

place in Strand township, was born on the farm on which his parents are now living, in that same township, in 1895, and received his schooling in the schools in districts 43 and 59. For a while he farmed in North Dakota, but for some time past has been farming the old homestead place and is doing well there. The Welleys are members of the Lutheran church and have ever taken an interested part in church work and in the general good works and social affairs of the community in which they live. Andrew J. Welley helped to build the first church erected in the community in which he settled in pioneer days, the church at Gary, and in other ways has been helpful and influential in promoting good works in the neighborhood of which he has been a part since the early days of the settlement of that part of the county.

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#### ANDREW T. DEGERNESS.

Andrew T. Degerness, a well-known resident of Sundahl township, Norman county, where he is the owner and operator of a fine farm of two hundred acres of land and is otherwise prominently connected with the civil and business interests of the community in which he lives, was born in Norway, April 23, 1865, a son of Toris H. and Guro (Walvatne) Degerness, both natives of Norway, where they spent their whole lives, the father being a farmer. The father and mother were the parents of ten children, of whom the subject of this review was the second in order of birth, the others being: Halvor, deceased; Anna, who is now dead; Ele, Toris, Gurena, Anna, Abel, Gregoreus and Halvor.

Andrew T. Degerness was reared on the old home farm in Norway, where he received a limited education in the public schools. He also spent his boyhood and the years of his early maturity on the old farm, helping his father operate the same and incidentally gaining some valuable training which stood him in good stead when he established himself in America. About the time he reached the age of twenty-one years he decided to follow the example of many of his countrymen who had come to the New World and established comfortably here on large and productive holdings; accordingly he immigrated to America in 1886 and landed at Luverne, Rock county, Minnesota, on May 20 of that year. He soon obtained employment on a farm in the county mentioned above and remained thus engaged for two years. Knowing that excellent farming land could be obtained cheaply in Minnesota, he set out in 1888 for Norman county, that state, and when he

arrived in these parts he found employment as a farm hand in Sundahl township, where he worked for three years. In 1891 he invested his savings in one hundred and twenty acres of unimproved land in Sundahl township, section 36, to which tract he added eighty acres some two years later. This land was all bare, but Mr. Degerness, especially after he began his residence on his holding in 1892, started assiduously to improve it by erecting substantial farm buildings and a comfortable farm house. Here now he carries on general diversified farming.

On March 28, 1888, Mr. Degerness was united in marriage to Martha Thompson, born in Norway on October 19, 1866, a daughter of Peter and Martha (Vikenes) Thompson, the former of whom came to America many years before his daughter immigrated to this country. He lived in Kandiyohi county, Minnesota, and is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Degerness are the parents of nine children as follow: Martha, Anna, Petra, Thea, Marie, Toris Gustav, Hannah, Norman and Alvin Martin. The parents are devoted members of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Sundahl and according to this faith they have reared their children. Mr. Degerness has been and is prominently connected with the civil affairs of Sundahl township, having been township supervisor for six years and school board chairman for ten years in all. Moreover, his interests in the co-operative business enterprises of his community are well known, he having helped to organize the creamery at Sundahl and also the Sundahl Mercantile Company. In politics, Mr. Degerness is a staunch member of the Republican party.

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#### HOGAN HOGENSON.

Hogan Hogenson is another of the natives of Norway who has come to the United States and from small beginnings has accumulated a substantial means of livelihood, now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in Goose Prairie township and of thirty acres of timber land in section 22, Norman county. He was born in 1864 in the kingdom of Norway, a son of Henry and Mary (Lee) Hogenson, natives of Norway, the former born in 1837 and the later in 1839, and who on arriving in this country first settled in Steele county, Minnesota.

Henry Hogenson came to this country about the year 1871 and bought eighty acres of land in Steele county, this state, which he sold some years