

in Moorhead; but in 1896 moved to his farm, the place he now occupies in Spring Prairie township. Although he owns but eighty acres he usually farms four hundred and eighty acres. He has erected substantial buildings and made other improvements on his land, including the planting of a large grove. The land was only a bare prairie when he came. He has worked hard and managed well and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He purchased the land from a railroad company. Besides his large farming operations he is interested financially in the local telephone company and in the Glyndon creamery, also in the Northwestern Hospital at Fargo.

In the fall of 1889 Mr. Thompson was married to Christina Lindahl, a daughter of John Lindahl, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Thompson passed away in 1909, leaving four children, Emma, Oscar, Lilie and Thomas, who have received their schooling in the common schools of Spring Prairie township.

Mr. Thompson is a Republican in politics and takes an active interest in local public affairs. He has been elected a member of the local school board four different times and is still serving, making twelve years in all when his present term is completed. He has served five terms on the town board and is now serving as a member of the board and is treasurer of the same. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

GUST BACKMAN.

A properly managed farmers' organization can be used to secure the farmers the benefits that "big business" secures from doing things on a large scale. Many have the idea that nothing can be done in this line unless there is a powerful organization, but this is a mistake—the successful co-operative enterprises have come from small beginnings. An advocate of such organizations is Gust Backman, a farmer of Highland Grove township, Clay county.

Mr. Backman was born in Sweden, December 21, 1858. He is a son of Andrew and Cajsa (Svenson) Berg, both natives of Sweden, where they grew up, married and made their home until 1881, when they immigrated to America, locating in Clay county, Minnesota, the father buying forty acres of school land near the present farm of his son, Gust. He

placed the land under cultivation, erected buildings and there engaged in farming the rest of his active life. His wife died there in 1914, after which event he made his home with the subject of this sketch until his death in 1916. These parents were members of the Swedish Lutheran church. Six children were born to them, as follow: John, who is the eldest; Anna, the wife of Erick Anderson; Gust, the subject of this sketch; Mary, deceased; Mrs. Frank Johnson; Johannah, the wife of Ward Connel, and Mrs. Louis Dahlgren, the youngest.

Gust Backman grew to manhood in Sweden, where he attended the public schools. In 1878, when twenty years old, he set sail for the shores of America, coming directly to Becker county, Minnesota, and he worked out as a farm hand at various places for a period of twelve years. He saved his wages and in 1891 bought eighty acres from a railroad company in Highland Grove township and he has continued to make his home on the same to the present time. He made all improvements on it, erecting a good group of buildings and setting out a grove. He has since added another eighty and now has an excellent and well-kept farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He has carried on general farming and stock raising with gratifying results. He helped organize the Farmers Co-operative Creamery at Lake Park and has been a stockholder in the same ever since. He is also a stockholder in the Lake Park Telephone Company. He has done much to encourage the raising of a better grade of live stock in his county, and he makes a specialty of raising full-blooded Yorkshire hogs. Owing to their superior qualities they find a very ready market at fancy prices whenever he offers them for sale.

Mr. Backman was married in 1886 to Emma Olson, who was born in Sweden. She is a daughter of Carl and Lottie (Erickson) Olson, both natives of Sweden, where they spent their earlier years and married. They came to the United States when their daughter Emma was about eighteen months old, about the year 1868. The family located first in Duluth, where they spent four years, coming on to Clay county, Minnesota, in 1872, locating among the pioneers. Mr. Olson bought railroad land in Eglon township, which he improved, establishing the family's future home there and where he carried on general farming until his death a number of years ago. His widow still lives on the home farm. To these parents three children were born, all still living, namely: Emma, wife of Mr. Backman, the subject of this sketch; Amelia, who is the wife of John Lindberg, and Alfred, who is operating the old home place in Eglon township.

The union of Gust Backman and wife has resulted in the birth of five

children, namely: Amelia, Edith, Esther, Anna and Carl, all of whom are living at this writing. Mr. Backman helped build the present Agustana Lutheran church in his vicinity. Politically, he is a Republican.

OLE A. NYBAKKEN.

Restlessness causes a large number of people to leave their parental halls and seek fortunes in distant lands. This is not necessarily the wanderlust spirit, which is often indulged in to the detriment of the individual, but merely the primitive force urging one to try to better one's condition in life. And this is the impulse that led Ole A. Nybakken, and many others of his countrymen to cast their lots with the people of Minnesota.

Mr. Nybakken, who is engaged in farming in Goose Prairie township, Clay county, was born in Norway in 1863. He is a son of Andreas and Ingeborg Anderson, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and established their home and where they spent their lives, the father dying in 1912 and the mother in 1905. To these parents five children were born, Andreas, Jr., Ole, Evan, Christian, who died when twenty-six years old, and Andrus.

Ole A. Nybakken grew to manhood in Norway, where he attended the common schools. In 1881, when eighteen years old, he immigrated to America, coming on West to Northfield, Minnesota, and he worked out as a farm hand in that vicinity until 1886, when he returned to Norway, spending one winter there; then returned to America and located in North Dakota, where he worked for a land company until 1894, when he came to Clay county, Minnesota, buying his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres—the old homestead, in section 30 of Goose Prairie township. Later he bought eighty acres in section 29. He has kept all his land under a fine state of cultivation and improvement, replacing the original buildings on the homestead with modern substantial ones. He has been successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. He grows large crops of wheat, oats and flax, also large quantities of potatoes, having had twelve acres in tubers in 1917. He also keeps a large herd of graded cattle. He is a stockholder in the creamery at Hitterdal.

Mr. Nybakken was married in Minnesota in 1892 to Lizzie Welo, and to their union six children have been born, namely: Ida, who died when two years old; Arthur, Oscar, Ernest, Clarence and Otto. They are all