

P. J. SHEA.

P. J. Shea was born in Hampton county, Massachusetts, October 15, 1866, a son of Michael and Mary (Sullivan) Shea, both natives of Ireland. His father came to America in 1856 and located in Hampton county, Massachusetts, where he engaged in his trade as a brick mason for about twenty years. In 1876, he brought his family to Minnesota, located in Glyndon, Clay county, and found employment with the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company. He entered a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, and entered a tree claim of another one hundred and sixty acres in Felton township. He continued his employment with the railroad company while his son worked the farm. He is still living at Glyndon; his wife died several years ago. Their children are: Rose, P. J., the subject of this review; Mary and James. Michael Shea was the first postmaster of Felton.

P. J. Shea had a very limited schooling when he was young and is practically self-educated. As a boy, he assisted his father in the postoffice, and also was employed as a time-keeper for the railroad company. When yet in his youthful years, he was occupied in looking after his father's farm, while the father was working on the railroad. Mr. Shea did some of the first breaking of the virgin soil in Clay county, using an ox team to draw the plow. He continued on the farm until he was twenty-one, and then started to work for the railroad, in the employment of which he continued for about four years. He first worked for the Great Northern and afterward for the Northern Pacific railroad. In 1893 he embarked in the general mercantile business at Sabin, Minnesota, in partnership with his uncle, James Shea. He continued in business at this place for about five years and then came to Clynder and established the firm of P. J. Shea & Company in the general merchandising business. He has conducted this business alone since that time. In 1889, he started a hotel at this place and conducted that in connection with his mercantile interests for about eight years. Mr. Shea also has large farming interests to occupy his time and attention. He began making investments of his savings in land several years ago and secured a considerable body of land when it was available for purchase at a low price.

Mr. Shea was one of the organizers of the First State Bank of Glyndon, and has been vice-president of this bank since the time of its organization. He has served two terms as president of the school board, and was president of the village council some years ago. He helped to organize the Glyndon

Telephone Company, of which he was the first president. In 1914 he built a fine two-story modern home with beautiful grounds and modern equipment. In addition to the other business activities in which Mr. Shea has been interested he was one of the organizers of the Farmers' Grain and Lumber Company of Glyndon, of which he is president and E. D. Grant, vice-president. In these, and in all other business enterprises, Mr. Shea is a leading spirit. He is the leading business man of Glyndon and is always ready to contribute his full share in the promotion of any enterprise or movement that tends to the growth and welfare of the town and community.

In 1889, P. J. Shea and Julia Timrue were united in marriage, and to this union five children have been born, namely: Florence M., Frances E., Aquinia, Adeline and Edward T. The Shea family are very delightfully situated in their new two-story, modern home at Glyndon, which Mr. Shea built in 1914.

JAMES LARSON.

James Larson, cashier of the State Bank of Halstad, a member of the school board at Halstad and the manager of a well-improved farm on the outskirts of that village, was born on a farm in Houston county, this state, May 10, 1873, son of Peter and Maria (Christopherson) Larson (Gagnum), natives of Norway, who came to Minnesota about 1869 and settled in Houston county, where they remained until 1879, when they moved to Cass county, North Dakota, where they spent the rest of their lives, with the exception of five years spent in Ransom county, that state. Peter Larson and wife reared a family of twelve children.

Reared on the paternal farm in North Dakota, James Larson completed his common-school course in the schools of Ransom county, North Dakota, and supplemented the same by a course in Concordia College at Moorhead. In this connection he gratefully acknowledges a debt of gratitude to his uncle, E. E. Bakke, of Onawa, Iowa, who supported him for eighteen months during his school days there. Upon completing his schooling in Iowa James Larson resumed his labors on the home farm in Buffalo, North Dakota, and there remained until he was twenty-five years of age, when, in 1898, he came over into Minnesota and located at Halstad, where he remained until his marriage in 1901, when he moved up into Polk county and there remained until 1911, in which year he returned to Halstad and has ever since been engaged there as cashier of the State Bank of Halstad.