

In 1881, before leaving Norway, Borre Hoven was united in marriage to Anna Wange, also a native of Norway, born in 1863. They are parents of the following children: Ole, married, in Montana; Mary, married, living in North Dakota; Bennie, in Montana; Gilbert, who works on the home farm; Alfred, married, living in Montana; Sylvester, also in Montana; Gena, a school teacher; Otto, farming at home; Anna, a school teacher, and Tena, Edwin, Ella and Olga, all living at home. The Hoven family are members of the United church and earnestly interested in all its good works, Mr. Hoven being a trustee of the church and has served the congregation in other capacities. He helped to build one church.

Mr. Hoven gives a good citizen's attention to public affairs and for years has been identified with the progress of education in the township and neighborhood and has helped to build two of the district schools and has served on the school board in various capacities. He has also served on the township board and helped to organize the Lake Ida Telephone Company, of which he is a stockholder, and in other ways he has given his active support to all movements designed to serve the public good.

LARS BJORNSON.

Lars Bjornson, local manager at Twin Valley for the Wilcox Lumber Company, treasurer of the local creamery company, former treasurer and councilman of the village, former newspaper editor and merchant there and for years one of the most energetic "boosters" of the affairs of that thriving village, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country and of Minnesota since he was twenty-one years of age. He is a Telemarking, born in the parish of Saude on July 20, 1869, son of Bjorn and Ingeborg (Olson) Johnson, farmers and natives of that same place, who spent all their lives in their native land and who were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being John, Kjersti, John (second), Aasta and Ingeborg. The parents were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and the children were reared in that faith.

Reared on the home farm, Lars Bjornson received his schooling in the village schools and remained at home until he was nineteen years of age, when he came to this country, in 1890, and proceeded on out to Minnesota,

the village of Twin Valley being his point of destination. Upon his arrival here he secured employment as a farm laborer in the summer and attended school in the winter, and for three years thereafter was thus engaged. He then, in 1893, began clerking in a general store at Twin Valley and was so engaged for about six years, at the end of which time he began the publication of the *Twin Valley Times*, continuing in the newspaper business for two years and six months, at the end of which period he sold the *Times* and entered the service of the McCormick Harvester Company, with local headquarters at Grand Forks, and a year later, in the spring of 1902, transferred his services to the Wilcox Lumber Company and was made local manager of that company's office and plant at Twin Valley, a position he ever since has occupied, one of the best-known lumber men in Norman county. For about eleven years Mr. Bjornson also served as secretary of the local creamery company and is the present treasurer of that company. He likewise has for years taken an active and intelligent interest in local civic affairs, has served as a member of the village council, for two years as treasurer of the village and for the past thirteen years or more has been clerk of the local school district.

In the year 1896 Lars Bjornson was united in marriage to Gena Herreid, daughter of P. O. Herreid and wife, and to this union five children have been born, Inez, Bert, Gladys, Josephine and Louis. The Bjornsons have a very pleasant home at Twin Valley and have ever taken an interested part in the general social affairs of the community. They are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church work, as well as in other local good works.

JACOB N. ERSTAD.

Jacob N. Erstad, a well-known and substantial farmer, owner of two hundred and ten acres of prime land in Sundahl township, Norman county, has been a resident of this part of Minnesota for a long period, but is a native of the kingdom of Norway. He was born in that country on January 2, 1843, a son of Nels and Renog (Severson) Erstad, also natives of Norway and who came to America in an early day and spent the remainder of their lives in Norman county, dying on the farm of their son, Anton. Nels Erstad was a farmer and trained his son in the labors of the farm, imparting to him the true principles of good husbandry. Nels Erstad and