

county in pioneer days and took up a homestead, which they developed into a good farm. Mr. and Mrs. Solum have no children of their own, but have adopted two children, Jorgen and Gena. Politically, Mr. Solum is a Republican. He has been active in public affairs for many years and is now serving his fifth year as county commissioner. He is also treasurer of his township, which position he has held for twelve years. As a public servant he has discharged his duties in an able, faithful and highly acceptable manner. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

MARTIN L. MIKKELSON.

Martin L. Mikkelson, a farmer of Eglon township, Clay county, was born in 1864 in Norway. He is a son of Lars and Beret Sophia Mikkelson, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and established their home, immigrating to America in 1870. The mother died on September 18, 1899, at the age of sixty-seven years. The father brought his family to Minnesota in 1871, taking up a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land in section 22, Eglon township, Clay county, the place now occupied by his son, Martin L. Here the father worked hard and persevered and established a comfortable home and he is still living on the place, being now (1917) in his eighty-eighth year. He has lived to see many changes in Clay county during his residence here of forty-seven years and is one of our honored and venerable pioneers. He has not been actively engaged in farming for the past fifteen or twenty years. Some time after buying his original tract he bought other land—forty acres in section 23 of Eglon township, and eighty acres in sections 15 and 29 of the same township, but sold the "forty" five years later. He has held many local offices and has been a good and helpful citizen. To Lars Mikkelson and wife ten children were born, namely: Engebore, who is a widow and lives in the state of Washington; Mekel, who is married and lives on a farm near Hitterdal; Lars, who died in the fall of 1916, after a life on the home farm; Berret, who is married and lives in Canada; Martin L., the subject of this sketch; Sophia, who lives at home; Nels, who is married and is farming in Eglon township; Louisa, deceased; Josephine, also deceased, and Mathilda, who is married and lives in Staples, Minnesota.

Martin L. Mikkelson was six years of age when his parents brought him to America and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Eglon town-

ship, receiving his education in the district schools. In 1904 he and his brother Lars bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 22, Eglon township, and in 1906 they purchased the homestead of two hundred acres. Upon the death of Lars, Martin L. became sole owner of the entire three hundred and sixty acres and is operating the same in a highly successful manner, carrying on general farming and stock raising. He sows a large acreage to wheat each year. His land is in the rich potato belt and he has planted as high as fifteen acres in the tubers. He raises large numbers of cattle and hogs for the market each year, specializing in Shorthorn cattle of an excellent grade, the head of his herd being a fine registered animal. The father made the first improvement on the place, but these have given away to more modern improvements made by Martin L. and Lars Mikkelson, including new buildings, fences, etc. The first home on the land was of logs and was built by the father in the early frontier days. A part of this primitive residence is still standing, a priceless relic of pioneer days.

In 1906, in Eglon township, Martin L. Mikkelson was married to Bertha Erickson, who was born in 1881 in that same township, where she grew to womanhood and attended the public schools. Three children have been born to this marriage, namely: Myrtle, Ludvig and Milton.

Mr. Mikkelson is a Republican and was a member of the town board for six years. He was once president of the Young People's Association, is treasurer of the school board in district No. 15 and is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which he is treasurer.

MICHAEL HIGGINS.

Michael Higgins, a substantial farmer of Clay county and the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in section 31 of Kragnes township, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of this section of the Red River valley since he was eighteen years of age, having come over here from Wisconsin in 1878. He was born at Johnstown, Ohio, in 1860, a son of Michael and Anna (Hannay) Higgins, who were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the second in order of birth, the others being as follow: Mary, wife of Con Keece, a member of the Fargo police force; Maggie, who is married and lives in Wisconsin; Martin; Patrick, deceased, and Thomas, who is married and lives in Minneapolis.