

# THE ROYAL ROAD TO FARM-LANDS BEST

## FAR-FAMED MINNESOTA RED RIVER VALLEY



K. J. TARALSETH CO. WARREN'S GREAT DEPARTMENT STORE.

The real founder in a commercial sense, of Warren, was K. J. Taralseth, who established the present business in 1882, starting in a small way, but by integrity of dealing, and with a kindly personality, built up the largest department store in Northwestern Minnesota, as the crowning sheaf of his successful career, down to the time of his death in the fall of 1905. When the business was at its height in 1904, K. J. Taralseth incorporated for \$50,000, and since his death, through the management of his son, R. B. Taralseth, who is president of the company, the business has taken on new life, owing to the filling up of the country with new settlers, which naturally expands the volume of the mercantile business. To keep pace with this, new departments have been added and a big business block was erected, size 75x140 feet, two stories with full basement, a classy press brick structure, with full plate glass fronts, 75 feet on the side and 140 feet in front, the equal of any big department store of the great metropolitan centers, which has naturally made Warren the pulling trading center of this rich Valley. A department store that carries all the popular and best known lines of merchandise that are bought right and sold right. The K. J. Taralseth Co's. big store has been a great educator to those having goods to buy, as the prices are always the lowest, where a child can buy as cheaply as the most expert buyer. A store that has not hesitated to undersell the catalogue houses and, therefore, putting them out of business in this territory. The city dwellers and those on the farms have become wise to the fact, that they can buy better grades of goods, up to the minute, in all lines of merchandise and save the time, postage and parcels post charges, at the K. J. Taralseth Company's great department store, and avoid taking the chance of buying "unsight and unseen" goods of inferior quality, cash in advance. This has been their drawing card and explains their yearly increase in volume of business.

The interior fittings and furnishings of this Big Store are the equal of any to be found in The Twin Cities, having cash carrier system, while the stock is carried in the latest full front show cases mounted on sanitary marble bases, and the woodwork is in mahogany finish. Then there is the Ladies' Rest Room and observation gallery over the office. One of the attractive features in the rear is the business office, which is under the supervision of the president, Mr. R. B. Taralseth. Miss Hannah A. Munson is book-keeper and Miss Ellen Pearson cashier. The office fittings are superb and for the safekeeping of the books and records, a fire-proof reinforced concrete vault is part of the equipment. In fact the business has been systematized to a nicety, thus giving quick service which is so helpful and satisfying to discriminating buyers. Then there are trying-on or dressing rooms for the Ladies' and Misses' ready-to-wear, and the Men's and Boys' clothing departments, which adds another lure to the popularity of this great emporium.

### The Big Store By Departments.

The Dry Goods Department is what we would call "Ladies' Delight" and is presided over by E. Forseth. The stock carried comprises all the latest and best weaves in American and Imported dress goods, silks and velvets, notions and trimmings in endless varieties. This department has done much to build the reputation of this large mercantile establishment.

The Ladies' Ready-To-Wear Department is presided over by Miss Hattie Nelson and covers suits, coats, skirts, dresses, waists and underwear, misses and children's wear. In Ladies' suits, in order to give individual selection, there are no two alike, which enables the fair ones to be reasonably sure that their suit will not be duplicated, which of itself is a great drawing card. There are suits covering all the latest fashions in the dressmakers' art and at prices to fit any pocketbook, and that price is a reasonable profit.

The Shoe Department is presided over by John M.

Halvorson and is stocked with the best makes of Ladies', Men's and Children's shoes; chic, classy shoes, just the kind to appeal to wearers of correct styles in footwear, which has made this department a leader.

The Clothing and Furnishing Departments, covering men's, youths' and boys' clothing of the correct sort, is in charge of Hans Urtes, who is noted for his discriminating taste as a buyer. This is one of the big departments and is fitted up with seven revolving cases, holding seventy-five suits each. There are clothes for all kinds of occupations, ultra-fashionable evening wear, business and workmen's suits, youths' school suits, and in fact everything, that a man or boy would need to be well dressed and comfortable, and at prices within the reach of all. Then there is the Gents Furnishing Department, a veritable realm to select from, covering everything that goes to make up the well dressed man and youth.

The Grocery Department is presided over by C. W. Erickson and covers everything in staple and fancy groceries, canned goods and fresh fruits, a department with a stock which is the equal of many of the smaller jobbing houses, so large and extensive is its patronage.

The Hardware Department covers everything in builders and shelf hardware, paints, oils, building material, stoves and ranges, the leader being the famous Majestic range, while one of their specialties is the De Laval Cream Separator. Then there is the Cutlery and Sporting Goods Department, making this completeness itself. This department is presided over by Iver Winberg, who has had large experience in this department of merchandise.

One of the important features is that of the manufacture and repair department, where cornices are made and contracts are taken for installing cisterns and approved heating and ventilating plants for schools and other public buildings.

