Steenerson as vice president and A. F. Cronquist as cashier.

The history of the bank was the same as that of many similar institutions—a steady growth of business, an increasing hold on public confidence and regard, and a firm standing in financial and banking circles—until December, 1912, when some forty-six merchants and farmers bought it. The surplus at that time amounted to $3,000 and the deposits to $140,000. Under its new ownership A. D. Stephens was chosen president, Gilbert K. Espeseth vice president and Theodore Nelson cashier. He had been the assistant cashier of the bank for ten years. The other directors are John Clementson, A. J. Haugen and O. T. Rovang, all farmers living near Erskine. Mr. Stephens has since been succeeded as president by G. K. Espeseth and T. K. Berg chosen vice president, but none of the other officials have been changed since the purchase was made.

The surplus of the bank at the time of this writing (October, 1915) is increased to $5,000, and the deposits have increased to $210,000. In 1903 the fine modern building in which the bank now conducts its business was erected. The bank makes loans, does insurance and carries on all other departments of banking according to the most approved present-day methods, and is one of the soundest and best managed institutions of its rank in the Northwest.

**FARMERS STATE BANK OF WINGER.**

This popular financial institution, which is rendering great and appreciated service to the community, was founded September 1, 1904, as the First State Bank of Winger, with a capital stock of $10,000, A. N. Eckman as president and Gilbert Bratland as cashier.

In 1908 Messrs. Simons & Bourdon became the owners but continued under the old name and with only minor changes in its management until May, 1912, L. C. Simons being the president, Chas. N. Bourdon, vice president, and Edward Randklev, cashier.

May 27, 1912, the bank was purchased by local men, some fifty-five of them, nearly all farmers, becoming stockholders. They elected J. O. Hovland president, H. A. Loitten vice president, and A. I. Solberg cashier, and in December following the name was changed to the Farmers State Bank of Winger, the capital stock being increased to $12,500. At that time the bank had a surplus of $2,500 and deposits amounting to $50,000. At the present time (1915) the officers and the capital stock are the same as in 1912, the surplus is $3,500 and the deposits are $150,000. Loans and discounts amount to $140,000. The bank building was erected in 1905.

**FIRST STATE BANK OF MENTOR.**

The First State Bank of Mentor was established in 1901, as a private bank, by A. D. Stephens and Joseph Tagley and operated as such until 1908, when it was incorporated as the First State Bank of Mentor, with a capital of $10,000. The president, A. D. Stephens, Joseph Tagley as cashier, M. Tagley, vice president, and Nels Paulsberg, assistant cashier, the first three comprise the board of directors and are the owners of the stock. Mr. Tagley, in the capacity of cashier, has directed the management of the bank in its prosperous activities as the financial center of business enterprise in Mentor. The present capitalization of the bank is the original amount, with a surplus of $2,000 and deposits of about ninety thousand dollars. Aside from general banking interests, the State Bank maintains a real estate agency and deals in insurance. The brick structure which it occupies was erected in 1901 and is equipped with modern banking facilities.

**CITIZENS STATE BANK OF FERTILE.**

The Citizens State Bank of Fertile, one of the most prosperous banking institutions of northwestern Minnesota, was organized on December 7, 1904, as the successor of the Citizens National Bank, which, in turn had succeeded the Citizens Bank in 1901. The latter corporation had been effected in 1897 by Lewis Larson, of Britt, Iowa, M. B. Dahlquist, and B. E. Dahlquist of Forest City, Iowa, Louis Ellington, of Crookston and M. J. Pihl, of Wells, Minn., and these men...