

Reared on the home farm in his native Pennsylvania, Edgar B. McColgin received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and for two terms taught school there. He continued to make his home there, helping in the cultivation of the home farm, until he was twenty-four years of age, when, in 1896, he came to Minnesota with a view to establishing himself as a farmer up here in the Red River country, and located in Clay county. Two years later he married and after his marriage established his home on a farm southeast of Hawley, where he remained until about 1905, when he moved to his present quarter-section farm in the vicinity of Downer, where he ever since has been actively engaged in general farming and stock raising and has done well. For years Mr. McColgin has given his close attention to local civic affairs, for some time served as a member of the board of township supervisors and is the present treasurer of Elkton township. On January 1, 1910, he was commissioned postmaster of Downer and has ever since occupied that position. In that same year he bought a store at Downer and has since continued to manage the same, at the same time giving his general direction to the management of his well-kept farm. Mr. McColgin is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at the neighboring village of Baker and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

On December 7, 1898, Edgar B. McColgin was united in marriage to Anna Mix, daughter of Charles Mix and wife, of Clay county, and to this union four children have been born, Thomas, Totten, Elohamma and William. The McColgins have a very pleasant home and give proper attention to the community's general social affairs.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

One of the enterprising and influential citizens of Hawley, Clay county, who has forged to the front by his own efforts, often in the face of obstacles that would have discouraged men of less courage and mettle, is Andrew Johnson, well-known general merchant. He was born in Norway, February 12, 1857, and there he grew to manhood and attended school. He remained in his native land until 1876, when he immigrated to the United States, locating in Trempealeau county, Wisconsin.

In 1879, with William E. Bennett and James Craig, Mr. Johnson came to Hawley, Clay county, and worked in this vicinity for two years at the carpenter's trade. In 1882 he and Pete Larson started in the lumber business

under the firm name of Johnson & Larson also taking contract building at Hawley. This partnership continued with mutual benefit and ever-increasing success until the spring of 1887, at which time Mr. Johnson engaged in general merchandise, lumber and machinery business on his own account, in fact, he handled everything that could be bought and sold in this part of the state to advantage. He did a large business from the start and carried an extensive stock of goods, his customers coming from all over the eastern part of Clay county. In the spring of 1904 he organized the Hawley Lumber Company, in partnership with Knud Wefald and H. F. Mensing. They established a large yard and put in an extensive stock of all kinds of lumber and other materials used by builders. Under the wise foresight and counsel of Mr. Johnson the venture has proven more successful even than was at first anticipated, and it is now one of the leading lumber firms of the county.

Mr. Johnson is a heavy stockholder in the First National Bank of Hawley and is a director in the same. He is also a dealer in potatoes at Hawley on a vast scale, buying and shipping many carloads annually. He sold his machinery business a few years ago, and he now devotes much of his attention to the operation of his fine department store in Hawley, which would be a credit to towns much larger than Hawley. It is modern in all its appointments; a varied, extensive and carefully selected stock of goods is carried at all seasons and everything is managed under a superb system. The thousands of regular customers of this popular store always are assured of honest, prompt and courteous treatment by both the management and the employees.

Mr. Johnson was married in 1882 to Louise Anfinson, who was born in Houston county, Minnesota. She was educated in the public schools. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of six children, two boys and four girls, all living at Hawley.

Politically, Mr. Johnson is a Republican. He served as president of Hawley, also on the village council for some time. He has done much toward the general welfare of Hawley in fact, has been one of its principal boosters ever since he located here, believing in its future with implicit confidence. He always supports any movement having for its object the good of his town and county. Fraternally, he belongs to the Masonic Order, and he is a member and liberal supporter of the Lutheran church, which he helped to organize. He is deserving of a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished, unaided and by sheer force of character, having started out in life with no capital, a stranger in a strange land. He is a man whose word is as good as the bond of most men, and he has the respect and good will of all who know him.