

an appeal which carried with it a strong urge in his case and with a view to carrying out his ambition along this line he came up here into the Red River country to look about for a bit of farm land. So well pleased was he with the outlook here that he presently bought a quarter of a section of land in Green Meadow township, Norman county, and settled down as a real tiller of the soil. After his marriage in 1900 he established his home on that place and he and his family are now very comfortably and very pleasantly situated there, Mr. Rabe having many reasons for continuing to congratulate himself upon the decision which prompted him to leave the city. He has erected excellent buildings on his place and his farming is carried on in accordance with up-to-date methods. In addition to his general farming he has given considerable attention to the raising of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle and has done well in his operations. Ever since locating here Mr. Rabe has given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and for the past eleven years or more has been serving his township in the capacity of assessor.

On September 26, 1900, William H. Rabe was united in marriage to Emma Eichler, who was born in the township in which she is living, a daughter of August Eichler and wife, pioneers of that township, and to this union two children have been born, Verna and Raymond. Mr. and Mrs. Rabe are members of the Green Meadow German Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church work, as well as in the general good works and social activities of the community in which they live and in which Mrs. Rabe has lived all her life, helpful in many ways in promoting movements designed to advance the common welfare of that neighborhood.

---

#### AMON OLSON.

Amon Olson, a prosperous and substantial farmer of Home Lake township, Norman county, where he owns two hundred acres of good land, nearly all of which is under a high state of cultivation, was born in Norway, April 20, 1849, a son of Ole and Cena (Olson) Brakeat, both of whom were natives of Norway, and whose deaths occurred in this country. They had seven children, as follow: Knut, a resident of North Dakota; Amon, the subject of this review, and Ole, living in Washington state, and four girls, Mary and Kari, in North Dakota; Annie, in Washington state, and Hannah, who is dead.

Amon Olson attended the common schools of his native land, where he acquired an elementary education such as the time and place afforded. As he was just entering manhood, his parents decided to immigrate to America, where they thought they could better the material well-being of the whole family. Accordingly in 1866, the father and Knut, the eldest son, came to this country to select a location, and in the following year, 1867, the mother, the youngest child and Amon, who was then eighteen years of age, joined the father and elder brother. It was thirteen years after he had set foot on American soil that Amon Olson came to these parts. He had heard that land could be acquired cheaply in Norman county, and he removed here in 1880, settling on one hundred and sixty acres of school land in section 36, Home Lake township. Later he rounded out his holding by the purchase of an additional tract of forty acres in the same section. Here he began the improvement of his farm under pioneer conditions, for the land was in a wild state. Fortunately, however, there was a natural grove on the place, hence he did not find it necessary to set out an artificial one. Soon he erected a substantial log house and barn, which sufficed until recent years, when he replaced the original structures with larger, more substantial, commodious and convenient ones. It was in 1903 that he constructed his comfortable farm home, and his farm plant is now all in an excellent state of repair. He now carries on a scientific form of diversified agriculture, which includes an excellent system of crop rotation, and also raises some cattle, generally feeding about twenty-five head. His farm plant is well stocked with modern farming machinery, a marked contrast with the conditions under which he worked when he used oxen for draught animals.

In February, 1883, Mr. Olson was united in marriage to Hannah Waller, who was born in Norway, June 4, 1847, a daughter of Ole Olson and Olea (Peterson) Waller, with whom she came to this country when she was twenty years of age. The father and mother died here on her husband's farm. By her first marriage, Mrs. Olson has two children, Fred and Clara. Her marriage to Mr. Olson resulted in the birth of seven children, as follow: Sam, living in Montana; Oscar, living here in Norman county; Sena, a resident of Montana; Alice, living in North Dakota; Helmer, living here in Norman county, and Tina and Hannah, both residents of North Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Olson are devoted members of the Norwegian Lutheran church at Flom, and they take a keen interest in the church work of this denomination. Mr. Olson takes a deep interest in the local, state and national phases of his party's activity. Mr. Olson is active in furthering the educational

progress of the locality, and rendered valuable service to this cause when he was a member of the local school board. Even though Mr. Olson has never been much given to seeking after public office, he takes a good citizen's interest in the betterment of his community in the educational, moral, religious and civil aspects of its existence.

---

#### H. O. ELLEFSON.

H. O. Ellefson, postmaster of the village of Syre, in Norman county, manager of the Thorpe elevator and a well-known merchant of that place, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been a resident of this country since he was three years of age. He was born on June 21, 1869, son of Austin and Annie (Hanson) Ellefson, also natives of Norway, who came to the United States with their family in 1872 and settled on a home-stead farm in Dunn county, Wisconsin, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the latter dying in 1887 and the former surviving until 1907. Austin Ellefson and his wife were members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth, the others being Eleck, Hans, Nellie, Louis, Ole, Carl, Knute, Martin and Henry.

As noted above, H. O. Ellefson was but three years of age when he came with his parents to this country, the family settling in Wisconsin, and when two years of age he went to live with his sister, Nellie, wife of Nels Swanson, in St. Croix county, that same state, and in that county attended school until he was nineteen years of age, when, in 1888, he came up into this part of Minnesota, being attracted to the possibilities then opening in the valley of the Red River, and began farming in the vicinity of Gary, in Norman county. After his marriage he settled on a farm in Waukon township and was there engaged in farming until after the death of his first wife in 1899. Two years later, in 1901, Mr. Ellefson became engaged as a grain buyer in the Thorpe elevator at Syre and eighteen months later was transferred by the Thorpes to their elevator at Flaming and for two years and a half was engaged as their buyer there. The company then put him in charge of their elevator at Gary and a year later transferred him to their elevator at Leeds, North Dakota, where he remained for eighteen months, at the end of which time, in 1908, the company sent