

Elevator Company, and took charge of the same, maintaining the proprietorship of that thriving business until September 1, 1917, when he sold out to the Twin Valley Grain Company. Mr. Heiberg still carries on a general wholesale flour, feed, hay, potato and seed business and is also the jobber, for the states of Minnesota and North Dakota, for the Packro "seedtape," maintaining a force of men on the road for the sale of his products, besides an ample force of men in the office and warehouses. He also has a feed-grinding mill and in addition to his other activities has built up an extensive business in the real-estate line, being recognized as one of the most energetic young "hustlers" in this part of the state. Mr. Heiberg takes an active interest in the community's general affairs and as secretary of the Twin Valley Good Roads Association has done much to advance the cause of better roads hereabout. His petition for the improvement of forty-six miles of road in the territory adjacent to Broadview, Montana, was granted and the road bears his name. During his residence in Musselshell county, Montana, Mr. Heiberg was the organizer of school district No. 37 in that county and was clerk of the school board, doing a fine work for the advancement of the interests of the schools in that pioneer community.

In the year 1904 M. A. Heiberg was united in marriage to Matilda Peterson, daughter of Henry Peterson and wife, of Heiberg, and to this union have been born six children, Arthur B., Viola M., Francis E. W., Irene L., Ruth M. and Inez B. Mr. and Mrs. Heiberg are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an interested part in local church work, as well as in the general social activities of the community and are helpful in promoting such movements as are designed to advance the common welfare.

TRON RISHOF.

The state of Minnesota has many men of prominence who are of foreign birth and who have risen to their present high standing in the community in which they live by their own efforts. Among the number who have thus won their way to success and influence it is well to mention Tron Rishof, who is now living in retirement in Gary, Minnesota, and who was born in far away Norway in the year 1848 and is the son of Tron Rishof and Gunhild Haugerud, born in Tlaskerud.

The parents of our subject, Tron Rishof, received their education in the schools of their native country and there grew to manhood and woman-

hood and were married. After their marriage they established their home in the northern country where they were born and there they spent the rest of their lives, highly respected and held in the highest regard by their friends and those who knew them. They were the parents of six children, Torkeld, Erick, Tron, Marie, Gunhild and Kriste, all of whom are now deceased save the subject of this sketch and Gunhild, the latter of whom is a resident of Litchfield, Minnesota. The family were members of the Lutheran church and always took an active interest in church work.

Reared to manhood at the old home and completing his schooling in the local schools of his native land, Tron Rishof decided, in the year 1869, that he would seek his fortune and his home in America, where many of his countrymen and friends had located, and where they were meeting with success in their various operations in life. On his arrival in this country he came at once to Minnesota and for a year worked at St. Paul, moving thence to Pelican Rapids in the year 1870. He took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Otter Tail county and at once began the preparation of his future home. He built a small house, and after his marriage in 1874 established his home there, occupying that pioneer dwelling for some years, entered with spirit into the task of developing the tract that he had homesteaded. For ten years he battled with the difficulties that confronted him and during this time succeeded in putting much of his land under cultivation and making many valuable and substantial improvements. He then moved up into Norman county and here he started a general store three miles east of what later became the town of Gary, his store having been the first business enterprise in the place that later was known as Strand. In 1883 the town had reached such proportions that a postoffice was established there and Mr. Rishof was named the first postmaster, which position he held until the year 1899, when he disposed of his store and resigned his position. His sons Theodore and Olaf, with Louis Garden, then established a general store at Gary, which they operated until the year 1901, when Mr. Rishof purchased the interests of the son Olaf and Mr. Garden. After having made the purchase the business was continued by him and his sons Theodore and Ed, until the year 1915 when they sold to the Farmer's Mercantile Company, which has since conducted an extensive business in the town. After having sold his business Mr. Rishof retired from the activities of life and has been living in his well-established home in the town of Gary.

