

of the local school board. He also is a participant in the business interests of this vicinity, being a director of the Farmers Elevator Company at Perley, which he helped to organize, and holding stock in the First State Bank of that place. Politically, Mr. Crosby is independent.

HALVOR O. RASK.

Halvor O. Rask, the owner of five hundred and forty acres of Hendrum township (Norman county) land, where he lived, a banker and well-known business man, was born in Norway, November 15, 1851, the son of Ole C. and Ingeborg (Vermager) Rask, both natives of Norway, who came to America in 1857 and settled in Houston county, Minnesota, where they bought a farm and where they remained until their deaths. When the elder Rask bought this tract, which contained eighty acres, it was covered with grubs and stones, a condition which did not permit its being speedily brought under cultivation. Nevertheless, the family set to work to improve the farm, and eventually bountiful crops repaid them for their labors. Ole C. Rask and wife were the parents of six children, namely: Christ, now dead, who served in a Minnesota regiment during the Civil War; Peder, deceased, also a member of a Minnesota regiment and a veteran of the Civil War; Carrie; Petter; Halvor O., and Halvor J.

When Halvor O. Rask first breathed the air of America, he was not yet six years of age, and when he was only ten years of age, his older brothers, Christ and Peder, showed their true American spirit by heeding the call of their adopted country and marching away for service during the Civil War. Until he was past twenty years of age, Mr. Rask worked on the home place, contributing his efforts to the making of the improvements necessary to the bringing of the land under cultivation; but in 1877 he struck out for himself. Having inherited part of the home farm he bought the rest and farmed there until 1877, when he came to Norman county and bought three hundred acres of Hendrum township land. However, he did not come here to live until 1882. In that year he began the improvement of his holding by planting groves and raising good, substantial farm buildings. As the years of his industry passed, he extended his possessions until now he owns five hundred acres of well-improved land, on which he carries on general farming.

Nellie Bye, who was born in Houston county, Minnesota, in May, 1857, the daughter of Andrew and Sophia (Sownes) Bye, became the wife

of Halvor O. Rask on May 20, 1878. To Mr. and Mrs. Rask eight children have been born as follow: Oliver, Ida, Alma, Arthur and Stella, all of whom are dead; Oliver, now living in North Dakota; and Stella and Ruby, living at home with their parents. The Rask family are members of the Lutheran church, in the affairs of which they take a deep and active interest. Mr. Rask is a Prohibitionist, and in the civil affairs of his township takes a good citizen's interest.

Mr. Rask has been and is deeply interested in furthering the business interests of his community, since he helped to organize at Hendrum the creamery, the farmers elevator, the local telephone company and the State Bank. At present he is a director of the elevator and the telephone companies, and has been president of the State Bank since its organization.

LOUIS T. LARSON.

One of the farmers of Spring Prairie township, Clay county, who has found life on the farm desirable in every way is Louis T. Larson, who was born in Norway on December 25, 1864. He is a son of Lars and Gesene Andria (Torkelson) Larson, both natives of Norway, where they grew to maturity, married and established their home. The father died there in 1915 and the mother is still living at the old home there. To these parents nine children were born, Trena, Maria, Louis, Anna, Tonnis, Louise, Amelia, Adolph (deceased) and Lena.

Louis T. Larson grew to manhood in Norway and there he attended the common schools. He heard of the fine opportunities for the young man of grit in the vast Northwest of the American continent and when but a boy, resolved to try his fortune there, so he made the long trip from his native land to Minnesota, reaching Clay county in April, 1884, where he joined his sister, Trena Torkilson, who had come here the year previously. He worked in Glyndon, township on farms, also in North Dakota a few years. In 1890 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 28 of Spring Prairie township, Clay county, and there he has since made his home. He has developed an excellent farm, putting up all buildings and making other necessary improvements, and is carrying on general farming and stock raising successfully, having made a specialty of Shropshire sheep ever since he began farming for himself. He is now owner of four hundred acres of valuable land, constituting one of the choice farms of Spring