

Mr. Schmidt has taken a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs, having actively participated in the road and educational improvement of the community. He has been a road overseer and for six years he was a director on the board of the local school district. Local co-operative business enterprises have come in for a share of his attention. He was a member of the board of directors of the Lee Co-operative Telephone Company for six years and he helped to organize the same enterprise. He also has shares in the potato warehouse at Borup.

LESLIE WELTER

Leslie Welter, one of the prominent business men of Moorhead, Clay county, was born at St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada, in 1864. He is the son of David and Margaret (McClellan) Welter, both of whom were natives of Ontario, where they both died. David Welter was a successful farmer and cattle man.

Leslie Welter received his education in the schools of Ontario. When he was eighteen years old, after finishing his course in the Collegiate Institute of St. Thomas, he was employed by the government as a member of a surveying party in the Canadian northwest. In the fall of 1884 he left Canada and came to the United States and located at Moorhead, Minnesota. For the first two years of his residence in Moorhead he taught school. Afterwards he engaged in the mercantile business with F. G. Asselstine and later with H. G. Finkle. The latter partnership continued until the death of Mr. Finkle in 1890, when Mr. Welter continued the business alone. He gradually became more interested in the business of handling potatoes and in the year 1902 sold his store in order to be able to devote more time to his potato business. He is today one of the largest dealers of potatoes in this section and has warehouses at Moorhead, Glyndon, Hawley, Dale, Nielsville and other points in Minnesota. In addition to his extensive business in the handling of potatoes, Mr. Welter is interested in the mining and selling of sand and gravel and has been president of the Muskoda Sand Company since its organization in 1907.

In 1889 Mr. Welter was married to Ella G. Gedney, of La Crosse, Wisconsin, and to this union two children have been born, namely: Leslie, Jr., and Helen Margaret. Mr. and Mrs. Welter have long been prominent in social and religious circles of Moorhead and vicinity. Mr. Welter

is a member of the Royal Arcanum, Modern Brotherhood of America, Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Elks, the Moorhead Commercial Club and the Fargo Country Club.

Mr. Welter has always taken an active interest in local affairs. In 1901 he was appointed by Governor Lind as a member of the board of managers of the St. Cloud Reformatory, in which capacity he served for several years. In 1914 he was appointed by Governor Hammond as a member of the State Normal School board, which position he now holds. He has also served as a member of the Moorhead board of education, a member of the city council, and has been president of the Moorhead Commercial Club. He has been a member of the Moorhead charter commission since its inception and has served as a member of the water and light commission.

In 1909, Mr. Welter was one of the active organizers of the Clay County Potato Growers Association, which has had great success in making Clay county potatoes well known throughout the country and which has made Moorhead the central point for the marketing of Red River Valley potatoes. Mr. Welter has been president of the organization for several years. Mr. Welter is very much interested in the general upbuilding of the Red River Valley and for several years president of the Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association, a public organization which has this idea in view and which has done much to give favorable publicity to this section of Minnesota.

JOHN J. LINDBACK.

Among the real old settlers of Norman county there are few who have a wider acquaintance throughout the county or a more intimate recollection of pioneer days hereabout than John J. Lindback, one of the substantial farmers of Lake Ida township, former member of the board of supervisors of that township, for the past fifteen years or more the assessor of the same, a director in various semi-public enterprises in that part of the county and in other ways actively identified with the interests of that region in which he has lived since the days of the pioneers, his parents having been, with their family, the first permanent settlers in Lake Ida township.

John J. Lindback, is a native son of Minnesota, born at Cambridge, the county seat of Isanta county, January 12, 1869, a son of John M. and Margaret (Marcus) Lindback, both natives of the kingdom of Sweden, the former of whom came to this country in April, 1867, and the latter of