up a frame house, which cost him $800, and which he lived in until 1912. His first teams were oxen. These were superseded in a little while by mules, and later he used only horses. He broke up as much of his land as he could, but while he suffered no total loss of crops, he had no grain to sell during his first three years on the farm. The land was so wet much of the time that it could not be worked and the farmers were helpless for years under this condition. Then, hail storms would come and destroy a large part of what a fairly good season gave them hopes of harvesting, and so discouraging were the circumstances that there was no demand for the land, and it was at times impossible to give it away. Since the present ditching system was inaugurated about sixteen years ago all have been able to raise good crops and the value of the land has risen rapidly, Mr. Nesbitt’s being now worth at least $100 an acre.

In 1912 Mr. Nesbitt erected his present dwelling house, which is a very good one, and he also has good barns and other improvements, among them ten acres of trees which form an attractive and useful grove. In 1915 his farm yielded about 13,000 bushels of grain and a large quantity of hay. He is at present township assessor and has also served as supervisor of the township. At the age of twenty-two he was married in Michigan to Miss Celia M. Van Hoesen. They have three children, Cora B., Victor H. and Irene, all of whom are still members of the parental family circle. Mr. Nesbitt gives a good deal of attention to raising white-faced Hereford cattle of superior strains in addition to his general farming operations, and is successful in the enterprise.

**MARTIN SANDS.**

This first settler and long the leading citizen of Sandsville township, this county, which he helped to organize and which was named in his honor, has had a varied career in his struggle to aid in making the wilderness docile and productive. The fine farm which he has made of his wild and for years very wet land in the southwest quarter of section 8, with its northern border on the line between Polk and Marshall counties, lies one mile and a half south of Alvarado, seventeen miles north of Grand Forks and forty-two miles northwest of Crookston, and is now one of the choice ones in the township.

Mr. Sands was born in Norway November 23, 1854, and came to the United States with his parents in his fifteenth year, locating with them near La Crosse, Wisconsin. The father soon afterward took a homestead in Kandiyohi county, this state, on which his son Martin grew to manhood. In 1875, when he was just twenty-one, the young man visited the Red river valley and stopped a short time at Fisher’s Landing. But he returned to his father’s home and remained there two years. In 1877 he came back to Polk county and selected his homestead and also chose one for each of his two brothers, Ole and Casper, and another for Martin Johnson, their cousin.

In making his selections Mr. Sands chose land suitable for grazing with an extensive open range around it, for he concluded that it would be years before the locality was much settled. In March, 1878, he built three shacks and slept one night in each of them. He then returned to Kandiyohi county, and in Mayor June, as soon as the grass was fit for pasture, he brought over ninety head of cattle, two yoke of oxen and one pair of mules and three saddle ponies. He and his two brothers owned all the land, and all their subsequent operations were carried on in partnership, although Casper, who died in 1914, was a conductor on the Great Northern railroad for thirty years, and necessarily absent from the land a great deal of that time. When Martin drove his cattle to his land miles of the distance between it and Grand Forks were all under water.

Ole Sands was married, and his wife and one-year old son accompanied him to his new home. Martin also