Edward Alexander, William John and Annie Belle. Edward is now living on the home farm. He has operated a threshing outfit for nine years, threshing in 1915 nearly 80,000 bushels of grain. William owns the farm of 160 acres half a mile from the home farm. His first wife was Miss Runa Belle Peters, who left two children when she died, William Roscoe and James Monroe. After her death the husband married Miss Iva Beulah Haas. They have five children, John Edward, Walter Earl, Clarence Millen, Emmet and Karl. Annie Belle is the wife of Hugh Blue. They cultivate the home farm and have three children, Annie Luella, Edward Donald and Leonard. Mrs. Adair has her home with them.

PETER OLSON.

Passing through severe trials to enduring triumph, and winning a comfortable estate by his own persevering and wisely applied industry, Peter Olson, one of the substantial and progressive farmers of Higdem township, has well illustrated in his career the sturdy hardihood and determination of the pioneer and the strong fiber and resolute self-reliance of the sterling citizenship of Polk county, Minnesota, and the Northwest in general.

Mr. Olson was born in Norway October 22, 1860, the son of Ole and Ella (Midtmoon), and with them came to this country and located in Iowa county, Wisconsin, when he was twelve and a half years of age. In the spring of 1878 the family moved to Polk county, Minnesota, and Peter located on eighty acres of railroad land two miles north of East Grand Forks. Later he changed this land for a homestead in Section 24, Grand Forks township. During his first winter in this county he had only two pounds of butter and ten bushels of potatoes from October 21 to spring, and would frequently walk three miles through the snow to cut cord wood at 50 cents a cord and dine on frozen pork and bread.

On the arrival of the family in this county the father took up railroad land in Section 25, Grand Forks township. He died at the home of his son Peter December 30, 1893, having passed his last year there. While living in Wisconsin Peter worked out on farms and he did the same after coming to this county, doing anything he could get to do to make a living. The first ox team belonging to the family here was bought jointly by him, his father and his brother Andrew, who all went in debt for the purchase price, $90. They all lived together until Peter took up his homestead.

Peter Olson's homestead was improved with a little log shanty with a sod roof and other accommodations in keeping with this. He lived in that one winter, but after that made his home with his brother Andrew until the latter married. In 1903 Andrew moved to the state of Washington, where he is now living. Peter improved his homestead and sold it. In 1898 he bought his present farm in Higdem township, which is in Section 32, bordering Red river, and seventeen miles by road from East Grand Forks. The farm comprises 242 acres, eighty of the acres being in timber, the balance on the prairie. Lars Ericksen was the original homesteader on this land, but he returned to Sweden.

When Mr. Olson bought this land he paid $6,100 for it, including the live stock and machinery on it. He has enlarged and improved the dwelling house and put up a good barn and other structures needed for his purposes. Raising grain has been his main dependence, but he lost on crop by hail, the first one destroyed on this farm in thirty-seven years. He milks nine or ten cows regularly and raises some other live stock but does not make this a specialty.

Mr. Olson is at this time (1916) chairman of the township board and has been for seven years, and for twelve years he has been a member of the board and taken an active part in all township affairs. He is a Republican in politics, and a Lutheran in religious faith, holding membership in Grand Marais church.