

NELS T. ODEGAARD.

The late Nels T. Odegaard, who for years was one of the best-known citizens of Norman county, a substantial landowner, farmer and bridge builder, who died at his home in Lee township in the summer of 1917, was a native of the kingdom of Norway, but had been a resident of this state since 1872. He was born on August 4, 1849, and remained in his native land until 1872, in which year he came to Minnesota with G. I. Crosby and settled in Goodhue county, later coming up into the Red River country, where he spent the rest of his life. He was the second of the two sons born to his parents, Tora and Ranhild Odegaard, both of whom spent all their lives in their native country and both of whom died during the eighties. The other son, Andrew, also is deceased.

In 1879, the year of his marriage, Nels Odegaard bought the land on which his widow is now living, a quarter-section tract in section 23 of Lee township, and there established his home. He later bought an adjoining twenty-acre tract and also a tract of forty acres in Georgetown township, Clay county. By original vocation Mr. Odegaard was a bridge-builder and upon coming up here did much work in that line, many of the bridges in this part of the state having been built under his skillful direction. Not only was he a good farmer, but he gave his attention to the general business affairs of the community, was one of the organizers of the local creamery company at Perley and a stockholder in the same, and was a stockholder in the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Perley, long being accounted one of the substantial residents of that section of the county. For some time he served the public as township trustee and in other ways did his part in public affairs, as well as in the general affairs of the community. Mr. Odegaard died on July 4, 1917, and his passing was much lamented in the community of which he had been a part since pioneer days, for he had done well his part in all his relations with his fellow men.

It was on June 5, 1879, as noted above, that Nels Odegaard was united in marriage, on the old Crosby place, to Anna Crosby, who was born in Norway on February 7, 1859, and who came to this state with her brother, G. I. Crosby, in 1872, her mother having died in Norway when she was three years of age. There were born seven children in the family of Nels Odegaard, namely: Theodore, who is married and who is now living in North Dakota, where he is engaged in the buying of grain; Inga, wife of M. A. Larson, of Perley; Mary, who is home with her mother; Jens, who is now farming a three-hundred-acre farm belonging to his mother in the

neighborhood of Wahpton; and Nelius, John and Alma, at home. Mr. Odegaard was an active member of the Lutheran church, as is his widow, and did much toward promoting the various beneficences of the same. He was long a member of the board of trustees of the local church, helped build the same and was a liberal contributor to the cause of church work. The family have a very pleasant home in Lee township and take an interested part in the general social activities and good works of the community.

S. S. DALEN.

S. S. Dalen, cashier of the Farmers and Merchants' Bank at Perley, and one of the leading business men of southwestern Norman county, was born in Goodhue county, Minnesota, in 1863. He is a son of Syvert A. and Synva (Brekke) Dalen, both natives of Norway, where they spent their earlier years, immigrating to America about 1842 and settling in Goodhue county, Minnesota, among the pioneers. There they developed a good farm by hard work and perseverance and established a comfortable home, continuing to reside there until the spring of 1882, when they removed to the vicinity of Georgetown in Clay county, buying a farm of about one hundred and fifty acres along the Red river, and there they spent the rest of their lives. They were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Their family consisted of nine children, namely: Bretha, who married Ole Finley; Nels, Andrew, Louis, John, S. S., Anna, Gertie and Ole.

S. S. Dalen spent his boyhood in Goodhue county, where he helped with the work on the farm and attended the public schools, later attending Willmar College, at Willmar, Minnesota, where he took a business course in 1887. After leaving school he began life for himself as a merchant, handling a general line of goods at Georgetown. He enjoyed a good business with the people of that town and the surrounding country for many miles, and remained there until 1899, when he moved to Perley, where he has since resided. He became cashier of the Bank of Perley and there continued for seven years, at the end of which time he sold his interest in the bank and went to Moorhead and engaged in the clothing business there four years. He then went to the state of Washington and spent a year, then returned to Norman county and farmed in the vicinity of Perley for three years, during which time he was also interested in a store at Hendrum. In 1914 Mr. Dalen again turned his attention to the banking business, organizing the