

OLE O. ERICKSON.

One of the best known and most successful farmers and stockmen of the northeastern part of Clay county is Ole O. Erickson, of Ulen township. He was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, March 24, 1864, a son of Ole and Christie (Christophersdatter) Erickson, both natives of Norway, from which country they came directly to Wisconsin about 1850. After remaining there about two years, they came on to Fillmore county, Minnesota, driving an ox-team to a covered wagon, the trip requiring nearly a month. The father took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Fillmore county, six miles west of Rushford, which land he improved into a good farm, erected such outbuildings as his needs required and a comfortable residence. There he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, the mother reaching an advanced age, dying in January, 1917. They were among the earliest pioneers of that county, there being only five other families in that part of the county when they went there. Eight children were born to Ole and Christie Erickson, namely: Christopher and Erick, both deceased; Turena, Ole O., of this sketch; Helge, Mary, Bengt and Helen.

Ole O. Erickson, of this review, grew to manhood on the home farm in Fillmore county, where he received a limited education in the early-day schools. He remained in his native community until 1890, when he came to Clay county and worked in the vicinity of Ulen two years. He then married and began farming for himself, buying forty acres in section 27, Ulen township, which was all in timber and without buildings. The part of his land which he cleared he put under cultivation. He also erected suitable buildings and continued to reside there until March, 1911, when he moved to the farm he now occupies, just across the road from his original forty, which contains one hundred and sixty acres. He added an eighty-acre tract to his original forty many years ago, and all this he sold upon moving to his present farm. He has a well-improved and productive place, the improvements having been made by Helge Klemmetson, his brother-in-law, of whom he bought the farm. Mr. Klemmetson took the land up as a homestead in 1879. Mr. Erickson has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, breeds full-blooded Holstein cattle and is a dealer in all kinds of live stock, of which he is an excellent judge.

Mr. Erickson was married on May 28, 1892, to Karen Klemmetson, who was born in Norway, a daughter of Klemmet and Christie (Halvorsdat-

ter) Lia, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and married and there the father died a few months before his daughter Karen was born. The widow subsequently brought five children to America, three weeks after her daughter's birth, coming directly to Houston county, Minnesota, and locating in Spring Grove township, where her son Helge had preceded her by one year. About 1879, Helge Klemmetson came to Clay county and a year later his mother joined him here, bringing the rest of her children. She homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of prairie land in section 14, Ulen township, and on this she erected buildings and resided for seven years. At the end of this time she sold out and built a small house on the farm of her son, Helge, and there lived for some time, but her death occurred in the home where the subject of this sketch now resides. Her death occurred in 1915 at the unusual age of eighty-nine years. She was the mother of the following children: Helge, Ingeborg, Bertha, deceased; Andrie, Elling, Andrew and Karen. The Klemmetson family helped organize the first church at Ulen.

To Mr. and Mrs. Erickson four children, all living at this time, were born, namely: Clara Olena, Edva Castelia, Clifford Oliver, and Alice Helvena. Mr. Erickson is a member of the Lutheran church. Politically, he is an independent.

JOHN MCGOUGH.

The late John McGough, first postmaster of the village of Downer, a pioneer homesteader of that neighborhood, formerly chairman of the board of supervisors of Elkton township, for years a representative of the railroad company's interests at Downer and a substantial landowner in the vicinity of that village and one of the best-known men in Clay county, was a native of the Dominion of Canada, but had been a resident of Clay county since about the year 1880, and had therefore been a witness to and a participant in the development of that region since the days of the pioneers. He was born on June 11, 1840, and was reared and educated in his native Canada, where he became a teaming contractor and where he married.

Not long after his marriage John McGough came to the States and became engaged in railroad work, being thus employed at various places until about 1880, when he became engaged on the construction work of the railroad at Downer, where he ever afterward made his home, spending the rest of his life there, his death occurring on May 30, 1917. Though actively