and has brought all his property to a high standard
of development and ranks notably among the pro-
gressive and enterprising agriculturists of Polk
county. He has given his attention principally to
the raising of grain and in 1915 harvested 13,000
bushels, of which oats was his principal crop. Al-
though not a stock farmer, he recognizes the im-
portant feature of this phase and his farm has always
been stocked with high grade animals and he has
also successfully experimented with the culture of
alfalfa and now devotes some forty acres to it. Mr.
Barrett has ever given his earnest support to the
promotion of the best interests of the community
and as a public spirited citizen has rendered able
service in the general upbuilding of the country.
He actively seconded the opening up of the county’s
resources by railroads, giving the right of way for
one-quarter of a mile through his farm, to the North-
ern Pacific road. He has been called to services by
his fellow citizens in official capacity and has
capably discharged the duties of chairman of the
township board for twenty years and was the first
treasurer of the school board, continuing in that
office for twenty-five years. His marriage to Mary
E. Salisbury occurred in 1878, in Winona, Minne-
sota. She is a native of Columbia county, Wiscon-
sin. Four children were born to this union, Allen
W., who has assumed charge of home farm; Fred,
also operating a part of his father’s estate; Grace,
a teacher in the Polk county schools, and Elsie, who
married James Chaplin and lives in East Grand
Forks.

SIMON P. PEDERSON.

This energetic and progressive farmer of Higdem
township, whose residence is on the northwest quar-
ter of section 26, and who formerly owned all of
the south half of section 25 but has given his son
160 acres of this tract, was born in Norway, March
1, 1856, with the family name of Perhus, which his
ancestors bore for generations, but which he has
changed to the one he now bears since coming to
the United States and taking up his residence in
Polk county. He was 24 years old when he came
to this country and located in Renville county, Min-
nesota, in 1880, and still had his passage across the
ocean and to this state to pay for. After doing this
out of his first year’s labor in Renville county,
where he worked on farms and at railroad grading,
he had only $30 left, but he felt independent and
full of enterprise.

In 1884 he moved to Polk county and took up a
homestead on which he built a small shed as a
shelter. As he had no money then he was obliged
to work out for other farmers, and this he continued
for ten years before he did much on his own land.
His first team was a yoke of oxen, which he used
seven or eight years. As his property increased he
bought additional land, purchasing a railroad tract
of eighty acres in section 25 at $7 an acre, another
tract of eighty acres at $13 an acre, and a quarter
of a section of A. D. Stephens at $20 an acre. About
twenty years ago he bought 120 acres of the railroad
at $10 an acre, but this tract he has since sold.

Mr. Pederson has devoted his energies mainly to
raising wheat and other cereals and flax. In 1915
his crops were 4,000 bushels of wheat, 3,000 bushels
of oats, 1,300 bushels of barley and a large quantity
of flax. He also keeps seven or eight milk cows and
raises some other live stock. In the public affairs
of his township he has long taken an active part,
giving special attention to the improvement of the
roads and doing for their betterment a great deal
more than the law required of him in the way of
a road tax. He has also rendered the township val-
uable and appreciated service as supervisor. He is
a man of advanced and progressive ideas and does
all he can to put them in practice in the adminis-
tration of the township government and all matters
connected with or growing out of it.