

director, while he lived in Mary township. Even though he is not given to office seeking, his hearty co-operation with every movement which has for its aim the social and material betterment of his neighborhood, makes Mr. Melbostad a very valuable citizen to the community in which he lives.

LARS PAULSON.

In making up the annals of Norman county, proper mention must be made of the part the late Lars Paulson, the first settler in Sundahl township, took in the settlement of that county. He was a native of the kingdom of Norway, born there on July 14, 1851, and grew to manhood there, remaining in his native land until 1879, in which year he came to the United States and proceeded on out to Iowa, shortly afterward coming up into Minnesota and proceeding on up into the Red River country, settling in what, in 1881, became organized as Norman county. Upon his arrival here he homesteaded a tract of land in what later came to be organized as Sundahl township, the extreme northeast township of the county, and not long afterward married Caroline Pederson and established his permanent home on that place. He planted shade and fruit trees, erected substantial buildings and in due time had a well-improved and profitably cultivated farm of two hundred and forty acres. On that place he spent the rest of his life, one of the substantial and influential pioneers of that community, his death occurring there on December 12, 1895. To Lars and Caroline Paulson six children were born, namely: Bertha, Paul, Ole, Maria, Lars and Caroline, the last two of whom are twins. The daughters are married except Caroline, and Maria, the fourth in order of birth, died in Montana. Ole has served a term of service as a member of the United States marine corps, but is now at home.

On June 11, 1897, Mrs. Caroline Paulson, widow of Lads Paulson, married Halvor Peterson, who was born in Norway on November 27, 1856, son of Peter Jenson and Mollie (Halvor) Peterson, the former of whom died in his native land and the latter of whom is still living there at a ripe old age. Peter Jenson was a farmer and he and his wife were the parents of nine children, Jens, Anna, Halvor, Ingeborg, Peter, John, Lars, Ole and Michael. Anna lives in South Dakota and Ingeborg lives in North Dakota. Of these children, Halvor, Peter and John came to Minnesota and the two latter died here. The others are still living in Norway. To Halvor Peter-

son and wife have been born two children, Gunder and Hannah. Halvor Peterson was previously married and was the father of one son named Peter. Mrs. Peterson has shares in the companies operating the telephone lines at Gary and at Sundahl and also owns an interest in a store at the latter place. Mr. Peterson is a shareholder in the local elevator company at Flaming. The family have a very pleasant home in Sundahl township and the members of the same take a proper interest in the community's general social affairs. Mr. Peterson takes a good citizen's interest in political affairs, but has not been an office seeker.

ELLING H. FLOM.

Elling H. Flom, one of the real pioneers of Norman county and a substantial retired farmer of Flom township, proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and fifty acres in section 21 of that township, where he has made his home since the early eighties, is a native of the state of Iowa, but has been a resident of the Red River country since he was sixteen years of age. He was born on a pioneer farm in Winneshiek county, Iowa, September 15, 1858, son of Hans Flom, who came up into Minnesota with his family in 1874 and settled in what later came to be organized as Flom township, Norman county, that township being named in his honor when the petition for its organization was granted by the county commissioners.

As noted above, Elling H. Flom was sixteen years of age when he came up here into the Red River Valley with his father in 1874. He had received his schooling in Iowa and upon coming here became a valued aid to his father in the labors of improving and developing the home place. In 1882 he proved up a pre-emption claim to a quarter of a section of land in section 12 of Flom township and eight or nine months later sold the same and bought his present farm of two hundred and fifty acres in section 21 of that same township. When he took possession of that place forty-five acres of it had been "broken" and the task of bringing under cultivation the remainder of the tract thus fell upon his shoulders, a no inconsiderable task, by the way. Though there was some natural timber on the place, Mr. Flom did considerable tree planting as a wind-break measure, and the groves he planted are now attractive features of the landscape thereabout. He erected new buildings on the place and has added to the same from time to time until now he has one of the best-kept farm plants in that part of the