

1876, and was but a boy when his parents settled in Norman county. Upon completing the course in the district schools of Halstad township he entered the normal school at Minneapolis and later took a course in a business college in that city. In the spring of 1907 he and his brother each homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Adams county, North Dakota, and a year later returned to this state. Anton Opgrand then went to Minneapolis, where for three years he was employed in the wholesale mercantile establishment of Wyman & Partridge. On May 15, 1912, he and his brother, Arnt, opened their mercantile establishment at Halstad, as above set out, and have since been very successfully engaged in business together. In addition to his mercantile interests, Anton Opgrand is the owner of a farm of eighty acres in Cass county, this state. He is a member of the local society of the Sons of Norway and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

On January 1, 1915, Anton Opgrand was united in marriage to Olga Stordahl, a daughter of Carl Stordahl. Mr. and Mrs. Opgrand are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take an active interest in the affairs of the same. The Opgrand brothers are energetic and enterprising business men and are doing well their part in the promotion of the best interests of the community in which they live.

E. C. BETCHER.

E. C. Betcher, manager of the plant of the Farmers Elevator Company at Ada, member of the city council and a substantial landowner and retired farmer of Norman county, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of Minnesota since the days of his childhood and of Norman county since the days of his young manhood, having settled here with his parents in pioneer days. He was born on January 22, 1858, and was but four years of age when his parents, John and Ernestine (Tobranz) Betcher, also natives of that country and the former of whom was a weaver, left Germany many years ago and came to the United States in 1862 and settled in Goodhue county, this state, not far from the city of Red Wing.

Upon his arrival in Goodhue county John Betcher homesteaded an eighty-acre tract there and proceeded to develop the same, making his home there until 1880, when he disposed of his interests in that county to advantage and came up into this part of the state, pre-empting a quarter

of a section of land in what later came to be organized as Green Meadow township, Norman county, and there established his second and final home in the land of his adoption. Mr. Betcher developed a good farm in Green Meadow township and took an active part in the affairs of that township in pioneer days. There he spent his last days. He and his wife have both passed away. They were members of the German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Robert, Lena, Arthur, Richard (deceased), Fred and Charles.

As noted above, E. C. Betcher was but a child when he came to this state with his parents and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Goodhue county, receiving his schooling in the schools of Red Wing. Being the eldest son he was a valuable aid to his father in the labors of developing the homestead farm, even from the days of his boyhood, and when the family moved to Norman county he aided his father in the initial development of the new farm here, being thus occupied until his marriage in 1886, when he started farming on his own account in Pleasant View township, where he established his home and where he remained until 1898, at the time of the organization of the Farmers Elevator Company, when he was elected manager of the same and in order to give his whole attention to the affairs of that company moved to Ada, the site of the elevator, where he since has made his home. Mr. Betcher continues to retain his farm lands, however, and is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in Pleasant View township, one of the best-improved farms in that part of the county. Mr. Betcher has made a distinct success of the affairs of the Farmers Elevator Company and is widely recognized as one of the leading men in this section of the state. He has done much to advance the general interests of the county seat and of the county at large and has long been regarded as one of Norman county's most substantial and influential citizens. For nine years he has been a member of the Ada city council and in that capacity has rendered excellent service in helping to "boost" the county seat into its present high place among the flourishing little cities of northern Minnesota.

It was in 1886 that E. C. Betcher was united in marriage to Minnie Mackel, daughter of Ignatius Mackel and wife, and to this union five children have been born, Alfred, Ida, Walter, Raymond and Ervin. Capt. Alfred Betcher, first-born of Mr. and Mrs. Betcher's sons, is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and is now a captain in the United States regular army. Mr. and Mrs. Betcher are members of the Congregational church at Ada and take a proper interest in church work and

in the general good works of the community, helpful in promoting all worthy causes. Mr. Betcher is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

W. H. DAVY.

W. H. Davy, former mayor and one of the most substantial citizens of Moorhead, was born in Bath, Ontario, Canada, June 19, 1844, a son of William H. Davy and Sarah M. (Perry) Davy, both of whom were born in Ontario, Canada. William H. Davy was a shipbuilder in Bath, Ontario, and lived there practically all his life. He was the father of three children: Sarah Minerva, Mary Perry and W. H. Mr. Davy, Sr., was a member of the Episcopal church.

W. H. Davy was educated in the public schools of Bath, Ontario, Canada, where he spent his early years. During the Civil War he came to Chicago, Illinois, and lived there until the close of the war and then returned to Canada. In 1869 he came again to this country and located in Duluth, Minnesota, where he remained for about three years. About 1872 he came to Moorhead and spent one winter, and in the following year he came here to live and has since made this his home. For the first three or four years after coming here he was employed as bookkeeper and cashier for the firm of Bruner & Finkle, and also was agent for the American Express Company. At that time express matter was carried by a stage line running from Breckinridge by way of Moorhead, to Minneapolis, also from Moorhead to Ft. Gary. Following this employment Mr. Davy was for several years engaged in the grocery business. Later he started in the grain, flour, building-material and fuel business, in partnership with F. Goodsell, under the firm name of W. H. Davy & Company. After about eight or nine years in that business Mr. Davy retired from active management and left the business in the hands of Mr. Goodsell, his partner.

For the past thirty years Mr. Davy has been interested in farming and has large land investments. He now owns about three sections of land in Clay county and carries on farming on an extensive scale. His time for the past eleven or twelve years has been mostly occupied in superintending his farms. In 1914 he had a patch of potatoes within the city limits, adjoin-