to Polk county in 1881. No children have been born to them but they have taken a girl and boy into their home, Clara, who has made her home with them since her fourth year and is now sixteen years of age and Ole, aged two and one-half years. Mr. Mellesmoen is associated with the business interests of the county as stockholder in the Cooperative Creamery and in the Farmers Elevator companies in Fosston.

E. G. EKLUND.

E. G. Eklund, well known farmer and prominent citizen of Polk county, has been for many years actively associated with its development and progress as public official, farmer and business man. He was born near Folland, Sweden, January 21, 1865. Here he attended school and as a young lad apprenticed himself to the trade of shoemaker. In 1882, at the age of seventeen, he came to the United States, joining an uncle who was then living in Alexandria, Minnesota. A year later he was able to financially assist his father on the journey from Sweden to a new home in the western state and some time later they were joined by his mother and half brother and sister. E. G. Eklund and his mother and half sister are the only members of the family now living. His first year was spent working on his uncle's farm and burning lime on the shores of Lake Carlos in Douglas county. During this time he devoted all the time possible to the study of English in the country schools. He formed a partnership with another boy who was ambitious to acquire a thorough training in the language of their adopted country and they lived in a sod shack, attending school and taking contracts from the settlers for grubbing the wild land. One of these contracts involved a daily wage of fifty cents. In 1888 he made his first trip to Polk county and two years later located here. In the following year, 1891, he purchased eighty acres in Rosebud township for five hundred dollars. This was timber and prairie land and only a few acres had been broken for cultivation. He was able to pay one hundred and seventy-five dollars of the purchase price and it took ten years of arduous labor and thrifty management to complete the payment. In the meantime he bought another eighty acres, a mile and a half from the first tract, and this is part of his present farm, three miles south of Fosston, and was all wild land. After selling the first place at a profit of thirteen hundred dollars he bought one hundred and twenty acres of partially developed land, paying twenty-two hundred and now owns a fine farm of two hundred acres, all of which is under cultivation. He has reclaimed the low land with open ditches and the county ditch which crosses the farm has completed an excellent drainage system. For a number of years he devoted his attention to the raising of grain. He now keeps thoroughbred cattle and dairy cows, selling to the county cooperative creamery company in which he is an original stockholder. His pleasant farm home was erected in 1905 and is attractively situated in a large grove of poplar and other native trees. In 1915 he added to his farming equipment a fine barn. The successful management of this property has not monopolized Mr. Eklund's efforts and he has devoted much time to the larger interests of the county, generously supporting and promoting important business enterprises which are identified with the general prosperity of the community and giving many years of able service in public offices. He was active in the organization of a creamery company in 1896, an unsuccessful venture, and in its re-organization into the present county cooperative company which handles the dairy produce of over two hundred and fifty farmers. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers Elevator company at Fosston, a company that has been of great benefit to the agricultural district, insuring good prices at home. Mr. Eklund was the first president and has continued to be active in the administration of its transactions. Mismanagement on