

PAST AND PRESENT OF WINNESHIEK COUNTY 201

term as county treasurer, a native of Winneshiek county, where he was born October 1, 1878, a son of Hans and Sarah (Lien) Jorgenson, the father a native of Norway and the mother of this county. Hans Jorgenson came to Winneshiek county in 1871, when twenty years of age, and buying land in Springfield township engaged in agricultural pursuits. Ever since that time he has been successful in the operation of his land and now, at the age of sixty-two years, owns one of the finest farms in his neighborhood. The mother is also living at the age of sixty-three years.

Gerhard Jorgenson was reared under the parental roof and educated in the schools of the neighborhood and the Decorah Institute, from which he was graduated with the class of 1898. Before and after his graduation, however, he taught school for a period of about seven years. A man well fitted for the office, he was then appointed deputy county treasurer and served in that position for seven years, when in 1909 he was elected county treasurer, administering his office with such ability and giving such satisfaction that in March, 1912, he was reelected by the people.

Public-spirited and progressive, Mr. Jorgenson has always taken a deep-interest in public and political matters and has given much of his time to projects undertaken for the betterment of public conditions. His political affiliation is with the republican party and ever since coming of age he has given his stanch support to that organization. Fraternally he is connected with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Owls, while for purely social reasons he holds membership in the Norske Selskab Club, where he meets men who, like him, have sprung from the Norseland. Yet a young man, the beginning of Mr. Jorgenson's career promises well and there are many more contests open to him equally honorable and worthy, which hold forth conspicuous rewards for one of his industry, common sense and intelligence.

JOHN O. DAHLE.

Among the progressive and practical farmers who have during the past quarter of a century made tangible and substantial contributions to the agricultural development of Winneshiek county is numbered John O. Dahle, who owns and operates one hundred and sixty-five acres on section 16, Madison township. This is a valuable and well improved property and constitutes the farm upon which he was born, February 7, 1863, his parents being Ole and Aase (Hellen) Dahle, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work.

John O. Dahle was reared upon the homestead and in his youth divided his time between attendance at district school and work in the cultivation of the fields. He became thoroughly familiar with the details of farm operation and after his father's death conducted the property in the interests of his mother, who made her home thereon until she passed away in 1886. Mr. Dahle has never left the home farm which he now owns and which owes a great deal of its present attractive appearance and excellent condition to his well directed and practical efforts. It comprises two hundred acres, lying on section 16, Madison