which is still a part of his home farm. When he made his first purchase he incurred an indebtedness of $1,250. Now he owns about 1,200 acres of good land, all of which is paid for, well improved and practically under cultivation. By his industry, thrift, wise business management and good judgment he has added about 1,100 acres to his original purchase and won for himself a substantial competence for life.

Mr. Aker has also risen to a position of consequence and influence in connection with public affairs in his township and county, and at every step of his progress in this line of advancement has fully justified his title to the continued confidence and esteem of the people. He has been chairman of the local school board for twenty-two years, a justice of the peace for seventeen years and supervisor and assessor of Hubbard township for five or six years. In 1885 he took the state census in Hubbard township and he has also taken the government census three times. Throughout his residence in Polk county he has been very active in the service of his township, neglecting no public interest and allowing none to go without his zealous support and assistance. He has long been one of the directors of Bethesda hospital in Crookston, and it has profited by his systematic attention to its affairs.

In the fall of 1910 Mr. Aker was elected to the state House of Representatives. He served in the regular session of 1911 and the special session of 1912 with credit to himself and benefit to the state. He was a member of several important committees in the House and was constant in his attention to his legislative duties both in committee rooms and on the floor, giving careful study to all bills introduced and keeping himself well posted in reference to every need of the state and every danger that threatened its welfare.

Mr. Aker was married in Bygland township, Polk county, on June 3, 1880, to Miss Ales Thompson, who was born in Howard county, Iowa, of Norwegian parentage. Nine children have been born of the union, seven of whom are living, the first and second in the order of birth having died in infancy. Those who are living are Ole, Bella, Sander, Guri, Carl, Annie and Mabel. Bella is now the wife of John Tofesly; Guri is the wife of Ole Bramseth, and Annie is the wife of Harry Larson. Mr. and Mrs. Aker are very genial and companionable persons, with a cordial and helpful interest in all their fellow beings. Their agreeable home is a center of bounteous and gracious hospitality and a popular resort for their friends, who are numbered by the host, and who find it the seat of refined and illuminating social culture.

CHRISTIAN C. QUERN.

Christian C. Quern, an early settler of Esther township and for many years a prominent farmer of Polk county, was born in Norway, April 20, 1838 and died at his home in Esther township, February 14, 1911. He came to the United States as a young man and located in Fillmore county, Minnesota, in 1861 and later lived for a time in Renville county, where he was married in 1866 to Olia Manrud, who was born and reared in Norway and had come to Minnesota some years previous to her marriage. In 1877 Mr. Quern removed to Polk county and took a homestead on the north west quarter of section fourteen of Esther township, being the first settler to locate north of the Marais river. With a small capital and a few head of stock, Mr. Quern entered upon his new enterprise and with thrifty management built up one of the large and prosperous estates of this section. His first home was a primitive cabin which he soon replaced with a log house and in 1888 erected the comfortable modern house which was his home until his death. This home was built on the four hundred acre tract of railroad land, which he bought in section fifteen of Esther township. He also became the possessor of the quarter section adjoining his homestead, for which he traded land in Renville county. His property later included a section in Higdem town-

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