taking their store building and all their stock to the new site, and their continuing at the head of an active and profitable business until 1893, when they dissolved partnership and divided their stock, Dr. Nelson taking the drugs and Mr. Opheim the other goods. The same year he erected the building now used by his nephew, Nels Vasenden, in conducting the same business.

The doctor carried on his drug business and kept up his practice as a physician until his death on May 2, 1908. He was widely known in Polk county and the counties adjoining it as an able physician and a progressive and public-spirited citizen, of great force for good in this region. He held membership in several different medical societies, was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and took an earnest interest and an active part in everything that pertained to the progress and improvement of his community.

Dr. Nelson was married in 1878 to Miss Bessie Hatleberg, a native of Wisconsin. They became the parents of five children, all of whom died in childhood except their daughter Clara, who is now the wife of Odd Eide, of Fertile. In political faith the doctor was a Republican of strong convictions and he was a leader in the councils of his party in this locality. His religious connection was with the Norwegian Lutheran church. For a number of years he served as president of the village council of Fertile.

HELGE H. THORESON.

This gentleman, who is now serving his third successive term as one of the county commissioners of Polk county, is not only one of the most useful public men but also one of the most enterprising and successful farmers in the county. He located in it in 1878 with his parents, who had nothing whatever in the way of capital or property, and he now owns 600 acres of highly improved and well cultivated land, with good buildings on it and everything necessary for carrying on his extensive farming operations, and he has a record of public service to his township and the county of which any citizen might justly feel proud, but which his modesty forbids him to mention. His farm is in Room township, Section 19, sixteen miles southwest of Crookston, two miles and a half east of the Red river and eight miles north of Climax.

Mr. Thoreson was born in Norway May 2, 1864, the son of Helge and Johannah T. (Volden) Thoreson, and was brought by them to the United States in 1868. The family located in Fillmore county, Minnesota, and remained there until 1871, when it moved with oxen to Ottertail county, the father taking up a homestead at Parkdale in that county. The family was very poor in those days, and the father had to make all the furniture for the home and shoes for the family. In 1878 he sold his land in Ottertail county and moved with oxen to Polk county, locating on Section 13, Tynsid township, one mile northwest of the present home of his son Helge, on which he died in 1892, aged fifty-five, and his wife fourteen years later.

The elder Mr. Thoreson bought prairie railroad land at $5 an acre but broke enough within the prescribed time to reduce the price of his whole tract to $3 an acre. He built a good frame house and other buildings in time, and owned 680 acres of land at the time of his death. But his first house was the first one on the prairie, and he had many hardships and privations to undergo. When he arrived on his land he camped one night on the prairie, and the next morning he began plowing on two tracts of land before daylight in order to get the start of other men who were on the road to locate on it. He was a member and one of the founders of Sand Hill Free Lutheran church and served some years as township treasurer and as school treasurer. All of his eleven children are living and held a reunion in 1915. His farm is now owned by his youngest son.

Helge H. Thoreson remained with his parents until