

C. O. MADSON.

C. O. Madson, postmaster of the village of Halstad, was born on a pioneer farm about two miles northeast of that village and has lived in that neighborhood all his life, with the exception of a year spent at Warren. He was born on January 4, 1889, son of Christ and Christine (Baggerud) Madson, the former a native of the kingdom of Denmark and the latter of the kingdom of Norway, who are now living on their old home farm northeast of the village of Halstad, pioneers of Norman county.

Christ Madson was born in the town of Nystad, on the south coast of the Island of Laaland, Denmark, and from the time he was fourteen years of age until he was twenty-four he followed the sea as a sailor. About 1874 he came to the United States and located at Beloit, Wisconsin, where he found employment as a blacksmith in the Thompson plow works, and where he remained for a time, when he came over into Minnesota and homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in what later came to be organized as Halstad township, Norman county, two miles northeast of the present flourishing village of Halstad, and there he still lives, one of the honored and influential pioneer citizens of Norman county. Mr. Madson has ever taken an active part in local civic affairs and served for about fourteen years as chairman of the board of supervisors of Halstad township and for four years, 1902-06, served as a member of the board of county commissioners from the second district. He and his wife are earnest members of the Lutheran church and their six sons were reared in that faith. Of these sons the subject of this sketch is the second in order of birth, the others being Martin, Charles, Mandley, Odin and Walter.

C. O. Madson was reared on the homestead farm in Halstad township and following his graduation from the high school at Halstad learned the art of photography under the direction of C. V. Olson, of Halstad. He then went to Warren, up in Marshall county, where he worked as a photographer for a year, at the end of which time, in 1909, the year of his marriage, he returned to Halstad and opened a photograph studio of his own and was thus very successfully engaged in business at that place until his appointment as postmaster of Halstad. Mr. Madson entered upon the duties of postmaster on January 1, 1915, and has since given his full attention to the affairs of that office, renting his studio.

It was on June 7, 1909, that C. O. Madson was united in marriage to Julia Nelson, daughter of T. A. Nelson and wife, and to this union

three children have been born, two daughters, Charlotte and Karren, and one son, Woodrow Jennings. Mr. and Mrs. Madson are members of the Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the various beneficences of the same, as well as in the general social activities of their home village and are helpful in promoting all good works thereabout. Mr. Madson is a member of the local lodges of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Knights of Pythias and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these organizations.

JOHN T. JOHNSON.

John T. Johnson, member of the board of county commissioners of Clay county and a prominent real-estate dealer at Ulen, was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, March 5, 1867, a son of John Johnson, born in Norway in 1825, and Ingebor (Ellefson) Johnson, also born in Norway. The elder John Johnson came to America in the spring of 1843 and located in LaSalle county, Illinois, where he lived for several years engaged in farming. In 1856 he removed to Fillmore county, Minnesota, and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres which he improved and on which he established his home. He continued to live there, engaged in general farming, until his death, which occurred in 1905. His wife died in 1912. They were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. They had quite a large family consisting of twelve children: Thomas E., who died at the age of fifty-four; Martha, Elias, Robert, Inger, Elvina, John T., Isabel, Christine, Josephine, Albert, who died at the age of nine years, and Edward.

John T. Johnson received his elementary education in the public schools of Fillmore county, and in the high school at Rushford. After completion of his preparatory studies in this school he entered Augustana College, at Canton, South Dakota, and was graduated from that institution in the spring of 1888. He then came to Clay county, and for three years following was engaged in teaching at Ulen. He then spent six months attending a business college in Minneapolis, and for two years following was engaged in office work in Preston, Minnesota. In the fall of 1892 he returned to Clay county and was engaged in teaching for five years, three of which were in the village of Ulen. After he quit teaching he was engaged in the hardware business in Ulen for about three years. He then started in the real-estate business and has continued in that business since. In 1906 he was elected county commissioner of Clay county and has been elected as