OLE O. HOFF.

This gentleman, who was formerly known as Mr. Olson, and whose fine farm lies two miles and a half north of East Grand Forks, adjoining that of Bernt J. Hagen, was born in Sólør, Norway, February 4, 1854, and came to the United States in 1882, with no capital but his strong arm, clear head and courageous spirit, his passage across the ocean not having been paid, and he being bound under a strong obligation to work even that out before he could lay up anything for himself or with a view to starting any project of his own.

On his arrival in this country Mr. Hoff came direct to Polk county, where his brother, Bernt Olson, was already established on a homestead which he had taken up in 1877. Ole's first year in this county was passed in the employ of Samuel Ormeson as a farm hand, doing work to which he had been reared. When his brother Bernt took up his homestead he also took up a tree claim, and that is the land which Ole now owns. Bernt was killed by accident on the railroad on his way home from Crookston, and at his death left a widow and a son named Bernhardt. A daughter named Teolina was born after her father's death. Both of these children died early of diphtheria.

Bernt Olson's widow, whose maiden name was Olena Johnson, took over the homestead after her husband's death, and for one year Ole worked on it. He then moved to the place he now owns and occupies, and he has since bought an additional 160 acres in Roseau county. The widow had only a log house on the land when he took hold of it, and he has since built the present buildings. He raises principally wheat, oats and barley, and for thirty-three years he has been devoting all his time and energies to the improvement and cultivation of this farm, of which only thirty acres were broken when he located on it and began to develop it. Three years after settling here he was united in marriage with his brother Bernt's widow. They have three children, Olof, Emma and John, all living at home.

Mr. Hoff has been a member of the township board for the last six years, and has also been a trustee of Grand Marais Lutheran church. He was for many years a Republican in political faith and allegiance, but of late years he has been independent of party control and uses his judgment of men in disposing of his vote, and in connection with his activity in public affairs. He is enterprising and progressive, and is universally esteemed as an upright man and a very useful citizen.

ROBERT KERR.

Robert Kerr, of Grand Forks township, has been a resident of Polk county since 1879, and during these years has been identified with the development of the agricultural interests of the county. He is a