

lowed farming and has kept the home farm well improved and well cultivated. He built a new residence in 1911. Mr. Christianson owns two hundred acres in section 21 and forty acres in section 7 of Eglon township. He built a large, modern granary in the summer of 1917. He raises a large amount of grain and considerable live stock each year. He planted a fine grove some years ago. He raises a large acreage of potatoes each year, having had out fifteen acres in the summer of 1917, his land being in the great northern potato belt. Mr. Christianson is unmarried. He is a member of the Hegland Norwegian Lutheran church.

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### JOHN GEORGE PERKINS.

One of the progressive citizens of Hawley, Cromwell township, is John George Perkins, who has long made his home in Clay county, the interests of which he has ever had at heart and sought to promote. He was born in Flinthan, Nottinghamshire, England, November 9, 1853, a son of William and Ann (Long) Perkins, both also natives of Nottinghamshire, the father born at Flinthan and the mother at Elston. They married in their native land, and there they continued to reside until 1873, when they came to Minnesota with the first English colony that settled at Hawley, in Clay county. Here William Perkins, father of John G., took up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres, in the spring of 1873, selecting a good tract in section 30 of Cromwell township. He developed the land into a productive farm, established a comfortable home and spent the rest of his life there. He made all improvements on the place, erecting the buildings and planting a grove, planting the first trees in that neighborhood. He also took up two tree claims. William Perkins had been a soldier in the old country, serving as a Yeoman cavalryman in a "Notts" (Nottinghamshire) regiment. He was a Methodist and helped organize the first church at Hawley. He also helped organize Cromwell township, and was for many years a member of the township board. He was one of the influential men in his locality, always active in public affairs, and was at one time a candidate on the People's party for county commissioner. He was one of the best-known and useful pioneers in Cromwell township, and highly respected by all who knew him. His family consisted of five children, named as follow: John G., the subject of this sketch; Mary Ann and Maria, who are both living; Sarah, deceased, and Charles, who is living on the old home place in Cromwell township.

John G. Perkins grew up in England, there attended the public schools and Besthorp boarding school and was twenty years of age when he came to the United States with his parents. He helped his father start the family home in Cromwell township, working hard, as did all sons of pioneer settlers in those days. In 1876 he began life for himself by pre-empting one hundred and sixty acres in section 18 of Cromwell township; later converted eighty acres of it to a homestead, and still later homesteaded an adjoining fifty-five acres. He also tree-claimed a quarter section in section 8 of the same township and now has one of the choice farms of his locality, having erected a modern and substantial group of buildings on it, placed it under a fine state of cultivation and has set out a large grove, which is now very attractive. He has met with much more than mediocre success, all along the line, as a general farmer and stock raiser as a result of his perseverance and close application.

In 1884 Mr. Perkins was married to Sarah Jane Harper, who was born in Canada. She is a daughter of John Harper, now deceased, who moved from Canada to Minnesota, locating at New York Mills, in Otter Tail county, where he established the future home of the family. Thirteen children were born to John G. Perkins and wife, namely: John William, Elsie May, Annie Maude, Hazel, Eleanor, Frederick Lawrence, Earl, Pearl, James, Blanche, all living, and George and Frederick, who died young. The mother of these children died in 1910.

Politically, Mr. Perkins is a non-partisan. He was township assessor a number of years ago and also was constable in the old days, when there was considerable lawlessness and when the duties of such an officer were much more strenuous than now. He has also served on the local school board in various capacities.

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#### ANDREW L. JELSING.

Each man who strives to fulfill his part in connection with human life and human activities is deserving of recognition, no matter what may be the field of his endeavor, for it is interesting to note the varying conditions that have compassed those whose careers are brought to the attention of the readers of history.

An enterprising merchant of the village of Dale, Highland Grove township, Clay county, is Andrew L. Jelsing, who was born in Dodge county,