OLE B. DAHL.

Living retired from active pursuits after his term of privation, toil and trial, with a comfortable competence and an agreeable home in East Grand Forks, Ole B. Dahl has well illustrated in his career as a progressive and successful farmer the value of persistent industry, frugality and thrift, and has honestly earned the comforts and advantages they bring. He was born in Norway April 1, 1840, and was there reared to manhood and taught his trade as a shoemaker. He came to the United States in 1866 and located in Winona, Minnesota, where he passed a year working at his trade in a shop in which twenty men were employed, a large number for a far western town in that day.

Mr. Dahl next took up a pre-emption claim in Renville county, Minnesota, when that county was just opening to settlement. He proved up his claim as pre-emption and paid $1.25 per acre, but made slow progress in developing and improving his land. In 1874, 1876 and 1877 the grasshoppers devoured his crops. He had a good crop in 1875 but the growing vegetation in other parts of the county was all consumed by the pests, which no effort seemed sufficient to eradicate for some years.

In 1879 Mr. Dahl moved to Polk county, having sold his land for $2,000 which was then considered an exorbitant price. He was unable to sell his cows, however, as butter was selling at five cents a pound. He took up a homestead in section 12 of what is now Esther township but was then a part of Higdem, his location being about ten miles north of East Grand Forks. He worked the farm for a number of years and improved it with good buildings. In 1885 he rented it to a tenant and moved to East Grand Forks. He bought a few acres of land near that city but he has not given it his personal labor as he has since been living retired from work. Before leaving the farm he added to it twenty acres of timber land, and he has since bought another farm, but he has sold both the old one and the new one.

Mr. Dahl never allowed himself to become wholly absorbed in his own affairs. He always took an active and helpful interest in the affairs of the locality of his home, and served as township assessor of Higdem township three years while it included Esther township, the division being made after he left his farm. He also served on the school board and filled other local offices in Higdem township.

While he was living in Renville county Mr. Dahl was married to Miss Hannah Larson, a daughter of Bernt and Martha Larson and a native of Norway. She came with her parents to Dakota county, Minnesota, in 1862, and took up her residence with them in that county, accompanying them to Renville county in 1865. The Indian outbreak of 1862 so frightened them that the father did not take up a homestead until 1865. In 1877 they changed their residence to Polk county and took a homestead in section 10, Esther township, as it is now, being among the very first settlers in that part of the county. The father afterward added 200 acres of railroad land to his farm in order to have timber for use on his farm. Later he built a dwelling house and other buildings on the railroad land at the edge of the timber, and there he died in June, 1902. The mother is still living and has her home with Mr. and Mrs. Dahl.

The Larson farm is now owned by the two daughters of the household, Mrs. Dahl and Mrs. Melsness of Renville county. Mr. Dahl cultivated it for five years, and since he left it it has been under the management of his son-in-law, O. J. Norgord. Mr. and Mrs. Dahl have seven children living: Caroline, who is the wife of B. K. Johnson, of Esther township; Mary, who is the wife of O. J. Norgord, and lives on