

neighborhood of Wahpton; and Nelius, John and Alma, at home. Mr. Odegaard was an active member of the Lutheran church, as is his widow, and did much toward promoting the various beneficences of the same. He was long a member of the board of trustees of the local church, helped build the same and was a liberal contributor to the cause of church work. The family have a very pleasant home in Lee township and take an interested part in the general social activities and good works of the community.

S. S. DALEN.

S. S. Dalen, cashier of the Farmers and Merchants' Bank at Perley, and one of the leading business men of southwestern Norman county, was born in Goodhue county, Minnesota, in 1863. He is a son of Syvert A. and Synva (Brekke) Dalen, both natives of Norway, where they spent their earlier years, immigrating to America about 1842 and settling in Goodhue county, Minnesota, among the pioneers. There they developed a good farm by hard work and perseverance and established a comfortable home, continuing to reside there until the spring of 1882, when they removed to the vicinity of Georgetown in Clay county, buying a farm of about one hundred and fifty acres along the Red river, and there they spent the rest of their lives. They were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Their family consisted of nine children, namely: Bretha, who married Ole Finley; Nels, Andrew, Louis, John, S. S., Anna, Gertie and Ole.

S. S. Dalen spent his boyhood in Goodhue county, where he helped with the work on the farm and attended the public schools, later attending Willmar College, at Willmar, Minnesota, where he took a business course in 1887. After leaving school he began life for himself as a merchant, handling a general line of goods at Georgetown. He enjoyed a good business with the people of that town and the surrounding country for many miles, and remained there until 1899, when he moved to Perley, where he has since resided. He became cashier of the Bank of Perley and there continued for seven years, at the end of which time he sold his interest in the bank and went to Moorhead and engaged in the clothing business there four years. He then went to the state of Washington and spent a year, then returned to Norman county and farmed in the vicinity of Perley for three years, during which time he was also interested in a store at Hendrum. In 1914 Mr. Dalen again turned his attention to the banking business, organizing the

Farmers and Merchants' Bank at Perley, of which he has since been cashier. The rapid growth of this popular and safe bank has been due very largely to his able management and conservative methods and his honesty, promptness and courtesy in dealing with his patrons. A general banking business is carried on and the bank has modern fixtures and equipment.

Mr. Dalen is also connected with the First State Bank of South Haven, Minnesota, and has an interest in a general store at Georgetown. He has been very successful in a business way, being a man of sound judgment and foresight, energetic and persevering. Politically, Mr. Dalen is a Republican and while living at Georgetown served as treasurer of Georgetown township for ten years. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, which he served as trustee for about twelve years; has always been a liberal supporter of the church and other worthy causes, and is active in church affairs.

In 1890 S. S. Dalen was married to Bertha Ohnstad, a native of Norway. She received a common school education. She is a daughter of Mons and Christine (Ohnstad) Ohnstad, natives of Norway. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dalen, namely: Clara, Sanford, who died when eight years of age, and Bernice.

NELS J. ENGER.

Nels J. Enger, a substantial farmer and well-known stock raiser of Halstad township, Norman county, where he owns two hundred acres of fine farming land, a present member of the Norman county board of county commissioners and a man who has been and is deeply interested in local business affairs, was born in Norway, August 16, 1859, a son of Jacob J. and Martha (Christopherson) Enger. The father and mother, who were both natives of Norway, decided in the early seventies that America offered them excellent opportunities to establish themselves comfortably, as had been the experience of many of their countrymen, and immigrated to this country in 1872. They settled first in Fillmore county, Minnesota, where there were several of their friends, and awaited the opening of some new territory northward where they could acquire a holding of the rich, new prairie soil. In 1878 the parents, with some of their children, joined a party of settlers who were driving through to what was later organized into Norman county. It was on May 9 of that year that the little band of pioneers struck out northward behind their horse teams, driving their cattle