

he became quite an expert in due course of time, and he has continued to follow the same ever since, being an adroit, prompt and honest workman his services have always been in demand and his work is satisfactory in every respect.

The subject of this sketch, who is unmarried, makes his home with his brother, Claus Carlson, or rather they live together in the same home. Claus Carlson was born in Sweden, February 21, 1881, and there he attended the common schools. He came to Moorhead with his brother, David E., and here he has since resided. He attended the State Normal School here about two years. As a young man he learned the cement business, which he has since continued with gratifying results. About 1898 he returned to Sweden for his bride, Hildur Carlson. After their marriage they remained in the old country about a year, then he came back to Minnesota and established his future home at Moorhead. To their union two children have been born, namely Martin: and Gustav. The Carlsons attend the Swedish Lutheran church.

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#### FRANK JOHNSON.

Cultivation of the soil began with the desire on the part of the cultivator to destroy weeds or plants not desired—plants that were likely to crowd out and injure the ones in which he was interested. But we now know that the destruction of weeds is a matter of secondary importance. We now cultivate to conserve moisture and to promote chemical and biological activity. One of the up-to-date farmers of Highland Grove township, Clay county, is Frank Johnson, who was born in Sweden, November, 8, 1861. He is a son of John and Anna Breta (Anderson) Anderson, both natives of Sweden, where they grew to maturity, married and established their home, and there the father spent his life, dying many years ago. His widow subsequently came to the United States with her son Frank. But illness overtook her en route and her death occurred about a week after arriving in Clay county, Minnesota. She had six children, named as follow: Andrew, deceased; Edward is living; Juel and Carl, deceased; Frank, of this sketch, and Anton, deceased.

Frank Johnson grew to manhood in Sweden and there received a common school education. He came to America in 1880, when nearly twenty years old, coming direct to Clay county, Minnesota. Besides his mother, his brother Juel accompanied him. Frank Johnson worked out in Clay county

as a hired hand for some time, also worked a year in Canada on construction work for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. He saved his earnings and in 1886 bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Highland Grove township, Clay county, and here he has since resided. It was all raw land at the start, but he broke the sod and developed a very productive and valuable farm from virgin prairie, putting on all improvements, built a comfortable residence, numerous outbuildings and fences, planted a grove and otherwise made his place one of the most desirable in his community. Under his careful and systematic tillage the soil has not lost any of its original fertility during his thirty years of diversified crop raising. He purchased the land from a railroad company. He was one of the pioneers in this part of the county and has lived to see many great changes inaugurated here.

Mr. Johnson was married in 1888 to Mary Backman, a native of Sweden, from which country she came to America with her parents when young. She attended the common schools. She was a daughter of Andrew Berg, a sketch of whom will be found on another page of this work. Mrs. Johnson's death occurred in 1889, in early life, about a year after her marriage. She left one child, Carl Johnson, who grew up on the homestead, received his education in the local rural schools, and is now assisting his father operate the home farm.

Mr. Johnson has been a member of the school board in his district continuously during the past fifteen years, or since 1902, and has done much toward improving the schools of his vicinity. He assisted in building the present Augustana Lutheran church in 1901.

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#### FRANK KIMM.

All credit is due a man who wins success in his chosen field of endeavor in spite of obstacles, who, by persistency and energy, gains a competency and a position of honor as a man and citizen. The record of Frank Kimm, a farmer of Oak Port township, Clay county, is that of such a man, for he came to this locality in the days of its rapid growth from primordial conditions and here he has worked his way up from the bottom to definite success.

Mr. Kimm was born in Bremer county, Iowa, February 16, 1866, a son of John Francis and Julia (Downing) Kimm. The family moved from Iowa to southern Minnesota in 1868, locating on a farm and there the father