

in the Aabye store there. He then went to Fargo, North Dakota, and clerked one year; then had charge of a store at Horace, that state, seven years. In all these positions he gave his employers most satisfactory service, being faithful, alert and courteous to customers. During his period of clerking Mr. Peterson was a close observer and mastered the various ins and outs of the mercantile business, at the same time saving his earnings. Upon leaving Horace in 1904 he located in Perley, Minnesota, and bought out a general merchandise business, which he has since conducted with very gratifying results, carrying an extensive stock of well-selected goods and enjoying a large and growing trade with the town and surrounding country. He has also been interested in the Lee Elevator Company there and has discharged the duties of secretary of the company during the past nine years.

On March 21, 1888, Mr. Peterson was married to Bertha Margaret Johnson, who was born at Calamus, Iowa, and who received a good education in the public schools of Dewitt, Iowa. She is a daughter of George and Bertha (Christianson) Johnson, natives of Norway, who were farming people of Clinton county, Iowa. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Peterson, namely: Nils, Beatrice and Laura. Mr. Peterson is a Republican and is a member of the village council of Perley and also clerk of the local school board. He belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran church in which he is a deacon, having held this office for many years, and is active in church work.

ANDREW J. HAGEN.

Albert J. Hagen, the well-known owner of one hundred and eighty acres of Hendrum township land, and director in the Farmers State Bank of the village of Hendrum, was born in Norway, September 21, 1859, the son of Johanas O. and Olava Andreasdatter (Hagen) Hagen, both born in Norway, where they were reared and were married, coming to America in 1867. For the first ten years after the family came to America, they lived in Houston county, Minnesota, and Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the father worked as a farm hand, a carpenter and a tinner. In 1877 Johanas Hagen, following the example of many of his countrymen who had emigrated from the land of their nativity to this country, decided to push northward into Minnesota, where he could become the owner of some

of the excellent land which was at that time being opened to settlement. In the year mentioned above, he started to Norman county by train, and his family, with the household goods and a few farming implements, and two teams, one of oxen and the other of horses, followed overland with a party of settlers made up of three families, one of which was that of Ole N. Tommerdahl. In 1878 or 1879 the family homesteaded a quarter section of land in Hendrum township where Albert J. Hagen now lives, and there the father and mother lived until their deaths.

The elder Hagen became a prominent pioneer in the township, for he was ever in the forefront during his residence there in the opening of the country to settlement. He helped to organize the township and the first church in the community, called the St. Paul Lutheran church; the first postoffice of Hendrum was established in the house on his homestead, two miles north of Hendrum village, and he was the first postmaster. To Johanas Hagen and wife were born eleven children, all of whom died young except the following six: Greta (deceased), Ole, Nickoli A. (deceased), Albert J., the subject of this review; John, who is living in Hendrum, and Martin, who died at the age of thirteen years.

Albert J. Hagen received a very limited education in the common schools of Houston county before he came here with his parents in 1877, and has always lived in Hendrum township since he has resided in Norman county. After remaining several years on the home place, where he industriously applied himself to bringing the family's holding under cultivation, he started out on his own account, buying eighty acres of railroad land in Hendrum township, and later he bought a pre-emption right to eighty more acres and lived on the same for two and one-half years, proving it up. After that he returned to the eighty-acre tract of railroad land and remained there eleven years, from 1885 to 1896. He then took up his residence on his father's homestead, which he has improved by erecting excellent farm buildings and has since made that his home. He now is the owner of one hundred and eighty acres of well-improved land on which he carries on general farming.

On July 11, 1889, Mr. Hagen married Sophia Christianson, who was born in Norway, the daughter of Johan and Nikoline Christianson, who never came to America. To this union have been born the following children, all of whom are living: Olga, Julia, Matilda, Alfred, Christian, Clara, Stella, Hilda and Margaret. The Hagen family are all members of the Lutheran denomination, in the affairs of which church they take a deep and serious interest. Mr. Hagen is "independent" in his political views

and takes a good citizen's interest in the welfare of his community, having served the township as township clerk and as a member of the township board for several years. Being a progressive citizen of his community, Mr. Hagen has ever been interested in bettering the business agencies of his neighborhood and helped to organize the farmers elevator, the creamery and the Farmers State Bank, all of Hendrum, and of the last enterprise named, he has been a director since its organization.

A. G. AANENSON.

A. G. Aanenson, manager and treasurer of the Farmers' Elevator Company at Shelly, former member of the council of that village and one of the best-known grain men in Norman county, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since shortly after reaching his majority. He was born on July 26, 1865, a son of Aanen and Johanna C. (Aslaksen) Gunderson, also natives of Norway, farming people, who spent all their lives in their native country and who were the parents of five sons, those besides the subject of this sketch being Anton, Ole, John and Andrew S. Aamodt.

Reared on the home farm, A. G. Aanenson received his schooling in the schools of his native land and remained there until after he was of age, when, in July, 1887, he came to the United States and located at Hillsboro, North Dakota, in the vicinity of which place he worked on a farm until the fall of that year, when he came over the line into Minnesota and for about two years thereafter was engaged in work on farms in the vicinity of Halstad. Mr. Aanenson then entered Hope Academy at Moorhead and was attending school there when Concordia College was established in that city. He entered Concordia and after a comprehensive course there began teaching school in Norman county and was thus engaged for two or three years, at the end of which time he began farming in Halstad township. Two years later he left the farm and moved into the village of Shelly, where he ever since has made his home. It was in 1897 that Mr. Aanenson located at Shelly and until he became connected with the Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company he was engaged as a clerk in various stores in that village. Some years after the organization of the Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company he was installed as treasurer of the same and two years later was made manager of the company, as well as treasurer, and has since continued