

M. J. SOLUM.

M. J. Solum, president of the Security State Bank of Hitterdal, clerk of Goose Prairie township, and for the past quarter of century actively engaged in the general hardware and farm-implement business at Hitterdal, one of the veteran business men of Clay county, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota and of Clay county since he was fifteen years of age, having come here in the year 1888. He was born on June 14, 1873, one of the three children born to John and Mette (Solum) Johnson, also natives of Norway, who spent all their lives there.

When fifteen years of age M. J. Solum came to the United States in 1888, alone and proceeded on out to the Red River country in Minnesota, which then was attracting large numbers of settlers, making his home with some kinsfolk in the township of Tansem, in Clay county. He arrived there, owing sixty-five dollars of money advanced on his steamship ticket, and began working at farm labor, his first wages being eight or ten dollars a month. Later he learned the carpenter trade, at which he began working for seventy-five cents a day, his wages being gradually increased twenty-five cents a "raise" until he was receiving one dollar and seventy-five cents a day, the highest wages he ever received for a day's labor. During the winter of 1892-93, Mr. Solum took a course of instruction in Hope Academy at Moorhead; and in the fall of 1893, engaged in the hardware business at Hitterdal, erecting there a little store building, eighteen by twenty-four feet, and starting with a stock of goods valued at about two hundred and fifty dollars. From that small beginning Mr. Solum's present well-established and extensive business has had a continuous growth. From time to time, as the demands of his growing business required, he built additions on to his original store room and it was not long until he was doing a large business in the general hardware and farm-implement line. On January 3, 1914, his store was destroyed by fire, and in that same year he erected his present substantial store building of brick and cement blocks, the same being thirty-three by eighty feet, with a full basement, and at the same time added to his stock a full line of furniture. In addition to his mercantile business at Hitterdal, Mr. Solum has ever given his close attention to the general business affairs of the community. He was one of the organizers of the Security State Bank of Hitterdal, of which he has been president for the past ten years. It was also largely through his initiative that seven or eight years ago the present flourishing Solum

Elevator Company was organized. He also has given close attention to local civic affairs and for the past eight or nine years has been clerk of the township of Goose Prairie.

In the year 1896, about three years after embarking in business at Hitterdal, M. J. Solum was united in marriage to Anna Anderson, and to this union three children have been born, Norman, Mette and Raymond. Mr. and Mrs. Solum are members of the United Lutheran church at Hitterdal and take an active interest in the affairs of the same, Mr. Solum being the present secretary of the local congregation.

LUDVIG WALKER.

Ludvig Walker, one of the well-known and prosperous farmers of Kurtz township, owner of a full section of land of prime quality, was born in the kingdom of Norway on Christmas Eve, 1848. He is the son of Kristen and Brita (Marum) Walker, natives of Solvorn, Norway. The original family name was Walaker, which has been changed to Walker in recent years. Kristen Walker was born in 1809, and his wife, Brita (Marum) Walker, was born in 1809. They were the parents of the following children: Anna, a widow, now living in Norway; Lars, deceased, and Ludvig, the subject of this sketch.

Ludvig Walker was educated in the schools of Norway and worked for some time at farm labor. At the age of twenty-one he decided to seek his fortune in the United States and came to this country in 1869. On his arrival, he went to the state of Wisconsin and worked on farms for about seven or eight years. In 1878, he came to the state of Minnesota and settled in Clay county, where he has ever since been engaged in the active duties of farming and is recognized as one of the most progressive and substantial agriculturalists of Kurtz township. As he prospered in his labors, he added to his land holdings and is now the owner of six hundred and forty acres of prime land, one hundred acres of which is set out to the cultivation of potatoes. Mr. Walker carried out a series of systematic improvements on his farm, and his outbuildings and dwelling house are among the best in the district.

In 1883 Ludvig Walker was united in marriage to Carrie Grove, who was born in Minnesota in November, 1862. They are the parents of the following children: Annie, deceased; Thomas, Carl and Minnie, all living