Mr. Benson has built one of the best country residences in Polk county on his farm, which comprises 320 acres in addition to the Tollofson land, and on this he raises large crops of grain and potatoes. His crop in 1915 amounted to 4,000 bushels of wheat, 2,000 of barley, 1,500 of oats and an abundant yield from forty acres of potatoes. He keeps regularly thirty head of good cattle, employs two men all the time, owns his threshing outfit, plows with a tractor engine and uses an automobile for driving and hauling. He and his wife are the parents of one child, their daughter, Gina; and Hanna Arneson is reared at the Benson home.

In 1905 Mr. Benson and his half-brother, Halvor, started a general store at Neilsville. Halvor has been in charge of the store ever since, while Olaus has given his attention mainly to his farming operations. Both enterprises have flourished through careful management and good business ability, and both are steadily growing in value and the volume of their operations, and the men at the head of them are everywhere held in high and general esteem by all who know them.

OLE O. ROMO.

Having come to this county about thirty-six years ago with no earthly possessions except about $20 saved out of slender and hard-earned wages paid him in another county in this state, and having acquired the ownership of 200 acres of well-improved and productive land and other property by his industry, thrift and good management, Ole O. Romo, one of the substantial and enterprising farmers of Vineland township, has made his time and ability tell greatly to his advantage and worked out a career of usefulness and success that is highly creditable to him.

Mr. Romo was born in the ancient and historic city of Trondhjem, Norway, July 7, 1860, and was brought to the United States by his parents, Ole and Kjersti Romo, when he was nine years old. The family settled on eighty acres of railroad land about thirty miles southwest of Red Wing, Minnesota, and there the parents died some years later. Of their seven children only Ole and his sister, Mrs. Charles Nelson, are residents of Polk county. The others are living in different parts of Minnesota and the adjoining state of North Dakota.

Ole O. Romo came to this county in 1880 with his sister and her husband, Charles Nelson, and worked for the latter, breaking nearly all of his land, including the part that now lies in the village of Climax. He next worked for Levi Steenerson, who lived at that time in a little cabin about where his present residence stands. He was with Mr. Steenerson six years, and at the end of that period had $700 to invest in a farm for himself. He bought the homestead of Ole Bramseth, a pioneer, in Section 28, Vineland township, one mile and a half east of Climax, agreeing to pay $1,630 for the 160 acres of land, whose improvements consisted of a little log house, a stable and a granary, all covered with straw and sod. The land was nearly all plowed and Mr. Romo was allowed ten or eleven years in which to complete his payments on it, and these he at once began to make provision for.

Soon after taking possession of his farm Mr. Romo built a small frame house on it, and that he and his family occupied until a few years ago, when the present dwelling was erected, as were the barn and other buildings. Becoming at once an intensive farmer, but devoting his forces mainly to raising grain, he prospered from the start. His crop in 1915 averaged 30 bushels of wheat and 53 bushels of oats to the acre. He keeps a good-sized drove of cattle, including nine or ten milch cows, and owns stock in the co-operative creamery, the co-operative store and the telephone company at Climax. In addition, he has bought forty acres of other land and has a lot and house in the village of Climax.

Mr. Romo was married just before he located on