money left, and during the first summer of his residence here he worked out at farm labor and railroad construction. In the winter following he was employed in the lumber woods near Brainerd and in looking after drives of ties to Little Falls on the Little Elk river, spending forty days in each of two or three seasons in such labor as the drives of ties required.

Having made a little stake by his industry and frugality, Mr. Flatten purchased a yoke of oxen and during the next eight or ten years he rented land and followed farming as a tenant. In 1895 he bought 160 acres of his present farm, which now comprises 260 acres in one body, and he also owns 120 acres in Northland township three miles distant from his home farm. In addition to spending $400 for improvements on his home farm, Mr. Flatten paid about $13 an acre for it. The original price was $10 an acre, but it was railroad land, and by the time certain disputes over it were settled the improvements made by him raised its value to $13 an acre. For the additional tract of 100 acres, which is crossed by the Grand Marais river, he paid an average of $12 an acre, but none of the land was above a reasonable price.

Mr. Flatten’s attention has been given mainly to raising grain. He has fine facilities for raising live stock but has never done much in that line as yet. He built a part of his present dwelling house in 1895 and the rest of it since. It is in a commanding location on the bank of the Grand Marais overlooking a large extent of the surrounding country. He also has a good barn and other buildings and improvements in keeping with these. The farm is one of the most desirable in this part of Polk county, his land being now worth $100 an acre, its value having been greatly increased by what he has done to it in the way of development, improvements and advanced cultivation.

The affairs of his township have always deeply interested Mr. Flatten, and he has take an active part in the management of them, having served on the township board, of which he is now a member, most of the time since he located here, and for many years having been also a member of the school board. He was married in 1893 to Miss Mary Fjeld, who is like himself a native of Norway. They have had eight children, seven of whom are living and all of them still at home with their parents. They are Henry, Christine, Mabel, Clara, Clarence, Olga and Melvin. A son named Carl died at the age of seven years. All the members of the family belong to the Swedish Lutheran church at Grand Marais, of which Mr. Flatten is a deacon and a trustee.

NICK WELTER.

This wide-awake, enterprising and progressive Polk county farmer and live stock breeder, who owns and lives on the East half of Section 27, Fairfax township, eight miles southeast of Crookston and one mile and a half west of Harold station on the Northern Pacific railroad, came to his present condition of independence and comfort in a worldly way through many difficulties and discouragements but with a spirit of determination, industry and perseverance that triumphed over all obstacles. He is a cousin of Frederick Baatz, who lives two miles south of him on Section 4, Russia township, a brief account of whose life will be found on this work.

Mr. Welter was born in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Germany, September 20, 1858, and came to the United States in 1888, joining an uncle in Wabasha county, Minnesota, with whom he remained a few months and then came to Argyle in Marshall county, where his uncle owned a large tract of land. For six years he lived on one of his uncle’s farms and during the next three on another belonging to him. He improved 200 acres of his uncle’s land, having some good years in Marshall county but losing his first three crops by frost. As he had only $150 in money when he came to this country the loss of his crops was a serious setback for him. But his