

ing three weeks. For the first hundred miles of the journey the family was alone, but later fell in with others on the same mission bent. Mr. Christianson has continued to reside on the homestead farm acquired by his father and is engaged in general farming and has been doing very well, being accounted one of the substantial farmers in his part of the township.

On June 18, 1907, Sever Christianson was united in marriage to Hansena Amundson, born in Norway, a daughter of Amund Amundson and wife, also natives of that country. To this union the following children have been born: Theresa, Selmer, Henry, Alvin and Alphina, all of whom are living. The family are members of the Norman Hauges Lutheran church, which Mr. Christianson's father helped to organize. Mr. Christianson is interested in the Bear Park Mercantile Company and takes a good citizen's interest in the civic welfare of his home community.

SVERRE J. LEE.

One of the well-known men of Norman county is Sverre J. Lee, a farmer of Bear Park township, former member of the state Legislature, a pioneer in the co-operative business enterprises of the township, member of the board of county commissioners and otherwise prominently connected with the educational and religious interests of the community. He was born in Norway, June 12, 1859, a son of Sivert and Thomine (Lee) Lee, both of whom were natives of Norway, came to America in 1867 and located first at Rushford, Fillmore county, this state, where they remained until 1882. In that year they came northward to Norman county and here made their home with their son, the subject of this sketch. The mother died in 1915 and the father is still living here at the advanced age of ninety-one years. They had five children, namely: Caroline, still a resident of Rushford, Fillmore county, who married Olaf Lee and is a widow; Baardine, whose death occurred in Norway when a child; Ingeborg Anna, who died in Norway in her childhood; Sverre J., the subject of this review, and Marie, living in Bear Park township, the widow of Albert Gartland.

Sverre J. Lee was only a child when he first set foot on American soil and he grew to manhood at Rushford, Minnesota, where he received a common-school education. In the spring of 1882, when he was twenty-three years of age, he drove through to Norman county with a party of settlers which included Peter Martinson, a blacksmith, who started a shop at Strand,

this county. Soon after he arrived at his journey's end, Mr. Lee homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in Bear Park township, and he has lived here ever since. As the years passed and he prospered in his farming operations, he has been enabled to add to his holdings until he now is the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of fine land, well-improved with excellent, convenient and capacious farm buildings. He now carries on general farming.

In 1882, Mr. Lee married Marie Heglie, who was born in Norway, a daughter of Michael O. and Augusta (Heganstrom) Heglie, of whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are the parents of twelve children, as follow: Selmer, Tilda, Maggie, Julia, Sidney, whose death occurred in the autumn of 1915; Willie, Alice, Ida, Norman, Henry, Alfred and Agnes. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are devoted members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and they are active in all church work.

Mr. Lee has been very active in the political, civil and business affairs of his community. In Bear Park township he has served as treasurer, township supervisor, justice of the peace, township clerk and township assessor. He has ever considered the educational progress of the community of highest importance, and he and Ole Garden circulated a petition among the residents of the community and presented it to the proper authorities for the purpose of organizing this school district, and after the organization was effected, he was a member of the first board. He has served in the same capacity at different times since and for the last fourteen years he has been a member of the board continuously, rendering valuable service to the educational interests of the community as his long incumbency indicates. During the sessions of the state Legislature of 1895 and 1897 he represented his district, being elected to this office by the Populist party. He is now serving his third consecutive term as a member of the board of county commissioners. Throughout his many years of public service, Mr. Lee has discharged his duties with strict fidelity to the interests of his constituents and with rigid adherence to the principles of right and honor. Being a far-sighted and progressive man, Mr. Lee early recognized the importance of establishing co-operative distributing and marketing agencies in the community. He was one of the organizers of the original creamery at Rindahl and is a director of the present one. He was one of the leading spirits in the organization of the Bear Park Mercantile Company and for the first fourteen years of its existence, he was manager.