

John G. Perkins grew up in England, there attended the public schools and Besthorp boarding school and was twenty years of age when he came to the United States with his parents. He helped his father start the family home in Cromwell township, working hard, as did all sons of pioneer settlers in those days. In 1876 he began life for himself by pre-empting one hundred and sixty acres in section 18 of Cromwell township; later converted eighty acres of it to a homestead, and still later homesteaded an adjoining fifty-five acres. He also tree-claimed a quarter section in section 8 of the same township and now has one of the choice farms of his locality, having erected a modern and substantial group of buildings on it, placed it under a fine state of cultivation and has set out a large grove, which is now very attractive. He has met with much more than mediocre success, all along the line, as a general farmer and stock raiser as a result of his perseverance and close application.

In 1884 Mr. Perkins was married to Sarah Jane Harper, who was born in Canada. She is a daughter of John Harper, now deceased, who moved from Canada to Minnesota, locating at New York Mills, in Otter Tail county, where he established the future home of the family. Thirteen children were born to John G. Perkins and wife, namely: John William, Elsie May, Annie Maude, Hazel, Eleanor, Frederick Lawrence, Earl, Pearl, James, Blanche, all living, and George and Frederick, who died young. The mother of these children died in 1910.

Politically, Mr. Perkins is a non-partisan. He was township assessor a number of years ago and also was constable in the old days, when there was considerable lawlessness and when the duties of such an officer were much more strenuous than now. He has also served on the local school board in various capacities.

ANDREW L. JELSING.

Each man who strives to fulfill his part in connection with human life and human activities is deserving of recognition, no matter what may be the field of his endeavor, for it is interesting to note the varying conditions that have compassed those whose careers are brought to the attention of the readers of history.

An enterprising merchant of the village of Dale, Highland Grove township, Clay county, is Andrew L. Jelsing, who was born in Dodge county,

Minnesota, March 6, 1870. He is a son of Lars Pederson Jelsing and Maria Jelsing, both natives of Norway. The father came to America in 1861, leaving his wife in the old country until he could establish the future home of the family in the New World. After spending two years near Madison, Wisconsin, Lars Pederson Jelsing, in 1863, returned to Norway, intending not to return to America, but he subsequently came back and located in Dodge county, Minnesota. He had not been there long until he was drafted for service in the Civil War, but he hired a substitute. He brought his wife and three sons back to America with him. She was Anna Bang prior to her marriage, and their three children were named as follow: Peter, who is living, and Martin and Peder, deceased. The wife and mother died in Dodge county, and later Lars Pederson Jelsing married Maria Christensen and to that union four children were born, all of whom survive at this writing, namely: Andrew L., the subject of this sketch; Randine, Hannah and Louisa. The father of these children continued farming in Dodge county until 1871, when he moved his family to Clay county in a covered wagon and bought railroad land in Eglon township, on which he established the future home of the family; but two years later bought a homestead right, just across the line in Becker county, of eighty acres, and lived there until 1893, later adding to his original holdings until he had a total of three hundred and twenty acres. He carried on general farming extensively and brought his place up to a high state of improvement. He retired from active life in 1891, but continued to reside there until 1893, and thereafter spent the rest of his life among his children. His second wife died in 1880. In 1883 he made another trip to Norway. He helped organize Lake Park township, Becker county, and also helped to organize Solum Lutheran church in Eglon township. His death occurred in Moorhead on March 10, 1908.

Andrew L. Jelsing grew to manhood on the home farm. He attended the district schools and was a student for three years in the State Normal at Moorhead, living at home until he was twenty-one years old. He began life for himself as a teacher, which profession he followed for five years, in Becker and Clay counties, with marked success. He then took up grain buying at Winnipeg Junction, Clay county (which place is no longer on the map), and continued grain buying, for the most part, until the summer of 1908. In the meantime he served as justice of the peace and village recorder and also was a member of the school board. He helped incorporate the village, but when the railroad was relaid through the county, missing Winnipeg Junction by one mile, the town soon became extinct, its inhabit-

ants moving to other places. Mr. Jelsing started the village of Dale, in Highland Grove township, where he has since resided: He purchased the townsite and laid out the town, built a store and began a general-merchandise business, which he has conducted with ever-increasing success to the present time, carrying a large and well-selected stock of goods and enjoying an excellent trade with the people of the surrounding country. He was active in securing a postoffice for the town and was appointed postmaster when the office was first established, in March, 1910, and has discharged the duties of the same ever since. He is a notary public and is clerk of the local school board. He was formerly justice of the peace at Dale. As a public servant he has discharged his duties in an able, faithful and acceptable manner, always taking a great interest in the affairs of his locality. Politically, he is a Republican, and, religiously, he belongs to the Lutheran church, being active in the work of the same.

On February 15, 1898, Mr. Jelsing was married to Lena L. Bjerke, a native of Lake Park township, Becker county. She is a daughter of the late Lars C. Bjerke, and was born on January 29, 1873. Her father was one of the early homesteaders of that township. Mr. and Mrs. Jelsing have no children of their own, but they have an adopted daughter, June Jelsing, whom they have had from infancy.

EDWARD A. TRONNES.

Edward A. Tronnes, a substantial and progressive farmer, and stockman of Hagen township, this county, owner of a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres in that township, chairman of the township board and interested in public utilities, is a native son of Norway, but has been a resident of the United States since he was twenty-two years old, having immigrated in 1887. He was born on September 13, 1865, a son of Andrew and Carrie (Tronnes) Tronnes, both born in Norway, where they spent all their lives, Andrew Tronnes having been a farmer and engaged at that calling all his life. They were the parents of the following children: Andrew, Haaken, Edward A., Helge, Cornelius, Bertha, Carrie, Annie and an infant daughter. They were earnest members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith.

Edward A. Tronnes was educated in the schools of Norway and assisted his father in the work of cultivating the small farm of which the