

tion, located in Wild Rice and Home Lake townships. In 1914 he came to live in Wild Rice township and since taking up his residence in that place has added another quarter section to his original holding, being now the owner of eight hundred acres of land, the equal in quality of any other in the county. Since coming to live here he has remodeled the dwelling house and has built a substantial barn, and is now engaged in general farming, a large portion of his land being devoted to the cultivation of grain. In addition to his agricultural operations he is also interested in the raising of full-blood Shorthorn cattle, of which he has many fine specimens on his place, and he is generally regarded as one of the most substantial and progressive farmers in Norman county.

In 1888 Frank Gray was united in marriage to Levina Cahill, born in Crawford county, Wisconsin, a daughter of James Cahill and wife. To this union six children have been born, namely: Mrs. John McLeese; George, who operates the farm; John, Lloyd, Fred and Helen, all of whom are living. Mr. Gray has always taken a good citizen's interest in public affairs and while living in South Dakota he served as a member of the township board of Jefferson township, Spink county, that state, for a period of ten years. Mr. and Mrs. Gray are interested in the social and cultural activities of the community in which they live, ever ready to assist all good causes having for their object the advancement of the public welfare.

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### J. J. MEIGHEN.

J. J. Meighen, postmaster at Twin Valley and a veteran school teacher in the counties of Norman and Clay, is a native of the great Empire state, but has been a resident of Minnesota since he was nine years of age and of this part of the state for more than thirty years, being thus very properly recognized as one of the "old settlers" of this section. He was born in the state of New York on February 27, 1848, son of John and Sophia (Wells) Meighen, both of whom were of European birth, the former born in the north of Ireland and the latter in Lincolnshire, England, and who had come to this country in the days of their youth, their marriage taking place in New York, in which state they first met.

John Meighen was nineteen years of age when he left his native Ireland and came to the United States, locating in New York state, where he married a few years later and where he made his home until 1857, when he

came with his family to the then Territory of Minnesota and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Lake Washington, in Blue Earth county, one of the pioneers of that part of the state, and was thus an active participant in the defensive struggle of the people of that section during the period of the great Sioux rebellion in 1862. John Meighen became a substantial farmer of the Lake Washington neighborhood and on his pioneer farm there he and his wife spent their last days, honored and influential residents, he living until 1907. He was reared as a Catholic and she as an adherent of the Church of England. They were the parents of ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being Catherine, Alice, Christiana, Jacob, May, Celia, Nellie, Jacob (who died in childhood), and Jacob Wells.

As noted above, J. J. Meighen was but nine years of age when he came to Minnesota from New York with his parents and his elementary schooling was continued in the primitive schools of his home neighborhood in Blue Earth county, upon completing which he entered the Normal school at Mankato, the second such institution started in the state of Minnesota, the school at the time he entered the same being conducted in the basement of the Methodist church at Mankato and the greater part of the attendance being confined to young women, but few young men at that time preparing themselves for the profession of teaching. Upon completing his normal course Mr. Meighen began teaching school and continued actively engaged in that honorable and useful profession until he received his commission as postmaster of Twin Valley in the spring of 1915, a period of forty-six years and five months, thirty years of which time was spent as a teacher in the schools of Norman and Clay counties; a record of continuous service in the school room believed to be unexcelled by any other teacher in the state of Minnesota. Mr. Meighen received the appointment as postmaster of Twin Valley in March, 1915, and upon the completion of his last term of school in the following May entered upon the active duties of the office and has since been thus engaged, his services in that connection proving very acceptable to the entire community. Mr. Meighen is a Democrat and ever since taking up his labors as a teacher in this part of the state, back in pioneer days, has given his earnest and intelligent attention to local civic and political affairs, long having been regarded as one of the leaders of his party in this section. It was in 1887 that Mr. Meighen settled at Twin Valley and in that village and in the vicinity of the same he has ever since made his residence, one of the best-known men in Norman and adjacent counties.

On April 21, 1874, J. J. Meighen was united in marriage to Catherine McGraw, who was born in LeSueur county, this state, daughter of Patrick McGraw and wife, pioneers of that county, who had settled there about 1858, and to this union three children have been born, Philip J., Mary Sophia and Alice Gertrude. Philip J. Meighen is now a prosperous practicing attorney at Minneapolis and the Misses Meighen, both of whom were graduated from the State Normal School at Mankato, are teaching school. The Meighens have a very pleasant home at Twin Valley and have ever taken an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of that place and of the community at large.

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### AUGUST DURLING.

August Durling, proprietor of the Twin Valley Roller Mills, president of the village of Twin Valley and otherwise an active participant in the affairs of that village and of Norman county in general, is a native of the kingdom of Sweden, but has been a resident of this country since he was nineteen years of age. He was born at Parup, in Skone, September 19, 1863, and grew up in his native Sweden, receiving there a high-school education and remaining until he was about nineteen years of age, when, in 1882, he came to the United States and proceeded directly on out to Minnesota, his objective point being Ada, county seat of Norman county.

For three or four years after his arrival at Ada, Mr. Durling worked on farms west and south of that place. During the following years he worked a two-hundred-acre farm in Winchester township, south of Ada, which he owned, and also farmed some rented land, and continued farming, spending portions of the winters in the pineries at Frazee and at Cromwell, until the spring of 1889, when he went farther west and became engaged working in the mines and smelters in Montana and Utah. He then proceeded on out to the coast and after a comprehensive tour of the cities of Seattle, Spokane, Portland, San Francisco and points in Colorado, he returned to Ada, in 1891, and there became engaged in the insurance business, continuing thus engaged for about a year, at the end of which time he was employed by the Thorpe Elevator Company as grain buyer for that company at Lee Station, in Polk county, where he remained until in July, 1894, when the company transferred him to their elevator at Twin Valley and he continued engaged as buyer for the Thorpes at that point until 1901, in which year he rented the