

SYLVESTER JAMES JOHNSON.

Sylvester James Johnson, who owns the fine farm in Elmwood township, Clay county, developed by his late father, Sever Johnson, was born at Owatonna, in Steele county, this state, in 1881. He was but two years of age when his parents, Sever and Bertha (Johnson) Johnson, came up into this part of the state and settled on the farm on which he is still living and of which he has had practical charge since the lamented death of his father, who was killed in a railway-crossing accident at Moorhead in 1907.

Sever Johnson was born in Wisconsin, son of Louis and Dora Johnson, who had come to this country from Norway and had settled in Wisconsin, later going to Montana, afterward settling in Steele county, Minnesota. Louis Johnson was living in Montana at the time of the Indian uprising, and for the valuable service he rendered in giving warning to other settlers of the uprising, was awarded a medal by the state. Reared in Steele county, Sever Johnson was there married to Bertha Johnson, who was born in the kingdom of Norway and who had come to this country with her parents, the family first settling in Wisconsin and later coming to Minnesota. After his marriage he continued to make his home in the vicinity of Owatonna, where he was engaged in farming until 1883, in which year he came with his family up into the Red River country and located on the farm on which his son Sylvester is now living, in Elmwood township, Clay county, and proceeded to develop and improve the same, becoming the owner there of a well-improved place, comprising one-half a section of excellent land. The father was prospering in his affairs when he accidentally met his death at a railway crossing in Moorhead, as noted above. His widow is now making her home in the village of Sabin. They were the parents of three children, Dora, Teda and Sylvester J., and had besides an adopted son, Alvin.

Sylvester J. Johnson was but a child when his parents settled on the pioneer farm in Elmwood township and there he grew to manhood, becoming a practical farmer. Upon completing the course in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, he entered the high school at Moorhead. He then took a course in the State Normal School in that city and for ten years afterward was engaged in teaching school, his service in that connection being rendered in four districts, in one of which he taught for seven years. Meanwhile, he continued to be actively engaged in farming during the summers, and after his father's shocking death took charge of the home place and has since been managing the same, making a pronounced success of his opera-

tions. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Johnson gives considerable attention to the raising of potatoes and is doing well. He has an excellent farm plant and carries on his operations in accordance with approved and up-to-date methods. Though not particularly active in politics, he has held local offices and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs.

In 1907, Sylvester J. Johnson was united in marriage to Margarette Malchose, daughter of Hubert Malchose and wife, of Clay county, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Niles and Gordon. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have a very pleasant home and take a proper interest in the social affairs of the community. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Modern Brotherhood, and in the affairs of that organization takes a warm interest.

MONS T. WEUM.

Mons T. Weum, president of the State Bank of Moorhead, president of the First State Bank of South Haven and a director in several other banking concerns in this part of the state, formerly engaged in the retail clothing business at Moorhead and still the possessor of mercantile interests, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota since he was twelve years of age. He was born on March 20, 1857, a son of Tosten N. and Ingeborg Weum, also natives of Norway, who spent all their lives in their native land.

When he was twelve years of age, Mons T. Weum came to the United States with a brother and a sister, the three proceeding on out to Minnesota and locating in Goodhue county, where he began working on farms, later becoming a clerk in a store at Owatonna and was engaged in the latter occupation for several years, at the end of which time he started a store of his own at Norcross, in Grant county. Two years later, upon the establishment of the village of Georgetown, in Clay county, he moved to that new town and started there the first real store started in the place. His business there prospered and he still is a partner in that pioneer store, though a resident of Moorhead for the past fifteen years. It was about 1902 that Mr. Weum located at Moorhead, where he started a clothing store. He also for a time was connected with the jobbing trade at Minneapolis. In 1903, about a year after becoming a resident of Moorhead, Mr. Weum was made the president of the State Bank of Moorhead, a position he ever since has held and to the duties of which he gives his active attention. Mr. Weum has other