In the basement, size 75x140 feet, fitted up and sub-divided into departments is an elegant show-room where the rug department, covering American and Imported weaves, the celebrated Wilton, Axminster, and Brussels's, are in great profusion, in all sizes, to suit the fancy of purchasers; matings and linoleums, curtains and fittings. Just off of this department is the bedding, trunk and valise departments, glassware, china and enamelware and toys for the little folks.

On leaving these departments, we next come to the surplus stock rooms, every department having its own special storage, covering dry goods, clothing and furnishings, shoes, groceries and hardware, in addition to moth-proof lockers for furs, while a double fire-proof vault is another accessory. Then there is the cold-storage vault, with approved ventilating system, while last, but not least is the double steam heating plant, in a semi-fire-proof compartment, which furnishes the heat for the whole building.

To give a still larger idea of what the K. J. Taralseth Company stands for, we have only to mention that there are nineteen high-priced people employed in the various departments, to take care of the incessant stream of business from the time that the great store opens its doors for business to the closing hour. Then there is the delivery system, covering the whole city three times each day, so that every want of its customers may be faithfully filled.

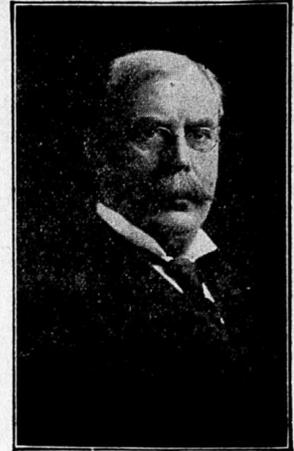
The second floor of this splendid business block is fitted up for offices, every one of which is filled. The Warren Commercial Club has a suite of three rooms, while the Masons and the Knights of Pythias have a large space devoted to their temple and lodge rooms.

We could write columns on the up-to-dateness of K. J. Taralseth Co's. great department store and yet not tell the story of its marvelous rise and its great trade, that has been won by its liberal, progressive policy, which may be summarized, "One for All and All for One," for the glory and expansion of Warren as a city and as a great trading mart of the Minnesota Red River Valley.

### THE SPAULDING ELEVATOR COMPANY.

This is one of the largest line elevator companies in the interior of Minnesota, owning as they do six elevators in Marshall county and fourteen in North Dakota, which gives them exceptional facilities for taking care of the grain crop of the farmers each year. To better facilitate the handling of grain a new 60,000 bushel house containing four steel tubes is being erected on the Soo Line right-of-way at Warren, at a cost of \$30,000. This new elevator will be in condition for this fall's crop. The Spaulding Elevator Co. was established in 1905 and is incorporated for \$50,000. Their activities cover the buying and shipping of wheat, oats, barley, flax and flour, of which they have an established trade, covering a wide territory. In the fall of 1895, Warren shipped more grain than any other point on the line of the Great Northern railway in the Northwest, from farmers' wagons, and was known on the boards of trade in the great centers of the United States and Europe as the greatest primary receiving point on the Western Continent. Since then grain growing has been somewhat side-tracked for diversified farming, and while this section will always be a large grower of grain, still the tendency is toward crop rotation.

The officers of the Spaulding Elevator Co., are C. L. Spaulding, president and general manager; Geo. S. Spaulding, vice-president; H. R. Stanchfield, cashier; J. M. Porteous, assistant secretary and treasurer; and N. L. Allen, auditor; all citizens of the highest standing, not only as grain dealers, but as people who do things for the development of their territory.



HON. HALVOR STEENERSON.

In point of national service as Congressman of the Ninth District of Minnesota, covering the counties of Marshall, Polk, Kittson, Becker, Clay, Clearwater, Ottertail, Pennington, Red Lake, Wilkin, Roseau, Norman and Mahanomen, few have attained a higher standing than that of Honorable Halvor Steenerson, whose home is Crookston, the metropolis of the Minnesota Red River Valley. He was first elected to the Fifty-eighth Congress; is serving his seventh term, and is a ranking member of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. During this period of his service he has taken a conspicuous part as a national law-maker in perfecting and extending the rural free delivery service, initiating legislation for the drainage of ceded Indian lands, and in aiding homestead settlers on the public domain; in handling the trust question and other advanced legislation for the benefit of the whole people. Mr. Steenerson, while a Republican, has been a vote-getter regardless of party, as a recognition of services rendered. In April, 1880, the subject of this sketch located in Crookston, and in the fall of that year was elected County Attorney, serving two years; in 1882 elected State Senator, serving in the session of 1883 and 1885; in 1884 and 1888 was chosen a delegate to the National Republican conventions held in Chicago, and is at present a member of the Executive Committee of the Republican National Congressional Committee, which fully certifies his eminent standing as a party leader. Congressman Steenerson is a native of Dane County, Wisconsin, but came here in territorial days, his parents having settled in Houston County, where he was educated in the common schools and at the high school at Rushford, this state. He later studied law in an office at Austin, and rounded out his education by attending the Union College of Law, Chicago. In June 1878 he was admitted to the bar in the Supreme Court of Illinois, and the same year to practice in the courts of Minnesota.

