

affairs and is held in high esteem in the community of which he has been an honored citizen.

Mr. Nelson was one of the organizers of the Swedish Lutheran church, in Moorhead, in 1880, and has been for many years a deacon in the same and prominent in all the activities of the society. In civic positions he has served as supervisor in the township of Moorhead; also as chairman of the township board. At the time of removal from the township to the town of Moorhead, he was treasurer of the former. He also served for some time as clerk of the school board of the township.

In 1884, Mr. Nelson was married to Carrie Jenson and to this union five children were born, namely: Edith, Agnes, Manfred, Alfred and Ernest; the latter is living on the old home farm.

ARTHUR A. McCARTAN.

Arthur A. McCartan, president of the Barnesville Record-Review Publishing Company, head of the real-estate firm of McCartan & Whalen at Barnesville and a member of the common council of that city, for years one of the most energetic and public-spirited citizens of Barnesville, was formerly an Iowa farmer, but since becoming a resident of Barnesville in 1901 has been engaged in the real-estate and newspaper business and has done well there. He was born in the city of Dubuque, Iowa, October 3, 1867, son of Bernard and Mary (McNamara) McCartan, the former of whom was born in Ireland and the latter in the city of Buffalo, New York, who were the parents of thirteen children, all of whom grew to maturity save three. For some time after he came to this country, as a young man, Bernard McCartan followed the vocation of a miner, but later became a farmer and his last days were spent in Iowa.

Reared on a farm in Iowa, Arthur A. McCartan received his schooling in the schools of that state, and early became engaged in farming, which vocation he followed in that state until 1901, in which year he came up here into the Red River country and located at Barnesville, where he became engaged in the real-estate business and where he has ever since continued actively engaged in that line, head of the firm of McCartan & Whalen. About two years after he located at Barnesville the Record-Review Publishing Company was organized at that place and that company has since been engaged there in the publication of the *Barnesville Record*. Since the

organization of that company Mr. McCartan has taken an active interest in the same and most of the time has served the company in the capacity of president, which position he now occupies, though until lately giving little attention to the actual details of newspaper work, his real-estate operations occupying the greater part of his time. In January, 1917, the manager of the *Record* died and Mr. McCartan was compelled to assume the management of the paper until such time as he could find a successor for the late manager. Mr. McCartan takes an active interest in local political affairs and for the past four years and more has been serving as a member of the city council from his ward.

In November, 1914, Arthur A. McCartan was united in marriage to Gundrun Scow, daughter of Erick O. Scow, of Halstad, in the neighboring county of Norman, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Arthur Austin. Mr. and Mrs. McCartan are members of the Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs.

A. T. THOMAS.

A. T. Thomas, a farmer of Kragnes township, Clay county, was born in Norway on June 24, 1848, and there he grew to manhood and attended the common schools. He is a son of Torge and Renne Islik (Tommas) Tommas, natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and established their home, spending their lives there, the father dying when about forty-six years old, his wife having preceded him to the grave by three years. The father was a laborer all his life. To these parents four children were born, namely: Osmon, who makes his home in Alaska; Sarah, who is married and lives in Minnesota; A. T., the subject of this sketch, and Christie, who died at about the age of seven years.

A. T. Thomas was nineteen years old when his father died. He remained in Norway until he was twenty-one, when he immigrated to America, locating first in Houston county, Minnesota, and for some time worked out as a hired hand on a farm. He saved his earnings and in 1878, after he had spent three years in Clay county, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 15, Kragnes township, later buying one hundred and sixty acres in section 10, same township. He has made all the improvements on his land, including a substantial set of buildings. He has been quite successful as a general farmer and stock raiser and has one of the best farms