the first born of their seven children, and remained at home with them until he reached the age of twenty-four. He was reared on the farm, and from his boyhood bore his part of the labor of cultivating it, which interfered with the full use of his opportunity to obtain even the limited common school education that was available to him.

On September 20, 1898, Mr. Sykes was married to Miss Lois Canfield, a native of Lyon county, Minnesota, and a daughter of Frank L. and Flora (Hall) Canfield. The marriage took place in Wright county, where Miss Canfield was living at the time. After their marriage they continued to live in that county for two years, Mr. Sykes being engaged in buying and shipping live stock. In 1890 they moved to Itasca county, this state, taking up a homestead 125 miles distant from a railroad. On this tract they located and lived for about seven years, during which Mr. Sykes worked at logging during the winters.

In the spring of 1908 the family moved to Polk county. During the two years following his arrival in this county Mr. Sykes lived on land which he rented and farmed in Park Grove township. He then bought eighty acres, on which he now has his home, but he farms a much more extensive tract, directing the operations on 560 acres in all. His farming is of a general nature in the main, but he makes a specialty of raising potatoes on a large scale, and shipped the first full carload sent out from Mentor.

In the public affairs of his township Mr. Sykes has always taken an earnest interest and an active part. He has served as chairman of the township board and as school clerk. He is now one of the directors of the creamery in Mentor and also a director of the co-operative store at that village. No movement for the good of the township or the benefit of its residents ever goes without his energetic support, and all his efforts in this behalf are guided by good judgment and public spirit and governed by prudence and enterprise. He is vice president of the Park Farm club and in fraternal relations holds membership in Camp No. 5288, Modern Woodmen of America, in which he has held all the important offices. He and his wife are the parents of six children, Mildred E., Milton F., Hazel L., Mabel M., Roy E. and Earl H.

OLE T. ROVANG.

Now prosperous and well established as a successful farmer, with a progressively cultivated and highly improved farm of nearly 400 acres in Badger and Knute townships, Ole T. Rovang is one of the leading citizens of his part of Polk county, and enjoys in a marked degree the esteem and good will of its people and all others who know him. He has made a good record for work and good citizenship in several places in the Northwest since he came to the United States in 1876 from his native land of Norway, where he was born September 4, 1854, and where he was reared and educated.

On his arrival in this country at the age of twenty-one and one-half years he located in Rock county, Minnesota, and there found employment for one season as a farm hand. He then changed his base of operations to Decorah, Iowa, and until early in the eighties he worked out on farms in the neighborhood of that city. From Decorah, Iowa, he came to Polk county and preempted 160 acres of land on Badger creek in Badger township, but two years later he moved to Sletten township, where he lived for a number of years.

Mr. Rovang's next home was at Erskine, and there he carried on a hotel and livery business for some years. While living at Erskine he bought the farm on which he now lives and sold his hotel and livery business. He has improved his farm with good buildings and has on it two flowing wells and a modern well house. These are of great advantage to him in his operations, all of which are conducted according to up-to-date methods and with studious attention