quarter of Section 9, in Higdem township, is well
fixed in worldly possessions, and he has the satisfac-
tion of knowing that all he has he has acquired by his
own persistent industry, his careful frugality and his
good judgment in the management of his affairs.

Mr. Olson was born in Norway about eighty years
ago, and when he first came to the United States
passed about six years and a half in Wisconsin work-
ing in the pineries, at sawmills and on river drives.
He then returned to his native land, where he
remained two years and a half. On his return to this
country in 1879 he located in Polk county, Minnesota,
and took up a homestead which is part of the farm on
which he now lives. He had only $200 in money, but
settled down determined to win his way in spite of
all difficulties that might arise in his progress. He
built a little log house with no floor in it, but this he
occupied only a few months. He then built a better
dwelling with a floor and turned the first structure
into a stable.

The second quarter section of land Mr. Olson
acquired was railroad land for which he paid $8 an
acre. This was flat and wet, as was a large part of
his other land, and he was not able for some time to
raise any crops of value. The new section was devoted
largely to raising hay, but this was often spoiled by
the water on the land and his other crops were injured
by early frosts. But he persisted in his efforts, gradu-
ally getting his farm drained and improved, and
then it began to respond to the persuasive hand of
the husbandman in a very fruitful manner, which it
has done in an increasing volume steadily ever since.
In addition to this farm he owns a tract of eighty
acres half a mile distant in Marshall county, the farm
being on the line between that county and Polk, two
miles east of the Red river, three and one-half miles
southeast of Oslo, five and one-half miles southwest
of Alvardo and twenty miles north of Grand Forks.
He raises wheat, oats and barley, and produces large
quantities of each.

Two years ago, that is in 1913, Mr. Olson built his
present large dwelling house and fine new barns. He
has had three sons. One of them died in childhood.
Another is now a resident of Seattle. Carl, the third
son, is still living with him and now has charge of the
home farm. The father has long been one of the active
members of the church at Granville. He has taken
none but a good citizen’s part in public affairs and
never held or desired a political office of any kind,
either by election or appointment.

THOMAS SANDEM.

The life of this enterprising and useful citizen of
Scandia township, this county, has been the unevent-
ful one of a quiet and unostentatious farmer, and he
has sought no place in the limelight of public esteem
or prominence among men. He has, nevertheless, ex-
hibited the qualities of sturdy and sterling manhood
and the public-spirit and progressiveness of wide-
awake, initiative and productive American citizenship
of a serviceable character.

Mr. Sandem is a native of Norway, where he was
born February 21, 1863, and where he lived until he
reached the age of twenty years. In 1883 he emi-
 grated to the United States and located in Minnesota.
During the first year of his residence here he worked
at whatever he could find to do in this state and
Canada, and after that confined his operations to
Minnesota, but continued to work for other men until
1887. In that year he took up a homestead of 160
acres on Section 26, Scandia township, on which he
settled in 1889, and on which he has since resided.

To make a tract of wild land over into a productive
and profitable farm, and to build a comfortable and
attractive home in a new locality on the frontier, is a
work of magnitude and requires constant and well-
directed industry, along with the endurance of much
privation, a considerable degree of hardship and some
danger. Mr. Sandem has achieved this great work
because he had the qualities needed for its accomplish-