a homestead. His mother-in-law, Mrs. Kate Logan, had a claim on it for a time, but she allowed him to file on it, which he did in the spring of 1888, and he has since lived on it. By May 15, 1888, he had his house built and was occupying it. The farm is on the prairie three miles out from the Red river. Mr. Conneran has since bought 160 acres more in Section 6, and 160 in Section 32, eighty in Section 8 and forty in Section 7, Fisher township, and he also owns 320 acres in Woodside township. The last is only a quarter of a mile south of Maple lake and a few miles south of the village of Mentor, in which he also owns some property which is rapidly growing in value.

At one time Mr. Conneran spent four or five years on his Woodside farm getting out cordwood, which he shipped in carload lots to Crookston and Grand Forks, employing ten to twelve choppers and sending off 1,000 to 3,000 cords a year, his shipment being a carload every day one winter. His farming operations were also carried on on a large scale. His customary output at the height of his business was 400 to 500 acres in wheat, and he also kept 50 to 75 head of cattle when he had range for them, but he now keeps about 25 head, and in addition milks ten to twelve cows for butter, and has milked 18 to 20 some years. The butter is made at his home and taken to Crookston, where it is sold mostly to private customers.

Mr. and Mrs. Conneran are the parents of nine children, all of whom are living. John is living on a farm of 160 acres in Fisher township given to him by his father. Mary is the wife of James Powers of Bygland township. Katie is the wife of Owen La Velle of Grand Forks county, N. D. Anna is the wife of Albany Capistran of Lowell township. Ella is the wife of A. P. Roberts of Crookston. James lives on a farm cornering with his father's and given to him by his father. Delia has a dressmaking establishment in Grand Forks. William, the youngest of the boys, is to get the home farm in time. Jennie, the youngest of the family, also lives at home. All the members of the family belong to the Catholic church at Fisher, Minn.

Mr. Conneran has served in several township offices, especially those having to do with road work. His railroad section supervision has been of great service in this connection, and as a result the township has very good roads. He has had a great deal of draining done and has labored hard to obtain the establishment of a general system of county ditches, all the best ones in and near his locality being provided for largely through his strenuous efforts in this behalf.

MRS. CHESTINA A. MESSETT.

Having been successfully engaged in merchandising at Mentor throughout the last twenty years, and having won a competence for life by her industry, thrift and good management, Mrs. Chestina A. Messett has justly earned the high regard in which she is held by the residents of Grove Park township as a business woman, as she has also the universal esteem she enjoys because of her usefulness in other lines of activity and service to the public. No woman in Polk county is more highly or more generally respected, and there is none who deserves to be.

Mrs. Messett was born near Zumbrota, in Goodhue county, Minnesota, and grew to womanhood there, obtaining a fairly good education for her time and surroundings and opportunities. In her young womanhood she came to Polk county for about seven years and was employed as a teacher in the public schools, winning high favor for her success in the work. She was married in this county to I. K. Messett, a native of Norway, who was one of the early settlers in the county. He was a progressive and enterprising citizen and took an active part in the public affairs of his township and those of the Synod Lutheran church during his life.

Mrs. Messett and her husband became the parents of one child, their daughter Belinda G., who is now a