

munity in which they live and where they are held in the highest regard and esteem by all who know them. Mr. Foster is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes much interest in the growth and success of that organization.

The parents of Mr. Foster were of the farming class in England and the father spent his life as a laborer on farms there. The opportunities were small for the young man without funds, with which to start on life's work, and being an energetic youth, John C. Foster decided when but a small boy to seek his fortune in America. He left his home and came to the United States at the age when most boys are in school. The parents of Mrs. Emma (Parkin) Foster were Richard and Sarah (Robinson) Parkin, who received their education in the schools of England and later came to this country and established their home in the state of Illinois many years ago. Their home was near Jacksonville and in the vicinity of the farm of two hundred and forty acres of John C. Foster.

Few men have risen to a higher degree of usefulness and influence than has John C. Foster. Coming to America, a mere lad, alone and without funds, he has by his own efforts become one of the substantial and successful men of the community in which he lives. His success has been due to correct living, hard work and the practice of economy. He has always taken much interest in local affairs and is held in high esteem.

J. H. POWERS.

J. H. Powers, well-known professor of music, was born in Potsdam, New York, in 1882, a son of James L. and Charlotte (Swift) Powers, both natives of New York, the father of Louisville, and the mother, of Potsdam, of that state. James L. Powers was a farmer in New York state, where he lived and reared his family.

J. H. Powers received his elementary education in the public schools of Potsdam, New York, and afterwards attended the Potsdam Normal School, from which he graduated in 1903. He early evinced a desire for a musical career and completed a course in the Crane Institute of Music and graduated in 1904. In 1905 he came to Willmar, Minnesota, where he had charge of the music in the public schools for one year. He then went to Hutchinson, Minnesota, and took charge of the music in the schools of that place for three years. From 1908 to 1909 he was in Crookston, Minnesota, engaged

in the same line of work, and came to Moorhead in the latter year. He has been director of music in the normal school at Moorhead since 1909.

In 1908 J. H. Powers and Mary Brainard were united in marriage. To this union four children have been born: Doratha, Dudley, Harold and Arthur. Mr. Powers is an adherent of the Congregational church in Moorhead, and his fraternal affiliation is with the Masonic order.

HENNING E. GRUTLE.

Henning E. Grutle, manager of the Twin Valley Telephone Company and formerly and for years one of Norman county's best-known school teachers, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota since the days of his infancy and of Norman county since he was about three years of age. He was born on a farm in the vicinity of the city of Bergen, one of the most important Norwegian seaports, January 31, 1876, son of Reinert and Martha (Ellingson) Grutle, also natives of Norway, who came to America in that same year, the subject of this sketch thus having been but an infant in arms when he arrived in the United States, and proceeded on out to Minnesota, settling in Goodhue county.

Reinert Grutle had but few possessions when he came to this country and after a few years of residence in Goodhue county decided that a better start could be made up in this part of the state, where land was cheaper and the opportunities for the newcomer were a bit more equal than in the more populous sections of the state; so in 1880 he came up into the Red River valley and bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in what later came to be organized as Fossum township, Norman county, where he established his home, presently becoming accounted one of the most substantial and influential pioneers of that section of the county. Mr. Grutle had acquired an excellent education in his native land and not long after becoming a resident of Norman county was selected as the teacher of the parochial school in the neighborhood in which he had settled and was for twenty-five or thirty years maintained in that important and useful position, thus exerting a wide and wholesome influence upon the youth of that neighborhood. In 1910 he and his wife left the farm in Fossum township and moved to Twin Valley, where they are now living. They are members of the Lutheran (Synod) church and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the good works of the community of which they have been residents since pioneer days.