direction of party affairs, he has never sought the honors of office, but has served as mayor for the past seven years and as treasurer for the past fourteen years, and has also served on the school board. He was appointed by Governor Hammond to the board of visitors to the state institutions but recently resigned from his membership in that body. Mr. Conger's favorite recreation is a good game of the national diversion of baseball, which he enjoys from the standpoint of a former player, and he has given his support and influence to the encouragement of local enthusiasm and the home team. In fraternal circles he was one of the organizers of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and is Past Chancellor and a member of the Grand Lodge. He is a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the Elks lodge at Crookston. Mr. Conger's second marriage was solemnized with Louise A. Heiser of Albert Lea, Minnesota, December 8, 1903. He has one child, William L. Conger, who was born in 1901 and is a student in the junior year of the McIntosh high school.

Mr. Conger is a member of the board of managers of the Minnesota Society of the Sons of the Revolution. He is also a member of the executive council of the State Bankers association from the Ninth congressional district, and has served as president of the Ninth district group of bankers. He also served as vice president and director of the Northern Minnesota Development association and as president of the Commercial club.

MARTIN BENSEN.

Having reached a position of substantial worldly comfort and consequence, good social standing and influence in local public affairs wholly through his own efforts and by perseverance and industry and good management, although encountering many difficulties and being called on to endure many privations, Martin Bensen, one of the successful, progressive and prosperous farmers of Knute township, Polk county, is entitled to great credit for his steady advancement in every part of his career, and justly enjoys in full measure the esteem and good will of all who know him.

Mr. Bensen is a native of Norway, where his life began December 28, 1859. He is a son of Bearnt L. and Bertha Mary (Christianson) Bensen, also Norwegians by nativity and parentage. The father came to the United States in 1867 and located in Dakota county, Minnesota. In 1869 the mother brought the children then living in the family over and the residence in Dakota county was maintained until 1883. But in 1882 the father came to Polk county and took a homestead in Woodside township, and the next spring the family moved to that tract of land in the wilderness. The parents remained on it until old age compelled their retirement from active pursuits. They then made their home with their children, living awhile with their son Martin and afterward with their daughter, Mrs. M. B. Nelson, in Knute township, where they died, the mother on October 11, 1909, at the age of eighty-five years and the father on September 9, 1912, aged nearly ninety-three.

Martin Bensen was the fifth of the eight children born to his parents. He was reared on the parental homestead and obtained a common school education. Being a farmer's son he naturally took to the occupation of his father, and to this he has ever since steadfastly adhered. In the spring of 1883 he took up a homestead in section 22, Knute township, and on the 160 acres of good land of which he thereby became possessed he has passed all of his subsequent years. But he has added to his estate as he has made headway, and now owns 600 acres, improved with good buildings and other necessary structures and nearly all under systematic and skillful cultivation. He has taken an active part in the public affairs of his town-