

early date. He raises wheat, corn, oats, rye and potatoes on the home farm, and since the commencement of his operations he has met with a commendable measure of success. Mr. Skrei is also the owner of eighty acres in Montana. He lived on the old place near Glyndon before taking over his present holding.

In June, 1916, Hilbert O. Skrei was united in marriage to Emelia Dennison, who was born in August, 1878. The marriage took place in Glendine, Montana. Mr. Skrei is a member of the Lutheran church and is earnestly interested in all its good works, and he and his wife participate in the social and cultural activities of the neighborhood in which they live, ever ready to assist in all movements tending to the welfare of the community.

GEORGE S. BARNES.

The success which George S. Barnes attained would alone entitle him to special mention in a work of this character as one of the really prominent men of Clay county and of the state of Minnesota; but in citizenship as well he did that which causes his name to be honored, for his labors were a factor in promoting the growth and development of the great Northwest. The real up-builders of a county, state or nation, are not those who handle the reins of government, but those who give their influence to continuous municipal progress, and who found, promote and control extensive business interests. Laudable ambition, ready adaptability to every contingency, and a capacity for hard work are and were essential elements of success, especially in the early pioneer days, and in none of these elements was George S. Barnes lacking. It, therefore, is not a matter of marvel that he occupied a pre-eminent position among the builders of Clay county and the state. The eminence to which he attained was also due to the fact that he had the ability to recognize the opportune moment and to correctly appraise the value of a situation and determine its possibilities.

In the passing of George S. Barnes it is well for us to stop in the midst of the stress, hurry and turmoil that go to make up life as we live it—to consider the character of one who has quit the scene, to estimate his plan of life and to draw from it more clearly than we possibly could from mere theories a conclusion as to what makes this life of ours worth living; and we who step aside from the quick march of our daily duties to do honor to the memory of the subject of this review will at the same

time pay tribute to a life whose theory and practice went hand in hand. This theory of life was the simple but difficult one that duty to God, neighbor, and self are one and the same, and the record of his long, busy years shows not only the discharge of that duty, but a force and serenity that could only come from a nature as gentle as it was strong, joined to a conscience as sensitive as it was tireless. The community knows only in part of his public spirit, his liberality where any measures for the public good were concerned. All who were associated with him in business or financial matters recognized his absolute integrity as well as his fairness. His was the sympathy of real wisdom, the gentleness of true force, the full value of a life well lived from day to day.

George S. Barnes was born in Vermont in 1840, a son of Philo Barnes, who died when George S. was a young man. The family had long resided in New England. The subject of this review grew to manhood in Vermont, and attended the public schools, and there he resided until 1864, when he came to Ononoco, Minnesota, and bought a farm in Olmsted county, on which he resided until 1871, when he sold out and moved to Clay county, and in partnership with L. H. Tenney bought a farm near where the village of Glyndon now stands. His widow now resides on the original farm. He and Mr. Tenney increased their farming interests until they operated about five thousand acres, carrying on general farming and stock raising on an extensive scale and with pronounced success all along the line. Neither of them resided on their land, but made their homes in Glyndon, where they opened a general store, the first store in the village, and they also bought and sold grain in large quantities.

After the death of Mr. Tenney, a Mr. Bangs became a partner with Mr. Barnes in the grain business. Mr. Barnes became associated with the Northern Pacific Grain Company, of which he was later president, in which capacity he had charge of the elevators along the Northern Pacific railroad all the way from St. Paul, Minnesota, to Tacoma, Washington, thus becoming one of the best-known grain buyers of the great Northwest. Mr. Barnes made his home at Glyndon until 1883, when he moved to Fargo, North Dakota, where he spent practically all of his life thereafter. However, he was living at Glyndon at the time of his death, which occurred on November 28, 1912.

On June 19, 1864, Mr. Barnes was married to Maria L. Paige, a native of Vermont, where she grew to womanhood and was educated and where her family had long been well and favorably known. She is the

mother of three children, namely: George S., Jr., Hector G. and Marie, wife of Otto J. Morrow.

Mr. Barnes was a thirty-third degree Mason and was prominent in the affairs of that order; in fact, few men in this state ever attained to such a high position in this ancient order. He was an active member of the Congregational church. Politically, he was a Republican.

Such, in brief, is the life history of George S. Barnes. While America is the home of the self-made man, it is not so usual for an individual to advance from a humble position to one of marked prominence—and such a course always awakens admiration and interest. Such was the life record of Mr. Barnes, and there was not a single esoteric phase in his career, his life ever being an open book. Diligent in business, he was also loyal in citizenship and faithful in friendship—while in his home he was a devoted husband and father.

JOHN ELOF CARLSON.

That period following the close of the Civil War, covering two or three decades, was characterized by the immigration of the pioneer element which made the great state of Minnesota what it is today. These home-seekers were sturdy, heroic, sincere, and for the most part, upright and law-abiding people, such as constitute the strength of the commonwealth. One of this sterling type of citizens is John Elof Carlson, a farmer of Highland Grove township, Clay county.

Mr. Carlson was born in Sweden, October 24, 1857. He is a son of Magnus and Lena Carlson, both natives of Sweden, where they grew to maturity, married and established their home, but immigrated to America in 1869, when their son, John E., was twelve years old. The family located at Rochelle, Ogle county, Illinois, but a year and a half later removed to Minnesota, locating near Brainard, where the father worked at construction work on the Northern Pacific. On April 2, 1871, he arrived at Lake Park, Becker county, and soon thereafter took up a homestead five miles northwest of the village of Lake Park, in Cuba township. There he developed a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres, putting the wild prairie land under cultivation, erecting a group of suitable farm buildings and planting a grove. There he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, influential factors among the other pioneer settlers in this locality. The