quarter of Section 4, in Russia township, and is ten miles southeast of Crookston. When he settled on it there was no other resident for many miles south or east of him and there were but few north of him in the direction of Crookston. He now owns three quarter sections, 480 acres in all, one quarter in Section 5, Russia township, and one in Section 34, Fairfax township, but all contiguous so that they make one farm. For one quarter he paid $800 and the rest of his land he paid $26 an acre. When he located in Polk county he had only $200 with which to buy teams and get a start, but he has now a competence for life, all due to his own efforts.

Live stock and grain are the staples of Mr. Baatz' productions. He keeps 30 to 60 head of cattle every year, mostly Holsteins, and milks 10 to 12 cows the year round, selling cream to the creameries. In 1915 he raised 4,000 bushels of wheat and 2,000 bushels of oats and barley, and he has in the neighborhood of 40 acres in corn on his land every year. His farming operations are conducted on a large scale and with decided enterprise and energy, and they are very profitable on that account.

It is easy to see that Mr. Baatz' own affairs are very comprehensive and exacting, but they have never kept him from taking an earnest and active part in the affairs of his township. He has been treasurer of the township board nine years and its chairman fifteen years, being a member of it almost from the organization of the township, and has served for thirty years on the local school board. In fact, he has scarcely been out of office a day since Russia township's corporate existence began, and his services in every official position have been highly satisfactory to the residents of the township.

Mr. Baatz was married in Wabasha county, Minnesota, in 1882, to Miss Emma Schwirtz, a German by birth. They have had five children, all but one of whom are still living and at home with their parents. Their son Frank died when he was twenty years old. The living children are Rosa, Mary, Annie and John. The last named attended the State Agricultural School at Crookston for a special course of instruction. All the members of the family are Catholics and belong to the Cathedral parish in Crookston.

HON. KNUTE S. AKER.

Two things are plainly demonstrated in the public life and services of Hon. Knute S. Aker, a leading citizen of Hubbard township, this county, and a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1911 and 1912, and the highly approved incumbent of several other offices from time to time. These two facts are that he fully understands the needs of the people around him and is both wise and industrious in his efforts to provide for them. In every official position to which the people have elected him he has seemed to catch the exact drift of public sentiment as to the performance of his duties and to hit upon the most effective and satisfactory manner of discharging them so as to obtain the best results.

Mr. Aker lives on Section 9, Hubbard township, and has been a resident of this county since June 12, 1878. He was born in Norway September 19, 1853, and when he was but seven years old was brought to this country by his parents, Sondre and Ingebor Aker. On arriving in the United States the parents located in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and there they lived until the spring of 1881, when the family moved to a homestead in Golden township, Walsh county, North Dakota, which was taken up by the subject of this review. He built a dwelling for his parents and broke up forty acres of the land for them, and they passed the remainder of their days on the homestead, the mother dying on it when she was seventy years old and the father when he was seventy-three.

Knute S. Aker reached the age of nineteen and obtained his education in Winneshiek county, Iowa. He worked out at farm labor until he was about twenty-five, then came to Polk county, arriving on June 12, 1878, and bought 160 acres of railroad land,