

Laura, Herbert, John P. (deceased), Clarence, Ray, Lillian, Mabel and Clifford.

Politically, Oscar Gunderson is independent. He is now (1917) serving his eleventh consecutive year as township assessor. He has also served as school director and as treasurer for the past twelve or thirteen years, being treasurer at this writing. He was also justice of the peace at one time. He helped organize the Farmers Elevator Company at Hawley, of which he has been secretary since its organization, and is a heavy stockholder in the same. He also helped organize the Farmers Co-operative Creamery at Hawley and has been financially interested in the same ever since. He is a member of the Hawley Live Stock Shipping Association. Like his father before him he is one of the influential men of his township, always ready to assist in any movement having for its object the general good of all the people in this locality.

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#### HILBERT O. SKREI.

Hilbert O. Skrei, a well-known and energetic farmer of Goose Prairie township, Clay county, owner of a compact and well-kept farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 22, that township, and of eighty acres in Montana, is a native son of Minnesota, born on his father's homestead on Buffalo river, August 28, 1875. He is the son of Torge T. and Gunhild (Bervie) Skrei, natives of Norway.

Torge T. Skrei was married in his native land and immigrated to the United States in 1866. On arriving in this country he proceeded to Houston county, this state, in which place he lived for four years. Some time later he came to Clay county, where he homesteaded a tract of land in section 28, Moland township, and there spent the rest of his life. He died in 1895 and his widow died in 1908. They were the parents of three children, Signa, Hilbert O. and Theodore H. A review of the life of the latter appears on another page of this volume and in it are given further and extended details of the history of the Skrei family in this state.

Hilbert O. Skrei was educated in the schools of Clay county and later worked on his father's farm, where he was well trained in the rudiments of agriculture. In April, 1917, he became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of prime land in section 22, Goose Prairie township, and is now engaged in general farming and contemplates adding blooded stock at an

early date. He raises wheat, corn, oats, rye and potatoes on the home farm, and since the commencement of his operations he has met with a commendable measure of success. Mr. Skrei is also the owner of eighty acres in Montana. He lived on the old place near Glyndon before taking over his present holding.

In June, 1916, Hilbert O. Skrei was united in marriage to Emelia Dennison, who was born in August, 1878. The marriage took place in Glendine, Montana. Mr. Skrei is a member of the Lutheran church and is earnestly interested in all its good works, and he and his wife participate in the social and cultural activities of the neighborhood in which they live, ever ready to assist in all movements tending to the welfare of the community.

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### GEORGE S. BARNES.

The success which George S. Barnes attained would alone entitle him to special mention in a work of this character as one of the really prominent men of Clay county and of the state of Minnesota; but in citizenship as well he did that which causes his name to be honored, for his labors were a factor in promoting the growth and development of the great Northwest. The real up-builders of a county, state or nation, are not those who handle the reins of government, but those who give their influence to continuous municipal progress, and who found, promote and control extensive business interests. Laudable ambition, ready adaptability to every contingency, and a capacity for hard work are and were essential elements of success, especially in the early pioneer days, and in none of these elements was George S. Barnes lacking. It, therefore, is not a matter of marvel that he occupied a pre-eminent position among the builders of Clay county and the state. The eminence to which he attained was also due to the fact that he had the ability to recognize the opportune moment and to correctly appraise the value of a situation and determine its possibilities.

In the passing of George S. Barnes it is well for us to stop in the midst of the stress, hurry and turmoil that go to make up life as we live it—to consider the character of one who has quit the scene, to estimate his plan of life and to draw from it more clearly than we possibly could from mere theories a conclusion as to what makes this life of ours worth living; and we who step aside from the quick march of our daily duties to do honor to the memory of the subject of this review will at the same