

William Desing, father of the subject of this sketch, immigrated to this country in the early seventies and in 1874 came to Norman county and homesteaded a tract of land in Elmwood township, where he engaged in general farming for several years. Mr. Desing, who also learned the trade of a carpenter and was an expert workman, is now living in Roscau, Minnesota. His wife died some years ago. They were the parents of four children as follow: Mrs. Mary Peterson, who lives at Dalton, Minnesota; John C., the subject of this sketch; Manda, who lives in Rochester, Minnesota, and David, living with John C. The parents and sisters of the family belong to the Adventist church, while John C. and David are members of the Lutheran church.

John C. Desing was educated in the schools of Clay county and was reared on his father's farm, later acquiring a thorough knowledge of the carpenter trade while with D. W. Tulley, of Barnesville. In 1911 he moved to Downer and started out as a contractor on his own account, and for the next four years continued at that branch of activity and met with a considerable share of success. In 1915 Mr. Desing joined the Interior Lumber Company at Downer and from the beginning of this connection he has held the responsible position of manager. He also is engaged in the buying of potatoes for Louis Altenbrend during the past two years.

In June, 1916, John C. Desing was united in marriage to Clara Nelson, of Rollag, Minnesota, a daughter of C. E. Nelson, a pioneer of that place and who now resides in Osakis, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Desing have become the parents of two children, twins, Floyd and Florence. Mr. and Mrs. Desing take an earnest interest in the social and general activities of the community in which they reside, ever desirous to assist in all movements calculated to benefit the people. In 1917 Mr. Desing built a handsome stucco residence, and here the family are comfortably situated.

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#### LUDWIG B. LARSON.

Ludwig B. Larson, well-known and substantial farmer, owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Bear Park township, former township assessor and former school clerk, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been living in this country since he was three years old. He was born in Norway on July 4, 1869, a son of Severt and Randi (Petersdatter) Larson, also natives of Norway.

Severt Larson immigrated to the United States in 1871, going on arrival to Ispeming, Michigan, his wife and child following from Norway in the following year, and a month after their arrival, Severt Larson died. While living in that place Mrs. Larson married for her second husband E. T. Krogstad, a native of Norway, and who came to this country in 1872. In 1875 they moved to Stillwater, Minnesota, and worked at various occupations, coming some time later to Goodhue county, this state, and there owned a farm, which they worked for a few years. In 1881 they moved to Norman county and immediately homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Strand township and lived there until 1892, in which year they came to Bear Park township and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and here Mr. Krogstad died in the fall of 1916, and his widow is still living on the farm. Mrs. Krogstad, by her first marriage, was the mother of one child, Ludwig B. Larson, the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Krogstad were the parents of the following children: Peter, Eddie (deceased), Eddie, Ole, John, Bennie, Mary, Albert and Richard. Mr. Krogstad served as supervisor in Strand township and served on the school board there and in Bear Park township, bringing to the execution of these duties a ripe intelligence.

Ludwig B. Larson obtained but a limited education in the schools of Norman county. He left home at the age of sixteen and went to Huron, South Dakota, and worked on the railroad construction of the Watertown-Huron branch. During the winter for six or seven years he worked in the woods of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and in the summer he was engaged in a saw-mill. In the winter of 1892 he suffered the loss of a leg while working in the woods and has since made artificial legs for his own use, following a walking plow and drag. On retiring from the labors of the woods, Mr. Larson worked on farms around Bear Park township until 1898, in which year he married and started farming on the place where he now lives. He bought out the land and is now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of prime land, on which he erected all the present buildings with the exception of a portion of the house, and is engaged in general farming and stock raising and is doing very well.

In 1898 Ludwig B. Larson was united in marriage to Anna Johnson, born in Nicollet county, a daughter of Iver Johnson and wife, and to this union the following children were born: Esther, Ruth, Alma, Mabel, Ernst, Bennie, Clarence, Selmer, Palmer, Florence and Lowell. Mr. Larson and the members of his family are affiliated to the Lutheran church and are

earnestly interested in all its good works. Mr. Larson has served as township assessor and is now township constable; he served on the school board for fifteen years, during that period being clerk, and has been an auctioneer in that locality for a number of years. He has an interest in the Bear Park Mercantile Company.

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### PETER P. OLSON.

Peter P. Olson, a well-known merchant and scientific farmer of Anthony township, Norman county, was born in Worth county, Iowa, June 24, 1866, a son of Peter and Aaget (Olson) Olson, who were both natives of Norway. Along in the fifties the elder Olson, who was a farmer and teacher in his native land, came to America and located first in Wisconsin, then in Worth county, Iowa, where Peter P. was born, and later moved to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he died in 1866. Peter Olson, Sr., taught school and farmed after his coming to America until his death, after which his wife and children, feeling that the soil promised them a better future, joined a party of forty settlers whose destination was Norman county to which they traveled overland in horse drawn covered wagons. Soon after their arrival in Norman county in 1878 the eldest son, Ole, homesteaded in Anthony township, and there the family first located. While living on this farm, the mother's death occurred. To her and Peter Olson were born the following children: Gena, deceased; Ole, deceased, the eldest son who homesteaded the tract in Anthony township; Hans, Carrie and Peter P., the youngest child and the subject of this review.

Peter P. Olson, who is a native-born American, was twelve years of age when his mother and her family came overland to Norman county. He received a fairly good education in his early years, when the facilities for such at that time are considered, for he finished the common school and was for one year a student in the high school at Rushford, Minnesota. Having had ambitions to enter a business career, he began by acquiring some very valuable experience by working as a salesman in a general store at Ada, where he was thus engaged for thirteen years. In 1901 he decided to enter the mercantile business on his own account and opened up a general store, called the "Anthony Store" in Anthony township. He erected a fine business room, being the first one on the site, but his business expanded to such an extent that it has been necessary for him to make