

progress of the locality, and rendered valuable service to this cause when he was a member of the local school board. Even though Mr. Olson has never been much given to seeking after public office, he takes a good citizen's interest in the betterment of his community in the educational, moral, religious and civil aspects of its existence.

H. O. ELLEFSON.

H. O. Ellefson, postmaster of the village of Syre, in Norman county, manager of the Thorpe elevator and a well-known merchant of that place, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was three years of age. He was born on June 21, 1869, son of Austin and Annie (Hanson) Ellefson, also natives of Norway, who came to the United States with their family in 1872 and settled on a home-stead farm in Dunn county, Wisconsin, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the latter dying in 1887 and the former surviving until 1907. Austin Ellefson and his wife were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth, the others being Eleck, Hans, Nellie, Louis, Ole, Carl, Knute, Martin and Henry.

As noted above, H. O. Ellefson was but three years of age when he came with his parents to this country, the family settling in Wisconsin, and when two years of age he went to live with his sister, Nellie, wife of Nels Swanson, in St. Croix county, that same state, and in that county attended school until he was nineteen years of age, when, in 1888, he came up into this part of Minnesota, being attracted to the possibilities then opening in the valley of the Red River, and began farming in the vicinity of Gary, in Norman county. After his marriage he settled on a farm in Waukon township and was there engaged in farming until after the death of his first wife in 1899. Two years later, in 1901, Mr. Ellefson became engaged as a grain buyer in the Thorpe elevator at Syre and eighteen months later was transferred by the Thorpes to their elevator at Flaming and for two years and a half was engaged as their buyer there. The company then put him in charge of their elevator at Gary and a year later transferred him to their elevator at Leeds, North Dakota, where he remained for eighteen months, at the end of which time, in 1908, the company sent

him back to Syre and he ever since has been the manager of their elevator at that place, one of the best-known grain men in Norman county. Upon returning to Syre in 1908 Mr. Ellefson became interested, in association with B. L. Bjerkness, in a general store in that village and has ever since been manager of the same, looking after the affairs of the store in addition to his managerial connection with the elevator. A year after he located at Syre he was appointed postmaster of the village, in 1909, and has ever since occupied that position. Mr. Ellefson has ever taken a good citizen's interest in political affairs and for three years during his residence on the farm in Waukon township served as assessor of that township.

Mr. Ellefson has been twice married. His first wife, who was Martha Knudson, died in 1899, leaving five children, Annie, Ovedia, Clara, Mabel and Jennie, and he later married Annie Hermanson. Mr. and Mrs. Ellefson are members of the Lutheran (Synod) church and take an earnest interest in church work, Mr. Ellefson being treasurer of the local congregation at Syre.

CARL O. JENSEN.

Carl O. Jensen, owner of a compact and well-kept farm in section 9, Fossum township, Norman county, former chairman of the township board, and presently a member of the local school board, is a native son of Norman county, born on his father's homestead on September 18, 1877, a son of John and Emilia (Larson) Jensen, well-known residents of the township.

John Jensen, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Norway in 1849, a son of Jens Jorgen and Elsie Katherina (Olson) Knutson, who spent all their lives in that country, where they were of the farming class. John Jensen spent sixteen months as a sailor and owing to an outbreak of the yellow fever while in Havana, the ship returned to Norway and some time later he and his brother, Jens, immigrated to America, first stopping at Leland, Illinois, and then moving into the state of Minnesota, settling in Rice county, where he remained until 1872. He then came to Norman county and took a homestead claim, the farm on which his son Carl was born. In another part of this volume a further and more extended account of the life of John Jensen is given, and to that review the reader is referred.

Carl O. Jensen was educated in the public schools of Norman county, later attending Park Region College at Fergus Falls, Minnesota. He was reared on his father's homestead and worked on the farm, a valuable aid to