

served in that capacity until the fall of 1916, when he was elected president of the bank, which position he now holds, one of the best-known bankers in this part of the state, North Dakota and Montana. In addition to his banking interests at Shelly Mr. Anderson is a stockholder and a member of the board of directors of seven other banks and has been a large influence in the work of developing the resources of this section, ever helpful in promoting movements designed to advance the common welfare. He also has extensive lumber and real-estate interests and is one of the well-to-do men of Norman county. Mr. Anderson also has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and has served as president of his home village.

In 1901 Joseph W. G. Anderson was united in marriage to Caroline Tronnes, who was born in the Red River valley. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have a very pleasant home at Shelly and take a proper part in the general social activities of the community. They are members of the Lutheran church and, fraternally, Mr. Anderson is affiliated with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Woodmen of America.

GUNERIUS I. CROSBY.

Gunerius I. Crosby, the first homesteader in Lee township, Norman county, where he carries on general farming and stock raising on his fine farm of four hundred and forty acres, is a native of Norway, born in March, 1856, a son of Iver Jenson and Anna Christina Crosby, both of whom were natives of Norway. The former came to America with his son, Gunerius, with whom he lived, helping with the farm work on the old homestead until he died at the age of sixty-eight years in 1889. The mother died while the family lived in the old country, when the subject of this review was only six years of age. The elder Crosby and wife were the parents of five children: Jens, who died at Minneapolis in 1873; Gunerius I., the subject of this sketch; Anna, the widow of Nels Odegaard; Johannah, who lived with her brother, Gunerius I., until her death in 1883, and another brother, who died in Norway, the last two being twins.

Gunerius I. Crosby spent the early years of his life at the old home back in Norway, where he received his early schooling; but early missed the guiding counsel of his mother, who died when he was a child of six years. Soon after he had reached man's estate he decided to cast his lot with others of his countrymen who were coming to America, and in 1872 he and his father landed and came directly out to Minnesota, settling in Good-

hue county, where some of their friends were located. There they remained on a farm for six years, at the end of which time they removed to Rice county, Minnesota, living there on a farm for a period of three years. Hearing that excellent opportunities awaited settlers up in the Red River country, they came on up into Norman county and there the son homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in section 34, of Lee township, which land at that time was nothing more than a part of the vast expanse of raw prairie which stretched off in the distance. For the first few years of farming on his new holding, Mr. Crosby's equipment was clumsy, since he had only a yoke of oxen and a few of the most essential implements, but as the years passed he was enabled to increase and perfect his equipment until he had developed on the spot which was formerly a wilderness of prairie an excellent farm plant. He remained on his homestead until 1892, in which year he sold his holding and bought four hundred and forty acres in sections 15 and 22, Lee township, which tract he has continued to own. In the fall of 1899 Mr. Crosby went to Oregon and there bought land, which he later sold when he returned to his place in Lee township. On his home place here he has made substantial improvements, including a new, modern, comfortable farm house. A good barn, erected in 1882, was on the place when he bought it and is still standing.

On June 16, 1881, Mr. Crosby was united in marriage to Sophia Larson, who was born in Nicollet county, Minnesota, on April 6, 1860, a daughter of Elias and Ingeborg (Seland) Larson. To this union eight children have been born, namely: Ida, who died in 1915, at the age of thirty-two years; Julia, the wife of J. M. Olson, now living in Montana; Emma, a teacher, who lives at home; James and Gilbert, both married and living in Montana; Ella, a nurse at Grand Forks; Agnes, who is studying music at Fargo, and Norman, at home. Mrs. Crosby's father and mother died on the old homestead in Nicollet county, ten miles west of St. Peter. Elias Larson was the first postmaster of Norseland, Minnesota. He and his wife had nine children, of whom two sons and two daughters are still living and four daughters and one son are dead. Mr. and Mrs. Crosby are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, in the faith of which denomination they have reared their children.

Mr. Crosby has been and is a very active man in his community. He, with the other progressive farmers of this section of the country, have left behind the old system of exclusive grain farming and he carries on a scientific kind of diversified farming along with his rather extensive stock raising. In the civil affairs of the township he has taken an active part, having served as a member of the board of township supervisors and as treasurer

of the local school board. He also is a participant in the business interests of this vicinity, being a director of the Farmers Elevator Company at Perley, which he helped to organize, and holding stock in the First State Bank of that place. Politically, Mr. Crosby is independent.

HALVOR O. RASK.

Halvor O. Rask, the owner of five hundred and forty acres of Hendrum township (Norman county) land, where he lived, a banker and well-known business man, was born in Norway, November 15, 1851, the son of Ole C. and Ingeborg (Vermager) Rask, both natives of Norway, who came to America in 1857 and settled in Houston county, Minnesota, where they bought a farm and where they remained until their deaths. When the elder Rask bought this tract, which contained eighty acres, it was covered with grubs and stones, a condition which did not permit its being speedily brought under cultivation. Nevertheless, the family set to work to improve the farm, and eventually bountiful crops repaid them for their labors. Ole C. Rask and wife were the parents of six children, namely: Christ, now dead, who served in a Minnesota regiment during the Civil War; Peder, deceased, also a member of a Minnesota regiment and a veteran of the Civil War; Carrie; Petter; Halvor O., and Halvor J.

When Halvor O. Rask first breathed the air of America, he was not yet six years of age, and when he was only ten years of age, his older brothers, Christ and Peder, showed their true American spirit by heeding the call of their adopted country and marching away for service during the Civil War. Until he was past twenty years of age, Mr. Rask worked on the home place, contributing his efforts to the making of the improvements necessary to the bringing of the land under cultivation; but in 1877 he struck out for himself. Having inherited part of the home farm he bought the rest and farmed there until 1877, when he came to Norman county and bought three hundred acres of Hendrum township land. However, he did not come here to live until 1882. In that year he began the improvement of his holding by planting groves and raising good, substantial farm buildings. As the years of his industry passed, he extended his possessions until now he owns five hundred acres of well-improved land, on which he carries on general farming.

Nellie Bye, who was born in Houston county, Minnesota, in May, 1857, the daughter of Andrew and Sophia (Sownes) Bye, became the wife