

organization of that company Mr. McCartan has taken an active interest in the same and most of the time has served the company in the capacity of president, which position he now occupies, though until lately giving little attention to the actual details of newspaper work, his real-estate operations occupying the greater part of his time. In January, 1917, the manager of the *Record* died and Mr. McCartan was compelled to assume the management of the paper until such time as he could find a successor for the late manager. Mr. McCartan takes an active interest in local political affairs and for the past four years and more has been serving as a member of the city council from his ward.

In November, 1914, Arthur A. McCartan was united in marriage to Gundrun Scow, daughter of Erick O. Scow, of Halstad, in the neighboring county of Norman, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Arthur Austin. Mr. and Mrs. McCartan are members of the Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs.

A. T. THOMAS.

A. T. Thomas, a farmer of Kragnes township, Clay county, was born in Norway on June 24, 1848, and there he grew to manhood and attended the common schools. He is a son of Torge and Renne Islik (Tommas) Tommas, natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and established their home, spending their lives there, the father dying when about forty-six years old, his wife having preceded him to the grave by three years. The father was a laborer all his life. To these parents four children were born, namely: Osmon, who makes his home in Alaska; Sarah, who is married and lives in Minnesota; A. T., the subject of this sketch, and Christie, who died at about the age of seven years.

A. T. Thomas was nineteen years old when his father died. He remained in Norway until he was twenty-one, when he immigrated to America, locating first in Houston county, Minnesota, and for some time worked out as a hired hand on a farm. He saved his earnings and in 1878, after he had spent three years in Clay county, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 15, Kragnes township, later buying one hundred and sixty acres in section 10, same township. He has made all the improvements on his land, including a substantial set of buildings. He has been quite successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and has one of the best farms

in his locality, in which he has lived since the pioneer days, when this section of the state was sparsely settled.

On June 30, 1890, Mr. Thomas was married to Anna K. Gletna, in Fargo, North Dakota. She was born in Norway on March 11, 1862, and there she spent her girlhood and attended school. Her parents, Knut K. and Maria L. (Bergstal) Gletna, were natives of Norway. He died in Norway in about 1913. The mother is still living in Norway. There were seven children in the Gletna family, six of whom are living. Two of these, Johanna and Marie, came to America; the others are still living in Norway. Mrs. Thomas came to America in 1889, locating at Fargo. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas five children have been born: Theodore, Regina, Louis, Clarence and Arthur.

Politically, Mr. Thomas is a Republican. He and his wife are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

WILLIAM S. LEE.

William S. Lee, cashier of the Citizens State Bank of Barnesville and one of the best-known and most energetic bankers in Clay county, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born at Little Falls, in Morrison county, on December 2, 1872, son of Samuel Lee, an early merchant at that place and who was one of the first to operate a ferry across the Mississippi river there. During the seventies Samuel Lee moved from Little Falls to Long Prairie and in the latter place started a store, which he continued to operate until his death some years later.

Reared at Long Prairie, to which place his parents had moved when he was but a child, William S. Lee received his schooling there and early became thoroughly familiar with business forms and the mercantile business, through association with his father in the latter's store. After his father's death he continued to operate the store for about two years, at the end of which time he disposed of his business interests there and entered a store at Akeley. Not long afterward he was employed to take charge of a department store for A. L. Cole at Akeley, going thence, after a while, to Eagle Bend, where for five years he was engaged as assistant cashier of the First National Bank of that place. In 1907 Mr. Lee went from Eagle Bend to Elizabeth, where he organized the Merchants State Bank and was