

affairs of which they took a deep interest. The father had shares in the Farmers Elevator and creamery at Twin Valley, but at this time both of these enterprises have passed out of existence. In politics, Mr. Stien was a Republican, but he never sought after office, although he took a deep interest in the social, civil and moral betterment of the community in which he lived for so many years, a valued citizen, excellent workman and sturdy pioneer.

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### ERICK STEPHENSON.

Erick Stephenson, a farmer of Strand township, Norman county, where he operates a fine well-improved farm of one hundred sixty acres and who is interested in the business, civil and educational affairs of the community in which he lives was born in Sweden, December 19, 1869, a son of Ole and Marie (Person) Stephenson, both natives of Sweden, who immigrated to America in 1884. As soon as they arrived here they set out for Norman county, Minnesota, and when they reached their journey's end, they located in Sundahl township, where they took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 12. There he and his wife spent the rest of their days, the former dying on November 13, 1915, at the ripe old age of eighty-seven years. The parents of Ole Stephenson lived and died in Sweden, but those of his wife, Marie Person, came to America in 1869 and settled in Nicollet county, Minnesota, where the mother died the same year. The father remained there until 1881, in which year he came northward into Norman county and pre-empted the quarter section which his son-in-law, Ole Stephenson, proved up. Ole Stephenson and wife were the parents of ten children; the five who did not die in infancy are: Ellen, Erick, Lewis, August and Johanna. Ole Stephenson and his father-in-law, Erick Person, were quite active in the early religious affairs of the community, both helping to organize the Swedish Lutheran church at Sundahl.

Reared in Sweden where he received his elementary education, Erick Stephenson was only sixteen years of age when his parents left him behind while they came to America to look for a location. In the following year, 1885, they sent for him and he came directly to his parents. in Sundahl township, Norman county. He lived with them on the home place, contributing his share of energy and industry to the development of the same until his marriage in 1890. In 1891 he bought the farm where he now lives, and even though he carried on farming operations there, he did not leave his father's

home until the autumn of 1894. His excellent farm in Strand township, which was entirely unimproved at the time of its purchase, comprises one hundred and sixty acres. He has erected all the good, substantial buildings which make up his admirable farm plant and around the comfortable and convenient farm home he has set out a beautiful grove. Here he carries on general diversified farming and is highly successful in his operations.

On October 10, 1890, Mr. Stephenson married Augusta Groberg, a native of Sweden, born October 31, 1870, a daughter of A. C. and Margareta Elizabeth Groberg. To this union six children have been born, one of whom died in infancy; the others being: Arthur, Clarence, Elsie, Lewis and Hazel. Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and in the affairs of which they take a deep interest. In politics, Mr. Stephenson is a Republican, and he is quite active in the local affairs of his party. For ten or eleven years he has served the people of the township in the capacity of assessor, and he is now and always has discharged his duties with impartiality and precision. The educational interests of the community have always been a source of interest to him and he has served on the school board for the last fifteen or sixteen years. In addition to these activities, Mr. Stephenson is connected with the co-operative enterprises at Gary, having helped to organize the Peoples Supply Company at that place and has been a member of the board of directors since its organization. He was also formerly interested in the Farmers Elevator at Gary.

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#### B. O. LEE.

The Lee family has been one of the best known and most influential in Norman county since the early pioneer days here, and one of the creditable representatives of the same of the present generation is B. O. Lee, one of the leading agriculturists and stockmen of western Minnesota. He was born in Rice county, this state, December 6, 1869, and is a son of Ole J. and Anne Johanne (Aslakstrom) Lee, natives of Norway.

Ole J. Lee grew to manhood in his native land, where he attended school and was married. He sailed for American shores in 1867, locating with his family, in Rice county, Minnesota, where he remained until 1871, in which year he moved to Fargo, North Dakota, and settled on a homestead one mile south of that city, in Cass township. He lived there until 1878, at which time he came to Lee township, Norman county, and was one of the