

the normal. Later he attended the University of North Dakota and is now at the University of Minnesota. Mr. Melbye became the first superintendent of the first consolidated school in Norman county and also helped to put up the school. He is an acknowledged authority in the administration of school affairs and has made a study of the work of conducting consolidated schools, with a view to their successful operation, his efforts in this direction being admitted by all classes engaged in educational work.

In addition to his labors in connection with scholastic matters, Mr. Melbye takes a warm interest in the work of organizing boys and girls state industrial clubs, and is county leader in that work, and also is state organizer for the Farm Boys Cavaliers. He has always taken an active part in farm club organization, and lectures at intervals throughout the county in the formation of these clubs. His efforts also extend to the coaching of bands in and about the county and he has been directing bands for the past eight years, his work including the organization and coaching of the band at Ulen. A band also was formed at Lockhart under his guidance, and is rapidly making progress and promises to be one of the best musical organizations in the county. Altogether, Mr. Melbye's efforts for the advancement of the youth of the county along sound lines cannot be too highly commended and it is conceded on all sides that he has done and is doing useful and enduring work.

In 1916 George H. Melbye was united in marriage to Leona Clayton, a native of Jacksonville, Illinois, and a daughter of Herbert and Alice (Parkins) Clayton, natives of the United States, of English descent.

S. N. LEE.

S. N. Lee, the subject of this sketch, was born in Norway on the 7th of April, 1860; he came to the United States with his parents in May, 1866, and settled in Iowa county, Wisconsin. In the fall of 1868 the Lee family moved to Goodhue county, Minnesota. In 1878 they again moved; this time to Clay county, Minnesota, where his father had previously taken up a homestead.

Mr. Lee received a common-school education, and while farm work has always been his favorite occupation, he has also spent a number of years behind the counter in dry-goods and grocery stores. He is a staunch believer in the old philosophy that the overalls is more becoming to the real man than

the dress suit, and that agriculture is the only gainful occupation worthy of a gentleman.

In the fall of 1884 Mr. Lee was married to Miss Margaret Halverson, of Clayton county, Iowa, and in 1885 he again took up farm work. In 1889 he became the owner of the old Lee homestead in section 32, Parke township, Clay county, where he still lives.

Having held minor township offices, such as justice of the peace and clerk of his school district, he has also been twice elected to the state Legislature; the first time in 1911, and again in 1916. In the 1911 session he introduced and had passed an amendment to section 6 of article 8 of the state Constitution of Minnesota, known as the Land Loan Amendment, authorizing the loaning of surplus state funds to farmers at three per cent. interest. This amendment was submitted to the voters at the general election of 1912, but failed of ratification. It was again submitted in 1914, but failed again. In 1916, however, it received the required number of votes and became a part of the Constitution. In the 1917 session he introduced a bill known as the Grain Grading Bill, which was passed, providing for the establishment of grades of wheat on the strength of its milling and bread-producing qualities. He also initiated the section of the new Minnesota Road Law, making it optional for townships to pay the township road tax in cash or labor, and a number of other bills of state-wide importance.

CHARLES BENSON.

The first settler of Strand township, where he now is the owner and operator of two hundred eighty acres of well-improved farming land and where he has been and is prominently connected with the civic, religious and co-operative business interests of the community in which he lives for many years, is Charles Benson, who was born in Norway, December 12, 1848, a son of Bernt Olson and Elizabeth Knutson (Winjevold) Winjevold, both natives of Norway, where the latter now lies buried. About 1879 the father, who was a farmer in the old country, followed his children to America and took a homestead of one hundred sixty acres in Strand township, Norman county, where the family of his daughter, Mrs. Ellen Welle, with whom he lived until his death occurred, now resides. The father and mother were the parents of the following children: Ole, whose death occurred in Norway; Anna Martha, who now resides in Norway; Charles,