

to Baker, Clay county, Minnesota, where he worked for Possehl Brothers in their store for two years, giving them excellent service, for he had formerly mastered the various phases of the mercantile business. In 1912, he launched out in business for himself, starting a general grocery store at Baker, where he has built up a large trade and carries an extensive stock of staple and fancy groceries. In 1917 he and his brother, Theodore, who is unmarried, bought the implement business of H. C. Possehl and N. C. Noice and this they are operating with gratifying results, their trade with the surrounding country for many miles being on the upward trend.

On December 8, 1914, O. N. Iverson was appointed postmaster at Baker and has since been discharging his duties in a manner acceptable to the people of this vicinity and to the postoffice department.

Mr. Iverson was married in 1912 to Clara Butenhoff, a daughter of August Butenhoff and wife. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Iverson, namely: Francelia and Edward. Mr. and Mrs. Iverson belong to the English Lutheran church at Barnesville, in the affairs of which they have a devout and conscientious interest.

CHARLES E. COLBY.

Charles E. Colby, editor and publisher of the *Barnesville Headlight* at Barnesville, and former president of the Clay County Editorial Association, is a native son of Minnesota and has spent all his life in this state, with the exception of four years spent in the postoffice service in South Dakota back in the eighties. He was born on a pioneer farm in Plainview township, in Wabasha county, but was reared and educated at Glencoe, where he finished the high school course; later becoming a student in the Archibald Business College at Minneapolis. His father, George H. Colby, a native of New York state and a veteran of the Civil War, lived on his farm in McLeod county until his retirement and removal to Hector, where his last days were spent.

At the age of thirteen years, Charles E. Colby began his apprenticeship in "the art preservative of all arts," and before he entered the business college had become a proficient printer, thoroughly familiar with the details of that important trade, and was engaged working at that trade until 1884, when he went to Groton, South Dakota, where he spent the ensuing four years as a clerk in the postoffice and as mailing clerk in the railway post-

office at that place. In 1888 Mr. Colby returned to Glencoe and there bought the plant of the *Enterprise* and was editor and manager of that paper for two years, at the end of which time he sold the *Enterprise* and moved to Duluth, where he established a job-printing plant and was there engaged in the job-printing business until 1893. In the meantime Mr. Colby had married at Duluth and in 1893 he moved with his family to Grand Rapids, this state, where he entered upon the position of foreman of the plant of the *Magnet* and where he remained until his removal to Barnesville, which has ever since been his place of residence. It was in January, 1897, that Mr. Colby established the *Barnesville Record*, the first number of which was dated January 28. Mr. Colby started the *Record* as a staunch supporter of the principles of the Republican party and continued to publish the same until he sold the paper to the Barnesville Record-Review Company in 1903, after which, for two years, he acted as local agent for the Money-Weight Scale Company, of Toronto. Mr. Colby then returned to the print shop and took up the duties of foreman of the plant of the *Barnesville Record-Review*. Two years later he was made manager of the *Record-Review* and continued in that position until 1913, in which year he established his present newspaper, the *Barnesville Headlight*. At the same time he bought the plant of the *Moorhead Independent* and on July 18, 1913, merged that paper with the *Headlight*, which has ever since been published under that name, the publishing firm being Colby Brothers. The *Barnesville Headlight* is well equipped mechanically, not only for newspaper work but for general job printing, the equipment including a linotype machine and all the up-to-date appliances for the successful operation of a modern printing plant. Mr. Colby is widely known in newspaper circles throughout this part of the state and for three years or more served as president of the Clay County Editorial Association, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest.

It was while living at Duluth that Charles E. Colby was united in marriage to Anna Termath, also natives of Minnesota, born in the village of LeSueur, in LeSueur county, of German descent, though her parents both were of American birth. Mr. and Mrs. Colby have two sons, Dana T. and Everett C., the latter of whom is associated with his father in the publication of the *Barnesville Headlight*, an energetic and progressive young newspaper man. Dana T. Colby also is engaged in newspaper work, which has been his life-long vocation, and is now connected with the Fargo (North Dakota) *Daily Forum*. He received his early training in newspaper work under the able direction of his father and then for some time was employed on the force of the *Courier-News* at Fargo, later going to the *Fargo Forum*

and thence to the *Capital* at Jamestown, North Dakota, later to the *Bismark Tribune* and then returning to the *Forum*, where he holds an editorial chair.

OLE E. REIRSGORD.

Ole E. Reirsgord was born, July 23, 1875, in Norway, a son of Evan Gury (Ellingson) Reirsgord, both natives of Norway, the former being born, September 4, 1851, and the latter, January 1, 1852. The father came to America in 1875 and located in Houston county, Minnesota, his wife and child coming the following year. In 1877, Evan Reirsgord came to Clay county and located a tree claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Ulen township, section 10, where he lived two years and then sold the improvements to Robert Syverson. He then removed to another location in Hagen township, six miles west, taking a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. He lived on this for about sixteen years and then sold out and removed to Thief River Falls, Minnesota, where he lived for four years. Disposing of this place, he removed to Canada, where he still lives. His first wife died in 1888, and four years later he married Julia Halvorson, who died in 1898. He was the father of six children by his first wife: Ole E., the subject of this review; Annie, Ella, Julius, Olof and Carrie; and of four children by his second wife: Edward, Gilbert, Bert, and Hilman. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

O. E. Reirsgord was educated in the public schools of Hagen township, and in the city schools of Moorhead which he attended about three winters. In the spring of 1893, he began teaching school in Clay county, continuing in this profession every spring and fall until the spring of 1898. In the winter and spring of 1894, he attended Concordia College at Moorhead, where he completed a business course, graduating from that institution. In the spring of 1898, he bought the plant of the *Ulen Union*, took possession as sole proprietor, May 17, of that year, and has been editor and publisher of the same since that date.

Mr. Reirsgord was postmaster of Ulen from June, 1909, to June, 1913. He is the present chairman of the Republican central committee of Clay county, and president of the public school board. He has served as president of the village council, village recorder and justice of the peace. He held all these official positions before he became postmaster.

On June 3, 1897, O. E. Reirsgord and Clara Bjerke, a daughter of