The Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, with office at Fertile, is one of the co-operative enterprises of this section which attests to the enterprise of its citizens and has proved of benefit to local interests. The company has met with an extensive patronage in Polk and Norman Counties, the territory covered by its operations, and has over nine hundred policy holders with $1,677,629 insurance in force. Through the disinterested service of the men who have been identified with the organization as officers, the expense of operation has always been small, a fact which has contributed to the rapid growth and prosperity of the company. It was incorporated in 1891 by O. P. Renne, Hans Juelson, T. H. Nesseth and Martin G. Peterson. The articles of incorporation were drafted by Mr. Peterson, who has been active in the direction of company's affairs as treasurer and secretary.

The First State Bank of Beltrami, one of the most substantial banking houses in the county, was organized in 1905, as the successor of the Bank of Beltrami, a private bank which had been in operation since 1901, when it was established by William Mathews, with D. E. Fulton as cashier. In 1903 C. C. Heath and H. H. Reed became the owners and continued for two years when it was organized as a State bank with a capital of $10,000. J. W. Wheeler, president; E. M. Walsh, vice president; and C. C. Heath, cashier, composed the first board of directors, which was replaced in 1914 by the present board, with J. W. Wheeler as president, C. C. Heath, first vice president, E. M. Walsh, second vice president, and T. O. Hafdahl, cashier, with H. A. Wilson as assistant. This bank ranks high among the financial institutions of northern Minnesota and handles an important share of Polk County business. It occupies one of the most handsome and finely appointed country bank buildings in the county, a brick structure, equipped with modern banking conveniences, with time-locked vaults and safes, which was erected in 1914 at an expenditure of $10,000. The bank receives deposits amounting to $160,000 and carries a surplus of $5,000 and undivided profits, $4,000. The man most thoroughly identified with prosperous transactions of this institution is C. C. Heath, who has directed its management as owner, cashier and vice president during the last twelve years. Mr. Heath came to Beltrami in 1903, when he became an owner of the bank and is widely known in financial circles through the eminent success of his able and enterprising career and enjoys the respect and confidence of his associates, who are among the leading financiers of northern Minnesota. Mr. Heath is that type of aggressive and broad-minded citizen, whose influence and efforts extend beyond his private interests to the public progress and the prosperity of the commonwealth. Another flourishing enterprise of extensive operations with which he is prominently associated as organizer, president and manager is the Heath Investment Company, a corporation organized in 1914, with a capitalization of $50,000, which engages in the buying and selling of real estate and commercial interests and owns and operates some three thousand acres of farm land near Beltrami. J. W. Wheeler and E. M. Walsh are associated with him in this successful activity also, Mr. Wheeler being vice president and Mr. Walsh, secretary. Mr. Heath is a native of Delaware County, Indiana.