

been a strong asset to his community, for every movement for bettering social, educational and business conditions has met with his marked approval and his hearty co-operation; thus he stands among his neighbors as an example of good citizenship.

HANS O. SOLUM.

Hans O. Solum, the well-to-do proprietor of a two hundred and eighty-seven acres and formerly a well-known grain buyer of Barnesville, Clay county, was born in Hadeland, Norway, in 1862, a son of Ole H. and (Kari) Stadum Solum, the former of whom was a laborer in the old country, but some years after settling in Minnesota became a prosperous farmer.

In 1868 the Solum family immigrated to the United States and on arriving in Minnesota, settled in Fillmore county, where they acquired a homestead tract on which they resided for four years, during this period laying the foundations of the success which subsequently they achieved. The elder Solum was among the first to settle in Tansem township, Clay county, and began his farming career with a wagon, a yoke of oxen and three cows. He built a log cabin with a sod roof, and in that the family lived for several years. The elder Solum, on one occasion started to Alexandria with oxen to get a quantity of wheat ground into flour, but while on the journey, at Fergus Falls, he traded the wheat for flour and returned. The children of the Solum family were: Hans O., Andrew, Sever, Martin and Peter.

Hans O. Solum was reared on a frontier farm and was educated in the common schools, remaining at home until he was twenty-three years old. He assisted his parents in the labors of improving and developing the farm and his boyhood days were full of hard work, mingled with experiences common to boys in a new country. After his marriage in 1885, Mr. Solum bought land in Tansem township and began farming operations with a team of oxen, remaining for three years on that farm, at the end of which time he moved to Barnesville and bought grain for the Minnesota and Dakota Elevator Company, remaining with the company for two years. For several years he was in partnership with S. F. Packard in the grain-buying business at Barnesville, having warehouses in that place and in Lawndale, and for six years did a very successful business. Mr. Solum disposed of his interest in the grain business in 1895 and became connected with the Min-

neapolis & Northern Elevator Company, and was thus engaged for ten years or more.

In 1885 Hans O. Solum was united in marriage to Engeborg Haugen, who was born in Norway and who came to this country with her parents, who were numbered among the earlier settlers of Otter Tail county, this state. To this union the following children have been born: Peter (deceased), Hilda, Emma, Carl, Mabel, Norman and Eddie. The parents of Mrs. Solum, Peter and Kari (Loftingmo) Haugen, were natives of Norway and on coming to Minnesota took a homestead near Erhart, Otter Tail county, and there spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. Solum has ever given a good citizen's attention to public affairs and has served on the city council for four years and is also a member of the school board, and for some years was treasurer of the same. Upon his retirement from the grain business he bought an interest in the concern of Norby & Solum, general merchants, Barnesville, and was in the company for four years. He bought his father's homestead and has lived on it since 1913. This was originally a tract of eighty acres, to which he has added and is now the owner of two hundred and eighty-seven acres. Mr. Solum is also engaged in breeding full-blooded Shorthorn cattle and is regarded throughout the township as one of the progressive and prosperous farmers of the community in which he resides.

NIKOLAI NELSON.

Nikolai Nelson, one of the well-known and substantial farmers of Good Hope township, Norman county, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was fifteen years of age. He was born on March 16, 1877, a son of Nels and Engbor (Aslock) Larson, farming people, natives also of Norway, who are still living in that country and who are the parents of seven children, all of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Anna, Louritz, Emanuel, Bertina, Martina and Maria. Of these children, the three sons are all farming in Norman county. Of the daughters, one, the first-born, Anna, widow of Ludwig Nilson, came to this country and is now living in the village of Lockhart, in Norman county. The other daughters continue to make their homes in their native land.

In 1892 Nikolai Nelson was brought to this country and he was reared in Minnesota, receiving here his schooling and being trained in the way