removed to Polk county and continued to be employed as a butter-maker in Polk county, Todd county and other localities for some years. When the Soo railroad was built through Gully, J. F. Thoreen handled the contract for the construction of several miles of the road bed and became interested with H. H. Melbo, a pioneer merchant of that region, in the organization of the Melbo Mercantile company and persuaded Mr. Thor to become a stockholder and to become active in its management as the representative of both their interests. The company was incorporated in 1910, and in the same year Mr. Thor located in Gully and has since been identified with the extensive and prosperous operations of the corporation as secretary and treasurer. Though still in the inception of his business career, he has proven himself eminently fitted for successful accomplishment as an enterprising and progressive merchant. He has been associated with the growth and general welfare of the town in which he lives through able and public spirited co-operation in community interests, and as clerk of the school board was actively identified with the erection of the new school house at Gully. Mr. Thor was married February, 1906, to Nellie O. Ramstad of Todd county, Minnesota, and they have one son, Clifford Thor.

BERT D. KECK.

This gentleman, who is the leading architect in Polk county and resides in Crookston, has erected many monuments to his skill and excellent taste and judgment in the Northwest and is still carrying on an extensive business in his chosen profession. He is a native of Louisa county, Iowa, where his life began in 1876. In the year 1877 his parents moved to Mercer county, Illinois. His parents, Frederick and Susana (Harvey) Keck, were pioneers in Iowa, the father having driven from Ohio to that state by ox team about the year 1850 and entered a homestead in the wilderness. He was born in Germany and came to the United States with his parents in 1838, his father having been the progenitor of the family in this country. The mother of Bert D. Keck was born of English parentage. She and her husband died in Illinois, where they lived for many years.

Bert D. Keck grew to manhood in Mercer county, Illinois, where he obtained his elementary education in the common schools and high school at Aledo, Illinois. He afterward pursued a course of special and more advanced instruction under the tutorage of prominent architects of the country and by his studious efforts completing his preparation for his life work through post graduate courses in special lines of architectural teaching. In 1902 he became a resident of Crookston, where he at once opened an office and began the active practice of his profession. To this he has ever since been sedulously devoted, doing his work in a way to win general commendation and getting plenty of it to keep him steadily occupied.

Mr. Keck designed the Carnegie Library, the new high school building, the Franklin school building, the First Presbyterian church and the new armory, in Crookston, the Cathedral of the Emanulate Conception, the parochial school, many store and office buildings and fine residences which are among the most modern and satisfactory structures for their several purposes in the Northwest. He has also designed and superintended the erection of many school buildings, banks, residences and stores in North Dakota, and a number of school and other buildings in parts of Minnesota outside of Polk county.

In fraternal life Mr. Keck is a member of the Masonic order, including the Mystic Shrine, and holds the rank of past commander in the Knights Templar branch of the fraternity. He is also a member of the Order of Elks and the Order of Modern Woodmen of America. In religious affiliation he is connected with the Methodist Episcopal church, and socially he is president of the Crookston Automobile