and successful merchants of Nielsville, this county, is justly regarded as an excellent business man, and his abiding and serviceable interest in the welfare and progress of his community has given him a high rank in the confidence and esteem of the people around him as an enterprising, far-seeing and productively useful citizen.

Mr. Bye is a native Minnesotan and devoted to the enduring good of the state. He was born in Houston county, March 28, 1867. In 1871, his parents, John O. and Mathea (Jacobson) Bye, natives of Norway, moved to Cass county, North Dakota, and there their son Charles remained until the fall of 1884. For five years he was assistant in the office of the county treasurer of Cass county, North Dakota, and during that same period of five years and until 1891 he was manager of a musical organization at Fargo, North Dakota.

In 1891 Mr. Bye again became a resident of Minnesota, locating at Comstock, Clay county, where he was employed as a bookkeeper for about four years. In the fall of 1894 he moved to Nielsville, this county, and started the mercantile business in which he is still engaged. He carries a general stock of merchandise and conducts his business with enterprise and breadth of view, studying the needs of his community and taking every necessary step to provide for them completely in every particular.

Since taking up his residence in Polk county, Mr. Bye has been active and stimulating in connection with every project for the good of the community in which he has lived and zealous and discriminating in promoting all that he has considered wise and worthy. He was appointed postmaster of Nielsville in May, 1897, and he has held the office continuously since that time. His services in it have been very acceptable to the patrons of the office and there has been no disposition to disturb him in the occupancy of it.

In January, 1895, Mr. Bye was united in marriage with Miss Gertie Kittleson, who was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota.

HENRY G. MITCHELL.

Henry G. Mitchell, a prominent farmer of Woodside township, is one of the pioneer citizens of Polk county. He is a native of New England, born in 1845 and as a youth, saw much valiant service in defense of the Union. He enlisted in the Second Connecticut, Heavy Artillery and participated in the campaign of the army of the Potomac. In the engagement of Cold Harbor he was wounded by a minnie ball and was forced to spend several inactive months and returned to his regiment, where he was detailed to special duty and continued to give honorable service to the close of the war. Upon his return to the occupations of peace, in 1865, he turned his attention to the opportunities presented in the increasing activities of the northwest and for several years resided in St. Paul, working at his trade of carpentering and in other employment and upon the completion of the Great Northern road into Polk county in 1878, came to Crookston, where he continued in the carpenter work. In 1881 he took a preemption claim on section eleven, of Woodside township, five miles southeast of the present village of Mentor, and this has continued to be his home. The land was covered with large timber which he sold as cordwood at Mentor. During the first years the work of clearing advanced slowly as most of his attention was devoted to building work, he being engaged in the erection of the elevators for the Red River Valley Grain Company and in construction contracts in Crookston. In 1893 he retired from his trade and has since devoted his efforts to his agricultural interests and cleared some sixty acres for cultivation and developed a prosperous farm. Mr. Mitchell is now engaged in the remodeling and improving of his home which occupies a most sightly and pleasant location, but a short distance from Maple Lake, a popular resort lake, and has a delightful view overlooking a