

vester, George Doster, W. F. Stevens, E. J. Kothlow, William Wichman, C. W. Lussenhop and John Hageman. The present board is constituted of the following: William Wichman, president; E. J. Kothlow, vice-president; F. E. Sylvester, cashier; E. W. Neunsinger, assistant cashier. Directors—E. J. Kothlow, C. W. Lussenhop, F. E. Sylvester, William Wichman, George Doster, John Hageman and H. N. Nelson.

The bank endeavors to promote the interest of all public improvement and enterprises which further the progress and upbuilding of the community.

Following is the statement at the close of business January 1, 1916. Resources—Loans, \$73,090.46; fixtures, \$2,420.00; cash assets, \$7,939.82; total, \$83,450.28. Liabilities—Capital, \$15,000.00; surplus, \$3,000.00; undivided profits, \$482.41; deposits, \$64,967.87; total, \$83,450.28.

Fairfield E. Sylvester, cashier of the New State Bank of Morton, Minnesota, was born at Plainview, Minnesota, in 1868, son of Charles C. and Charlotte C. (Burns) Sylvester. Charles C. Sylvester was a native of Maine. He was one of the early pioneers of Wabasha county and later in 1870 came to Watonwan county. In 1850 he drove with others from Chicago to California and spent several years in the gold fields of that state. Mrs. C. C. Sylvester was the daughter of an early merchant and Indian trader at Mt. Vernon (near Winona), Minnesota. He is now living at Washington, District of Columbia. Fairfield E. received his education in the public schools at Madelia, Minnesota, at Mankato and at the University of Minnesota, graduating from the law department. He practiced law from 1895 until 1907 at Madelia, Minnesota. In 1910 he became cashier of the Security State Bank at Seaforth, Redwood county. June, 1914, the New State Bank of Morton was organized with Mr. Sylvester as its largest stockholder. The same year he also had charge of the organization of the Farmers' Co-operative Grain Company at Morton. He held the office of Municipal Judge of Madelia two terms and was a member of the board of education at Seaforth one term. Mr. Sylvester was married to Mercy Hornbeck of Centerville, South Dakota, in 1898. The following children were born to this union: Marian, born in 1900, and Shirley, born in 1910.

William Wichman, leading citizen, successful banker and former sheriff, was born in Cottonwood township, Brown county, this state, April 5, 1859, son of Diedrich and Margaret (Boorman) Wichmann, the pioneers. As a child he underwent the thrilling experiences of the Indian outbreak. He was reared to farm pursuits and at the age of twenty-five bought eighty acres of land in section 14, Beaver township, which he farmed until the fall of 1889. He was then elected the sheriff of Renville

county and took up his office January 1, 1890, at Beaver Falls, where he lived for ten years. Then he moved back to the old farm and stayed there until 1909, when he retired and moved to Morton. From 1903 to 1907 he served as representative of Renville county in the State Legislature and was the chairman of the committee on illuminating oils. He has been a member of the village council and held other offices in Morton. He was also president of the Pioneers' Association of Renville county, for several years, again elected this year, and was instrumental in having monuments erected to mark the graves of several slain in the Indian outbreak. In this work, Mr. Wichman has attained a widespread fame. He has made a life long study of the incidents of the massacre, and at the expense of much time and money has labored, through the erection of monuments, markers and otherwise, to perpetuate the memory of those martyrs to civilization who perished at the hands of the revengeful Sioux. June 1, 1914, he was elected president of the New State Bank of Morton, which position he still holds. He is a member of the German Lutheran church. On October 17, 1884, Mr. Wichman was married to Clara Hummel, daughter of Reinhold and Amelia (Dresdte) Hummel, farmers, who came to Renville county in 1873. Before her marriage Mrs. Wichman was a teacher in Redwood and Renville counties for several years. Three children have blessed this couple—Edward, born July 22, 1885, who is in the grain and lumber business at Mandan, North Dakota; Arthur H., born November 30, 1889, connected with the Daily News in Minneapolis; and Vera, born January 3, 1900, who is at home.

The Farmers State Bank of Buffalo Lake was incorporated May 12, 1915, by the following: C. A. Kuske, Louis Willie, Emil W. Jakobitz, W. D. Wallner, Frank Wallner, John Wallner, Herman Yunker, H. L. Reep, O. O. Reep, G. H. Werner, Herman Stark, William Wehking, L. A. Reep, Evo Catour, Henry Boesling, William Jakobitz, Andrew Winkles, Luis Heger, Gust Wilke, Gust Redman, P. A. Winkles, Herman Keup and E. L. Terry, with a capital stock of \$10,000.00 The first officers were: C. A. Kuske, president; Herman Stark, vice president; Louis Willie, cashier. Directors—C. A. Kuske, Herman Yunker, Herman C. Stark, Frank Wallner and G. H. Werner. The bank opened for business June 3, 1915. The policy of the bank is safety, service and courtesy to all. The present capital and surplus is \$12,000.00.

Herman C. Stark, vice president of the Farmers State Bank of Buffalo Lake, was born in Brandenburg, Germany, April 11, 1855, son of William and Wilhelmina (Lornz) Stark, and remained with his parents until sixteen years of age, when he bought eighty acres in Bismark township, Sibley county, this