with some degree of certainty. A picture still extant showing him and his force engaged in harvesting one season exhibits a long line of reapers with plenty of men to handle their operations. His plan was to harvest, thresh his grain, stack his straw and do his plowing all at one time and with the same motive power, and he employed thirty hands in this work.

But he did not reach this leading position among the farmers of the county without many disasters and misfortunes. For years hail storms destroyed his crops. At other times the heat in dry seasons burned them up, and at still others the land was so wet that it would not produce much. One year the whole crop on 400 acres was lost. But in time the ditch was dug, and after that conditions were far better and prosperity came rapidly and kept coming with steadily increasing volume.

Mr. Merrill served as treasurer of Nesbit township three years, and as school director of his district many more. Fraternally he was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and in religious matters was friendly to all churches but favored none in particular. He died July 20, 1914, and, as he was a resolute and energetic man, was his own manager to the time of his death. He and his wife were the parents of four children. Myrtie was drowned in the Red Lake river at the age of thirteen. Ira is operating the farm. Floy is the wife of E. F. Hollands, an engineer, and lives in Winnipeg, and Arthur is still living with his mother, who continues to live on the farm.

GEORGE COULTER.

This gentleman, who built up and developed the Forest Home stock farm of 800 acres in Huntsville township, this county, and gave it a national reputation, turned his attention to a new enterprise, that of clearing, improving and transforming into a good farm 320 acres of brush land in Beltrami county, ten miles south of Bemidji. He built his dwelling near a fine spring on the farm and at once began cleaning up the land. In the two years of effort which he has devoted to this work he has cleared seventy-five acres and built two miles and a half of good road, being still very enterprising, although well advanced in age. He paid $20 an acre for this land and it is now worth $35 and steadily increasing in value.

Mr. Coulter was born in County Lanark, Ontario, January 31, 1856, and became a resident of Polk County about 1875. He took a homestead at what is now the village of Mallory on the Great Northern railroad, and on this he lived about ten years, several of them as a bachelor and doing his own housework, often having other young men visiting him. His next home was the renowned Forest Home stock farm, which is now occupied by his son George. He bought a small part of this at first and kept on increasing it until he now owns 800 acres in one body in this farm. He conducted its cultivation and live stock industry until 1912, when he turned it over to his son.

On this farm Mr. Coulter, the elder, bred Aberdeen-Angus cattle for beef and exhibition, and showed specimens at local and state fairs in Minnesota, winning many first prizes, keeping up the industry until he left the farm and sometimes raising 100 head of beef cattle in a year, but selling most of his product for breeding purposes. He also bred and exhibited Scotch collie dogs, being an enthusiast in these as well as in Aberdeen-Angus cattle.

The Forest Home stock farm is composed in part of railroad and school land and the residence on it is on the bank of Red Lake river in a fine location. A good house which Mr. Coulter had previously built was destroyed by fire in 1906. Grain was his principal agricultural product while he managed the farm, and of this he was one of the most extensive producers in Polk county, but he was also a leader in the live stock industry, and takes no backward place in any line of endeavor in which he engages.

On May 1, 1882, when there was a foot of snow on the ground, Mr. Coulter was married in Grand Forks