

served the township as supervisor, and during his incumbency, he discharged his duties with strict fidelity to his official trust. The co-operative business interests of the county have demanded more of his time than have the civil interests, for he is connected with the creamery and mercantile companies at Sundahl and with the mercantile companies at Bear Park and Waukon.

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### S. M. LEE.

S. M. Lee, manager of the extensive establishment of the Peoples Supply Company at Gary, dealers in general merchandise, and one of the best-known young business men in Norman county, is a native son of that county and has lived there practically all his life. He was born on a pioneer farm in Bear Park township on October 21, 1883, son of the Hon. S. J. and Marie (Heglie) Lee, both natives of the kingdom of Norway and pioneers of Norman county, who are still living on their old homestead farm in Bear Park township.

The Hon. S. J. Lee, former member of the Legislature from his district, as noted above, is a native of Norway, where he was born on June 12, 1859, and he was about eight years of age when his parents came to the United States and settled in Fillmore county, this state, among the pioneers of that county. There he grew to manhood and remained until 1882, when, shortly after his marriage, he came up to this part of the state and homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in section 22 of Bear Park township, Norman county, where he established his home and where he ever since has made his residence, having one of the best-improved farms in that part of the county. From the very beginning of his residence in Norman county, S. J. Lee took an active part in general local civic affairs, served for seven or eight years as assessor of his home township, for ten or twelve years as clerk of the same and in 1894 was elected to the lower house of the Minnesota Legislature as a representative from the fifty-first legislative district, and served in that important and responsible capacity during the sessions of 1895 and 1897, having been re-elected in 1896 to succeed himself. In 1908 he was elected as a member of the board of commissioners of Norman county from his district and by successive re-elections is still occupying that position, for the past two or three years having been chairman of the board. S. J. Lee and wife are members of the Lutheran church, Mr. Lee for some time having

served as clerk of the local congregation, and their children have been reared in that faith. There were twelve of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the first-born, the others being Tillie, Maggie, Julia, Sidney, William, Alice, Ida, Norman, Henry, Alfred and Agnes, all of whom are living save Sidney, who died in 1916.

S. M. Lee was reared on the home farm in Bear Park township, on which he was born, and upon completing the course in the common schools attended business college at Crookston for three years. He then, from 1909 to 1911, was employed with the Bear Park Mercantile Company and in 1912 went over into North Dakota, where he was engaged at Clifford for one year, at the end of which time he returned to this state and for about three years thereafter was in the employ of a business concern at Waupon. In the fall of 1916 he became engaged as manager of the store of the Peoples Supply Company at Gary, which position he now occupies and in which connection he has done much to extend the business of that enterprising concern. Mr. Lee is the owner of an eighty-acre farm in section 22 of Bear Park township. He served a term as clerk of that township while living there and has ever given his earnest attention to the general affairs of his home community.

On January 13, 1912, S. M. Lee was united in marriage to Clara Sveve, daughter of Eric O. Sveve and wife, and to this union three children have been born, Edgar S., Manville and Lyle Roger. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are members of the Lutheran church and take an earnest interest in church work, as well as in the general good works of their home town and the community at large, ever helpful in promoting all agencies having to do with the advancement of the common welfare hereabout.

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#### HELMER N. BENTLEY.

Helmer N. Bentley, local manager at Twin Valley for the Bertram Lumber Company, former member of the board of trustees of that village and former president of the council, is a native of the adjoining state of Iowa, but has been a resident of Minnesota and of Norman county since he was a babe in arms, his parents having settled here back in pioneer days, in the days before Norman county was organized as a civic unit, and he thus has been a witness to the development of this region almost since the beginning of organized settlement here. He was born on a farm in the