Polk county, and for some years thereafter he was employed in Montana in the service of the Northern Pacific railroad. He had no capital and was obliged to work at whatever he could get to do to make a living. But before going to Montana he bought 160 acres of land of the Great Northern railroad at $3 an acre, and four years later he bought 160 more at $7 an acre.

On his return to this county Mr. Elg spent ten to twelve years on his farm and got it practically all under cultivation, then sold it in 1903 at $25 an acre. When the railroad was built through this section he donated the right of way for a mile to the company and thereby induced it to establish a station at Eldred. For a number of years he conducted a confectionery store at Eldred and for three years he was postmaster of the village. In 1915 he opened the general store he is now conducting. His first store was the second one in the village, the first being kept by T. M. Boyer, who is now in Beltrami and a sketch of whom appears in this work.

Eldred was platted in 1897 by Mr. Elg, who laid out twenty-eight acres as its site, and of this he has sold about one-fourth to residents. The first building erected in the village was the Northwestern elevator, the first store put up was that of T. M. Boyer, who was the first merchant at the place, and the second store building was that of Mr. Elg, which was erected in the fall of 1898. The postoffice was established in 1899, Mr. Boyer being the first postmaster. Mr. Elg's present store building, the one occupied by his own business, was put up in 1915. He has also built a small residence in the village. It is on the Great Northern railroad between Moorhead and Crookston, in Roome township, and has about 200 population. It has a union school formed by a combination of four districts, and in this agriculture and domestic science are taught, the state aiding it to the extent of $2,200 a year for the purpose. The school has 120 pupils and employs four teachers, and two years of its course are in the high school grades. The school is very popular and is considered a source of great benefit to its patrons and the whole region lying around it.

DR. ARNE NELSON.

The name of this pioneer physician and surgeon and leading merchant for many years in this part of the Northwest is remembered with cordial esteem and his memory is cherished with veneration by all who had the benefit of acquaintance and association with him in his lifetime or enjoy any part of the fruits of his usefulness and great service to Polk county and the Red river valley in general. In the early years of his residence in Polk county he was an active promoter of immigration to the county, and he dealt in lands for the purpose of carrying on this business extensively. And during the whole period of his residence here he was in active practice as a physician and in mercantile business as a druggist, so that every phase of his activity was serviceable to the region and its residents.

Dr. Nelson was born in Voss, Norway, in March, 1851. He was a brother of Knute Nelson, the present postmaster of Fertile, a sketch of whose life will be found in this work. The doctor was reared in his native land and obtained his academic education at the state public schools and a normal school in that country, and after completing his course there he followed teaching for five years. In 1873 he came to the United States and located in Southern Minnesota. He found employment with Dr. McNamara at Owatonna, Minnesota, and in the course of a little time afterward began the study of medicine under the direction of his employer. He began his practice at Hartland, in Freeborn county, Minnesota, where he remained two years, then moved to Aldal, Minnesota.

In 1882 the doctor became a partner of Andrew Opheim in a general merchandise and drug business at Aldal. They carried on an extensive trade at that place until 1887, when they moved to Fertile,