

borrow the sum of five dollars from the Bank of Hawley, just after it was started.

Mr. Hammer was married in Fargo, North Dakota, June 16, 1888, to Jennie Salvevold, who was born in Norway, November 27, 1865, and who was about fourteen years of age when her parents brought her to America. The family located in Otter Tail county, Minnesota, where the father spent the rest of his life on a farm, dying a number of years ago. The mother is still living on the homestead there with her son. She is now about eighty years old. To Mr. and Mrs. Hammer eight children have been born, namely: Theodore, who owns and operates the hotel at Hitterdal, and Engar, Minnie, Nels, Jr., Nora, Stella, Elmer and Lillian, who are all at home.

Politically, Mr. Hammer is independent. He has been a member of the township board in Goose Prairie township for a period of twenty years, and chairman of the same part of the time. He is a member of the United Norwegian church, in which he is a deacon, and is an active worker in the same.

---

#### NELS M. KLEPPE.

Nels M. Kleppe, justice of the peace in and for Spring Prairie township, Clay county, and for many years engaged in the grain business at Averill, but who is now giving his chief attention to his quarter-section farm in the immediate vicinity of that village, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country and of Minnesota since he was an infant. He was born on November 22, 1885, son of S. R. and Nellie (Nelson) Kleppe, also natives of Norway, who came to this country in 1886 and located in Yellow Medicine county, this state remaining there about sixteen years, at the end of which time they moved to Lyon county. In this latter county S. R. Kleppe spent his last days and his widow is still living there. Of the children born to them three survive, those besides the subject of this sketch being Rasmus and Sikke.

As noted above, Nels M. Kleppe was but a babe in arms when his parents came from Norway to Minnesota and his youth was spent in Yellow Medicine county, where he received the greater part of his schooling. After the family moved to Lyon county he became a valued assistant in the labors of the home farm there and remained there until 1908, when

he came up into the Red River country and located at Averill, being there engaged as grain buyer for the Minnesota & Western Grain Company, and continued thus engaged until 1915, since which time he has been chiefly engaged in farming, operating a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres nearby the village. In the meantime, in 1912, he married Mrs. Effie Johnson, who was then and still is conducting a general store at Averill, and until he took up active farming assisted in the management of the store as well as looking after his grain business. Mr. Kleppe has given close attention to the general civic affairs of his home community since locating here and for the past six years has been serving as justice of the peace.

Mrs. Kleppe was born, Effie Hawkins, on a pioneer farm in Rockwell township, in the adjoining county of Norman, daughter of Christian Ingebright and Johanna Johnson (Slater) Hawkins, the former a native of Norway and the latter of Sweden, who were married in Minnesota and became pioneers of Norman county, where Christian Hawkins spent his last days. His widow is still living. She was born in Sweden and was but six years of age when she came to this country with her parents, Peter and Mary (Johnson) Slater, who first settled in Washington county, this state, later moving to Carver county, where they spent their last days. Christian Hawkins came to the United States from Norway when about twenty-one years of age and located at Minneapolis, where he became engaged working at his trade as a tailor. He married about 1876 and about two years later, after a year spent at Fergus Falls, homesteaded a quarter of a section of land six miles east of Borup, in Norman county. Upon his retirement from the farm he moved to Averill and later to Ada, where he died in May, 1905, at the age of sixty-four years. His father died in Norway and his mother later married again and came to this country. Christian Hawkins helped to organize the first church established in the vicinity of Borup.

On October 30, 1897, Effie Hawkins was united in marriage to John Johnson, who was born in Sweden on September 17, 1867, son of John and Johanna Johnson, who spent all their lives in their native Sweden. When twenty years of age the younger John Johnson came to the United States and after a while located at Felton, in Clay county, later moving to Averill, where in March, 1898, he started the first store established in that village and also operated a farm in that vicinity. Mr. Johnson was for years a member of the school board at Averill and credit was due him for the movement which led to the erection of the school house there. Though reared

as a Lutheran he helped to organize the Congregational church at Felton and also aided in the organization of the church at Averill. John Johnson died on February 20, 1911, leaving a widow and four children, Clara, Evelyn, Leonard and Ruby.

---

### OLE H. GOL.

Some people seem to forget that a fertile soil is a living, breathing thing, well fed by nature or by the hand of man, with the natural mineral elements and the organic matter necessary for the use of the soil bacteria in the manufacture of plant food, and for a delightful environment in which they can live and work. Ole H. Gol, a farmer of Highland Grove township, Clay county, has not overlooked this fact, and consequently he is making his farm produce good crops annually and is living comfortably as a result of his good management.

Mr. Gol was born in Norway, November 15, 1868. He is a son of Hans and Ragna (Tollefson) Tollefson, both natives of Norway, where they spent their lives on a farm. Eight children were born to them, namely: Tollef Hanson, the first; Tollef Hanson, the second; Berget Hanson, and Arna Hanson, all of whom live in Norway; Hans Hanson, who came to Minnesota and lives in Eglon township, Clay county; Nels Hanson, who lives in Norway; Ole H., the subject of this sketch, and Ingebright, the wife of Christ Erickson, of Parke township, Clay county.

Ole H. Gol spent his boyhood in Norway and there attended the common schools. He remained with his parents on the home farm until about 1896, when he immigrated to America and came to Minnesota, locating on a farm in Eglon township, Clay county, where he remained about eight years, then removed to Highland Grove township, buying his present excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres, where he has since been engaged in general farming and stock raising.

In the spring of 1906 Mr. Gol was married to Emma Sophia Westberg, who was born on her father's homestead in Highland Grove township, Clay county, where she grew to womanhood. She was educated in the local district schools. She is a daughter of Peter and Annie (Anderson) Westberg, both natives of Sweden, from which country they came to Minnesota when young and were married in Clay county in 1881. Mr. Westberg came directly to Clay county in 1879 and was one of the pioneers in Highland