

remarkable progress in his line of work. He does contract building of all kinds, farm buildings, heating plants, and sidewalks, employing about twenty-five workmen on the various construction works. He is well known throughout the county and commands the patronage of the people within a radius of fifty miles, which speaks well for the quality of his work.

In 1907 J. H. Fisch was married to Martha Fankhanel, and to this union two children have been born, Pearl and Laurence. The family are earnest members of the Congregational church, and take an active interest in the affairs of the local church. Fraternally, Mr. Fisch is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

AANEN PEDERSON.

Aanen Pederson, a prosperous and progressive farmer, owner of two hundred and eighty acres of prime land in Bear Park township, Norman county, is another citizen of Norwegian birth who has rendered a good account of himself in the agricultural life of the community in which he lives. He was born in Norway on September 5, 1860, a son of Peder and Martha (Vikeness) Thommassen, both natives of Norway, where the latter died. Peder Thommassen immigrated to the United States in 1871 and on arriving in this country proceeded out to Minnesota, locating in Colfax township, Kandiyohi county, this state. He farmed in that place and remained on the farm for the remainder of his days. He was twice married. By his union to Martha Vikeness he became the father of four children: Aanen, Emma, Martha and Mary, who died in Norway. By his later marriage to Bertha Arneson several children were born.

Aanen Pederson was educated partly in the schools of Norway and of Kandiyohi county. At the age of seventeen he moved to Goodhue county, this state, and remained there until 1898 working at various occupations, but principally in the flour-mill at Kenyon. In the latter year he started on his own account by renting land in Sundahl township, later returning to Goodhue county and rented there for five years. In 1911 he moved to Norman county and made a first purchase of eighty acres, which he set out to general farming, and as he prospered in his agricultural operations he added more land to the extent of two hundred acres, making two hundred and eighty acres in all, which is in a state of excellent improvement and

Mr. Pederson is doing very well in his farming operations, being classed as one of the progressive farmers of the township.

On November 9, 1885, Aanen Pederson was united in marriage to Anna H. Werdahl, born in Goodhue county, a daughter of Ole H. and Aslaug Georgine (Wraalstad) Werdahl, both natives of Norway, who came to America unmarried, he at the age of about twenty and she when ten or eleven, in company with her parents, who settled in Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Werdahl later moved to Goodhue county, where they farmed and spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of nine children as follow: Andria, Anna, Halvor, John, Emma, Martin, Thea, Carrie and George, all of whom are still living. Mr. Werdahl served with the Union colors during the Civil War. To Mr. and Mrs. Pederson the following children have been born: Martha, Olena, Bertha, Hannah, Peder, Alma, Inga, Alfred and Norman, all of whom are living. The Pederson family are members of the Lutheran church and are warmly interested in all its good works, as well as in all community movements calculated to advance the best interests of the township at large.

JOHN LAMB.

The late John Lamb, a substantial retired farmer of Clay county, who died at his home in Baker in the spring of 1910, and whose widow is now living in the village of Downer, where she is conducting a hotel, was a native of Scotland, but had been a resident of Minnesota since 1872, he and his wife having come to this country immediately following their marriage in that year. He was born on a farm in Forfarshire on August 18, 1848, a son of John and Elizabeth Lamb, also natives of Scotland, the former of whom died in his native land and the latter of whom later came to this country and spent her last days in the home of her son, John, in Clay county. The senior John Lamb and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth, the others being David, Charles, Ann, Margaret, James, Alexander, Mary, Jane and William. Ann Lamb married William Thompson, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume.

Reared on the home farm in Scotland, the junior John Lamb grew up there a practical farmer and continued farming there until his marriage in