

been born, Mina, Oscar, Albert and Alma. The Thorsons are members of the Lutheran (Synod) church and take an interested part in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live.

ASLAK HANSON.

Aslak Hanson, one of the first settlers in Halstad township, Norman county, where he owns two hundred and five acres of well-tilled and improved farming land, was born in Norway, June 25, 1841, the son of Hans and Martha (Ellingson) Aslakson. Both of the parents were natives of Norway, where the father was a farmer, but when the opportunities for thrifty farmers in America came to his notice, he decided to cast his lot in the New World and came to this country in 1869, with his family, and settled in LaSalle county, Illinois, and there remained until his death occurred in 1887. Some time after the death of Hans Aslakson his wife removed to Hardin county, Iowa, and there remained until she died in 1902. To these parents were born the following children : Aslak, the subject of this review; Bertha, Elling, Hans, Gurena, Martha and Ellen, all of whom are dead but the first two named

Aslak Hanson received his early education, which was limited, in Norway, and there he grew to manhood, helping his father on the old farm. In the year that his parents came to America, he, a young man in his prime about twenty-eight years of age, came with them and settled in LaSalle county, Illinois, where he remained until 1876. While there he worked on farms, and in addition to this, learned the carpenter trade. There was a great demand for the latter in Chicago at that time because the great fire had occurred in that city in 1871 and much building had to be done. After working in Chicago for four years, during which time he had added much to his financial resources, Mr. Aslak Hanson became a pioneer and removed to Norman county, Minnesota, in 1876, and bought the right to two hundred acres of railroad land from a settler in Halstad township, being the first settler in this vicinity. He has remained living on his first holding since his coming, and he now has a well-improved farm on which he has planted a grove and added the other necessary improvements. His experience in carpentering has been of much use to him since he came to this new country, because he has personally built all buildings but the barn. In addition to his

original tract, Mr. Hanson made a valuable acquisition when he bought five acres of timber land.

Mr. Hanson has been married twice. He was married in 1882 to Anne Serine Anderson. To this union three children were born, namely, Henry Melvin, Hartwig Emcl and Alfred, the two last of whom died in infancy. On January 7, 1890, Mrs. Hanson died. His second marriage occurred on October 27, 1891, when he was married to Serena Olson, who was born in Norway, a daughter of Ole and Malina (Anderson) Olson, both natives of Norway, who came to America in 1889 and settled in Norman county. Two children, Ole and Minnie, were born to this union. Mr. Hanson and his family are devoted members of the Lutheran church, and in the affairs of which they are imbued with an abiding interest.

Mr. Hanson is a valuable citizen to his community, as he has been active in its material betterment. He helped to organize the first creamery and the first Farmers Elevator at Halstad, and was also instrumental in the organization of the Halstad Farmers Fire Insurance Company. The fact that he has served as township supervisor and on the grand jury nine or ten times, shows that he holds the civil interests of his community worthy of a good citizen's attention. Politically, Mr. Hanson adheres to Republican principles and policies and in the affairs of this party he takes a good American's interest.

ANDREW K. RUDE.

Andrew K. Rude, one of Norman county's best-known farmers and men of affairs, proprietor of an excellent farm in Wild Rice township, former treasurer and a member of the board of supervisors of that township, director in several local concerns of a semi-public character and in other ways actively identified with the general affairs of the community, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota since he was twenty-one years of age. He was born on May 8, 1867, son of Knute and Guri (Olean) Jolson, also natives of Norway, who spent all their lives in their native land. Knute Jolson was a farmer and he and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, the others being Julius, Maria, Ingebright, Ragnild and Evold (twins), the latter of whom died at the age of six months, and Cecilia, who died when eighteen years of age.

Reared on a farm in his native Norway, Andrew K. Rude received