

LUDWIG A. OPSAHL.

Most farms succeed in spite of certain weaknesses. Some of these weaknesses can be corrected; others are due to conditions that cannot be improved, such as naturally poor soil, short growing seasons, steep hills and various things. No better example of a good general farmer than Ludwig A. Opsahl could be found in Ulen township, Clay county.

Mr. Opsahl was born in Norway, September 27, 1860. He is a son of Andrew and Anna (Larson) Peterson, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and, in fact, spent all their lives. They have been deceased many years. The father was a carpenter, and followed that trade during his active life. To these parents the following children were born: Louisa, the eldest, who came to America when young and has remained in this country; Ludwig A., the subject of this sketch, and Maria, Olena and Christian, who are living in Norway, where they have always resided.

Ludwig A. Opsahl spent his boyhood in Norway and there attended the common schools. He set sail for the shores of the new world in 1881, when twenty-one years old, and upon his arrival at port proceeded on out to Minnesota, arriving at Red Wing in June of that year and at once began working near there as a farm hand. He remained in that vicinity until 1886, in which year he moved to Ulen township, Clay county, and bought a relinquishment to a quarter section, and later homesteaded the same. To this he later added eighty acres just across the road from his original holdings and also purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 7 of Ulen township. Mr. Opsahl has placed all his land under an excellent state of cultivation and improvement, including the erection of a large modern home and numerous out-buildings, and has by infinite effort and patience transformed the wild prairie into choice farming land. He set out a large grove when he first came here, which is now very attractive. He engages in general and mixed farming, raising a large quantity of grain annually; also prepares large numbers of cattle and hogs for market and makes a specialty of raising a good grade of Percheron horses. He handles Shorthorn cattle.

In 1886 Ludwig A. Opsahl was married to Elena Johnson, who was born in Norway, from which country her mother brought her to Minnesota when she was five years old, settling at Red Wing. She is a daughter of John and Sarah (Borstad) Melha, natives of Norway, where they grew up, married and established their home and where the father died when comparatively young, after which his widow brought her children to the United

States. She remarried in Red Wing, this state, her second husband being John Tildon. They removed to Norman county in the fall of 1881, Mr. Tildon taking up a homestead there of one hundred and sixty acres in Home Lake township, where he still lives, his wife, the mother of Mrs. Opsahl, dying there a number of years ago. She had one child by her last husband, Julia Tildon. Seven children, all living, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Opsahl, namely: Adolph, Joseph, Lewis, Rachael, Selma, Ole and Inez.

Politically, Mr. Opsahl is a Republican. He served as a member of the township board several years ago and has been township chairman since 1915.

L. O. TORSTENSON.

Life is where things are born and live and grow. On the farm is real life. It is not to be found in the city. Realizing this when young L. O. Torstenson, a farmer of Cromwell township, Clay county, took up agricultural pursuits and he has always been contented with his environment.

Mr. Torstenson was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, and he is a son of Ole and Anna (Larson) Torstenson, both natives of Norway, where they grew up, were married and continued to make their home until 1867, when they immigrated to America, locating in Fillmore county, Minnesota, where they lived on a farm until 1873, when they removed to Douglas county, this state, where they spent the rest of their lives on a farm, the father dying in 1883 and the mother in 1911. To these parents six children were born, named as follows, and all still living: Tosten O., L. O., Belle, Otto, Knut, and Gulick.

L. O. Torstenson grew to manhood on the home farm in Douglas county, and there he attended the district schools. He worked hard when a boy, assisting his brothers with the general work on the home farm, for when he was ten years old his father was killed in a runaway accident and the labors of developing the home farm fell on the brothers. Later L. O. Torstenson took charge of the farm and continued to operate it until 1897, in which year he purchased the farm on which he now lives, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres. By perseverance and good management he has prospered as a general farmer and stock raiser and has added to his original holdings until he now has a total of two hundred and forty acres. However, he did not begin improving his farm at once after coming to Clay county, but worked out and rented land, for five years. Since about 1902 he has engaged