Mr. Rishof has always been interested in the agricultural affairs of the county and is the owner of four hundred and forty acres of splendid

land, all of which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved. He is also interested in the State Bank of Gary and has long been recognized as one of the prominent and influential men of the county. Since coming to this part of the state of Minnesota Mr. Rishof has seen many changes in the general aspect of the country. The wild prairie and the wooded tracts have been transformed into splendid farms, with well cultivated fields and beautiful homes; and where once grew the tall prairie grass and forest trees are now to be seen broad fields of growing grain and splendid herds of cattle and droves of hogs. Beautiful and substantial houses and well-equipped barns have taken the place of the log shack and the dug-out. Splendid schools and churches have been erected and the general aspect of the country is one of progress and prosperity. To those early settlers is due much honor and credit for their untiring efforts in the development of one of the greatest farming districts in the United States.

In the year 1874 Tron Rishof was united in marriage to Marie Holt, also a native of Norway and the daughter of Ole and Martha (Risberg) Holt. Her parents were also natives of that country and there they were educated and grew to maturity and were married. After their marriage they established their home in the land of their nativity, where they continued to live for some years, at the end of which time they decided that they would seek their home in America. Upon coming to the United States they proceeded on out to Minnesota and were among the early settlers in Fillmore county, where they settled in the year 1869. They remained in Fillmore county for two years and then moved to Otter Tail county, locating near the town of Pelican Rapids, where Mr. Holt homesteaded the farm which he later developed and improved. The wife and mother had died while the family were living in Fillmore county. In those days the nearest market was at Alexandria, and there the settlers had to go for their household supplies. This trip was not an easy one, for there were no roads and the means of travel were not as they are today. To Mr. and Mrs. Holt were born eight children, those besides Mrs. Rishof, being, Arne, Ole (deceased), Martin, Breda (deceased), Haakon (deceased), Alctc and Johana. Mr. and Mrs. Holt were active members of the Lutheran church, took great interest in the development of the district in which they had settled and they were ardent advocates of the establishment of good schools and the erection of churches. After having developed his farm, the father engaged successfully in general farming and stock raising for a number of years, and there he spent the remainder of his days.

To Tron and Marie (Holt) Rishof have been born the following children: Theodore, Olaf, Godfred, Edward, Oliver, Abel, Gena, Emilie and Clara, all of whom are living with the exception of the last named. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rishof are prominent members of the Lutheran church, in the faith of which they have reared their children. They have always been liberal subscribers to the support of the local church and have been much interested in the various benevolences of the organization. Having come to the state in an early day, Mr. and Mrs. Rishof have witnessed the transition of the territory from the primeval state to one of the finest sections of the Union. To all this work they have given their best efforts, and to them is due much of the honor for the present condition of things.

Not alone has Mr. Rishof looked to his own interests, but he has ever taken a keen interest in the general affairs of the county in which he has lived for so many years and where he is held in such high regard and esteem. His life has been a worthy one and he and his wife are today recognized as among the influential persons of the district in which they live. Mr. Rishof has in no sense been a seeker after office, yet he has had much to do with the civic life of his home community.

ALBERT E. MOLL.

Albert E. Moll, farmer of Humboldt township, Clay county, was born in Hennepin county, Minnesota, in 1867. He is a son of John and Katherine (Baners) Moll, both natives of Alsace, who came to the United States single, the mother before the Civil War, accompanied by her parents. Her father homesteaded land near Fairbault, Minnesota. He was a soldier in the Civil War and died in the service. John Moll came to America after the war and located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he was married, and later took up farming in Hennepin county, south of that city, remaining there until about 1882, when he came to Clay county and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Humboldt township. He developed the land into a good farm and established a comfortable home, spending the rest of his life there, dying some time ago. His widow is living in Idaho. She is a member of the Lutheran church, but he was a Catholic. To these parents the following children were born: Albert E., Sophia, John, Louise, Clara, Arthur, Maggie, Louis and Philomin.