

earnestly interested in all its good works. Mr. Larson has served as township assessor and is now township constable; he served on the school board for fifteen years, during that period being clerk, and has been an auctioneer in that locality for a number of years. He has an interest in the Bear Park Mercantile Company.

PETER P. OLSON.

Peter P. Olson, a well-known merchant and scientific farmer of Anthony township, Norman county, was born in Worth county, Iowa, June 24, 1866, a son of Peter and Aaget (Olson) Olson, who were both natives of Norway. Along in the fifties the elder Olson, who was a farmer and teacher in his native land, came to America and located first in Wisconsin, then in Worth county, Iowa, where Peter P. was born, and later moved to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he died in 1866. Peter Olson, Sr., taught school and farmed after his coming to America until his death, after which his wife and children, feeling that the soil promised them a better future, joined a party of forty settlers whose destination was Norman county to which they traveled overland in horse drawn covered wagons. Soon after their arrival in Norman county in 1878 the eldest son, Ole, homesteaded in Anthony township, and there the family first located. While living on this farm, the mother's death occurred. To her and Peter Olson were born the following children: Gena, deceased; Ole, deceased, the eldest son who homesteaded the tract in Anthony township; Hans, Carrie and Peter P., the youngest child and the subject of this review.

Peter P. Olson, who is a native-born American, was twelve years of age when his mother and her family came overland to Norman county. He received a fairly good education in his early years, when the facilities for such at that time are considered, for he finished the common school and was for one year a student in the high school at Rushford, Minnesota. Having had ambitions to enter a business career, he began by acquiring some very valuable experience by working as a salesman in a general store at Ada, where he was thus engaged for thirteen years. In 1901 he decided to enter the mercantile business on his own account and opened up a general store, called the "Anthony Store" in Anthony township. He erected a fine business room, being the first one on the site, but his business expanded to such an extent that it has been necessary for him to make

additions to his store since. In addition to his mercantile interests, Mr. Olson finds further occupation on his small, modern farm of twenty acres in Anthony township, which he operates for experimental purposes.

Mr. Olson was united in marriage to Josie Dalvey on May 15, 1889. She was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, April 13, 1867, the daughter of Ole and Scsila Dalvey, who emigrated from Norway, the land of their nativity, in 1856, and settled in Fillmore county. The Lutheran church has in Mr. and Mrs. Olson, devoted members, and in the affairs of this denomination they take a deep and zealous interest. Mr. Olson's family were valuable acquisitions to the community, especially in its early days, for they helped to organize the East Marsh River Lutheran congregation when the homes of the settlers were thrown open for services. Later the family was largely instrumental in the organization of the public schools of the township.

LARS O. NESS.

Lars O. Ness, a substantial and energetic farmer, owner of a prime piece of land in Hegne township, Norman county, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was nineteen years old, coming here with his widowed mother in 1879 and ever since has been living in Norman county. He was born on January 3, 1860, son of Ole and Marit (Ness) Ness, both born in Selbn, Norway, where the former died and where Lars O. Ness lived up to the time of his coming to the United States. There were two children in the family, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Ingeborg, who came to this country with her brother and married Hans Stennes; she is now dead.

Lars O. Ness was educated in the schools of his native Norway and at the age of nineteen accompanied his mother and sister to America, landing at New York, coming thence to Norman county in 1879. He bought forty acres of railroad land on which he erected the farm buildings and as he prospered in his farming operations he added to his holdings and is now the owner of eighty acres of prime land, which is well covered with natural timber and trees which Mr. Ness planted. Mrs. Marit Ness, mother of the subject of this sketch, is now living with her son, having reached the advanced age of ninety-one years.

In 1879 Lars O. Ness was united in marriage to Dortha Moslath, a native of Norway and daughter of John Olson, who came to America in