

LOUIS LEMKE.

Louis Lemke, one of the most substantial farmers of Clay county and proprietor of all of section 31 of Elkton township, the seat of his pleasant home just north of the village of Baker, is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was fourteen years of age. He was born on September 5, 1858, son of Carl and Christina (Blomk) Lemke, both natives of that same country, who came to the United States in 1872 with their family and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Chicago, in Cook county, Illinois, where the father spent his last days. His widow died at the home of one of her sons in Charlton county, Minnesota. Carl Lemke and his wife were the parents of three sons, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, John Lemke, now a resident of Martin county, this state, and August Lemke, of Nebraska.

As noted above, Louis Lemke was fourteen years of age when he came to this country with his parents in 1872 and for nineteen years thereafter he made his home in Cook county, Illinois, engaged in farming. In 1892 he moved from Illinois to Iowa and located on a farm in Franklin county, that state, where he remained for eighteen years and where he developed a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres. In 1909, Mr. Lemke disposed of his interests in Iowa and came up into Minnesota, locating on the farm just north of Baker, where he is now living and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. Lemke owns the whole of section 31 in Elkton township and has improved the place in fine shape, having erected an entirely new set of farm buildings there since taking possession of the same, a hen-house being the only structure of the old set of buildings remaining. In addition to his general grain farming, Mr. Lemke has for some time given considerable attention to the raising of potatoes and has done much to encourage the cultivation of that crop in that neighborhood.

In 1881 Louis Lemke was united in marriage to Sophia Possehl, a sister of H. C. Possehl, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and to this union have been born fourteen children, all of whom are living, namely: Fred, who lives in Franklin county, Iowa; Amanda, who married Fred Fahrman and is living in Elmwood township; Minnie, wife of Louis Lenthe, of Elkton township; Herman, who is at home; Eddie, also at home; Martha, wife of George Meyer, of Franklin county, Iowa; Anna, wife of Carl Carr, of Elkton township, and Edna, Louie, Alvin, Arthur, Albert, Melinda and Lillie, who are at home. The

Lemkes are members of the German Evangelical Lutheran church at Sabin and take a proper interest in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live, helpful in promoting all agencies having to do with the advancement of the common welfare thereabout.

J. PIERCE WOLFE.

One of the substantial and successful men of Moorhead, Clay county, who is engaged in the insurance business, in which he has met with much success, is J. Pierce Wolfe, who was born at Osseo, Hennepin county, Minnesota, on July 11, 1872, a son of John Wolfe and wife, who are prominent farmers and well-known and highly respected people of Nicollet county, Minnesota. The parents were much interested in the education of their children, and after the son, J. Pierce, completed his education in the local schools at St. Peter, Minnesota, he entered the Gustavus Adolphus College at St. Peter, where he later completed the course of study, in 1892.

Soon after having completed his work at St. Peter, Mr. Wolfe came to Moorhead, where he established himself in business and where he has since resided. When he first came to Moorhead, he kept books for Jacob Kiefer for some years, and in April, 1898, he entered the general insurance business, in which he has met with much success. He has devoted his best efforts to this business and is today the agent and adjuster of the Security and Reliance Insurance companies for the states of North and South Dakota, Montana and the western part of Minnesota. Further, he is associated with E. A. Davis of Minneapolis as general agents of the hail department of the Security Insurance Company of Connecticut for North and South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota. Withal, as an insurance man, he is today recognized as one of the best in the state. Moreover, he is one of the directors of the Equity Manufacturing Company of Moorhead, and is an advisory director of the U. S. I. Realty Company, a million-dollar corporation of Minneapolis. Even though Mr. Wolfe's business interests cover a wide extent of territory, yet his methods and progressive spirit place him in a position to know every detail in the territory in which his interests are located.

It was on May 12, 1904, that J. Pierce Wolfe was united in marriage to Alice Ambs of Moorhead, and to this union two children have been born, Sarah and John, both of whom are now attending the local schools and are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe are active members of the