

only sixteen years of age. In 1903 he dropped the live-stock business and since then has devoted his attention exclusively to the real-estate business and to farming, now the owner of two thousand acres of rich farm land, some of which lies near Hawley and some near Moorhead. He keeps several renters on his land. He farmed his land personally from 1901 to 1903, inclusive. His splendid modern home is located on part of the land formerly owned by his father, the latter of whom sold parts of his land from time to time. The estate is now valued at about three hundred thousand dollars and has been in court since 1904.

Elisha C. Sprague, Jr., was married in Oregon in 1911, to Grace Wise, who was born on August 27, 1884, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where her parents still reside, her father being engaged there in the furniture business. Politically, Mr. Sprague is a Republican, but he has never been an office seeker; however, he has always been a booster along all legitimate lines for Moorhead and Clay county, where he is well and favorably known, being regarded by all as a worthy son of a worthy sire and a man of many commendable personal attributes.

OLE J. BREKKE.

Ole J. Brekke, a retired farmer of Wild Rice township, where he owns a quarter section of well-improved land, was born in Tordenskjold township, Otter Tail county, Minnesota, September 3, 1868, being the first white child born in that township. He is the son of Sever O. and Anna (Rorgo) Brekke, both of whom were born and reared in Norway, where they married. Together they emigrated to America in 1866 and settled first in Dean county, Wisconsin, but after remaining there a short time they moved to Winneshiek county, Iowa, remaining there only a little while. Feeling that their opportunity to establish themselves permanently in a comfortable home lay farther north, they started out in the spring of 1868 in a wagon behind an ox-team to Otter Tail county, Minnesota. After a journey of three weeks duration, they arrived in that county and immediately pre-empted one hundred sixty acres of land and established their home where Ole J. Brekke was born in 1868. The Brekke family remained on their quarter section, which they improved until the spring of 1878, at which time they again followed their team of oxen farther northward to Norman county, the journey taking just seven days. There they located on disputed land, in what is now Wild Rice town-

ship, on a quarter section in section 19. On that place the family established their permanent home and the parents continued to reside on the land the rest of their lives, the father's death occurring in the winter of 1887 and that of the mother in the fall of 1900. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Ole J., the subject of this review; Rasmus, who died in infancy; Gertina, deceased; Bennie, who lives in Wild Rice township, this county; Anna, deceased; Ella, living in McHenry county, North Dakota; and Samuel, who is deceased. The Brekke family were consistent and conscientious members of the Lutheran church, the father having helped to organize the first church in the community, meetings being held in the Heiberg school house until a place of worship was erected in Twin Valley some years later. In those days Twin Valley was not yet established and Ada was the market.

Ole J. Brekke received his early education in the schools of Norman county, where he was reared on his father's farm. There he laid the foundation for his success in later years when he struck out for himself in agriculture. After he reached manhood, he decided that McKenzie county, North Dakota, proffered him the chance to become a landowner, and accordingly he homesteaded one hundred sixty acres in that county and proved it up. In addition to his homestead in North Dakota, he owns a farm of one hundred sixty acres of improved land in Wild Rice township, this county. At present Mr. Brekke is a retired farmer, and being single, lives with his brother, Bennie, of Wild Rice township. In addition to his farming, Mr. Brekke has been interested in a business venture, having helped to organize the creamery at Twin Valley.

LARS H. ROSTVOLD.

Lars H. Rostvold, one of the substantial pioneer farmers of Lee township, Norman county, and the owner of one hundred and fifty acres in that township, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-four years of age and of Norman county since the year 1883, and has consequently seen this region develop from the days of the pioneers. He was born in 1857, last of the ten children born to his parents, Halvor Anderson and wife, the latter of whom died when the subject of this sketch was but thirteen years of age. The other children