

in his locality, in which he has lived since the pioneer days, when this section of the state was sparsely settled.

On June 30, 1890, Mr. Thomas was married to Anna K. Gletna, in Fargo, North Dakota. She was born in Norway on March 11, 1862, and there she spent her girlhood and attended school. Her parents, Knut K. and Maria L. (Bergstal) Gletna, were natives of Norway. He died in Norway in about 1913. The mother is still living in Norway. There were seven children in the Gletna family, six of whom are living. Two of these, Johanna and Marie, came to America; the others are still living in Norway. Mrs. Thomas came to America in 1889, locating at Fargo. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas five children have been born: Theodore, Regina, Louis, Clarence and Arthur.

Politically, Mr. Thomas is a Republican. He and his wife are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

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#### WILLIAM S. LEE.

William S. Lee, cashier of the Citizens State Bank of Barnesville and one of the best-known and most energetic bankers in Clay county, is a native son of Minnesota and has lived in this state all his life. He was born at Little Falls, in Morrison county, on December 2, 1872, son of Samuel Lee, an early merchant at that place and who was one of the first to operate a ferry across the Mississippi river there. During the seventies Samuel Lee moved from Little Falls to Long Prairie and in the latter place started a store, which he continued to operate until his death some years later.

Reared at Long Prairie, to which place his parents had moved when he was but a child, William S. Lee received his schooling there and early became thoroughly familiar with business forms and the mercantile business, through association with his father in the latter's store. After his father's death he continued to operate the store for about two years, at the end of which time he disposed of his business interests there and entered a store at Akeley. Not long afterward he was employed to take charge of a department store for A. L. Cole at Akeley, going thence, after a while, to Eagle Bend, where for five years he was engaged as assistant cashier of the First National Bank of that place. In 1907 Mr. Lee went from Eagle Bend to Elizabeth, where he organized the Merchants State Bank and was

made cashier of the same; remaining there until 1911, in which year he moved to Barnesville and there organized the Citizens State Bank of Barnesville and since May 31, 1911, has been cashier of the same. Mr. Lee not only is an active banker, but he takes an interested part in the general business and civic affairs of his home town, a consistent "booster" of the various enterprises of that thriving city. While living at Long Prairie he served for some time as village recorder, probably the youngest official that village ever had. He also served as a member of the village council there and served in a like capacity during his residence at Eagle Bend.

In 1905, while living at Eagle Bend, William S. Lee was united in marriage to Myrtle A. Fuller, daughter of George F. Fuller, of Moorhead, and to this union two sons have been born, Robert G. and Charles S. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are members of the Baptist church and take an interested part in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of their home town, helpful in many ways in promoting agencies having to do with the advancement of the common welfare thereabout. Mr. Lee is a Mason and a member of the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias and of the Independent Order of United Workmen, and in the affairs of these several organizations takes a warm interest.

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#### EDMUND L. BROWN.

Edmund L. Brown, a well-known realty dealer at Barnesville, was born in Memphis, Tennessee, March 10, 1872, a son of Judge B. C. Brown, who was born in Pulaski, Tennessee, and Jeanette B. (Booker) Brown, who was born in Memphis, Tennessee. Judge B. C. Brown was attorney for the Southwestern division of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and had an extensive general law practice at the time of his death, which occurred at Little Rock, in 1888. His children are: Benjamin C., who is an artist in Pasadena, California; Annie, who married Isaac B. Gardener, superintendent of the state institute for the deaf and dumb, at Little Rock, Arkansas; and Edmund L., the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Brown, mother of these children, died in 1872.

After the death of his first wife, Judge Brown married Ida Jordan, who is now living in Pasadena, California. The children by the second wife are: Howell J., a designer living in Pasadena, who designed the floats for