OLE ENGEN.

Having passed many years in hard labor making
domestic and systematically productive for the service
of mankind, Ole Engen, formerly an energetic, enter-
prising and progressive farmer in three big western
states, is now living retired from all active pursuits
and enjoying in peaceful leisure the fruits of his
labors at his comfortable home in the village of Climax.
He was born in Norway June 17, 1854, and was
brought to this country in 1857 by his parents, Ole
N. and Mary Engen, who settled in Houston county
and were among the earliest Norwegians who came
to Minnesota.

The father bought a pre-emption claim in Houston
county and the son remained with his parents
until he reached the age of twenty-five years. In
1879 he went to Traill county, North Dakota, where
he obtained a pre-emption and a homestead claim,
both of which he improved and on which he lived
fifteen years. During that period he improved three
prairie farms in North Dakota and erected build-
ings on all of them. He found the winter winds too
strong to be agreeable, and the unpleasant ones not
confined to the winter season, and he longed for a
landscape with stretches of timber in it.

Yielding to his ardent desire in 1894, Mr. Engen
then returned to Polk county, Minnesota, and bought
163 acres of land on the Red river adjoining the farm
of Christopher Steenerson, three miles and a half west
of Climax. He made his purchase of Jens Siverson,
paying him $3,200 for the 163 acres out of the proceeds
of his North Dakota property, which he sold before
leaving that state. Later he purchased another tract
of eighty acres, and for this he paid $25 an acre, and
for nearly ten years he cultivated these lands.

About 1904 Mr. Engen desired a change of climate,
and in search of it he went to Montana and procured
one and a half sections of land, one section being
desert land, fifty miles west of the city of Great Falls.
He occupied, improved and cultivated this land nearly
three years, then sold it to advantage and returned
to his home in this county, and farmed two years.
Then passed a year and a half in Crookston and at the
end of that period took up his residence in the vil-
lage of Climax.

Mr. Engen’s agricultural operations comprised gen-
eral farming and raising Shorthorn cattle. His farm
is well adapted to live stock breeding and he used it
extensively for that purpose. He served on the town-
ship board while living in North Dakota and has also
been a member of the village council of Climax. He
was married in Houston county, Minnesota, to Miss
Maria Classen, a native of Iowa and eighteen years
old at the time of her marriage, while he was in his
twenty-third year. She died December 19, 1909, at
the family home in Climax, aged a little over fifty
years.

Seven children were born in the Engen family, and
six of them are living. Olof is on a homestead of his
own near Leech lake, Minnesota. Alfred lives on and
cultivates Andrew Steenerson’s farm near Climax.
Amanda is the wife of Martin Erickson, a merchant
at Climax. Norris C. runs a garage at Climax. Severt
I. also lives at Climax. Cora is the wife of Alfred