end of five years he bought his brother's interest in the business and became its sole proprietor. Afterward he again turned his attention to farming and followed that occupation for about ten years in King township, this county, and at the expiration of that period rented his farm and took up his residence in McIntosh, where he has since had his home. He still owns his farm of 160 acres just east of McIntosh, which he has improved with commodious and comfortable buildings. He also erected the block just north of the West Hotel in McIntosh.

While living in North Dakota Mr. Hofto held several township offices, among them that of township assessor, of which he was the first incumbent, and since locating in Polk county he has served as a member of the village council of McIntosh and township assessor of King township. In the autumn of 1883 he was married in Grand Forks county, North Dakota, to Miss Gyro S. Jora, who was born in Norway August 23, 1863. They have three children, Arne, Samuel and Knute. The parents are active members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

ERIC J. ERIKSON.

Having come to this country and settled in Polk county in the full maturity of his manhood and with his ambition for his own advancement and the improvement of the land of his adoption in full vigor, and having devoted all his time and energy to the accomplishment of his desires, Eric J. Erikson, one of the leading business men of Fertile, has proven himself to be a very useful citizen and a productive power for good in the community of his home.

Mr. Erikson was born in Sweden June 28, 1852, and was reared and educated in that country, where he remained until he reached the age of twenty-nine, engaged principally in farming. In 1881 he came to the United States and in the autumn of that year took up his residence in Polk county. He entered a claim for 160 acres of land in Bear Park township, and on this tract he lived and made improvements for about ten years. At the end of that period he sold the homestead and bought another farm, which is located in Garfield township, and also contains 160 acres. This farm was his home and employed his energies for five years. He then sold it and moved into the village of Fertile.

After locating in Fertile Mr. Erikson first engaged in keeping a restaurant, but soon abandoned this line of trade and became a dealer in farm produce. He is now also largely interested in real estate in the village and the surrounding country. He has served several terms as a member of the village council, and in many other ways has contributed to the development, improvement and growth of the town, and has taken an active and helpful interest in the United Lutheran church, of which he has long been a member. He was married in Sweden to Miss Johanna Anderson, a native of that country. They have six children, Hannah, Hulda, Hjalmar, Julia, Lillie and Eugene.

REVEREND L. J. NJUS.

Reverend L. J. Njus, of McIntosh, pastor of the Synod Lutheran church at that place and a well known clergyman of the county, has given able services in the ministerial field of Minnesota for the past fourteen years. He was born in Norway, December 6, 1870 and there received his early education, completing an academic course of study before coming to this country in June, 1888, at the age of eighteen years. For two years he engaged in farm labor in Minnehaha county, South Dakota and was then enabled to pursue his educational ambitions and entered the Lutheran Normal school at Sioux Falls. On