

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

before them and they arrived at their destination on June 9, their journey requiring a little more than a month. The elder Enger and wife were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this review was the youngest, the others being: Anna Elizabeth, who married and lived in Norway, rearing a family; a daughter, who died in infancy; Christ; Olaus J., now called Lewis J.; Martha, who is dead, and Ellen. Jacob and Martha Enger did not establish a home in Norman county, but lived among their children until their deaths.

Nels J. Enger received his early education in the schools of Norway and in Fillmore county, Minnesota. He was only seventeen years of age when he accompanied his parents northward into Norman county, but the buoyancy so characteristic of a youth of that age lent enthusiasm to his efforts to establish himself in that new land, and soon after he arrived in that territory, he plowed a furrow around the southwest quarter of section 10, in Halstad township and bought that tract when it was placed on the market as state land. Since this land was overgrown with small timber and underbrush, he had no little difficulty in clearing it and putting it into condition for growing crops, but his persistence triumphed in the end and where formerly was an expanse of wild land he has now a well-improved and carefully cultivated farm. On this, the home place, he has planted a fine grove and has raised adequate and substantial buildings. His industry has enabled him to add to his holdings and several years ago he bought the west half of the northwest quarter of section 15, in Halstad township. In addition to his general agricultural operations, he raises thoroughbred Aberdeen-Angus cattle.

On March 29, 1887, Nels J. Enger was united in marriage to Bertha Orvick, who was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, December 8, 1868, a daughter of Jacob and Bertha (Tollefson) Orvick. She came to Norman county with her parents in 1879, just one year after Mr. Enger came northward with his parents. To Mr. and Mrs. Enger twelve children have been born: Edwin M., Selma, Tenny, Nora, James, Ernest, Chester, Myrtle and Sella, all of whom are living at home, and Edwin, Selma and Bennie, deceased.

A very obvious thing about Mr. Enger's career thus far has been his marked activity in local civic and business affairs. He has served as township supervisor and as a member of the township school board most of the time. His work in these capacities has so commended him to his neighbors that he was elected a member of the county board of commissioners and is an incumbent of that office at the present time. He has also given

of his time to the business interests of the community, since he helped to organize the Halstad Farmers Lumber Company, the farmers elevator and the creamery at Halstad. In politics, Mr. Enger is a staunch adherent of the Republican party. He and his family are members of the Augustana Lutheran church and in the affairs of the same they take an active interest.

ELBERT A. MELDRUM.

Elbert D. Meldrum, one of Norman county's most extensive landowners and most successful stock raisers, the owner of a splendidly improved farm of more than thirteen hundred acres in Lee township and long accounted one of the most progressive agriculturists in this section of the Red River valley, is a native of the great Empire state, but has been a resident of this part of the country since the early eighties and is, therefore, very properly regarded as one of the real "old settlers" of this section. He was born in the city of Buffalo, New York, in 1859, a son of Robert O. and Julia Ettie (Brown) Meldrum, the latter of whom is still living at Buffalo, being now in the eighty-sixth year of her age. She was born at East Aurora, New York, of old Colonial stock, one of her ancestors having come over in the "Mayflower." Robert O. Meldrum was a native of Nova Scotia and came to the States with his parents in the days of his youth. He was one of the pioneer oil men in Pennsylvania and was quite successful in his operations, having investments both in that state and in New York, and was also interested in land in this part of the country, his total real-estate investments being very extensive. He died at his home in Buffalo in 1884, he then being seventy years of age. Robert O. Meldrum and wife were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this biographical sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: Charles H., who is married and who now makes his home at Mt. Clemens, Michigan; Mrs. Ettie M. Kurtz, New York; Mattie E., wife of H. C. Prox, of Terre Haute, Indiana, and Robert O., Jr., who is married and continues to make his home in Buffalo.

Elbert D. Meldrum grew to manhood in Buffalo, receiving his schooling in the schools of that city, and early became engaged with his father in the oil business. About 1882 he became attracted to the possibilities of land investments up here in the Red River valley and with a view to developing property in this section located at Moorhead, where he acquired consid-