

due time "proved up" the homestead claim and after his marriage established his home there. In time he erected new and substantial buildings on the place and had a fine farm plant, continuing to manage the same until his death on July 3, 1917, since which time the place has been operated by his son, Ole A. Anderson, who in the spring of 1916 had bought an adjoining "eighty" and is now carrying on his farming operations on both tracts. Martin O. Anderson was ever active in good works, helped to organize the first church in his community, the Sundahl Lutheran church, and in other ways did what he could to promote the best interests of the neighborhood of which he had been a part since pioneer days.

Martin O. Anderson was the father of nine children, who are still living, namely: Inga, Ole A., Minnie, Hjelmer, Olga, Clara, Agnes, Mary and Elizabeth. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Anderson continues to make her home on the home place and she and her children are very comfortably situated there, having a pleasant home and a fine bit of farm property.

ANDREW O. NESS.

A retired farmer of Norman county, who now makes his home in Moorhead, Clay county, and is now spending his later years in well-earned retirement after his great activity in developing his farm from a scope of virgin prairie wilderness into a garden spot, is Andrew O. Ness, who was born in Norway, April 21, 1855, a son of Ole and Bertha Peterson, both of whom were natives of Norway, but spent the later years of their lives in America. The former was born in 1818 and died in Gardner, North Dakota, in 1895, and the mother's death occurred at the same place where the father died after she had reached the age of ninety-three years. They were the parents of five children, as follow: Peter, married and living at Fargo, North Dakota, owning a Ford automobile agency; Alice, who is married and living in Minnesota; Malena, also married; Jensinger, still living in Norway, and Andrew, the subject of this review.

Andrew O. Ness spent his boyhood and youth in the land of his nativity, where he received the common-school training which the time and the place afforded, but when he reached the age of twenty-one years, he decided to leave Norway and come to America, where he could have a better chance to establish himself comfortably on some of the cheap, fertile land which was being opened up in the Northwest. In 1876 he landed on American

soil alone with no money, in a strange country, the language of which he did not know, but with a stout heart strong in the determination to "make good". Soon after he landed in America, he made his way out to Goodhue county, this state, where he found employment as a hand on the neighboring farms. He remained thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time he went northward to Clay county, obtaining work in the city of Moorhead. After he had been in Moorhead four months, he went to Cass county, North Dakota, where he remained until 1881. In the meantime, he had obtained a pre-emption right, which he had sold, but in the year mentioned before, he returned to Minnesota and bought one hundred and twenty acres of land in section 14, Lee township, Norman county. As the land was new, he had to make all the improvements, erecting buildings and a farm house and planting some groves; however, there were some natural clumps of trees on the place. After he had been established for some time, he made an acquisition to his holdings by the purchase of eighty acres in section 22, Lee township. After a while, since prosperity continued to smile upon his operations, he purchased another tract of the same size in the same section, and township. At the present time, 1917, he is the owner of two hundred and eighty acres, on which general farming and stock raising are carried on. The farm plant is entirely up-to-date, consisting of modern and well-equipped farm buildings and comfortable farm home, all of which are kept in an excellent state of repair. To compare his farm now with what it was thirty-six years ago, a striking contrast is seen. For the first five years of his residence on his holding, he used two yokes of oxen, and now in their place are excellent farm horses. This contrast among others is typical of the progress that has been made in this section of the country in the last thirty years.

It is now in the calm retrospect of retirement that Mr. Ness reviews his achievements in the development of his agricultural interests while he was in active life. On March 20, 1917, he purchased a comfortable home in Moorhead, where he can spend the evening of his life out of the turmoil of the work-a-day world and calmly review the events of the past, in which time he has seen this county rise, as if by magic, from the breast of the fertile prairie, which fifty years ago was a vast, blank wilderness. For five years prior to his purchase of property in Moorhead, he had not been actively engaged in farming, but had given the operation of the home place entirely into the hands of his son, Berne.

Mr. Ness married Annie Asucksen, who was born in Norway, Septem-

ber 30, 1857, whose father died in the old country. When Mrs. Ness was twenty-four years of age, she immigrated to America alone, and in the following year, she was joined by her mother, who now resides in Canada with her daughter, Mary, a sister of Mrs. Ness. Mr. Ness and wife are the parents of four children, as follow: Oscar, who is a resident of Moorhead; Ingeman, married and living at Perley, Norman county; Berne, married and operating the home place, and Ella, who works in Fargo. The father and mother are devoted members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and they take a deep interest in the church work of the congregation.

MARTIN O. GARDEN.

Martin O. Garden, a prominent merchant and organizer of enterprises of Bear Park township, Norman county, where he is otherwise connected with the civil and social affairs of the community and where he formerly carried on rather extensive farming operations, was born in Bear Park township, Norman county, April 10, 1884, a son of Ole L. and Marie (Dahl) Garden, of whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this volume.

Martin O. Garden was reared on his father's farm in Bear Park township, where he received a valuable training in the practical business of life as he contributed his assistance to the common effort of the family in the development and cultivation of the home place. Here in the district schools of the township he received his early formal education, which training he supplemented in the schools at Climax, Minnesota, where he could get better advantages. Feeling that his career lay in the business world, he entered the business college at Crookston, Minnesota, from which he graduated. As soon as he finished this training, he returned to his father's farm, awaiting his opportunity to enter the business world. After he had remained at home for about three years, he began farming on his own account in Bear Park township, where he owned eighty acres of land and farmed an additional two hundred. His opportunity came in 1914, when he became manager of the Waukon Mercantile Company, which he had helped to organize some years before. Mr. Garden is also interested in and helped to organize the Sundahl and Bear Park mercantile companies. In all of his enterprises, he has exhibited a shrewd business sense which takes cognizance of the rights of the stockholders and the satisfaction and comfort of his patrons.