

## JOHN O. HILLESTAD.

The business of the farmer is to make the farm produce the utmost possible at the lowest cost, and to be certain of a ready cash market for all that is produced. Thus the farmer who succeeds nowadays must use both his brain and his brawn. One of the tillers of the soil in Cromwell township, Clay county, who seems to be both a good planner and a hard worker is John O. Hillestad, who was born in Norway, July 12, 1860. He is a son of Ole J. and Thora Christina (Hillestad) Hillestad, both natives of Norway, where they grew to maturity, married and established their home and where the mother still resides, the father dying several years ago. They never came to America. To these parents eight children were born, namely: Karin Ellina, John O., Hans, Peter, Sophia (deceased), Martin, Andrew and Gustav.

John O. Hillestad spent his boyhood in Norway where he attended school. He came to Minnesota in 1879 and located in Fillmore county, where he remained four years, working as a farm laborer. He came to Clay county in 1883, driving up here with three horses and a buggy. He continued to work out on farms until 1887, when he moved on his present farm, in Cromwell township, as a "squatter," later buying the land from the railroad, when it was placed on the market. He worked hard improving the place, built a house and outbuildings and by perseverance and good management has succeeded as a general farmer and stock raiser and now owns two hundred and forty acres. He not only has exceptionally fine farm buildings, but a large and inviting grove surrounding them. Mr. Hillestad has become one of the substantial men of affairs in his township and is a director in the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company at Hawley, which he helped organize. He is also a stockholder and director in the Lake Park and Cuba Fire Insurance Company.

On December 24, 1884, Mr. Hillestad was married to Stena Maria Nelson, a native of Norway and a daughter of Andres Nelson and Helga (Hyhus) Eck, the former a native of Sweden and the latter of Norway. They came to America in 1883, coming directly to Minnesota, and at once located in Parke township, Clay county, where they bought an eighty-acre farm, on which they established the family's future home, and there spent the rest of their lives. Their family consisted of four children, namely: Jennie, who came to Wisconsin in 1880, later came to Clay county, Minnesota, where her death occurred some time ago; Stena Maria, wife of the

subject of this sketch; Ingeborg, deceased; and Carrie, the youngest. The eldest daughter came to America alone, but the three younger children came with their parents in 1883. To Mr. and Mrs. Hillestad ten children have been born, namely: Oscar, Albert (deceased), Tilda, Henry, John, Sarah, Edwin, Carl, William and Ida (deceased).

Politically, Mr. Hillestad is an "Independent." He has served as township supervisor and was township assessor for a period of fifteen years. As a public servant he has performed his duties ably and acceptably. He and his family are members of the Lutheran church.

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### EUGENE J. HERRINGER.

Eugene J. Herringer, abstractor and real-estate dealer, of Ada, former auditor of Norman county, former mayor and former clerk of Ada and one of the best-known and most progressive citizens of that city, is a native of Canada, but has been a resident of Ada since he was eighteen years of age.

Upon completing his schooling in the public schools of his native province of Ontario, Eugene J. Herringer came to Minnesota and in May, 1882, located at Ada, where he ever since has resided. Upon his arrival there he secured employment as a member of Norman county's excellent teaching corps and for eight years spent his winters teaching school, the summers being employed at various forms of clerical labor. He then was engaged in the office of the auditor of Norman county and served as deputy county auditor for six years, at the end of which time he was elected county auditor. In the succeeding election he was re-elected to that office thus served for eight years as auditor of the county. Upon the completion of his term of public service Mr. Herringer engaged in the abstracting business as a partner in the Norman County Abstract Company and about 1908 became sole proprietor of the business of that company, which he since has conducted alone, at the same time giving his attention to his flourishing real-estate business, long having been recognized as one of the leading realty dealers in this part of the state.

In addition to his considerable term of service in the court house, Mr. Herringer also has performed valuable service in behalf of the city of Ada. For five years he served as clerk of that city and he also has served a term as mayor of the city, in all his public acts doing all in his power to advance the growing interests of his home city.