, he moved there and has ever since been a resident of that village. He has one of the first houses built at Halstad and, in his vocation as a carpenter, did much of the building there at an early day. On April 9, 1910, P. J. Nygaard and his wife celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage, the "golden wedding" celebration being the occasion of a joyful gathering of the family and about sixty guests. Of their seven surviving children there were six present, besides forty-three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. In the Nygaard family there are now living the father, P. J. Nygaard, seven children, fifty-one grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. P. J. Nygaard is a member of the United Lutheran church, as was his wife, and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the seventh in order of birth, the others being: Lovise, Karen, Jacob, Ingeborg, Hansine, Haldor and Ole, all of whom are living save the last named, who died in 1883.

John P. Nygaard was seven years of age when his parents came to this country and he grew to manhood in the village of Halstad, where he still makes his home. Upon completing the course in the village schools, he started in as a boilermaker and later worked for a year as a blacksmith for the Rushford Wagon Company. He then took employment with Sulerud & Lovesnes as a tinner and plumber, and worked for that company for fourteen years, or until in January, 1913, when he helped to organize the Halstad Auto Company at Halstad and has since been manager of the same, the company doing a general garage and auto-repair business. Mr. Nygaard also operates the Halstad light plant, which is owned by the Halstad Auto Company. For three years he served as president of the village, two years as trustee of the village board and for two years he served under William E. Johnson as a deputy Indian agent for this district.

On June 7, 1895, John P. Nygaard was united in marriage to Josephine Griffin and to this union six children have been born, Esther, Orin, Elva, Vernon, Edna and John, the latter of whom died in infancy. Mr. Nygaard is an ardent and active member of the Independent Order of Good Templars and has served a term as grand templar for the state of Minnesota, a work in which he took much interest and in which his earnest efforts in behalf of temperance were widely felt throughout the state.