

in farming for himself on his own land. In connection with general and mixed farming he specializes in potato growing, planting a large acreage every year. He was formerly one of the stockholders and for two years a director of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Hawley. He is also a stockholder in the Rollag Telephone Company at Rollag, also a stockholder in the Equity Packing Plant in Fargo. He is financially interested in the Northwestern Hospital in Moorhead.

Politically, Mr. Torstenson is a Republican. He has served ten years consecutively as treasurer of the local school district and is still holding that position. He is unmarried.

JOHN G. STEEN.

It is a pleasure to look over a well-kept and productive farm like that owned by John G. Steen, of Spring Prairie township, Clay county, where he has long been regarded as a representative citizen and a man of many commendable traits, a useful and highly respected gentleman.

Mr. Steen was born in Honefos, Norway, in 1864, and there he grew to manhood and attended school. He came to America, single, in 1882, and located first at Lake Park, Minnesota, from which point he traveled for the Northern Pacific Elevator Company, with which he remained seven years, giving the firm entire satisfaction and doing much to increase the business and prestige of the same. He then came to Spring Prairie township, Clay county, and with the exception of two years, during which he was engaged in the mercantile business in Spokane, Washington, has been here continuously ever since 1897, living on his present farm all the while. Through hard work and perseverance he developed a fine farm from the raw prairie, and, adding to his original farm, he now has three hundred and twenty acres of well-improved land, on which he has been very successful as a general farmer. He makes a specialty of raising Holstein cattle.

Mr. Steen was married in Clay county to Bertha Thuney, a native of Goodhue county, this state, and a daughter of Erick Thuney. They have only one child, Edwin Steen, whose birth occurred on October 15, 1887. He grew up on the home farm and was educated in the public schools and in the State Normal at Moorhead. He has remained on the homestead with his father and assists with the operation of the farm. He was married in 1910 to Emily Hougrud, who was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, and a

daughter of Ole Hougrud. To this union two children have been born, Jarvis and Bernard Steen. Politically, John G. Steen is a member of the Nonpartisan League. He has served as township assessor.

Gulbrand Larson and wife, parents of the subject of this sketch, spent their entire lives in Norway. Four children were born to them, namely: Mary, who lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota; Mollie, who died in Moorhead, Minnesota; Carrie, who lives in Norway, and John G., the subject of this sketch. Erick and Martha Thuney, parents of Mr. Steen's wife, were born in Norway, from which country they came to America, locating in Goodhue county, Minnesota, later moving to Clay county, where the mother is still living, the father having died some years ago. They were the parents of the following children: Anna, Jacob, Ole, John, Susan, Minnie, Bertha, Ida, Erick and Julia.

NILS A. KJELSTAD.

Nils A. Kjelstad, a farmer of Highland Grove township, Clay county, was born in Warmland, Sweden, November 4, 1870. He is a son of Andrew and Stena (Nelson) Gunderson, both natives also of the above-named locality in Sweden, where they grew to maturity, were married and established their home. There the mother's death occurred, after which the father immigrated to America in 1880 and located at once in Highland Grove township, Clay county, Minnesota, taking up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 29. He was one of the pioneers of that locality and by hard work and perseverance he improved a good farm, which he continued to operate until about 1907, when he moved to Pelican Lake, in Becker county, this state. Two of the children by his first marriage are living at this writing, namely: Nils A. and Gust. After locating in Clay county, Andrew Gunderson married Ida Hammer, a native of Warmland, Sweden, from which country she came to Minnesota when young. Three children, all living, have been born to the second marriage, namely: Emilia, the wife of L. R. Willis, and Fred and Oscar.

Nils A. Kjelstad spent his childhood in Sweden, where he attended school for awhile, but received most of his education in Clay county, being ten years old when his father brought him to America. He assisted with the general work on the homestead and as a young man began farming for himself, buying one hundred and seventy acres in 1894, in Highland Grove township. He at once began actively farming the same and soon had the