

of this office. He took the census for the government of Goose Prairie and Keene townships in 1910, and is at present a director on the school board in his district. He belongs to the Lutheran church, in which he is a trustee.

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### LARS B. LARSON.

Lars B. Larson, one of the real pioneers of Norman county and a well-known and substantial retired farmer of Halstad township, now living in the pleasant village of Halstad, has been a resident of this section of the state from the days of the beginning of permanent settlement up this way, having come here before the city of Moorhead had been laid out and some years before the city of Ada even had been projected in the mind of man. In those days the old Hudson Bay Company was still doing a thriving business in furs throughout this section of the country and for some time after taking his homestead here Mr. Larson found profitable incidental employment as a freighter in the service of that company. When settlers began coming in and there were enough of them in the vicinity of the location of Mr. Larson's place to effect a township organization he took an active part in the organization of Halstad township and afterward served for some time as a member of the board of township supervisors and for two years as chairman of the board, while in other ways he performed well his part in the general development of this section in pioneer days.

Lars B. Larson was born in the kingdom of Norway on January 18, 1846, son of Bjorn and Ingeborg (Johnson) Larson, natives of that same country, who came to the United States with their family in 1854 and located in LaSalle county, Illinois, whence, two years later, in 1856, they came to Minnesota and settled in Fillmore county, where they remained until along in the middle or later seventies, when they came up to this part of the state, whence their son, the subject of this sketch, had preceded them some years before, and located in Halstad township, Norman county, where they spent their last days. Bjorn Larson was a substantial pioneer farmer. Though reared a Lutheran, he died in the faith of the Methodist church. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Andrew B., Martha B., B. B., Lena, Daniel, Eli, William and Christen.

Eight years of age when he came with his parents to this country, Lars B. Larson completed his schooling in the schools of Fillmore county, this



state, and there grew to manhood on the farm on which his parents had settled, farming on his own account after he had attained his majority. In 1871 he married and in that same year he and his wife came up to this part of the state, thus being among the very first permanent settlers in this section. That was one year before Clay county was organized as a separate civic body and ten years before the organization of Norman county, Moorhead, the county seat of Clay county, not being founded until a year after he came up here and Ada, seat of Norman county, not for some years afterward. Upon coming up here Mr. Larson entered a quarter of a section of land, a portion of which was situated in section 13 of what later came to be organized as Halstad township and the remainder in section 18 of the adjoining township, establishing his home on that portion in section 13. When the "odd" sections later were set off to the state to be held in trust for the promotion of railroad building, Mr. Larson was required to buy that portion of his homestead lying in section 13. Mr. Larson and his wife drove through from Fillmore county with two ox-teams, two cows, two calves and two sheep, a wagonload of household goods and essential farming implements, one sack of flour and five dollars in cash. During the first year of his residence here Mr. Larson was able to add to his small supply of cash by doing some freighting for the Hudson Bay Company, which at that time was still doing an extensive business in the Red River valley. As he gradually prospered in his farming operations Mr. Larson added to his land holdings until he became the owner of four hundred and seventy-five acres of excellent land and was counted one of the substantial pioneer residents of that section. He continued to make his home on the farm until 1896, when he retired from the active labors of the farm and moved to Halstad, where he since has made his home. In 1912 he bought a furniture store in that village, but after conducting the same for about three years again retired and is now taking things easy again. As noted above, Mr. Larson was one of the organizers of Halstad township and served for years as member of the board of supervisors of the same, for two years serving as chairman of the board. He is a member of the Methodist church and has ever given his earnest attention to neighborhood good works and in other ways has been helpful in bringing his home township to its present high state of development.

Lars B. Larson has been twice married. It was on January 18, 1871, the year in which he moved to this part of the state, that he was united in marriage, in Fillmore county, to Anna K. Faae, who shared with him the

trials and privations of a life on the frontier and who died in 1896, after a residence of more than twenty-five years in Halstad township. To that union seven children were born, Bernhardt, Emma, Isabel, Theodore, Clara, Emelia and Lawrence. On January 2, 1907, Mr. Larson married Betsie Bloom, who died on July 10, 1915.

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### W. L. SPOTTS.

W. L. Spotts, postmaster at Dilworth and a well-known railway conductor in the service of the Northern Pacific, was born in Sterling, Illinois, August 7, 1869, a son of Adam and Margaret (Lichtenwalter) Spotts, who were both natives of Ohio, the father having been born in Akron and the mother, in Massilon, that state.

Adam Spotts was a farmer in Ohio. Later he removed to Sterling, Illinois, where he lived and followed the same occupation for several years. In 1880 he removed to Fargo, North Dakota, and entered one hundred and sixty acres of land near that place under the homestead law. He improved this land and maintained his home there until about 1886, when he removed to Oberon, North Dakota, and made a pre-emption and tree-claim entry of three hundred and twenty acres. He farmed this for a number of years and then returned to Fargo where he continued to live until his death, which occurred in August, 1916. Adam Spotts was the father of six children: Ella, Laura, Emma, William L., Herbert F. and Jennie. He was an active member of the Congregational church and was for many years a deacon in the Plymouth church of that denomination in Fargo.

William L. Spotts was educated in the public schools of Sterling, Illinois. In his young manhood he was employed as a salesman for the Luger Furniture Company, at Fargo, and continued with that firm for six years. He was then with the American Express Company for two years, and then entered the employ of the Great Northern Railroad Company as a brakeman. He continued with this company for several years, working his way up to the position of conductor. He was conductor on this road, running out of Fargo, for about twelve years; then came to Dilworth, in 1904, and took a position as conductor on the Northern Pacific railroad, a position which he still holds. In 1916 Mr. Spotts was appointed postmaster of Dilworth but did not give up his railroad position. He still