

church, as is Mr. Toftner, and according to the precepts of this denomination their children were reared.

Even though Mr. Toftner has been busy in the development and improvement of his farm, he has found time to devote to the material and civic betterment of the community in which he and his family live. Progressive farmer that he is, he is interested in good roads and has rendered the township valuable service as road supervisor. He also helped to organize the Peoples Supply Company at Gary and is still interested in this enterprise.

GEORGE O. SOLBERG.

George O. Solberg, a prosperous farmer of Flom township, Norman county, where he is the owner and proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and eighty acres, a true American, many of whose relatives have offered their lives to their adopted country, was born in Goodhue county, Minnesota, May 28, 1864, a son of Olaf and Esther (Aaker) Solberg, both natives of Norway. The father and mother were married in their native land and soon afterward immigrated to America, where they settled in Goodhue county, Minnesota, the birthplace of the subject of this sketch. There they took land and remained until their deaths. They had five children, as follow: Anna, George O., the subject of this sketch; Knute, deceased; Ellen and Peter.

Reared to manhood on the home farm in Goodhue county, Minnesota, where he attended the public schools, George O. Solberg has been admirably fitted to carry on successful farming operations in the Northwest. When he reached the age of thirty-one years, he left his father's home and started out for himself on a tract of farm land which he purchased in Goodhue county. Later, he entered the employ of the Farmers Fire Insurance Company, at Vasa, Minnesota, as inspector, in which capacity he made annual trips for investigation. In 1913, he came up into Norman county, where he purchased one hundred and eighty acres of Flom township, and here he carried on general farming and stock raising, breeding thoroughbred Holstein cattle. When Mr. Solberg came to his present farm, he found it fairly well supplied with buildings, but he has added others which add to the efficiency and completeness of his farm plant. He has set out many evergreens on his holding, thus adding to its beauty.

On November 6, 1895, Mr. Solberg married Emma Neil at Minneapolis. She was born at Vasa, Minnesota, in 1865, a daughter of Adolf Fredrick and Anna Katherine Neil. To this marriage have been born the following children: Esther, Olaf, a farmer of Flom township, this county; Harold, Clara, Helen, Victor, Anna and Emma. Mr. and Mrs. Solberg are members of the Lutheran church, and are very active in the church work of the community. Both are members of the American Red Cross Association, giving that worthy organization all their moral support and of their substance as much as they can spare.

Mr. Solberg is an American-born citizen and is proud of it. His pride is pardonable for several of his relatives offered their lives to their adopted country, and two of them, a cousin and an uncle, gave their last full measure of devotion to the cause of national integrity and national honor in the Civil War. During that war, his father was a lieutenant in the home guard and he had an uncle, L. K. Aaker, who was a first lieutenant in the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, serving with bravery throughout the War of the Rebellion. After the return of this uncle from the service, he was elected to the state Legislature, serving four terms in the lower house and one in the upper house. He spent his last days in Crookston, Polk county, this state, which was his home. During the time of the Spanish-American War, George O. Solberg kept up the family honor and tradition by offering his services to the United States army, but since he was married, he was rejected. At this time when the world is bleeding from the ghastly wounds of the three years of the greatest war in history, when the forces of absolutism and militarism are trying to dominate the world, he would again freely offer himself on the altar of freedom and democracy.

OLE THORSON.

Ole Thorson, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers and stockmen of the Flom neighborhood, former assessor of Flom township, former president and present member of the board of directors of the Flom Creamery Company, former secretary-treasurer of the Flom Mutual Fire Insurance Company and for years regarded as among the most progressive and public-spirited citizens of that community, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota since he was eighteen years of age and of Norman county since the spring of 1886, being there-