

living his home ever since he entered it the year after his arrival in Norman county. He now has two hundred seventy-five acres and has done well in his farming operations, his place being well improved and profitably cultivated. He planted a fine grove on the place and the same is now an admirable feature of the landscape in that section. Since 1892 K. J. Skavdahl has been operating a threshing-machine outfit and has done well in that line. He helped organize the creamery company at Halstad and was especially active in the work of organizing the farmers elevator movement at that same place, in both of these enterprises taking much interest. Mr. Skavdahl also has taken an interested part in general public affairs, has been clerk of the school board in his local district for many years and served for some time as a member of the board of township supervisors, for a time being chairman of the board. G. J. and K. J. Skavahl have been working together on the same farm since 1882. They bought the first quarter section of land for seventeen hundred and ten dollars. There were no improvements and they were over two thousand dollars in debt at the start.

On December 29, 1904, Karelius J. Skavdahl was united in marriage to Maria Anthony, who also was born in Norway at Yttenöen, Trondhjem, daughter of Johan and Ane Magrethe Martinus, and to this union have been born four children: Johanus, Johan Arnt, Ingeborg Anna and Clara Matilda. Mr. and Mrs. Skavdahl are members of the Lutheran church and take an interested part in church work. The Skavdahl brothers have been members of the same Lutheran church since 1883. They have a pleasant home and give proper attention to the general social affairs of the neighborhood.

CARL KNUTSON.

Carl Knutson, one of the best-known and most substantial farmers in the northern part of Norman county, proprietor of a fine farm in Strand township, formerly and for twenty-five years chairman of the board of supervisors of that township, secretary of the creamery company at Gary, former president of the Farmers Elevator Company at that place and in other ways actively identified with the growing interests of that part of the county, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of Minnesota since 1884, in which year he established himself on the place on which he is still living in Strand township and where he and his family are very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. He was born in the city of

Drammen, an important seaport of Norway situated on both sides of the Drammen river near its mouth in the Christiania fjord, thirty-three miles southwest of Christiania, January 23, 1852, son of Gabriel and Johanna (Olson) Knutson, also natives of Norway, who spent all their lives in their native land. Gabriel Knutson was for years employed in a responsible position by an extensive carriage and sled factory, his business being to deliver the manufactured product of the factory, and was a man of standing. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, namely: Karen, Gustav, Bernhart (deceased), Carl, Johan (deceased), Emil and Gerhart. Of these children the subject of this sketch was the only one who came to America.

Reared in his native city of Drammen, Carl Knutson received there an excellent education and early qualified himself for manufacturing and commercial pursuits. Upon completing his schooling he went to Christiania, the capital, and was for seven years engaged there as the treasurer of a company operating an iron works. He then for seven years was engaged as a bookkeeper for a grain company and in the meantime was maturing his plans for coming to the United States, which project he carried out in 1884. Upon his arrival in this country he proceeded to Chicago and after six weeks spent there in making inquiries regarding the most likely place of settlement, he decided on this section of the Red River valley and came up here, having decided to settle in Norman county. In that same year, in partnership with John Sulrud, Mr. Knutson bought the tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Strand township, on which he is now living, and an additional ten acres nearby. Mr. Knutson soon bought his partner's interest in the place and proceeded to develop and improve the same in accordance with his own views, and it was not long until he had his place fairly well improved and in a way to profitable cultivation. In 1890, he by that time having created home-like surroundings on his farm, Mr. Knutson sent to Norway for his old sweetheart, Anna Christopherson, who also was born in that country, a daughter of Andrew Christopherson, and they were united in marriage within three hours after her arrival here and straightway entered upon the task of housekeeping on the place he had prepared with such devoted care against the time of her coming. Since then Mr. Knutson has made many substantial improvements on his place and has long had one of the best farm plants in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Knutson has given his studious and intelligent attention to the general business and civic affairs of his home community and has been one of the most prominent factors in the development of that region. For twenty-five years he served as chairman

of the board of township supervisors in his home township, retiring from office in the spring of 1917, and during that long period did much to bring about the proper development of Strand township. He helped in the organization of the local creamery company at Gary and has been secretary of that company from the time of its organization with the exception of three years, during which time the condition of his wife's health would not permit him to assume added responsibilities. When the Farmers Elevator Company was organized at Gary he was elected president of that concern and held that position for some years. In other ways also he has been helpful in advancing the common interests of the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Knutson have one child, a son, Harry Knutson, who is a valued assistant to his father in the latter's operations and who continues to make his home on the home place. The Knutsons are members of the United Lutheran church at Gary, which church Mr. Knutson helped to organize, and have ever taken an interested and influential part in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live.

J. H. FISCH.

One of the enterprising business men of Barnesville, Clay county, is J. H. Fisch, a contractor and builder, who has built up for himself a wide and enviable reputation in his chosen line of endeavor. Mr. Fisch is a native of Iowa, born January 24, 1879, in Iowa county, the son of Jacob and Mary (Hendry) Fisch, the former a native of Muscatine county, Iowa, and the latter of Glasgow, Scotland. His father is a farmer by occupation, and is now living in O'Brien county, Iowa. Jacob Fisch and wife are the parents of the following children, J. H., George, William, Roy, Cloyd, Jesse and Clevie.

J. H. Fisch received his education in the public schools of his native state, and as a young man learned the trade of a carpenter. At the early age of twenty he started contracting and building for himself. In 1892 he came to Clay county, Minnesota, locating at Barnesville, where he has since made his home. For the first three years after coming here he worked for others, the first year for W. H. Merritt, of Moorhead, Minnesota, and the next two years for Minnie & Summers, of Barnesville. In 1905 he engaged in the contracting and building business for himself here, and has made