whose farm was north of the Larson home. All the rest of the surrounding country for many miles was prairie in its wild condition. The father was a carpenter, but after his arrival in this county devoted himself to farming, but worked incidentally at his trade. He and his wife were the parents of five children, four of whom are living. Those besides Ludwig are: Gena, who is now the wife of H. H. Flatten; Martin Juel, who is now a city councilman in Southern Minnesota, and Carl, who is in business at Thief River Falls. Anton died at the age of ten years.

Ludwig Larson was seventeen years old at the time of his father's death and had to take charge of the farm as all the other sons were still young. When he reached the age of twenty-one he took up a homestead for himself, the southwest quarter of section twelve, Esther township, on which he erected some buildings and lived until after his mother's death. He then bought out the other heirs of the old place and to this he has since added 200 acres, so that his home farm now contains 306 acres, about eighty acres of which is timber land but none of it touches the Red river. He paid $30 an acre for the additional 200 acres. He has erected a new dwelling house on the farm and some three years ago he built a new barn and other outbuildings. Grain is his principal production and in 1915 his crop was 2,060 bushels of wheat and 1,400 bushels of other cereals. He also keeps thirty head of cattle, Red Polled stock being his favorite brand, and raises a number every year, keeping the steers until they reach maturity.

Mr. Larson has taken an active part in public affairs in his township, having served on the township board almost ever since he came of age. He is a republican in politics and a Lutheran in religious affiliation, belonging to the United Lutheran church at Grand Marais. At the age of twenty-one he was married to Miss Annie Erickson, a native of Norway, who came to Polk county about two years prior to her marriage. They have had eight children, seven of whom are living: John, who is operating the homestead taken up by his father; Clara, who is the wife of Arthur Peterson, of Pennington county, Minnesota; Gena Matilda, who is the wife of Henry Bang, of Higdem township, and Regina, Carl Ludwig, Alma Christine and Mabel Sophia, who are living at home. A son named Emil Albert died when he was about twenty years old.

NELS VASENDEN.

During the thirteen years of his residence in Polk county Nels Vasenden, a prominent business man of Fertile and secretary of the Polk County Agricultural Fair association, has contributed in many ways to the progress and development of the county, having taken an active and serviceable part in its business activities, social life and public affairs. While he is still a young man, he is very energetic and progressive, with extensive intelligence, good judgment and a spirit of enterprise that overcomes obstacles and meets every requirement of duty with courage and resourcefulness.

Mr. Vasenden was born in Norway, February 25, 1881, and was reared and educated in his native land, where he remained until he attained his majority. In December, 1902, he came to the United States and located at Fertile, where he was employed for a time by his uncle, Dr. Arne Nelson, then the leading physician and druggist of this part of the county. After a time he left the employ of his uncle and passed about eight months working on a farm, but at the end of that period he returned to Fertile, and thereafter he lived with the doctor until the death of the latter, which occurred in May, 1908.

This event opened a new chapter with enlarged opportunities in the life of Mr. Vasenden. He was appointed administrator of his uncle's estate, and in October, 1909, he took over the drug business which