appointment of postmaster and served in this capacity until the innovation of the rural delivery which took away from Sletten township its only postoffice. Mr. Sonstelie pledges his allegiance to no political organization and maintains the independence of political opinion. He was married June 28, 1885, to Miss Gertrude Sorlien, whom he had met in Dakota. She, like her husband, is a native of Norway. Her parents, J. P. Sorlien and his wife are now living in Sletten township. Seven children were born to Mr. Sonstelie and his wife, three of whom died. The oldest daughter, Ragna, died in her twenty-second year and the four surviving children are at home, Emil, who was a graduate of McIntosh high school in 1912, Maria, Julia and Gerhard. Mr. Sonstelie was one of the organizers of the Sand Hill Lutheran church and continues in active membership.

TALLEF B. LANDESVERK.

Tallef B. Landesverk, well known farmer and influential citizen of Sletten township, was born in Norway, May 12, 1864. In 1882, when eighteen years of age, he came to this country and to Polk county in company with his brother, George Landesverk. These brothers were among the early settlers of Sletten township, who through years of hard labor and determined effort laid the foundation for present prosperity. Tallef Landesverk and George Landesverk, with Edwin McManus, are the only pioneers in this region who still reside here. George Landesverk, after eleven years on his Polk county homestead, died in 1894. His wife and three children, who survive him, are now living in Canada. On coming to Polk county the two brothers worked at farm labor and in 1883 filed on homesteads on the second spring at the “13 Towns,” and Ole Landesverk secured another tract of land through the purchase of a relinquishment. Tallef B. Landesverk has endured all the hardships and trials which beset the settler of an undeveloped country and has steadily won his way to success and prosperity. For seven years he was compelled to fight in the courts for the title to his claim; during this time decisions were made and reversed and possession of the land shifted from one contestant to the other. Meanwhile all that he earned at farm work was required to meet the expenses of the law suit. After he succeeded in establishing the legality of his title he sold the land and took another claim of timber land in Beltrami county. In 1893 he bought the farm in section three of Sletten township, which is his present home. This farm comprises five hundred acres and is well equipped with good barns and a pleasant country home. He has paid as high as twenty-five dollars an acre for undeveloped land and floating bog which he has cleared and drained, developing valuable farming property. He installed a drainage system in one marsh tract of sixty acres, the reclamation of which for fine meadow land was completed by a county ditch. Mr. Landesverk himself took the contract for the construction of this ditch, which included the straightening of the course of Sand Hill river into which it empties. He did this work without the assistance of mechanical equipment, with hand labor and a scraper operated by a team. He engages in the raising of grain and stock and is a breeder of full blooded cattle. He is interested to some extent in the dairy business and is a stockholder in Sletten Cooperative Creamery company. Starting, a lad of eighteen, with no capital but the sturdy qualities which make success, he has progressed to the possession of large land interests, owning nearly one thousand acres, six hundred and ten of which are in Polk county, his property outside of Sletten township being near Erskine. The other tracts are in North Dakota and Canada, where he and his neighbor, Edward McManus, are the owners of a section of Manitoba land, located near Dominion City. Mr. Landesverk is a shareholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and store company and is on the board of