widened through his election to the lower house of the State Legislature as representative from the sixty-second district. An issue of that election was the county option law and he made his stand as a staunch defender of temperance, in which cause he has always been a valiant fighter. He was re-elected for a second term and in 1911 without making a personal campaign for favor, and was again returned to office, receiving a larger majority from his fellow voters than in previous elections. His activity and ability as a legislator brought him a wide reputation and the confidence and high regard of his constituents. During his membership in the House he served on numerous important committees, on the State Prison and Reform committee, the several committees regulating commerce and retail trade, public lands and the state fair and in 1911 was chairman of the drainage committee and was appropriation commissioner for roads and bridges. He also sat in the special session of 1912. He was not a candidate for re-election in 1913 and has given his attention to his business interests. Mr. Holten is a member of the Sons of Norway and of the United Lutheran church and has given faithful service as a trustee in that congregation for many years. His favorite recreation is found in out of door life and he has collected many trophies which attest to his skill as a hunter and fisherman. Mr. Holten was married in 1892, to Elina Hoff, of Battle Lake, Ottertail county, and they have a family of two sons and five daughters, John Chester, who is associated with his father in the mercantile business; Melvin Stanley, employed in the Citizens State bank; Frances, who is a student in the Normal school at St. Cloud; Esther and Agnes, members of the high school classes of 1916 and 1917, and Lillian and Ena.

B. E. BEARSON.

B. E. Bearson, of Fertile, well known real estate man and proprietor of the Bearson & Son garage, has been actively associated off and on with the business activities of that place for some twenty-five years. He is a native of the state, born in Fillmore county, November 20, 1864, and grew to manhood in a pioneer farm home. When eighteen years of age he embarked upon his commercial career as a dealer in horses, meeting with steady success in his venture and within a few years began to ship into the northern part of the state. He came to Polk county in 1890, locating at Fertile and continued as a horse dealer for several years, buying in southern Minnesota and shipping to Fertile and Fargo, North Dakota, and the adjacent agricultural districts. Subsequently he made Britton, South Dakota, his shipping point for several years and then returned to Polk county and opened a general store at Mentor in 1903 and during the three years of mercantile operations began his activity as a real estate dealer, having previously invested in farm lands near Fertile and Mentor. In 1904 he removed to Fertile and bought land adjoining the town, where he has made a spacious and attractive country home, situated on a forty acre tract. He began his business operations in the county with a capital of $2,000, and the success to which he has attained and the steady prosperity of his efforts, attests to his marked ability as a business man and to his worth as a citizen. He continues to engage in the shipping of horses in Polk county but devotes the most of his attention to the real estate business and now owns some twelve hundred acres of land in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas and is interested in town property and business buildings in Fertile and other places. His land includes both wild and cultivated tracts and through his policy of improving every piece of property in which he invests, he has signally contributed to the progress and development of the country. He has recently extended his interests to the automobile business and has erected a modern garage in Fertile and operates a repair shop and automobile agency; his son, Edwin