

The Muellers are members of the German Lutheran church and the family takes a proper interest in church work and in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live.

REV. HALVOR O. NORDBY.

Rev. Halvor O. Nordby, who has ministered to the spiritual needs of Lutheran congregations in this and other parts of Minnesota for many years and now has charge of the St. Peter Lutheran congregation in Strand township, Norman county, where he has, since his residence here, been prominently connected with all the good works of the community, was born in Norway, May 13, 1860, a son of Ole and Gunhild Maria Nordby, both of whom were native Norwegians, the former being a farmer in the old home across the Atlantic where he lived and died.

Halvor O. Nordby spent his early boyhood on the old home farm in Norway, but when he reached sufficient age, he entered the Aars & Far's Latin and Real gymnasium at Christiania, where he received his elementary education. Later, however, he attended the Sabici gymnasium in the same city and graduated therefrom in 1884. For five years he remained on his father's farm but in 1889, feeling that he could find a fruitful field for his endeavor in the New World among his countrymen who had immigrated to this country, he, too, joined a party of immigrants whose destination was America and landed here when he was twenty-nine years of age. From the early years of his manhood, Mr. Nordby had burned with the desire to serve his fellow-men in the capacity of a minister of the gospel, and after he had arrived on American soil, he entered Robinsdale Theological Seminary at Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he acquired the American attitude and thus prepared himself the more fully for his service among the Lutheran people of the great Northwest. He graduated from this institution in 1892, at which time he was ordained a Lutheran minister. For two years after his ordination, he had charge of the congregation at Audubon, Minnesota, after which time his work brought him to near Valley City, North Dakota, where he had charge of several congregations, doing missionary work. Reverend Nordby undoubtedly built nobly and well in that vicinity, for in that community the work which he did by himself now necessitates four ministers to take care of it. It was in 1912 that he came to his present charge, the St. Peter Lutheran church, in Strand township, Norman county, and

here he has ministered to the needs of the congregation in the unselfish and unstinted manner characteristic of the man that he is and of his high calling, thus holding a large place in the hearts of his flock.

On February 11, 1895, Reverend Nordby married Maria Hanson, who was born in Houston county, Minnesota, a daughter of Hans and Sigrid Hanson, the former of whom was for twenty-five consecutive years the register of deeds of Becker county, Minnesota. Reverend and Mrs. Nordby are the parents of four children, all of whom are living. Sunneva, the wife of Rev. N. W. Ylvisaker; Oscar, Lorrentz and Norman. Reverend Nordby is a valuable citizen of the community in which he lives, for here he takes a prominent part in all the good works which have for their purpose the social and moral betterment.

HENRY E. GUNDERSON.

Henry E. Gunderson, one of Norman county's most substantial and progressive farmers and the owner of a fine place in Flom township, where he and his family are very comfortably situated, was born on a pioneer farm in Clayton county, Iowa, September 14, 1859, and there grew to manhood, but has been a resident of the Red River country since 1882. He is a son of Embrets and Isabel (Bjern) Lair, natives of the kingdom of Norway, who became pioneers in Clayton county, Iowa, and there spent their last days, the former dying at the age of sixty-eight when the subject of this sketch was but five years of age. Embrets Lair was a landowner in Iowa and left a good piece of property to his family when he died. His widow survived him about thirteen years, she being sixty-six years of age at the time of her death. They were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Ole and Jergen, who are married and still living on the old home place in Iowa; Gunhild, deceased, and Embret, who is married and is still living in Iowa.

Reared on the home farm in Clayton county, Iowa, Henry E. Gunderson received his schooling in the local school of that neighborhood and remained at home until after his marriage at the age of twenty-three, when he and his bride, in 1882, came up into the valley of the Red River of the North and two years later bought a tract of three hundred and twenty acres, a half section, in section 35 of Flom township, Norman county, where they established their home and where they ever since have resided, useful and