

World. In 1880 when he was twenty years old, Mr. Larson emigrated to America, coming directly to Swedish Grove, Kandiyohi or Meeker county, Minnesota, and worked in those counties for two years. In October, 1882, Mr. Larson came northward to Norman county and located on a farm one mile west of Twin Valley, which was comprised of one quarter section of disputed land. There on the bare prairie he erected his house and farm buildings, around which he planted a grove. Later he homesteaded another quarter section in Beltrami county, Minnesota, which the government allowed him without his having to reside on it for the required number of years, in lieu of the disputed land which he later had to buy from the railroad. Mr. Larson carries on general farming and in his pursuits he is a careful manager and industrious man.

In June, 1883, Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Julia Nerison, who was born in Nicollet county, Minnesota, on April 7, 1861, and died August 3, 1888, the daughter of Gunder and Torbjr Nerison. By her, his first wife, he has three children: Augusta, George, and John. Mr. Larson was married the second time on December 13, 1890, when Elsie Hanson, who was born in Norway, January 15, 1867, the daughter of Hans and Jacobine Peterson, became his wife. To this union have been born five sons, namely: Helmer, Albin, Emil, William and Bennie, and three daughters, namely: Nora, Hilda and Dagny. Mr. Larson and family are active and consistent members of the Lutheran church, he having helped to organize the first church in Twin Valley.

Mr. Larson's activity has not been entirely limited to agriculture, in the pursuit of which he has been so successful, but he has branched out into business, being one of the organizers of the creamery at Twin Valley.

JOHN TORSKE.

John Torske, a well-known and prominent merchant of Borup, Norman county, was born in Norway on January 3, 1871, and is a son of John and Bridt (Hoven) Torske, also natives of Norway and were there educated in the schools and later married. They were of the farming class, and after their marriage they established their home on a farm and there the father lived until the time of his death some years ago. The mother is still living at her home in her native land. They were ever active members of the

Lutheran church and were among the highly respected people of the district in which they lived. They were the parents of the following children: Erick, Hans, John, Lars, Anna and Edward, all of whom are still living.

John Torske received his education in the schools of Norway and one year in the high school. He was reared on the home farm and remained a resident of the land of his birth until he was seventeen years of age, when in 1888, he felt that there were better opportunities for him in the land of America, where many of his countrymen had located and were meeting with some measure of success. Having decided to cast his lot in the new land, he did not hesitate, and sailed for the United States. He first located at Grand Forks, North Dakota, but did not remain there long. He then went to Osnabrock, that state, and there he worked as a farm hand for a time, and then learned the trade of a harness-maker, and worked at the trade in that and other places for some years. His desire was to have a business of his own and soon established a shop at Inkster, North Dakota. This business he operated for some years, when he sold, and returned to Norway on a visit in 1894. He soon returned to the land of his adoption and worked at his trade for a year, and then he located at Frazee, Minnesota, where he clerked in the store of Baer Brothers for five years. In 1901 he again became desirous of having a business of his own, and with his brother, Hans, he came to Borup, Norman county, where they erected the present substantial business block, forty-four by sixty-two feet, and engaged in the mercantile business, under the firm name of Torske Brothers. Here they built up a splendid trade, and had the confidence and respect of the entire public, for their honest and business-like methods. The business continued under this name until 1913, when the brother retired and Mr. Torske became the sole owner, and has since continued the business.

In 1897 John Torske was united in marriage to Anna Taber, a native of Germany, where she was educated and later came to the United States. To this union the following children were born: Bertha, Luella, Edna, Jennings, Harold, Alice, Kermit and Norman, all of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Torske are members of the Lutheran church, and have ever taken an active interest in the success and growth of the local society, to which they are liberal subscribers. They are a most hospitable people and most excellent citizens, and are held in the highest regard by all.

John Torske is a splendid example of a self-made man, and to himself he owes his success in life. Coming to America when sixteen years of age, alone and without funds, to seek a home in a strange land, he has succeeded beyond his highest expectations. Reared amid the frugal surroundings of

his early home, he received a good education and was taught the lessons of honesty, economy and industry. These represented the capital that he brought with him to the new country, and they have been to him more than money to many a young man starting out in life. He has been a hard worker at all times, and did well the task that he had in hand. Whether on the farm, in the shop or in the store as a clerk, he felt the dignity of his position, and his highest ambition was to do his work to the best of his ability. He has always taken a keen interest in local affairs and has been prominent in local politics.

GJERT J. KVIDT.

Gjert J. Kvidt, a prosperous farmer of Flom township, Norman county, where he owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and fifty-two acres, which he has developed from the raw prairie, was born in Norway, August 11, 1862, a son of Johanes and Margretta (Urdahl) Kvidt, both of whom are natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and reared their family. Feeling that they could establish themselves comfortably in America, on the soil of the Northwest, of which they had heard much from their friends and relatives who had come to this country, they immigrated to this country in 1869 and settled in Houston county, this state, and lived there for nine years. In 1878 they with four sons and one daughter moved to the Red River valley and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in Flom township, Norman county, where they have continued to live. Several years ago, they sold a part of their holding to their son, the subject of this review, and they have continued to live here with him, still retaining forty acres of their original tract, on which they raise stock. They are the parents of five children, all of whom are living here in Norman county; they are as follow: Engbert, farmer in section 8, this township; Gjert J., the subject of this review; Jens, a farmer of section 12, this township; Anna, now Mrs. Nels Albertson, and Martin, who farms in section 6, this township.

Gjert J. Kvidt received his only schooling in the common schools in Houston county. After his parents had come to this county he contributed his industry to the development of the family holding, and finally, about twenty-five years ago, he bought a part of his father's farm and has continued to farm it successfully since. The part of the home farm, which he