which had been but recently platted, and engaged in
the hardware and agricultural implement business. This firm has enjoyed a prosperous and steadily grow­
ing patronage and is one of the leading establishments of that region, handling furniture in addition to their original lines. As a business man and citizen, Mr. Espeseth has been widely identified with the growth and success of the various interests of Er­skine and has actively promoted every project which would advance its prosperity. Both he and Mr. Gil­bertson are shareholders in the Erskine Elevator company and have extensive land interests in Polk county and elsewhere. Their commercial activities include the Oslo Trading company, at Oslo, Marshall county, Minnesota, in which they own a quarter in­terest each, Mr. Espeseth has been associated with the State Bank of Erskine, one of the flourishing financial institutions of the county, since 1913 and in 1915, succeeded A. D. Stephens as president of the board of directors. Mr. Espeseth enjoys the confidence and esteem of his associates, his many activities indicating his enterprise and ability in all phases of his successful career. He is a member and an active and faithful supporter of the United Lutheran church. His marriage to Annie Ramseth occurred in 1898. She was born in Norway and has made her home in Polk county since childhood. They have three children, Cora, Phillip and Fritjof.

KNUTE RYGGEN.

The resolute and heroic mother and the filial, serv­iceable and praiseworthy son are presented working together in the life story of Knute Ryggen, one of the enterprising, progressive and successful farmers of Badg er township, this county. He was born in Nor­way February 3, 1869, and orphaned in his boyhood by the death of his father, Jacob Ryggen, in that country. After the death of her husband the mother, whose maiden name was Engebord Hagden, brought her five children to the United States with the hope of bettering conditions for herself and them in this land of rich promise and abounding opportunities. They came over in 1882, and, after living one year in Grand Forks, North Dakota, moved to Polk county, Minnesota, where the son took up a homestead of 160 acres of government land on which the family has since resided. Mr. Ryggen and his brother Arne worked hard improving this new home in the wilder­ness, and so well applied have been their labors and so wisely have they managed their affairs that they now together own and have under cultivation 500 acres improved with good buildings and equipped with all the requisites for advanced and systematic farming according to the most approved present-day methods. The mother is still living and she, also, still has her home in Badger township, this county. Her fidelity to her children has been rewarded by the realization of all her hopes of good fortune in the New World, and she furnishes in her career a shining proof that devotion to duty brings its own reward, and sometimes, at least, in a substantial, tangible way that is patent to all observers. All the members of the family belong to the United Lutheran church and take an active part in the affairs of the congregation in which they are enrolled.

MARTIN B. NELSON.

This progressive and prosperous Knute township farmer is one of the substantial and enterprising citizens of Polk county, and for thirty-two years he has been active in helping to build up, develop and improve it in a judicious and commendable way, add­ing to its material wealth and aiding in directing its public affairs along lines of wholesome progress. He is a native of Norway, where his life began.