

rience of about one year and a half in the business of farming and gardening in Texas he found that his expectations were not realized. He lost practically all that he had brought with him, as well as the profit on his labor during the time of his sojourn in Texas. In 1906 he removed to Tower City, North Dakota, arriving at that place with eighty dollars in cash and very little in the way of household goods. He engaged in farming in that state for two years and by economy and industry greatly improved his condition in the way of worldly possessions. In 1908 he came to Moorhead, and bought a tract of ground and engaged in gardening. In the fall of that year he built the first one of his greenhouses. He has added others as the business increased and now has five large greenhouses, with all modern appointments and conveniences, his plant now carrying about thirty thousand square feet of glass. Mr. Briggs cultivates all varieties of vegetables, plants and flowers and finds a ready market for his product in Moorhead and Fargo.

On February 19, 1902, W. R. Briggs was married to Eva Kate Miller and to this union four children have been born: Harold, Gertrude, Mildred and Francis. Mr. and Mrs. Briggs are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church at Moorhead. Mr. Briggs is a member of the school board and his fraternal affiliation is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Politically, he is independent.

OTTO J. MORTENSON.

Otto J. Mortenson, secretary of the Moorhead Realty Company at Moorhead and one of the best-known real-estate dealers in this part of the state, is a native of the Red River valley and has lived in this section most of his life. He was born on a pioneer farm, over the river in Cass county, North Dakota, July 11, 1880, son of Paul and Maren (Lee) Mortenson, natives of Norway, who came to this country in 1870, proceeding on up into the Red River valley and settling on a homestead farm in Cass county, North Dakota, where the latter spent her last days and where the former is still living, one of the well-established pioneer farmers of that community. Paul Mortenson has held office in his home township and was one of the organizers of the church in his neighborhood.

Reared on the homestead farm, Otto J. Mortenson received his elementary schooling in the schools of that vicinity and then entered Concordia

College at Moorhead, from which institution he was graduated in 1900, with the degree of Bachelor of Accounts. Upon leaving school Mr. Mortenson became engaged in the office of a real-estate dealer at Moorhead and after awhile engaged in the real-estate business on his own account in that city and was thus engaged there until 1904, when he went to Sawyer, over in Ward county, North Dakota, where he established the Sawyer State Bank and remained there, acting as cashier of that concern, until 1908, when he went over into Montana, homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in that state and remained there, improving and developing his tract, until January 1, 1911, when he returned to Moorhead, where he since has made his residence. Upon returning to Moorhead Mr. Mortenson resumed his connection with the real-estate business and was engaged in the interest of various land firms until 1915, in which year he organized the Moorhead Realty Company, of which he since has been the secretary, and has worked up an extensive business in that line, his operations in realty covering a wide territory hereabout.

On June 23, 1904, Otto J. Mortenson was united in marriage to Leonora H. Dahl, daughter of T. H. Dahl and wife, of Moorhead, and to this union six children have been born, Ethel, Carroll, Kenneth (deceased), Philip, Wilbur and Robert. Mr. and Mrs. Mortenson are members of Trinity Lutheran church at Moorhead and take a proper interest in church works, as well as in the general good works of the community. Fraternally, Mr. Mortenson is affiliated with the Masonic order and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same.

JOHN E. BURUD.

Success as a general farmer has come to John E. Burud because he worked hard and managed well and he is now enabled to spend his declining years in retirement. He is one of the well-known citizens of Goose Prairie township, Clay county. He was born on November 1, 1854, in Norway, a son of Ellef Jenson and Barbara (Erickson) Burud, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and established their home, but came to America in 1881, locating in Clay county, Minnesota. There they took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Hagen township, which they developed into a good farm through their industry, and there continued to carry on general farming until about 1894 when they