

Nels N. Melvey spent his boyhood in Norway, where he attended school. He was about fourteen years old when his parents brought him to America, and he finished his education in Moorhead, Minnesota. When a young man he learned the carpenter's trade under his father and he has continued in this line ever since, together with contracting in later life, starting contracting for himself about 1910. He became an expert workman in early life and his work has always been eminently satisfactory and his services have been in constant demand. He is a close observer and a student of modern building methods and he has kept fully abreast of the times in his chosen field of endeavor. He is a stockholder and director in the First State Bank of Moorhead. He is also a director of the Key City Building Association.

Mr. Melvey was married in the spring of 1887 to Ingeborg Vinger, a native of Norway, from which country she came to America with her brother. Her father, Johan Share, died in Norway, and her mother, Johana, remarried and in 1883 came to America, her second husband, Erick Arneson, establishing a home in Moorhead. To Mr. and Mrs. Melvey nine children have been born, namely: Tilla Olphena, Jelmer Norine, Elert, Arthur, Ernest, Nora, Fletchert Norwin, Harold Francis and Dorothy Hetel. They are all living at this writing.

Mr. Melvey is active in local public affairs and has been an alderman for ten years, during which time he has done much for the general good of Moorhead. He belongs to the Lutheran church, and fraternally is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

BERNHARD JULIUS SOLUM.

One of the most enterprising and successful farmers of Tansem township, Clay county, is Bernhard Julius Solum, who was born in Norway, in October, 1866. He is a son of Petrus P. and Bergetta (Klingen) Solum, both natives of Norway, from which country they came to America in the summer of 1868, locating in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where they remained until 1871, the father following the carpenter's trade, which he had learned in Norway. From Iowa he made the overland journey with an ox-team hitched to a prairie schooner, to Clay county, locating on raw land in section 4, Tansem township. It was about half covered with timber, the other half being open prairie. He began life there in true pioneer fashion, breaking

the sod with his oxen and making necessary improvements and there he engaged in farming successfully until his death about the year 1907. He and his family were accompanied by Erick Hanson and family from Iowa, and they were the first two settlers in the northern part of the township. The widow of Petrus P. Solum is still living on the old home place in this township. He helped organize Tansem township, and he served on the township board in the early days. He also helped organize the first church in Clay county—the Greng Lutheran church at Rollag, where services are still held. He also helped organize the Rollag Telephone Company, in which he continued to be interested until his death. He was also a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company at Pelican Rapids. His family consisted of nine children, named as follows: Bernard Julius, of this sketch, is the eldest; Christina, Julia, Anna, Sana, Nettie, Petra, Peter and Alma. They are all living at this writing.

Bernhard J. Solum, whose name introduces this review, was educated in the common schools of his native community; the school house being a number of miles away, in the winter time he went to and fro on skees over the deep snows. Indians were still numerous in this locality in those days. Young Solum remained on the home farm with his parents, assisting with the general work, until he was thirty-one years old; he then located on his present farm in section 9, Tansem township, which he purchased. It consists of one hundred and eighty acres. He cleared and improved it by his own efforts. He operates his father's old home place in connection with his own and has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser. About 1906 he started auctioneering and has continued this line ever since, being known as one of the most successful and popular auctioneers in this and adjoining counties, frequently crying sales in Clay, Otter Tail, Becker and Wilkin counties. At times his crowds number one thousand people.

Mr. Solum was married on November 16, 1897, to Nellie Norheim, who was born in Norway and is a daughter of M. H. and Gunhild Norheim, natives of Norway, from which country they came to America with their family, locating near Rollag, Parke township, Clay county, where they lived for some time and where the death of the mother occurred. Mr. Norheim later moved to Benson county, North Dakota. To Mr. and Mrs. Solum the following children have been born: Joseph Norman, Gerhard, Bertha Charlotta, Julius Raymond, Carl Herman and Esther Eleanor. They are all living at this writing.

Mr. Solum is a justice of the peace, which office he has held for a number

of years to the satisfaction of all concerned. He has been clerk of the local school board for over twenty years. He is now township chairman, which position he has held for three years, and he has been a member of the township board for thirteen years. He is a member of the Rollag Lutheran church which he helped organize. He has been one of the leading men in his township since the pioneer days and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

ALBERT W. PERRY.

Among the well-known and successful residents of Ada, Norman county, is Albert W. Perry, a proficient plumber, who was born in Merrick county, New Hampshire, July 26, 1858, a son of Harston J. and Emlie E. (Morey) Perry.

Harston J. and Emlie E. Perry were natives of the states of Vermont and New Hampshire, respectively, and were educated in their respective communities. After their marriage they established their home in New Hampshire, where they lived for a number of years, and where Mr. Perry engaged in general farming. In 1885, they decided to leave the New England state and seek a home in the West. It was in that year that they came to South Dakota, and there in March, 1885, Mr. Perry homesteaded three hundred and twenty acres near Northville. The territory was a new one at that time and it meant much hard work and privation for the little family to make a home. A house was erected and the task of developing the tract was begun, which in time became one of the ideal farms of this section of the state. The tract was later increased, until there were six hundred and forty acres in the farm. Here Mr. Perry engaged in general farming and stockraising for many years, and there the wife and mother died. The father died some years ago, when on a visit to his old home in the East. They were highly respected people and had much to do with the moral and general development of the new settlement. They were the parents of the following children: Albert W., Curtis H., Ida E. and Della, all of whom are now living. Ida and Della are now residing in South Dakota.

During the Civil War two members of the Perry family enlisted in defence of the Union, and gave their lives for that cause. Martin Perry, an uncle of Albert W., entered the service as a drummer boy, and was taken sick and came home and died. The other uncle, Morey, saw much active service and was killed in battle. The Perry family are of the same line