

ship. He was interested in the Farmers Elevator at Gary and in the creamery at the same place, being a director of the latter enterprise which he helped to organize. In politics, he is an ardent advocate of prohibition, and in the local affairs of his party he is quite prominent.

OLE T. LEE.

Ole T. Lee, a well-known farmer of Waukon township, Norman county, where he operates his excellent farm of two hundred forty acres and is connected with the civil, social and business interests of the immediate vicinity, was born in Norway, August 18, 1857, a son of Torkel and Bertha O. (Nese) Lee. Both the father and mother were natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and reared their family. At this time the former is lying in his last resting place in his native land, but the mother is still living at an advanced age. They were the parents of the following five children: Ole, Christ, Ole, John and Gertrude. Following the example of their father, all the sons are substantial farmers, however, the subject of this review is the only member of his immediate family who has cast his lot in the United States. The only daughter, Gertrude, is a farmer's wife.

Ole T. Lee was reared to manhood on the old home farm across the stormy Atlantic and there he received his elementary education in the local schools, but since much of his time was taken with assisting the family in their common effort toward making the farm pay and since the elementary schools of those days were nothing to compare with those of the present, his early formal training was somewhat limited. Nevertheless, the practical education which he received under the actual working conditions on the home place handily served him when he struck out in farming on his own account when he came to this country. For several years he had heard good reports from his countrymen concerning the farming opportunities in America and soon he burned with desire to go and do likewise. Immediately after his marriage in 1881 he and his wife immigrated to this country and settled first in Dodge county, Minnesota, where they remained for three years, at the end of which period they moved to Stearns county, Minnesota, and then to Polk county, same state. Hearing that better opportunities awaited men of his calling in Norman county, he brought his family here in 1899 and settled on the farm on which he still lives in Waukon township. Since the improvements on his holdings at first were poor, he began

erecting new buildings and now he has an excellent farm plant. His thrift and industry during the years of his residence on this place has enabled him to add to his holdings until they now comprise two hundred forty acres, on which he carries on general farming.

On June 6, 1881, Mr. Lee was united in marriage to Johanna Bendics, before he came to this country. She was born in Norway in 1857, a daughter of Lars and Dora Bendics Heler. To this union fifteen children have been born, the twelve living are: George, Lars, Dora, Bertha, Theodore, Ole, Nora, Carl, Anna, John, Severt and Oscar. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are devoted members of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Strand and in this faith they are rearing their children. He takes a good American citizen's interest in local and state affairs. Being a farmer of foresight, he sees the necessity of good roads to his community and has rendered valuable service in his district as road supervisor. In addition to his foregoing activities, he helped to organize the Peoples Supply Company at Gary and is still interested in the same.

MATT CHLOUPEK.

Matt Chloupek, a prosperous farmer of Waukon township, Norman county, where he is the owner and operator of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, a part of which is the old home place and who takes an active interest in the civil affairs of the community in which he lives, was born in Kewance county, Wisconsin, August 4, 1868, a son of Albert and Dortha (Amedly) Chloupek, both natives of Bohemia. The father came to America in 1857 and became a pioneer settler of Kewanee county, Wisconsin, where he bought government land which he farmed. His holding there comprised forty acres, which he sold in 1881 and came directly to Norman county, Minnesota, where he bought the homestead right of Rier Byverson to one hundred sixty acres, on which the subject of this sketch still resides. At first the homestead was entirely unimproved, having on it only a little shanty for a dwelling when the elder Chloupek bought the right, but he immediately set to work with a will to improve the holding, erecting excellent buildings and planting a fine grove. The father was one of the organizers of Waukon township. By his first wife, whom he married in Bohemia, Albert Chloupek was the father of two children, daughters, Mary and Anna, both coming with their father to America, where the latter died. Sometime