

the village of Twin Valley being his point of destination. Upon his arrival here he secured employment as a farm laborer in the summer and attended school in the winter, and for three years thereafter was thus engaged. He then, in 1893, began clerking in a general store at Twin Valley and was so engaged for about six years, at the end of which time he began the publication of the *Twin Valley Times*, continuing in the newspaper business for two years and six months, at the end of which period he sold the *Times* and entered the service of the McCormick Harvester Company, with local headquarters at Grand Forks, and a year later, in the spring of 1902, transferred his services to the Wilcox Lumber Company and was made local manager of that company's office and plant at Twin Valley, a position he ever since has occupied, one of the best-known lumber men in Norman county. For about eleven years Mr. Bjornson also served as secretary of the local creamery company and is the present treasurer of that company. He likewise has for years taken an active and intelligent interest in local civic affairs, has served as a member of the village council, for two years as treasurer of the village and for the past thirteen years or more has been clerk of the local school district.

In the year 1896 Lars Bjornson was united in marriage to Gena Herreid, daughter of P. O. Herreid and wife, and to this union five children have been born, Inez, Bert, Gladys, Josephine and Louis. The Bjornsons have a very pleasant home at Twin Valley and have ever taken an interested part in the general social affairs of the community. They are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church work, as well as in other local good works.

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### JACOB N. ERSTAD.

Jacob N. Erstad, a well-known and substantial farmer, owner of two hundred and ten acres of prime land in Sundahl township, Norman county, has been a resident of this part of Minnesota for a long period, but is a native of the kingdom of Norway. He was born in that country on January 2, 1843, a son of Nels and Renog (Severson) Erstad, also natives of Norway and who came to America in an early day and spent the remainder of their lives in Norman county, dying on the farm of their son, Anton. Nels Erstad was a farmer and trained his son in the labors of the farm, imparting to him the true principles of good husbandry. Nels Erstad and

wife were the parents of the following children: John, Randi, Anton, Martinus, Sivert, Guro and Jacob N., the subject of this sketch. All these children are living here except Randi, who lives in Norway, and Guro is deceased.

Jacob N. Erstad took up his residence on a homestead farm in Sundahl township upon coming to Norman county and immediately set to work to get the place into a state fit for the planting of crops. He succeeded in his operations and is now the owner of a fine tract of two hundred and ten acres of land, ten acres of which is in timber, and is actively engaged in general farming and stock raising, being recognized throughout the neighborhood as one of the practical and painstaking farmers of the district.

When Mr. Erstad acquired possession of this holding he commenced his farming operations with a pair of oxen for which he paid one hundred and thirty dollars and lived for some time in a log cabin. Later he erected a good dwelling and some substantial outbuildings and he and his family are comfortably and pleasantly situated. At the age of thirty years, in 1873, Mr. Erstad was united in marriage to Cecelie Anderson, who came to this country at the same time as her husband, and since his marriage he has continued to reside on the original homestead farm. They are the parents of one child, a daughter, Randena, who is married and lives on a farm in this county. Mr. Erstad takes a good citizen's interest in all matters appertaining to the welfare of the community in which he resides. He is a stockholder in the creamery at Sundahl, Minnesota, and also has an interest in the elevator.

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#### ADOLPH J. FRIDLUND.

Adolph J. Fridlund, a well-known building contractor and architect of Moorhead, former member of the city council and now a member of the charter commission of that city, is a native of the kingdom of Sweden, but has been a resident of Minnesota for more than a quarter of a century, during which time he has done much to help build up the city of Moorhead, of which he has been a resident since the year 1891. He was born on April 23, 1864, son of John M. and Johanna (Carlson) Fridlund, also natives of Sweden, who spent all their lives in their native land and who were the parents of nine children, those besides the subject of this sketch, the sixth in order of birth, being as follow: Ingre Marie, deceased; Carolina, who continues to make her home in her native land; John, who came to Minnesota and is now living at Hawley; Otto, who also came to the Red River Valley