the indebtedness paid off and the new buildings now standing on the farm erected. She assumed a weighty burden with the heroic fortitude of a Spartan woman and bore it to a triumphant release with the self-denial of a devotee and the skill of a veteran financier.

THEODORE NELSON.

Theodore Nelson, cashier of the State bank at Erskine, is a native of Polk county, born in Badger township June 14, 1885, the son of Torger and Mary Nelson, who came from Norway to Polk county in 1882. Torger Nelson became a well-known pioneer citizen and merchant and after many years of a successful career, retired from commercial activity and is now living at Erskine. Three of his sons are residents of the county, Anton Nelson and Theodore Nelson, who live in Erskine, and O. T. Nelson, a prominent business man of Gully, and Oscar Nelson, the fourth son of Mary and Torger Nelson, is teller at the Northern National bank at Bemidji, Minnesota. Theodore Nelson was educated in the schools at Erskine and all the interests of his career have been confined to his native county. He has earned his responsible position in the financial world through native ability and ambition backed by competence and industry. His first position in the bank was that of bookkeeper, which position he held from 1902 until 1906, when he was advanced to the position of assistant cashier and in 1912, at the time of the reorganization of the bank, he was elected cashier and became financially interested in the institution. Mr. Nelson is one of the younger business men of the county who have already won their mark of success and enjoys the confidence and respect of a wide circle of friends and associates. He is interested in farm lands but devotes his attention to the affairs of the bank.

EDWARD HAMLIN NESBITT.

To avoid confusion it should be remembered that this family name is spelled three different ways by the persons who bear it in Polk county. The name of the township, which was chosen in honor of the members of the family who were the first settlers in it, is "Nesbit;" the name of the family to which the subject of this sketch belongs is "Nesbit," and that of still another family is "Nisbet."

Edward Hamlin Nesbitt, who lives on Section 27, Nesbit township, four miles and a half north of Fisher, was born in Kalamazoo county, Michigan, four miles south of the city of Kalamazoo, September 19, 1845. His father went to Michigan from Ireland and his mother from the state of New York. The son grew to manhood in Michigan and then traveled some years through the south after the Civil war. On his return to the north he located near Rockford, Illinois, on a prairie farm which was already improved. After remaining four years in Illinois he returned to Michigan and passed another year with his parents in that state.

The south had still a winning voice for Mr. Nesbitt, however, and he was unable to withstand its persuasiveness. He went to Florida and passed four years in the cotton country near Tallahassee. But he found that a region must have more than climate to make it attractive. The soil in Florida was poor for what he wished to do, and he determined to return again to the north, where he could raise wheat and other grain. His attention was drawn to the Red river valley, and in June, 1880, he came to Polk county, Minnesota, and bought a whole section of railroad land at $7 an acre, with a rebate of $3 an acre if three-fourths of the land should be broken up within a specified period of time.

Mr. Nesbitt had left then about $1,300, and he put