stock and dairy farming. His first home was a log cabin on the pre-emption claim, where he also erected his second house. In 1897 he built his present home on the tract secured as a tree claim. This is in section two of Grand Forks township and five miles north of East Grand Forks. Mr. Peterson has ever been actively identified with the best interests and local development and has served as township supervisor and as one of the first directors on the school board, ably promoted the establishment of the present efficient school system. He is a member of the Grand Marais Lutheran church, which was erected on his land which he donated for the purpose and of which he continues to be a faithful supporter. Mr. Peterson and his wife have five children, Emma, the wife of Thorjus Morken, of Thief River Falls; Arthur, who also resides in Thief River Falls; Walter, Clarence and Oscar, who reside at home.

BERNT J. HAGEN.

This now prosperous and well conditioned farmer has reached his estate of worldly comfort and independence through much tribulation, but he has never lost his nerve or spared his efforts to advance his interests, and in spite of his adversities and serious losses he has made steady progress by reason of his persistent and wisely directed industry and good management. He was born in Norway, November 17, 1851, and came to the United States in 1871, locating at Spring Grove, Houston county, Minnesota. He did grading work on the railroads and followed farming for a few years, but lost his crops by the ravages of chinch bugs. In spite of this disaster, however, he managed to save $200, and then made jaunts about the country looking it over with a view to selecting a permanent location.

In the spring of 1876 his money was all gone, and he came to Polk county. One year later, 1877, his sister, Mrs. O. O. Hoff, came and homesteaded a quarter section joining Mr. Hagen. Soon after his arrival in this county he pre-empted eighty acres of his present home and took up eighty more as a homestead. He located on that land in the spring of 1876, being the first man to settle on the prairie in what is now Grand Forks township, his farm being in section twenty-four, two miles north of East Grand Forks, and his dwelling house on this farm being one of the best in the county of its class and size. His first house was a little log shack twelve feet square, with a straw and sod roof. Yet poor as this was its destruction by fire was a serious embarrassment to him.

After the loss of the little shack Mr. Hagen built a larger and more pretentious log house, which was about the best one in that part of the county for years. It was long used as a church alternately with the residence of Mrs. A. D. Steele, there being at that time no real church edifice within many miles of this section.

In the course of a little while Mr. Hagen obtained a yoke of steers. He bought them wild and then broke them so that he could drive them anywhere. He used the opportunities available to him to break up as much of his land as possible, and in the meantime obtained some work on barges on the Red river, which helped to provide him with the necessaries of life. For a number of years he either kept a bachelor establishment or had a sister keeping house for him, but in 1882 he was married to Miss Dorothy Midtmoen, a daughter of Ole and Ella Midtmoen, and born in Norway, but brought to this country when she was eight years old. She is a sister of Peter Olson, a sketch of whom will be found in this work.

The first five years of Mrs. Hagen's life in this country were passed in Iowa county, Wisconsin, and at the end of that period she accompanied her parents to this county. Her father had settled on land close to Mr. Hagen's and built a house on it. Then, in 1878, his wife, Dorothy, and her brother Peter,