

Thomas L. Todd spent the early years of his childhood in the province of Quebec, Canada, and was four years of age when his parents came to Minnesota and located south of the village of Hendrum, where he attended the local schools. Later he entered Fargo College, and after he had finished his schooling there returned to the home place and began his very successful career on the farm. Soon after he began farming on the home place, where he derived much useful experience in wresting the treasures from the soil, he decided to extend his operations by purchasing some land on his own account. He has increased his holdings until now he has four hundred acres of fine land, which he has improved by skillful cultivation and by the erection of modern farm buildings; he also farms four hundred acres for his mother. At the present time he is a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs, in addition to his general farming pursuits.

On May 23, 1901, Mr. Todd was united in marriage to Lillie M. Vanstrum, who was born at Kirkhoven, near Willmar, Minnesota, May 14, 1879, the daughter of C. W. and Ida (Bunting) Vanstrum, natives of Ohio, who came to Minnesota and located at Dassel, where both died, he being eighty years of age at the time of his death and she, eighty-two. To this union have been born the following children: Earl, who died; Arnet, Kenneth, Glenn and Lester. Mr. Todd and his family are members of the Presbyterian church, in the affairs of which they have been active. Politically he is independent. In addition to his most successful efforts in up-to-date farming, Mr. Todd gives a good citizen's attention to the local affairs of his community.

JENS N. LANDRO.

Jens N. Landro, the proprietor of two hundred and forty acres of well-improved land in Hendrum township, where he carries on general farming and stock raising, was born on his father's homestead in this township, February 8, 1880, the son of Nels J. and Anna (Stordahl) Landro, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and married. In 1876, one year after the latter's father and mother, John O. and Janetta (Beckdahl) Stordahl, came to America, Mr. and Mrs. Landro decided to follow their example and located in Fillmore county, Minnesota, where they remained three years. Learning what opportunities awaited them in Norman county where Mrs.

Landro's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stordahl, had located two years before, Nels Landro and wife loaded their household goods and farming implements into a wagon and pushed northward behind their slow-moving ox-team toward Norman county. They reached the end of their journey after a few weeks and immediately took a homestead of eighty acres in section 22, where they lived until they retired from farming to the village of Hendrum, where they now live. During his residence on the farm, Mr. Landro was variously connected with the different movements of his neighborhood, having helped to organize the Pontopidan Lutheran church and various local corporations. When he left the farm, it contained one hundred and sixty acres. To the elder Landro and wife eight children were born, namely: John, Ole, Johanna, Nels, Jens, Albert, Julia and Martin, the latter of whom died at the age of two years.

Jens N. Landro has always lived in Hendrum township and there he received his common-school education. Until 1903 he remained on the old home place where he contributed his zeal and industry to the material benefit of the family and at the same time acquired some valuable practical experience, which was of great use to him when he began farming on his own account. In the year mentioned above he left the parental roof tree and began farming on the place where he now lives, having been there all of this time except the three years which he spent on his father's place. His unflagging industry has enabled him to extend his holdings until now he is the owner of one of the best improved farms in Hendrum township. He is a very progressive farmer and believes in the use of modern improvements on his farm as soon as he is convinced that they will be of substantial benefit to his business. In 1913 he erected his well-appointed farm house, where he and his family are delightfully situated; and in 1915 he made another valuable improvement when he built his large circular barn, which is seventy feet in diameter. At this time, in addition to his general farming, he makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Holstein cattle, and has thus contributed much to raising the standard of stock in his community.

In addition to his farming operations, Mr. Landro is interested in the betterment of the marketing and credit facilities of his community. He helped to organize the creamery and to reorganize the Farmers' Elevator Company of Hendrum, being a member of the board of directors of the latter institution; and in addition to these, he is interested in the Farmers' State Bank of Hendrum. Politically, Mr. Landro adheres to independent principles. He has been called upon by his neighbors to serve the town-

ship's interests on its board, of which he has been a member for seven years, two of which he has served as chairman. He has also performed an estimable service for the educational progress of the community while he has been a member of the township school board for the last three years.

On November 26th, 1903, Mr. Landro was united in marriage to Mary Ingberg, who was born in Hendrum township, November 5, 1877, the daughter of P. O. and Emma (Neuland) Ingberg, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. To this union four children have been born, Ingwald, Alice, Ida and Palmer, all of whom are living. Mr. Landro and family are members of the Pontopidan Lutheran church, and in the affairs of the same they take an active interest.

OLE N. BJORND AHL.

One of the painstaking farmers of Skree township, Clay county, is Ole N. BJORND AHL, who was born in Norway, March 23, 1876. He is a son of Nels and Turgen (Ulvick) BJORND AHL, both natives of Norway, where they grew up and married. They came to Minnesota in 1878, locating in Parke township, Clay county, and during the following year the father bought a homestead right of Amund Olson for his eighty acres, and later he homesteaded an additional eighty, improved his land and there carried on general farming until his death. His widow still lives on the homestead. He prospered with the advancing years and added twenty acres of timber land, eighty acres of railroad land and forty acres of prairie land, making in all a large and excellent farm, on which he erected substantial buildings and made other important improvements. He set out a large grove, embracing several acres, the government paying him for the work. He helped start the Grong Lutheran church. His family consisted of ten children, namely: Nellie, the wife of Nels Olson; Vina, the wife of William Shaver; Nels N., Mrs. Carrie Jaques, Ole N., Mrs. Inge Robinson, Adolph, who is at home, Mrs. Louisa Markel, Knut N. and Nina, who is teaching school and lives at home.

Ole N. BJORND AHL grew to manhood on the home farm and attended the district schools. When a young man he bought one hundred and twenty acres of railroad land in Eglon township, Clay county, which he cultivated, although remaining at home. In 1900 he went to McHenry county, North Dakota, and filed on one hundred and sixty acres. He lived there seven years, making all improvements, building a house and outbuildings, fences, setting out a grove, etc. He still desired further educational advantages and