

his destination. For a year after his arrival here Mr. Nelson was engaged working on the farm of Nels Tiesel, in the Hawley neighborhood, and then homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in section 12 of Elkton township, in Clay county, where he established his home and has ever since resided, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers in that part of the county. Upon taking possession of his homestead tract Mr. Nelson planted a grove and gradually improved his place, putting up good buildings, and as he prospered added to his holdings by the purchase of an additional tract of two hundred and forty acres and now has a fine farm of four hundred acres. Though still making his home on the farm, Mr. Nelson has been practically retired from the active labors of the same for the past six years or more. He has ever taken an interested part in local affairs and for some years past has been serving as treasurer of the school district in which he lives.

Mr. Nelson's wife died in 1906. She also was born in the kingdom of Sweden, Helen Torkelson, and as noted above, her widowed mother, Elena (Johnson) Torkelson, came to this country with her. Mrs. Torkelson ever afterward made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Nelson and her last days were spent there. Mr. Nelson has three children, Edith, Theodore and Anna. The family has ever given proper attention to the general social affairs of the community in which they live and have been helpful in many ways in advancing movements designed to promote the common welfare thereabout.

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#### HALVOR OLSON.

A large number of Scandinavians have immigrated to Minnesota where they have found broader opportunities than existed in their native land, and they have been welcomed everywhere for reasons too obvious to mention in detail here. Clay county has been fortunate in securing a large number of these aliens, among whom was the late Halvor Olson, a skillful farmer of Eglon township, who, like others of his countrymen, benefited alike himself and us after casting his lot in this locality, where he was highly esteemed.

Mr. Olson was born in Norway on January 1, 1843. His parents were also natives of that country, where they lived and died on a farm. They were parents of the following children: Ole, who died in Norway; Halvor, the first, who came to America and died in this country; Tom and Fona,

who also died in the United States, and Halvor, the second, subject of this brief review.

Halvor Olson, the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood in Norway and there attended the common schools. While living in his native land he engaged in farming. He crossed the Atlantic in 1869 and came to Minnesota, locating in Houston county, where he lived two years, at the end of which time, in 1871, he came up into the Red River country and homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in section 28 of Eglon township, Clay county. The Indians still were numerous hereabout at that time and just about the time Mr. Olson came here a white family was massacred by the redskins. During the spring of his arrival here Mr. Olson was stricken with typhoid fever and notwithstanding the fact that he had to subsist on salt pork, his wonderful constitution pulled him through. He established his home on that homestead farm and there spent the rest of his life, and his widow is still living there. He worked hard developing the place from the wild prairie, and by perseverance and good management prospered with the advancing years, and later added one hundred acres to his original farm, in section 27, Eglon township, on which land he also made all improvements. He carried on general farming and stock raising extensively and became one of the leading farmers of his community. He built a comfortable home and a number of convenient outbuildings. Mrs. Olson has made considerable improvements since her husband's death and has managed the place successfully, continuing the work of the same along the lines which he had inaugurated. In connection with general grain and stock farming she raises a large quantity of potatoes, planting fifteen acres in 1917. A good grade of live stock is always to be found on the place.

Mr. Olson was married at Lake Park, Eglon township, Clay county, on January 3, 1882, to Anna Ness, who was born in Norway on December 4, 1855. Her parents were natives of Norway, where they grew up and established their home, the father dying there in the year 1877. After his death Mrs. Ness came to Minnesota and died in Clay county, in 1892. Mrs. Olson came to America in 1881, unaccompanied. She came to Minnesota and located in Clay county, where, not long thereafter she met and married Mr. Olson, of this memoir.

To the union of Halvor Olson and wife eight children were born, named as follow: Sophia, who is married and lives on a farm near Wadena, this state; Sarah, who is married and lives in Minneapolis; Oscar, who has remained on the home farm, which he is operating; Mollie, who has remained at home with her mother; Helen, who is married and lives at Lake Park,

Minnesota; Ella, who is married and makes her home on a farm in Eglon township; Edward, who has remained with his mother and is assisting in running the farm, and Mabel, who is also at home. These children were all educated in the district schools of Clay county. The family are members of the Solum Norwegian Lutheran church.

The death of Halvor Olson occurred on his farm in Eglon township in 1909.

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### THOMAS N. SLIPER.

Thomas N. Sliper, a progressive farmer of Cromwell township, Clay county, was born in Norway on July 15, 1852. He is a son of Nels N. and Jaqumina (Peterson) Sliper, both natives of Norway, where they grew to maturity, married and established their home. They came to Canada in July, 1868, their vessel taking eight weeks to cross the ocean, and stopped first in Quebec; and from there they came to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the father worked out until the spring of 1871, when he came to Clay county, Minnesota, driving an ox-team to a covered wagon, also drove along his cows, and began life here in typical pioneer fashion, in June, 1871. He took up a pre-emption claim of one hundred and seventy acres in Cromwell township, where his son Thomas N. now lives. He later made it a homestead. He worked hard and managed well and placed the land under a fine state of improvement and cultivation and was one of the successful general farmers of Cromwell township. He spent the rest of his life on this farm, dying in 1888, his widow surviving until 1895. To these parents five children were born, namely: Peter N., now deceased, who came to Minnesota in 1866 and settled in Houston county; Jacob, also deceased, who came to Minnesota in 1867 and settled in Houston county; Thomas N., the subject of this sketch; Kari, and Edward (deceased). The family helped start the first Lutheran church in Clay county.

Thomas N. Sliper spent his boyhood in Norway, where he attended the common schools. He was sixteen years old when he came with his parents to America, living with them in Quebec, Canada, Winneshiek county, Iowa, and Clay county, Minnesota. He worked hard, like all pioneer boys of that period, helping develop the new farm on the wild prairies. When he reached his majority he took up a homestead of one hundred and twenty acres and a tree claim of one hundred and thirty acres, in the same section in which his father had located. Upon the death of his father he bought