

in his home county and for seven years was one of the most successful teachers in this section of the state. Feeling the dignity of his calling and the need of his service to the county, he gave his best efforts to his work. His success as a teacher attracted the attention of the officials of the First State Bank of Gary to his excellent work and in 1907 he entered that institution as assistant cashier. In 1913 he became cashier of the bank, which position he now holds. His business-like management of the bank and his courteous treatment of the general public have won for him the confidence and praise of the people of the county. In addition to his duties as cashier of the bank, Mr. Bagne is also treasurer of the Gary Creamery Company, treasurer of the Peoples Supply Company and treasurer of the Gary Telephone Company. His interest in the civic life of the town won for him the office of treasurer of the village and in this official capacity he is giving the people a splendid administration. Mr. Bagne's life is a busy one, yet he finds time to give the closest care and attention to all the duties that have been imposed upon him. He is conscious of the honor and trust that have been given him and feels that his best efforts should be given in return. To him is due much of the fine financial spirit of the town, and his best efforts are ever directed toward a better and larger Gary. Local civic pride has been strengthened by his activities and today the schools, churches, business institutions and public improvements of Gary are second to none, for a place of its size in this part of the state.

On May 14, 1913, Nels Beckman Bagne was united in marriage to Bella Georgina Knutson and to this union two children have been born, Ardith Geraldine and Kermit Kasson. Mr. and Mrs. Bagne are prominent members of the United Lutheran church and are liberal subscribers to the support of the local society. They have long been active in the social life of the community and are held in the highest regard by all.

REINHART W. WILKINS.

One of the native sons of Norman county, who have met with success in their chosen profession and have won distinction in the local business world, is Reinhart W. Wilkins, a well-known grain buyer of Lockhart, who was born in Pleasant township, Norman county, in 1885, the son of William and Augusta (Treichel) Wilkins, who were born in Germany and who came to the United States as young man and woman and settled in Goodhue

county, Minnesota. There they were married and established their home in the new land. They remained in Goodhue county until the year 1881, when they came to Norman county, being among the first settlers on the broad prairies and wooded tracts. They knew that the life would be a hard one, yet they were determined to obtain a home for themselves in the rich farming and grazing country. Mr. Wilkinson homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land and built a small house in which the family lived for a number of years. The place was in time developed and improved and what was once a useless waste was transformed into a highly cultivated tract, where grows the golden grain and where roam herds of the finest of cattle and droves of splendid hogs. All this required much work and patience, but with it all came success and the knowledge that much had been accomplished. As he prospered, Mr. Wilkins made many substantial improvements to the farm and added to the original tract eighty acres, making him an ideal farm of two hundred and forty acres, where he and his wife still reside, enjoying many of the comforts of life to which their hard work and economy have entitled them.

In their struggle for a home in a new land and among strangers and amid new conditions, William and Augusta Wilkins, were never forgetful of their duty to society and their church. From childhood they were reared in the faith of the Lutheran church and in their new home they were faithful to the teachings of their youth. From the time of their entry into the life of the county they were ever solicitous regarding the establishment of good schools and churches, wherein their children might be educated and worship God. They were energetic, frugal and industrious and early entered into the spirit of their adopted country, becoming patriotic and highly respected residents of Norman county. They are the parents of seven children, namely: Bertha, Reinhart W., John, Anna, Tena, Fred and Lillian.

Reinhart W. Wilkins received his education in the public schools of his home county and was reared on the home farm. He remained at home until he reached manhood and for two years engaged in general farming. His desire from boyhood had been for a business career and when the opportunity presented itself for him to take charge of the elevator at Hadler he accepted it. He remained there for two years and met with much success, becoming thoroughly conversant with the management of the business. In 1914 he moved to Lockhart to become manager of the St. Anthony & North Dakota Elevator Company and still holds that position.

In the same year in which he moved to Lockhart, R. W. Wilkins was united in marriage to Ottela Bartz; daughter of Julius Bartz and wife, prom-

inent people of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins are active members of the Lutheran church and take a deep interest in the social, religious and educational life of the town, where they are held in high regard and esteem. Mr. Wilkins has always taken a keen interest in the civic life of his home community, as has his father, who has served as assessor for many years, and has given efficient service on the school board. R. W. Wilkins is now a member of the local school board and is one of the progressive and prominent members. To him is due much of the credit for the establishment of the consolidated high school and for the erection of the splendid modern building which is the pride of the town and the surrounding country.

OSCAR STADUM.

One of the most progressive and promising of the younger farmers of Clay county is Oscar Stadum, of Tansem township, who has been contented to remain "under the roof that heard his earliest cry," which the poet Tennyson says is a privilege that we should all highly appreciate, for there are pleasures about the old home place that we cannot find elsewhere in the world.

Mr. Stadum was born on the farm on which he now lives in Tansem township, Clay county, August 25, 1888. He is a son of Andrew and Marie (Hoveland) Stadum, both natives of Norway. The father came to America when young in years and located in Fillmore county, Minnesota, his parents accompanying him. Marie Hoveland was also young when her parents brought her to America, the family locating in Iowa, later removing to Otter Tail county, Minnesota, where her parents still reside. The Stadum family removed from Fillmore county to Clay county, the parents locating on the farm which is now owned by their grandson, Oscar, the subject of this sketch, and here they spent the rest of their lives, dying many years ago. Andrew Stadum helped develop this farm and here he spent the rest of his life, dying some time ago. He was the father of two children, Matilda and Oscar. After his death his widow remarried, her last husband being Ole Stoen, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Peter and Marin Stadum, the paternal grandparents of the subject of this sketch, were natives of Norway, where they resided until about 1875, when they brought their family to Minnesota. They remained about two years in Fillmore county, then came to the farm of one hundred and sixty