

community. He was township assessor for a number of years, treasurer of the school board for fifteen years and is now director of the same. Being interested in bettering the marketing facilities of the farmers of this neighborhood, he is interested in the Farmers Elevator at Perley and in the potato warehouse at Borup. In politics Mr. Fetting is an ardent advocate of the Democratic party and fraternally, he is a member of Camp No. 2881, Modern Woodmen of America, at Ada, Minnesota. Religiously, politically, fraternally and socially Mr. Fetting is ever striving not only for the good of himself and family, but also for the betterment of the community in which he has made his home for so many years.

ALFRED R. OLSON.

Alfred R. Olson, a prosperous farmer of Waukon township, Norman county, was born on the farm, where he still lives in Waukon township, April 25, 1886, a son of Asle and Randi (Wermager) Olson, both of whom are natives of Norway. He operates five hundred acres of farming land, one hundred and sixty of which belong to him and he is well-known in the local civic and business interests of the community in which he lives.

Asle Olson, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born on January 2, 1849, a son of Ole and Ingeborg (Aslesdatter) Knutson, both of whom were born in Norway, where the mother died. The father came to America late in life, after he was seventy years of age, to make his home with his children who had preceded him to this country, and his death occurred at the home of his grandson, Ole Olson, in Waukon township, Norman county, at the age of ninety-three years. Ole and Ingeborg Knutson were the parents of several children and the seven who grew to maturity are, as follow: Kari, who did not leave her native Norway, where she died in 1914; Knut, who lives on a farm in Waukon township, Norman county; Kristi, Barbro, Asle, the father of the subject of this sketch; Svend and Gunild, both still living in Norway.

Asle Olson received an elementary academic training in the local schools in his native land, and there he gave valuable assistance in the farming operations of his father. When he reached the age of twenty years, he decided to immigrate to the New World and here established his home on some of the fertile soil in the great West, of which he had heard so much from his friends and acquaintances who had friends and relatives in this

country. He set sail in the early part of 1869, landed on American soil without mishap, and located first in Rock county, Wisconsin, where he spent two years working as a farm hand on the holdings of the farmers of the vicinity. He left there in 1871 for South Dakota, where he remained for one summer and then in the autumn of that year he came to Houston county, Minnesota, where he lived for a period of seven years, working as a farm hand; thus it was that he gained much valuable training in farming operations peculiar to the Northwest, which stood him in good stead when he began farming on his own account. It was not until the spring of 1878 that he came to Norman county, which has since been his home, and took a homestead of a quarter section in Waukon township. After Asle Olson had filed the claim for his homestead in 1878, he returned to Houston county, Minnesota, and in the winter of that year he was married to Randi Wermager. She was born in Norway, April 29, 1853, a daughter of Ole and Christie (Hufton) Wermager, who immigrated to this country in the spring of 1869, settled in Houston county, Minnesota, where they lived until 1881, in which year they drove through to Norman county and homesteaded in Waukon township. He died at Gary, Norman county, at the advanced age of ninety-four years and she on the old homestead. Asle Olson lived on the farm until the spring of 1915, when he removed to Gary to look after his business interests. In the year preceding, however, he returned to Norway for a visit with his relatives and old friends who still live in that country. It was in February, 1916, that he formed a partnership with George Martinson, his son-in-law, for the purpose of establishing a hardware business at Gary, in which enterprise he has experienced much gratifying success. As the years have passed, Asle Olson has added to his holdings in Waukon township until he now is the proprietor of three hundred and forty acres of fine land, on which he has erected excellent buildings and planted a grove. Here, before he entered the hardware business, he carried on general farming and was a breeder of thoroughbred Holstein cattle.

To Asle and Randi Olson were born ten children and the five who are living as follow: Ida, Alfred, the subject of this review; Ole, Obert and Mary. The father has been very well-known in the local civil affairs, having helped to organize Waukon township, which he served as supervisor, treasurer and assessor for many years.

Alfred R. Olson was reared in the old home farm, where he still lives, and in the neighboring schools of Waukon township received his common-school education. During the summers, he gained a valuable agricultural

training while helping his father in the development of the homestead. Since a business education is a valuable asset to an intelligent and progressive farmer, Mr. Olson entered Concordia College at Moorhead, from which he graduated in the commercial course in the spring of 1906. He then returned home and took up his farming operations on the home place. He now operates five hundred acres, one hundred and sixty of which belongs to him and the remainder he rents from his father. He carries on general grain and stock farming, raising thoroughbred Holstein cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. Mr. Olson was the first man in Waukon township to build a silo.

On November 24, 1915, Mr. Olson was united in marriage to Nora Lee, who was born in Pope county, Minnesota, on September 12, 1892, a daughter of Ole T. and Johanne (Hellen) Lee, well-known residents of Waukon township, Norman county, further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Olson are the parents of one child, a daughter, Ruth. They are devoted members of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Waukon, taking a proper interest in the affairs of this church society. In politics, Mr. Olson is a progressive, and has been frequently called upon to serve the citizens of his township in official capacity, which he has done with credit to himself. He has held many of the township offices, and for the last seven years he has been an incumbent of the important official trust of township treasurer. One of the local co-operative distributing agencies bears the impress of Mr. Olson's personality, the Waukon Mercantile Company, of which he is now secretary and treasurer.

OSCAR PETERSON.

Oscar Peterson, one of the younger and progressive farmers of Fossum township, Norman county, clerk to the township board and clerk to the school board, is a native son of Minnesota, born on his father's farm in Fossum township, where the Faith store is now located, on September 10, 1885. He is a son of Olaf and Carolina (Paulsdatter) Pederson, natives of Sweden and Norway, respectively.

Olaf Pederson was born in Sweden on May 9, 1851, a son of Peder and Katherina (Olsdatter) Larson, both natives of Sweden and where the former was a farmer. They were the parents of seven children as follow: Lars, Anna Maria, Katherina, Liza, Olaf, father of the subject of this sketch, and Annetta and Andres, deceased. Peder Larson and wife were earnest mem-