

by hard work, close application and diligence, he has won a very commendable success in the business world. In 1880 he came to Glyndon, Clay county, Minnesota, and has made his home here practically ever since. When he first came to the county, he worked at various occupations, among which were farming and lumbering. He lived on a farm about a half mile north of Glyndon until 1913, in which year he went to California, but the following year he returned to Glyndon, and, in partnership with Walter Shave, engaged in the machinery business, which they are still very successfully carrying on, dealing in farm implements and other machinery. Mr. Woodward was one of the organizers of the Farmers State Bank, a progressive financial concern of Glyndon, and is now serving as president of that institution.

In June, 1897, Mr. Woodward was married to Bertha M. Webb, the daughter of R. B. Webb, of Glyndon, and to this union one son has been born, Roy W. Mr. Woodward and family are prominent in all the social activities of the community, having an active interest in the welfare and betterment of their village. Mr. Woodward has served several terms on the village council.

W. R. BRIGGS.

W. R. Briggs, a well-known floriculturist at Moorhead, was born in Bloomington, Illinois, August 1, 1875, a son of W. R. and Mary (De Board) Briggs. The father was born in Ireland and the mother in Pennsylvania. The senior W. R. Briggs came to America when a young man and located in Illinois, near Bloomington, where he engaged in the business of a gardener and continued in this business for many years. His children were: Minnie, W. R., B. H., R. H., J. W., Frank and David. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Bloomington.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the common schools of Illinois, where he spent his boyhood years. He worked with his father as a gardener until the death of his father. At the age of eighteen years he started out to make his own living and worked for farmers in the neighborhood for four or five years and then engaged in farming on his own account. He farmed in Illinois for about two years and then removed to Missouri and farmed in that state for two years. Then, with a cash capital of three thousand dollars, he packed up his household goods and removed to Texas, with the expectation of increasing his property possessions. After an expe-



MR. AND MRS. W. R. BRIGGS.

rience of about one year and a half in the business of farming and gardening in Texas he found that his expectations were not realized. He lost practically all that he had brought with him, as well as the profit on his labor during the time of his sojourn in Texas. In 1906 he removed to Tower City, North Dakota, arriving at that place with eighty dollars in cash and very little in the way of household goods. He engaged in farming in that state for two years and by economy and industry greatly improved his condition in the way of worldly possessions. In 1908 he came to Moorhead, and bought a tract of ground and engaged in gardening. In the fall of that year he built the first one of his greenhouses. He has added others as the business increased and now has five large greenhouses, with all modern appointments and conveniences, his plant now carrying about thirty thousand square feet of glass. Mr. Briggs cultivates all varieties of vegetables, plants and flowers and finds a ready market for his product in Moorhead and Fargo.

On February 19, 1902, W. R. Briggs was married to Eva Kate Miller and to this union four children have been born: Harold, Gertrude, Mildred and Francis. Mr. and Mrs. Briggs are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church at Moorhead. Mr. Briggs is a member of the school board and his fraternal affiliation is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Politically, he is independent.

OTTO J. MORTENSON.

Otto J. Mortenson, secretary of the Moorhead Realty Company at Moorhead and one of the best-known real-estate dealers in this part of the state, is a native of the Red River valley and has lived in this section most of his life. He was born on a pioneer farm, over the river in Cass county, North Dakota, July 11, 1880, son of Paul and Maren (Lee) Mortenson, natives of Norway, who came to this country in 1870, proceeding on up into the Red River valley and settling on a homestead farm in Cass county, North Dakota, where the latter spent her last days and where the former is still living, one of the well-established pioneer farmers of that community. Paul Mortenson has held office in his home township and was one of the organizers of the church in his neighborhood.

Reared on the homestead farm, Otto J. Mortenson received his elementary schooling in the schools of that vicinity and then entered Concordia