

board, also as assessor and clerk of the school district. Since locating in Felton he has been a member of the village council, clerk of the school district, and is at this writing clerk of Felton township. As a public servant he has performed his duties in a faithful and satisfactory manner, and is always deeply interested in public affairs.

NELS HAMMER.

One of the leading farmers of Goose Prairie township, Clay county, is Nels Hammer, who was born, May 3, 1862, in Norway. He is a son of Nicholi and Inge (Torreson) Hammer, both natives of Norway, where they lived and died, the father passing away at the early age of thirty-eight, when his son, Nels, was five years old. He owned and operated a farm in his native land. His widow survived to 1881, reaching the age of fifty-seven years. They were parents of the following children: Mary, who is married and lives on the old homestead in Norway; Tom, who died when three years of age; Tom (second), who is a road master in Norway, having been in railroad service there many years; Olaf, who came to Minnesota, and is farming a place of two hundred and forty acres in Keene township, Clay county; Margaretta, who died in Norway, and Nels, the subject of this sketch.

Nels Hammer spent his boyhood in Norway and there attended school. He came to America in 1882, coming directly to Minnesota. After working one summer for Peter Nelson on his farm in Eglon township, Clay county, he went to Wisconsin, spent one year in the lumber camps at Rice Lake, then went to Drummond, that state, and continued to work in the timber and in a saw-mill there for three and one-half years. He returned to Clay county in 1886 and during the summer of that year worked on the Northern Pacific railroad—the branch through the village of Hitterdal. He worked for Ole Gunderson the next winter, then on a farm for one year. He then purchased his present farm of eighty acres in section 33, Goose Prairie township, later buying another eighty, and he now owns a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres. It was all raw land when he bought it and he has placed it under a fine state of cultivation, erected a substantial group of buildings, set out a grove and otherwise improved it. Mr. Hammer carries on general and mixed farming and raises a good grade of Shorthorn cattle. He is one of the pioneers of his community and was the first man to

borrow the sum of five dollars from the Bank of Hawley, just after it was started.

Mr. Hammer was married in Fargo, North Dakota, June 16, 1888, to Jennie Salvevold, who was born in Norway, November 27, 1865, and who was about fourteen years of age when her parents brought her to America. The family located in Otter Tail county, Minnesota, where the father spent the rest of his life on a farm, dying a number of years ago. The mother is still living on the homestead there with her son. She is now about eighty years old. To Mr. and Mrs. Hammer eight children have been born, namely: Theodore, who owns and operates the hotel at Hitterdal, and Engar, Minnie, Nels, Jr., Nora, Stella, Elmer and Lillian, who are all at home.

Politically, Mr. Hammer is independent. He has been a member of the township board in Goose Prairie township for a period of twenty years, and chairman of the same part of the time. He is a member of the United Norwegian church, in which he is a deacon, and is an active worker in the same.

NELS M. KLEPPE.

Nels M. Kleppe, justice of the peace in and for Spring Prairie township, Clay county, and for many years engaged in the grain business at Averill, but who is now giving his chief attention to his quarter-section farm in the immediate vicinity of that village, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country and of Minnesota since he was an infant. He was born on November 22, 1885, son of S. R. and Nellie (Nelson) Kleppe, also natives of Norway, who came to this country in 1886 and located in Yellow Medicine county, this state remaining there about sixteen years, at the end of which time they moved to Lyon county. In this latter county S. R. Kleppe spent his last days and his widow is still living there. Of the children born to them three survive, those besides the subject of this sketch being Rasmus and Sikke.

As noted above, Nels M. Kleppe was but a babe in arms when his parents came from Norway to Minnesota and his youth was spent in Yellow Medicine county, where he received the greater part of his schooling. After the family moved to Lyon county he became a valued assistant in the labors of the home farm there and remained there until 1908, when