

land containing one hundred and twenty acres in Bear Park township, which he has since developed and improved and to which he has added and is now the owner of three hundred twenty acres of choice land, on which he has carried out a number of valuable improvements and is engaged in general farming. In addition to his farming operations he is also engaged in the raising of Shorthorn cattle, of which he breeds an excellent strain. He has also carried on threshing since he was sixteen years old, and with the exception of three years has been actively employed at that branch of agricultural labor, now having a first-class outfit, which he operates with considerable skill, being thus engaged for about twenty years.

In 1883 Ole I. Ofstedal was united in marriage to Caroline Ofstedal, who was born in Olmsted county, this state, a daughter of Johanes Ofstedal, and to this union the following children were born: Ida, Cora, Ella, Anna, Johanes, William, Nora (deceased), Dina, Mabel, Benhart (deceased), Benhart, Alice, and Palmer. The mother of these children died on March 30, 1917. Mr. Ofstedal is a member of the Sundahl Lutheran church, which he helped to organize, and with which congregation he and the members of his family have been identified for several years. He has always taken a good citizen's part in the general welfare of the community and has assisted in all worthy projects calculated to serve the people. He assisted in the organization of the Bear Park Mercantile Company and in many other directions has given evidence of his earnest interest in all local affairs affecting the locality of which he has been a resident for nearly forty years.

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### JOHAN TOFTNER.

Johan Toftner, a prosperous and energetic farmer of Waukon township, Norman county, where he owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres of well-tilled land and where he is actively connected with the social, civic and co-operative business interests of the community in which he lives, was born in Norway, June 22, 1874, a son of Thomas and Marie Toftner, both natives of Norway, where the father spent his whole life as a farmer. A year before her son Johan came to America, the mother joined her son Gust in Strand township, Norman county, and made her home with him there on the farm until her death. Thomas and Mary Toftner were the parents of several children and the three who grew to maturity were: Gust, Crist, who came to this country with his brother Johan, and who went to

North Dakota, but has not been heard of since, and Johan, the subject of this review.

Johan Toftner was reared to early manhood on the old home farm in Norway, where he received his elementary education in the local public schools and his practical, industrial training on the old home place. He was only sixteen years of age when his mother came to America to join her son Gust, but in the next year the subject of this sketch followed his kin to this country and at once joined them in Waukon township, Norman county. Being only a young man with no capital, he set about industriously to accumulate enough money to begin farming on his own account by working on farms in North Dakota during the summers of seven years. In 1898 he had the opportunity to purchase eighty acres of wild land, all in brush and small timber, in Waukon township, and after he acquired this holding, he began immediately to improve the same. This would have been an almost unsurmountable task for a man later in life, but Mr. Toftner, who is by nature energetic, thrifty and determined, was not daunted by the size and difficulty of the undertaking. Eventually he cleared all of this land and brought it under cultivation, and now, where formerly grew nothing but scrub timber and underbrush, are fields of waving grain and substantial farm buildings. Since the purchase of the land he had made his home on it. Prosperity has so smiled upon his effort that he has recently been enabled to add eighty acres more to his holding and now he has a fine farm of one hundred sixty acres on which he carries on general diversified agriculture. Norman county has been his home since he came to this country.

In 1905, Mr. Toftner was united in marriage to Carrie Gullingsrud, who was born in Norman county, a daughter of Thomas and Carrie (Sanden) Gullingsrud, pioneer homesteaders in Waukon township, Norman county. Thomas Gullingsrud was born in Norway and landed on American soil in March, 1879. After spending two years in Beloit, Wisconsin, he came on out to Norman county and took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Waukon township, where he still resides. He erected exceptionally fine buildings on the place, which he has increased to several hundred acres. His wife, Carrie Sanden, also was a native of Norway. He and she grew up in the land of their nativity and there married, coming together to America. They were the parents of eleven children. Mr. and Mrs. Johan Toftner were the parents of five children, all of whom are living: Clara, Tina, Theodore, Agnes and Jens. Mrs. Toftner died on April 19, 1912. She was a conscientious and consistent member of the Norwegian Lutheran

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.

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### 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.