ability, industry and fidelity as means of advancement in the world, and has given an excellent example to the young men of the coming generation.

Mr. Hanson was born on a farm in Allamakee county, Iowa, in 1857, the son of Gunder and Kjersti Hanson, who were born in Norway. He was the oldest in a family of twelve children. The son worked on the farm and attended school until 1877, when he moved to Rock county, Minnesota, where he first worked on a farm and afterward obtained a position in a general store at $12 a month and board. His compensation was raised in a short time to $20 a month and board, and at this very moderate wages he continued to render faithful service to his employer until 1880, moving then to the Red river valley.

In this part of the state Mr. Hanson was first employed as a day laborer, but before long was given a position in a real estate and insurance office in Glyndon, Clay county. Later he accepted employment in a general store at $50 a month, and some time afterward was transferred to Ada to take charge of a store owned by the same firm at a salary of $75 a month, which was soon raised to $100 a month. In 1887 he took up his residence at Fertile and in partnership with W. H. and E. L. Matthews and F. F. S. Miller founded the bank of Matthews & Co. with a capital of $10,000, which was furnished by the Messrs. Matthews and Mr. Miller. During the nearly twenty-nine years which have elapsed since then Mr. Hanson has had charge of the operations of this bank, the last several years as its president.

This sound and progressive financial institution is now known as the First State Bank of Fertile. It has a capital of $25,000, a surplus of $5,000, individual profits amounting to $6,000 and deposits aggregating $280,000. It carries on a general banking business, and has out loans, bonds and other investments totaling $220,000. Under the skillful and prudent management of Mr. Hanson it has grown steadily and flourished continuously, and it is now regarded in business circles as one of the best of its rank in the northwest. Mr. Hanson now owns a controlling interest in it and is also interested in several other banks in Minnesota, North Dakota and Montana. He was married in 1881 to Miss Julia Christianson near where Fertile now stands. They have had seven children, six of whom are living. The oldest son of the family is cashier of the bank of which his father is president.

PETER STUHR.

For a number of years after reaching his majority Peter Stuhr, now one of the leading merchants of the village of Euclid, in this county, was an enterprising and successful farmer. He was born in Hanover, Germany, April 13, 1868, and is the son of Carsten and Elsie (Rogge) Stuhr, also natives of Germany. The family came to the United States when Peter was about two years old, and about one year later located in Goodhue county, Minnesota. In March, 1880, the family residence was changed to Polk county, the father having taken up a homestead in Section 4, Euclid township, the year before.

Peter Stuhr remained at home until 1896 and followed farming until 1899. In the year last mentioned he moved to Euclid, and during the next five years was the agent of the Minneapolis & Northern Grain Elevator company at that place. Since 1904 he has been engaged in mercantile business at Euclid, conducting a general store with farm implements as a large part of his stock. He has built up an extensive trade by his enterprise, his knowledge of the needs of his community and his excellent management, and is now considered one of the leading merchants in his part of Polk county.

On June 2, 1896, Mr. Stuhr was married, at Euclid, to Mrs. Bertha Misner, the widow of Wells Misner, and a native of Wisconsin. They have two children living, Florence and Gordon, and lost one son who died in infancy. Mrs. Stuhr had three children by her first marriage, Harold, Vasta and Ruth. Mr.