sequent progress of the Great Northern system has been steady and uninterrupted.

The land grant enabled the promoters to push the road and open the country to settlement. They sold the railroad lands to actual settlers at $6 an acre on a partial payment plan and with a rebate of $3 on every acre broken up and seeded at the time when the last payment was made. Sales were rapid and new settlers began to come into the region in very promising numbers. Then a new difficulty of magnitude arose, and this, too, severely taxed the resources of the master mind that was so vigorously stimulating the colonization of the northwest.

The difficulty was this: A considerable part of Polk county is low, and in the early days water covered it to such an extent during several months of the year that the land could not be cultivated regularly, and even after seed was put in and gave promise of a good yield a wet spell would often ruin the crop. A comprehensive plan of systematic drainage was requisite to overcome this difficulty, and Mr. Hill inaugurated and directed this with the sweep of vision and practical ability which have characterized everything he has done. He sent out an engineer to make a survey and determine the elevation at each section corner. He then had an elaborate drainage map made to show how the drainage work should be done. A few years later the legislature enacted the present drainage law and appropriated $100,000 for a drainage system for Polk county. Mr. Hill agreed to add $25,000 to the fund on condition that the railroad company be allowed to name a competent civil engineer as one member of the drainage commission. This was the beginning of the admirable system of drainage work that has so materially helped to bring about the advanced agricultural development of the present day in Polk county.

But this step, serviceable as it soon proved to be, was not in itself sufficient to fully accomplish the purpose desired. Mr. Hill was a laborious and critical student of the science of agriculture and he realized that there was great need among the people of the northwest of more general and exact practical knowledge of that science based on experimental study of it. He therefore induced the railroad company to donate 400 acres of land for an agricultural school and experiment station at Crookston. The land lay idle for years, and he then informed the state authorities that unless they decided to carry out the purpose of the donation without further delay the land would revert to the company. Hon. A. D. Stevens, then a member of the state senate, persuaded the legislature to appropriate $50,000 for the erection of the first buildings, and since then the school has advanced in progress and usefulness at a very gratifying rate.

Mr. Hill did not, however, stop with this effort to elevate the farming industry in Polk county and other parts of the northwest. During all his subsequent years he has been very active in this behalf, and in frequent public addresses on notable occasions and pamphlets widely circulated has continued to lead the farmers of Minnesota to higher aims and greater profits in their work, and to teach them how to reach the goals he has pointed out. His interest in everything that pertains to the welfare of this region is now, when he is well advanced in age and laying aside many of the burdens of a long term of great activity, as great as it has ever been, although the need of his personal stimulus in the matter has largely passed away.

GUSTAV CHRISTIANSON.

This enterprising farmer and public-spirited citizen of Minnesota, who lived for a number of years in Scandia township, Polk county, and improved a large farm there but is now a resident of Norman county, dwelling on a farm two miles south of Rindal, was born in Norway in 1864 and came to this country