

23, 1892. Mr. Nordby was married to Segrid Larson, born Nov. 29, 1867. Her father, Ingebret Larson, came to America in 1867 and farmed in Camp township from 1870 until his death, in 1910, at the age of seventy-three years. His wife, Martha (Arneson), died in 1898, at the age of sixty-two years. Nine children were born to this union: Christian, born June 10, 1893; Alfred, born July 23, 1894; Nicolai, born Oct. 1, 1896; Morris, born Sept. 21, 1898; Elmer, born Dec. 10, 1899; Ingvald, born March 23, 1901; Mable, born May 26, 1903; Spencer, born Aug. 24, 1905; Leonard, born Nov. 14, 1908.

**David Benson** is one of the leading citizens of Renville county. He attained prominence soon after his arrival and he is now known the length and breadth of the county. He is broad-minded, public-spirited, and of kindly temperament, one who keeps thoroughly informed on current events and one who is intimately in touch with the currents of modern life. His appearance in any home in the county is hailed with delight, and especially among the pioneers of the western part of the county a visit from him is something to be highly appreciated and long remembered. Whether as pioneer, citizen, friend, office holder or law maker, he has demonstrated the same sterling worth. His life and influence have left their impress on the county's history and he is now regarded as one of the county's most useful citizens. After many strenuous years of hard work he is now living a retired life in Renville, where he is thoroughly appreciated at his true worth. In the making of this history he has had an important part, and much of its completeness in regard to the western part of the county is due to his untiring and devoted efforts. Something over a hundred years ago, David Anderson was born in the vicinity of Trondhjem, in Norway. His ancestors were sea-faring people, and he naturally, became a navigator. In following this occupation he met with many thrilling adventures. During a North Sea raid of the British men-of-war in 1812, his ship was taken, and was subsequently held for about a year before being released. This David Anderson took up his home on the island of Hedsel. There were reared his five children: Jacob, Martin, Anna, Dorethea and Ingeborg. His wife's name was Dorthea Oleson.

In the same neighborhood there lived Lars Gabrielson and his good wife, Ingeborg, and their three children, Bendick and John (twins) and Ole. Bendick married Ingeborg Anderson, daughter of David Anderson. She died about 1857, leaving six children: Lars, Sophia, David, Ole, Jacob and Martin. Later Bendick married Sophia Swenson, and by this union had one child, Ingeborg. He died in 1902 at the advanced age of 100 years, longevity being a characteristic of the family. In fact the ancestry on both sides is a long, unbroken line of sturdy men and women, widely known

for their strength of body and character, their hospitality, and their devotion to the church. To this family on August 23, 1841, was born in Nordland, Norway, David Benson, a son of Bendick Larson and Ingeborg Davidsdatter, and grandson of Lars Gabrielson and Ingeborg Gabrielson, and David Anderson and Dorthea Oleson. He was reared in his native land, received a good education and had the advantages incident upon attendance at the agricultural college in his neighborhood for three years. It was in 1867 that he set his face toward the new world. After arriving at Liverpool, he crossed the ocean to Quebec, found his way to La Crosse, Wisconsin, and from there reached Rochester, Minnesota, where he secured employment in doing clerical work and farming. At about this time, northern people were being urged to go south and raise cotton. Cotton was bringing a good price in the markets and it was represented that fortunes were to be made from a single season's crop. So in 1869, David Benson, with two friends, pooled their funds, and with the \$1,000 thus secured, started for the South. But after various experiences their money was gone and there was no cotton fortune in sight. So they had to work their way back. In Chicago, David Benson worked in the shops of the Northwestern Railway long enough to earn his fare back to Minnesota. Here penniless he started in again to carve his fortune. At Dodge county, Minnesota, he married, and in 1870 came with his bride with an ox team and covered wagon to Renville township and located on section 6, Emmet township, on a piece of wild prairie land. For a time he lived in the wagon in which he had come. His first activity was to cut enough hay for the six head of cattle he had brought with him. Later he devoted his attention to constructing a rude dugout, roofed over with slough grass and sod. In this the family lived until the frame house was erected. During the first two autumns, Mr. Benson worked in the harvest fields at St. Peter in order to earn a little ready cash, walking the entire distance each way. In time, he added eighty acres to the original homestead. He erected suitable buildings, and successfully carried on general farming for some twenty-two years. He and his good wife underwent all the privations of pioneer life and had an important part in the upbuilding of the community. From 1882 to 1886 he was in the railroad mail service. In 1890 he moved to Renville where he now lives. Mr. Benson's public activities have been numerous. In 1873, 1874, 1875 and 1877 he sat in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature, being elected on the Democratic ticket. At the session of 1873 he obtained an appropriation for the Hawk Creek bridge to the amount of \$1,000, and in the session of 1874 he obtained an appropriation of \$600 for the Henryville bridge. Among other bills which he introduced was one prohibiting a county attorney from being elected a justice of the peace. For a

number of years he was assessor of Emmet township. From the time of its organization until his removal to Renville he was a director of school district 33. In 1880, 1890, 1895, 1905 and 1910 he was census enumerator for his district. For twenty years he has been a justice of the peace. Fraternally he is a member of the I. O. O. F. Mr. Benson was married September 16, 1870, to Carrie Knuteson, born August 29, 1851, daughter of Knute Akselson and Carrie Knuteson. This union has been blessed with eight children: Bell, Benjamin, Louisa, Clara, Mary, Anna, Emma and Dinah. Bell is the wife of Dr. Edward Mark Clay, of Renville. Benjamin is in business in Minneapolis. The rest are school teachers. Mrs. Benson's maternal grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Knute Knutson. After the death of her father, they brought her and her mother to America, but soon after their arrival the mother died at Quebec, and the present Mrs. Benson and her grandparents continued the journey to Wisconsin. There the grandmother died, and the grandfather moved to Iowa, two years later moving to Adams, Minnesota, and in 1863 moved to Rockdale, Olmsted county, also in this state, where he died at the age of ninety-five years.

**Benjamin F. Benson**, of the Benson-Newhouse-Stabeck Grain Commission Co., Room 809, Chamber of Commerce Building, Minneapolis, is one of the Renville county boys, born of Renville county pioneers, who have gone out in the world, far from their native county, and won for themselves a place in the world's activities. He was born on the homestead in Emmet township, son of the Hon. David Benson, and his good wife, Carrie Benson. He attended the old log schoolhouse with whose interesting history his father was so intimately connected, and later studied in the public schools of Renville. It was in 1895 that he left home and started out for himself as collection man in the law firm of Lockerby & Cady, at Forman, North Dakota. Subsequently he returned to Renville, and was employed in the collection department of the first National Bank as well as in the store of J. H. Dale & Co. In 1898, when patriotic fervor was stirring so many of the youths of the land, he enlisted as a private in Co. H, 14th Minn. Vol. Inf. He was sent with his regiment first to Chickamauga, then to Knoxville, Tennessee, and then back to St. Paul, being promoted successively to corporal and sergeant. For a time he continued his former employment at Renville. In 1899 he was appointed by Gov. John Lind as deputy grain inspector, and thereupon moved to Minneapolis. Some two years later he went on the road traveling for various grain commission firms. For a time he was associated with the Way, Johnson, Lee Co., grain commission merchants of Minneapolis; later the Loomis-Benson Co. was formed with Mr. Benson as vice-president, and later the Gold-Stabeck Loan and Credit Co. bought out the Loomis inter-