

Joseph Gaare, the immediate subject of this sketch, grew to manhood on the home farm and received his early education in the public schools of Lee township. Later he was a student in the State Normal School at Moorhead and then took a course in the Metropolitan Business College at Minneapolis. After leaving school he taught one term in Norman county, then spent six months in the office of the Huber Threshing Machine Company of Minneapolis. In 1906 he took a position in the First State Bank at Perley, and in 1912 was appointed cashier of that popular and well-managed institution, and has continued to discharge the duties of this responsible position in an able and satisfactory manner to the present time. Mr. Gaare is also president of the Perley Trading Company and is secretary of the Perley Live Stock Shipping Association. He served five years as recorder of the village of Perley.

In 1911 Joseph Gaare was married to Anna Matilda Lee, a daughter of Jens O. Lee, which union has been without issue. Politically, Mr. Gaare is a Republican. He is a member of the Masonic order and of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen, being clerk of the latter lodge at Perley. He and his wife belong to the Norwegian Lutheran church.

HENRY MARSDEN.

Henry Marsden, a prominent hardware merchant at Hendrum, is a native of the Emerald Isle, but has been a resident of Minnesota and of Norman county for nearly a quarter of a century. He was born at Cootehill, County Cavan, in the north of Ireland, October 21, 1871, a son of John and Catherine (Banner) Marsden, both of whom were born in Manchester, England, and the former of whom was a stock breeder and miller at Cootehill. John Marsden and his wife were parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last born, the others being Fred, Arthur, George, Annie and Charles.

Upon completing his schooling Henry Marsden became interested in the work of his father's stock farm and remained at home until he was twenty-two years of age, when, in 1893, he came to the United States, following his elder brother, Arthur Marsden, who had come to this country some years before, and joined the latter up here in the Red River valley, locating in Hendrum township, Norman county, where for the next few years he was engaged on a farm. In the spring of 1898 he formed a partnership with

James Materson in the hardware business at Hendrum, a partnership which continued until the spring of 1906, when Mr. Marsden bought his partner's interest in the business and has since been conducting the same alone, one of the leading merchants in the village. In addition to his general hardware business, Mr. Marsden carries a full line of agricultural implements and farm machinery and has done very well in his mercantile operations. Ever since locating at Hendrum Mr. Marsden has taken a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs and served for one year as recorder of the village and for three years as president of the village, giving to his official duties his most intelligent attention. In December, 1914, his wife, Mrs. Edith A. Marsden, who had been assistant principal of the Hendrum public schools, was commissioned postmistress of Hendrum, and the postoffice is now conducted in Mr. Marsden's store, a central point for the people of the village and surrounding country.

It was on June 20, 1912, that Henry Marsden was united in marriage to Edith A. McNee, of Spring Valley, Minnesota, and to this union two children have been born, Frederick John and Winston Craig. Mr. and Mrs. Marsden are members of the Presbyterian church and take a warm interest in church work, Mr. Marsden having served as a member of the board of trustees of the local congregation. They have a pleasant home at Hendrum and are helpful in promoting all movements designed to advance the common welfare of the community in which they live.

OTTO AUGUSTUS CHRISTIANSON.

One of the well-known farmers of Oakport township, Clay county, who is deserving of the success he has achieved is Otto Augustus Christianson. He was born in Clinton county, Iowa, on the site of the present city of Clinton, July 29, 1851, a son of Abraham and Catherine (Anderson) Christianson, both natives of Norway. In 1840 the mother went to France as a nurse, later returning to Norway, but in a short time started to America, single. On the same ship was Abraham Christianson. They made the long voyage to New Orleans, then up the Mississippi river to St. Louis, Missouri, where they were married by a German Lutheran minister, through an interpreter; and then came on north to Clinton, Iowa, having made the entire trip from Norway by water. This was in the year 1844. They took up a homestead of eighty acres in Iowa, which farm is now the site of the Sunny-