

were born in Norway and there spent all their lives, farming people. The maternal grandparents were Lars and Ella (Lynggy) Ramstad, who also were born in Norway and died in that country, and were of the farming community.

Lars A. Bakken was educated in the public schools of Norman county and later spent one year at Concordia college, Moorhead. He has been a valuable assistant to his father on the farm of the latter, up to the time he commenced farming on his own account. He is now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and twenty acres of prime land on the home place and also manages his father's place, the two living together. Lars A. Bakken is engaged in general farming and is accounted one of the substantial farmers of this part of the township, ever alive to the most skillful methods of agricultural activity that prevail to help the farmer.

In January, 1904, Lars A. Bakken was united in marriage to Nellie Gilbertson, born in McDonaldsville township, a daughter of Thor Gilbertson and wife, further mention of whom is made in another part of this volume; Thor Gilbertson is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Bakken are the parents of the following children: Emma, Agnes, Wilfred, Alice, Thelma, Grace and Ruth. The Bakkens are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Bakken is now and has been for the past five years a member of the township board and is and has been a member of the school board, giving earnest attention to the duties of these important positions.

OLAF C. OLSON.

Olaf C. Olson, a well-known farmer of Lee township, Norman county, where he operates a farm of five hundred and thirteen acres, which he owns with his sister, and a man closely affiliated with the business interests of the community in which he lives, was born in Becker county, Minnesota, August 28, 1871, a son of Christian and Marie (Rask) Olson, both natives of Norway, who grew up in that country and there married in 1866. The former was born in 1844 and the latter on January 6, 1843. Soon after their marriage, Christian Olson and wife decided that they would permanently establish their home in America, and accordingly they set sail in the year of their marriage and landed in this country, June 23, 1866. Immediately they started westward to the new land and settled in Winneshiek county, Iowa, remained there until 1870, when they drove up

into Minnesota with a team of oxen to claim a portion of the fine land which the government was opening up for settlement and in that year homestead one hundred and sixty acres in sections 18 and 19, Audubon township, Becker county. After years of prosperity on his farm the father added to his holdings until he acquired much land, which he later sold to his children. He was also closely connected with the business interests of Lake Park, Becker county, where he still lives. He helped to organize the Lutheran church and orphans' home and helped to organize the Becker County State Bank at Lake Park and is now president of the same. He was also an organizer of the creamery and of the farmers elevator at Lake Park and is still interested in them. To Christian Olson and wife the following children have been born: Christian, who lives in Lake Park, Becker county; Hannah, the wife of Peter Rutser, living in Crosby, North Dakota; Julia, who married O. W. Davis and lives two miles out from Lake Park, Minnesota; Olaf, the subject of this review; Josephine and Caroline, both deceased; Helen, who married Edward Ingebritson and is now living on the old homestead; George, also on the home place; Minnie, who is living with her parents, and four daughters and one son, deceased.

Olaf C. Olson was reared on the old home farm in Becker county, and there attended the public schools. Later he supplemented his elementary education by courses in the academy and at Concordia College at Moorhead. He then remained on the old homestead, lending his assistance to the development of his father's holdings until 1891, in which year he came to Lee township, Norman county, to care for the farm there which belonged to his father. When the latter sold his land to his children, Mr. Olson and his sister, Mrs. Peter Rutser, bought this farm, which has been so extended under the careful management of the former that it now comprises five hundred and thirteen acres of fertile and well-improved farming land, which lies in sections 24, 12, 13 and 20. Here Mr. Olson carries on general diversified farming and stock raising, having on his place at this time forty-five head of high-grade cattle and one registered bull.

On January 21, 1915, Mr. Olson was married to Dorothy Otilda Schow, who was born in Cass county, North Dakota, August 12, 1877, a daughter of Martin and Dorthea L. (Bjerke) Schow. Mrs. Olson died on November 4, 1915. To that union two children were born, twins, Dorothy Marie and Hulda Charlotte. Mr. Olson, as was his wife, is a member of the Lutheran church, of which he at this time is a trustee. Politically, he is a member of the Prohibition party, in the affairs of which he takes a deep interest. For sixteen years he has been a member of the township board

of supervisors, nine years chairman of the same, and has always discharged his duties in a manner befitting the upright man that he is, and with complete satisfaction to his neighbors. Mr. Olson is also closely connected with the local co-operative business interests of his community, being a director of the creamery company at Perley, of which he was at first president and secretary.

GEORGE J. V. MAYER.

Among the young business men of Lockhart, Norman county, Minnesota, who have met with success and are known as among the prominent and highly respected people of the town, is George J. V. Mayer, a well-known grain buyer, who was born in Logan county, Illinois, in the year 1890 and is the son of George and Louisa (Unger) Mayer, who were born in Germany, and who had come to America during childhood with their respective parents. After his marriage George Mayer remained in Illinois until 1904. He had early entered into the spirit and life of his new surroundings and he and his wife were identified with the social, civic and religious affairs of their Illinois home. Mr. Mayer identified himself with the Republican party and became an influential member of the county central committee, in which position he rendered efficient service. He was elected road commissioner for his district and his ability in this line of endeavor was of much value to the district in which he lived. Roads were built and improved in a manner in keeping with his high regard for his duty to the people and his ability in this line of public service. He also was for some years village alderman and likewise rendered good service as a member of the local school board, a position for which he was well suited, owing to his education and training.

On leaving their home in the state of Illinois, the Mayer family came to Minnesota and here George Mayer operated the Lockhart farm in Norman county, until the year 1912, when he moved to the farm where he now lives, two miles west of Ada, where he is still engaged in general farming and stockraising with success. He is progressive and a firm believer in thorough cultivation of the soil and the keeping of good stock, and is today recognized as one of the substantial and successful men of the county. He and his wife are active members of the Lutheran church and are known as among the most highly respected people in the district. They are the parents of the following children: Maria, Dora, George J. V., Lucia, Gertrude, Ethel, John, Clyde, Agnes and Sadie. Mr. and Mrs. Mayer have long been mem-