C. P. Hole was reared on the Knute township farm and when fourteen years of age apprenticed himself to the printer’s trade, entering the office of the McIntosh Tribune in 1890 and continued in the employment of the editor, P. P. Bodine, for a time, learning the rudiments of his trade and then advanced to typesetting for Mr. McKenzie of the Crookston Times. After completing his apprenticeship he became the foreman of the McIntosh Times under C. T. Lanman, who was the editor at that time. In 1903 he made his first independent venture in the publishing business and established the Mentor Herald, the first and only newspaper ever published in that village. This venture became a successful and prosperous enterprise and Mr. Hole continued the sheet for several months after becoming the editor of the Erskine Echo and then consolidated the two papers and covers the combined circulation with the Echo. His plant is fully equipped with a power press and type setting machine and is one of the competent and popular country printing offices of the county. Mr. Hole has devoted every interest of his career to his paper and with intelligent appreciation of the responsibilities of his profession and the power of the press in public welfare is ably advancing the best interests of the county. He is also identified with public activities in an official capacity as recorder of the village, a member of the school board and the chief of the fire department. His marriage to Edna Wademakper, of Mentor, occurred May 4, 1905. She is a native of Ottertail county and is of German and Norwegian parentage. Five children have been born to this union, Earl, Ethel, Loren, Ray and Kenneth.

W. D. HAMILTON.

W. D. Hamilton, a successful merchant of Fisher and a member of the firm of Hamilton Brothers, is one of three brothers who have been prominently associated with the commercial activities of the county. They were born at Hibbard, Ontario, and the first removal to Polk county was made by Frank Hamilton in 1878. In 1880 he was joined by the father, Francis Hamilton, who resided at Fisher for two years and then removed to Grand Forks county, North Dakota. Frank Hamilton engaged in carpenter and contracting work for several years, and in 1886 opened a furniture store at Fisher, in which prosperous enterprise his brothers, W. D. Hamilton and Donald Hamilton, later became associated with him. W. D. Hamilton first became connected with the business in 1896 as clerk and continued in that position for two years and then became a partner, and in 1890 Donald Hamilton entered the firm. The latter retired from his mercantile relations in 1905 and has since engaged in farming near Fisher. The business met with marked success and a rapidly growing trade that early warranted the addition of a hardware stock and agricultural implements which have been further supplemented in late years with the harness trade. Frank Hamilton remained at the head of the firm and active manager of the store until 1898, when he withdrew from active cooperation in the business to devote his attention to the undertaking profession, locating at Grand Forks, North Dakota. After a year there and in Fargo, in 1900 he removed to Seattle, and has since engaged in the undertaking business at that place, retaining his interest in the store at Fisher, where he was succeeded as manager by W. D. Hamilton. The present store building was erected by Frank Hamilton in 1895 and is still his property. The commercial reputation of the firm has been capably upheld by W. D. Hamilton, and under his direction its interests have steadily prospered. From the original