Mrs. Quern’s father married as his second wife Miss Marit Solstad. They had four children who reached maturity: Mrs. Mary Selnes and her brother Ole Syrstad, who live on parts of the old homestead; Martin Syrstad, who has been reared from his child-
hood by Mrs. C. C. Quern, and their sister Annie, who is the wife of Samuel Dahl, of Nashwauk, Minnesota. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Quern are Arthur, Evelyn, Oscar, Mildred and Iner.

JOHN AMUNDSON.

Being the only one left of the resolute and self-reliant men who broke into the wilderness of Fairfax township, this county, and laid the foundations of its civil institutions and started it on its career of progress, development and service to mankind, John Amundson, whose fine farm is located in Section 22 seven miles southeast of Crookston, is entitled to special consideration as a type of hardihood and endurance that is fast fading from view, and also for the service he has rendered to the locality in which he lives and the people of Polk county in general.

Mr. Amundson was born in Norway, August 24, 1848, and came to the United States in 1867, when he was nineteen years of age, joining his two sisters and one brother, who had come over a year before and were located in Dunn county, Wisconsin. He passed eleven years in that state, working as a cook in lumber camps, a cutter in saw mills and a clerk in stores. In 1878 he came to this county, and during the next three years clerked in the store of W. D. Bailey, then rendered the same service for three years in the large general store of Fontaine & Anglim, and during the two years following in other stores. When he arrived in this county, however, he took up a homestead, which is part of the farm on which he now lives.

It was necessary that the new homesteader should make his living at some other occupation until his land could be put into condition to yield one, so he kept on clerking and hired others to break up his farm and make improvements on it. He proved up on it in due time at $1.25 an acre and lived on it during the year 1881. He then returned to Crookston to live, and since then has dwelt in the city at several different times. He was an excellent writer, very skillful with his pen, and a good accountant in those days, and his services were frequently required in different county offices. In 1884 and 1885 he served as deputy register of deeds under John Patterson, and in 1890 and 1891 filled the same position under John Locken. In 1892 he himself elected register of deeds as the candidate of the People’s party, for a term of two years.

Mr. Amundson also rendered the federal government valued service for some eight months, taking the census of three townships in 1890 and afterward doing abstract work in the court house for the United States census bureau. He was a potent force in helping to organize Fairfax township and was its first clerk, serving it afterward in various other positions. The first township election was held at his residence, and that has since been the township meeting place for all public duties. For many years in succession he was school clerk for his district.

In addition to his original homestead Mr. Amundson now owns 400 acres of good land, his farm being all in one body, and all well improved and mostly under cultivation. He raises grain and live stock, keeping generally about 35 head of Shorthorn cattle and a large number of hogs. He also milks 25 cows to furnish cream for an extensive wholesale trade he has built up. During the last three years he has had 20 to 25 acres in corn, and the yield has been abundant as his land is well ditched and drained. There is a county ditch half a mile south of the farm which his influence and enterprise were most forceful in procuring.

At the age of twenty-eight Mr. Amundson was married in Wisconsin to Miss Hilda Jensen, also a native of Norway. They have six children: Alfred, who is