

served as clerk of the local congregation, and their children have been reared in that faith. There were twelve of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Tillie, Maggie, Julia, Sidney, William, Alice, Ida, Norman, Henry, Alfred and Agnes, all of whom are living save Sidney, who died in 1916.

S. M. Lee was reared on the home farm in Bear Park township, on which he was born, and upon completing the course in the common schools attended business college at Crookston for three years. He then, from 1909 to 1911, was employed with the Bear Park Mercantile Company and in 1912 went over into North Dakota, where he was engaged at Clifford for one year, at the end of which time he returned to this state and for about three years thereafter was in the employ of a business concern at Waupon. In the fall of 1916 he became engaged as manager of the store of the Peoples Supply Company at Gary, which position he now occupies and in which connection he has done much to extend the business of that enterprising concern. Mr. Lee is the owner of an eighty-acre farm in section 22 of Bear Park township. He served a term as clerk of that township while living there and has ever given his earnest attention to the general affairs of his home community.

On January 13, 1912, S. M. Lee was united in marriage to Clara Sveve, daughter of Eric O. Sveve and wife, and to this union three children have been born, Edgar S., Manville and Lyle Roger. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are members of the Lutheran church and take an earnest interest in church work, as well as in the general good works of their home town and the community at large, ever helpful in promoting all agencies having to do with the advancement of the common welfare hereabout.

HELMER N. BENTLEY.

Helmer N. Bentley, local manager at Twin Valley for the Bertram Lumber Company, former member of the board of trustees of that village and former president of the council, is a native of the adjoining state of Iowa, but has been a resident of Minnesota and of Norman county since he was a babe in arms, his parents having settled here back in pioneer days, in the days before Norman county was organized as a civic unit, and he thus has been a witness to the development of this region almost since the beginning of organized settlement here. He was born on a farm in the

vicinity of Northwood, in western Iowa, August 14, 1878, son of Ole S. and Anna (Bergeson) Bentley, natives of the kingdom of Norway, who came up into the Red River valley in 1879 and settled in Norman county, where they are still living, now substantial residents of Wild Rice township.

Ole S. Bentley was born in Norway on February 2, 1850, and was nine years of age when his parents, Ole B. and Mary (Olson) Olson, came with their family to the United States and settled in western Iowa, among the earliest pioneers of that region, where he grew to manhood and married. After his marriage he remained in the vicinity of Northwood until 1879, when he came with his family up into this section of Minnesota and located on a homestead farm in the eastern part of Norman county, where he remained until 1896, in which year he moved to a farm in section 30 of Wild Rice township, where he still lives, one of the most substantial and influential residents of that neighborhood. Ole S. Bentley has served as a member of the board of supervisors of Wild Rice township and has in other ways contributed of his time and his services to the general civic affairs of the community of which he has been a resident since pioneer days. He and his wife are members of the Norwegian (Synod) Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were eleven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth in order of birth, the others being Clarence, Minnie, Ollie (deceased), Julia, Sidney, Sophia, Henry, Olga, Melvin and Laura.

As noted above, Helmer N. Bentley was but an infant when his parents came up from Iowa and settled in Norman county and he grew up on the pioneer home farm, receiving his schooling in the schools of district 41, in Wild Rice township. From the days of his boyhood he was a valued assistant in the labors of developing and improving the home place and he remained at home until 1901, when he entered the employ of the Wilcox Lumber Company and was made the manager of that company's yard at Audubon, where he remained until the summer of 1903, when he transferred his services to the Ballard & Trimble Lumber Company and was made the manager of that company's plant at Twin Valley and continued thus engaged until that plant was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1907. Mr. Bentley spent the following summer on the road for the Ballard & Trimble Company, making collections in North Dakota, and then entered the employ of the Monarch Elevator Company, being made grain buyer for that company at Twin Valley, and was thus engaged until the spring of 1909, when he bought an eighty-acre farm in Wild Rice township, in the vicinity of his old home, and was engaged in farming during the following

summer. In the fall of that same year he sold his farm and resumed business pursuits, for a year thereafter acting as manager of the establishment of the Twin Valley Implement Company. In the fall of 1910 Mr. Bentley resumed his former connection with the Ballard & Trimble Lumber Company and was made manager of that concern's plant and yards at Red Wing, this state, where he remained until the spring of 1912, when he returned to Twin Valley to accept the position of manager of the local plant of the Anchor Lumber Company and was thus engaged when, in the spring of 1916 that yard was sold to the Bertram Lumber Company. Under the new management Mr. Bentley was retained as manager of the plant and has continued to occupy that position since, one of the best-known lumber men in this part of the state. Mr. Bentley has not only been active in business, but has done his part in the public service and has ever been a consistent and intelligent "booster" for his home town and the community at large. In 1915 he served as a member of the board of trustees of the village of Twin Valley and in 1916 was president of the council.

In the year 1903 Helmer N. Bentley was united in marriage to Lena Waller, daughter of Ole Waller and wife, and to this union three children have been born, Lillian, Oris and Irene. Mr. and Mrs. Bentley are members of the Norwegian (Synod) Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church work. They have a very pleasant home at Twin Valley and take an interested part in the community's general social activities.

OSWALD S. HELLERUD.

Oswald S. Hellerud, assistant cashier of the Citizens State Bank of Twin Valley and one of Norman county's most active and influential young business men, is a native son of that county and has lived there all his life, with the exception of the time spent in college at Moorhead and at Fargo. He was born on a pioneer farm in Hegne township on October 9, 1883, son of Hans J. and Thora (Olson) Hellerud, natives of the kingdom of Norway and pioneers of this part of Minnesota, who are now living at Twin Valley, where Hans J. Hellerud, further and fitting reference to whom is made elsewhere in this volume, has for the past ten years been engaged in the clothing business, one of the best-known and most substantial merchants of that thriving village.