

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Erickson, namely: Elsie, Albert, Henry, Elmer and Roy, all of whom are living at home.

Mr. Erickson is non-partisan in his political views, but has always been active in local public affairs. He has served as township assessor and was treasurer of the township for years. He also served as chairman of the township board for fifteen years, and was for some time justice of the peace, ever discharging his duties as a public official in an able and satisfactory manner.

### JOHN P. LORENTZ.

John P. Lorentz, a prosperous farmer living in Mary township, Norman county, where he is the proprietor of the old home place, was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, November 4, 1871, a son of John K. and Maria Rachel (Berringer) Lorentz, both natives of Ontario, the latter born, October 20, 1831, and the former, July 29, 1833. Reared in their native province, where they married, the elder Lorentz and wife brought their family to Minnesota in 1876, and remained four years at Georgetown, Clay county. Feeling that better opportunities were to be had for establishing their home northward in Norman county, they came to this county in 1880 and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 29, Mary township. There the father and mother spent the rest of their lives, the former dying on May 5, 1889, and the latter on March 29, 1901, respected and well-known residents of the neighborhood, the father being a member of the school board for five or six years. They were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. John K. and Maria Lorentz were the parents of eight children, namely: Maggie, the wife of W. C. Dalrimple, and now living in Castleton, North Dakota; Rachel and Catherine both deceased; Mary, deceased; Susanna, who married W. H. White and now resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Lizzie, who lives here on the home place with her brother, the subject of this sketch; Joseph, married and residing in Moorhead, Clay county, and John, the subject of this review.

John P. Lorentz was only five years of age when he came from Ontario, Canada, the land of his nativity, with his parents, the family settling in Georgetown, Clay county, Minnesota, where he received his elementary education in the public schools. Later, when he was only nine years old, he accompanied his parents to Mary township, Norman county, where they



MR. AND MRS. JOHN K. LORENTZ



established their home permanently. Here on the old home place he spent his late boyhood and has lived ever since, devoting himself to the development and cultivation of the farm. After his mother's death in 1901, he purchased the home place from the estate and has kept the old farm up to its former high state of improvement, adding several buildings and much modern farming machinery, which have materially increased the agricultural efficiency of the tract. Mr. Lorentz now carries on diversified farming according to the latest methods of scientific agriculture, and is considered one of the up-to-date farmers of the community. He has not married and his sister, Lizzie, lives with him on the home place, keeping house.

In addition to his agricultural activities, Mr. Lorentz is interested in the credit facilities which are extended to the farmers of the township, and is a stockholder in the Farmers and Merchants Bank at Perley. In politics, he is a staunch advocate of Republican policies and principles, and he is keenly interested in the civic affairs of his neighborhood, having served Mary township seven years as assessor. The educational progress of the community has come in for some of Mr. Lorentz's time, as he served as director on the school board for many years, now in his sixth term. In all of his activities in private business or in the discharge of public duty, Mr. Lorentz has always shown himself to be a man of sterling integrity and shrewd business sense. He and his sister, Lizzie, are members of St. Mary's Catholic church in Mary township and take a proper interest in parish affairs.

---

### CARL BJORKQUIST.

Carl Bjorkquist, a well-known contractor of Moorhead, was born in Sweden, October 5, 1854. He is a son of Lars Johnson and Marie (Erickson) Johnson, both natives of Sweden, where they grew up, married and resided until 1885, when they emigrated to America, coming directly to Minnesota and locating at Moorhead, where they spent the rest of their lives. The father was contracting mason and also owned some excellent farming land. He was born in 1809 and died in Moorhead on August 12, 1902. His wife was born in 1817 and died at Moorhead in 1905. To these parents nine children were born, namely: Sophia, born in 1841; Mary, 1843; Anna, 1845, who died in 1872 in Sweden; John, 1848, who was a general contractor and died in Moorhead; Magnus, 1849; Helen, 1852;