Congressman Steenerson has a high standing in his profession as a trial lawyer, and as an orator on public questions has few equals, and these qualities have given him, not only local, but nation-wide fame.



HON. K. J. TARALSETH.

In writing of men of affairs who have made Warren what it is today, this great educational issue would not be complete without paying a passing tribute to the Hon. Knud J. Taralseth, who located here in 1882, when Warren was but a little station, and here opened up a small business which grew and expanded with each succeeding year until the name of The K. J. Taralseth Company, General Merchandise, became a household word throughout this Valley. In 1888 he built part of the brick block upon the site of which now stands the largest press brick general department store in Northern Minnesota. Mr. Taralseth was one of the organizers of the State Bank of Warren and at the time of his death was vice-president. He was president of the Citizens' State Bank of Fertile, a director of the State Bank of Oslo, a stockholder in the bank at Alvarado, and also the Scandia Bank of Crookston and a stockholder in the wholesale house of Alfred Andreason & Co., of Minneapolis. In political honors he was fitly rewarded, serving as village trustee from 1884 to 1888; president of the village council 1889-1890; city treasurer 1891 to 1893; city alderman from 1896 to 1898; elected mayor in 1900, serving three years in succession. He was the first president of the board of education, serving from 1898 to 1902. In all of these places of honor, he was an intelligent worker and so shaped civic matters that Warren grew and prospered and became the great trading center of this section of the Minnesota Red River Valley. He was generous to a fault as a contributor to everything that tended to the up build of this, his adopted city and county. In religious belief he was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and was one of its most loyal members to the time of his death.

Knud J. Taralseth was a native of Hornindal, Bergen's Stift, Norway, having been born there on November 2, 1848. In 1856 he was made an orphan at the age of eight years and started his active life's work as a cattle boy, which occupation he followed until he was sixteen years of age, his herds having the run of the rugged mountain ranges of Norway. In 1864 he started his apprenticeship as a carpenter, working at his trade in summer and in winter fishing. In 1872 he bade farewell to his native land, sailing for America, coming directly to Red Wing, Minn., where he secured work as a railroad laborer at \$1.25 per day for the first year. He then went to Minneapolis, where he worked at his carpenter trade until 1875. Mr. Taralseth prospered so well financially that he returned to Norway and married Miss Ragnhild Satren, his old sweetheart, and then returned to Minneapolis to work at his carpenter's trade. In 1878 he removed to Osakis, Minn., and purchased a half interest in a small store, where he remained until 1882, when he disposed of his interest, coming to Warren.

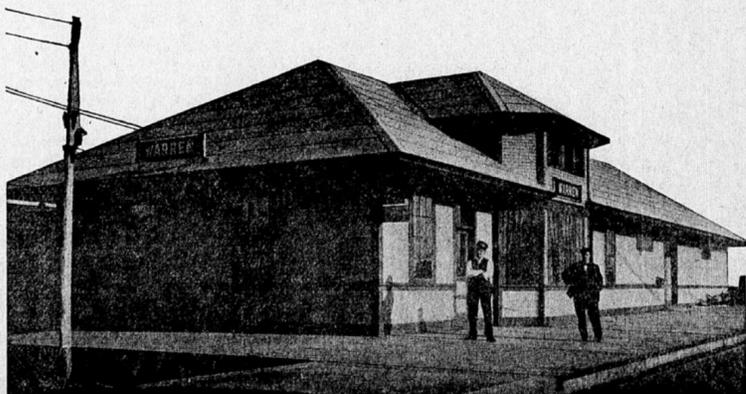
His was an eventful, active life, that was crowned with success; a splendid citizen, a faithful husband and a loving father, beloved and mourned by those who knew and had dealings with him. The members of the family that survived him are Mrs. Taralseth, a daughter, Mrs. Ed. Mossfin, and two sons, O. H. Taralseth, president of the State Bank of Warren, and R. B. Taralseth, proprietor of the K. J. Taralseth Co., great department store.



SHERIFF HANS C. HANSON.

One of the best known men in Marshall county is Sheriff Hans C. Hanson, who was nominated and elected Sheriff in 1914, being then a resident of Viking, where he had held a position as grain buyer for the Atlantic Elevator Co. for five years. Mr. Hanson was one of the first settlers in Viking township, locating there in 1883, where his father took up a homestead, and in 1896 he, also, homesteaded 160 acres. He started life as a farm boy, but before coming to Marshall county, he was located in Waseca county, where he was born in 1872 and there received his early education; in 1882 he came with his parents to New Solum township.

Sheriff Hanson in politics is a Republican, and for years he battled for party supremacy in season and out of season, without seeking reward. Recognizing his past services and his availability, he was in 1914 urged to become a candidate for sheriff and after a strenuous political campaign was elected. He is a very popular man and known all over the county as "Honest Hans Hanson". As a public officer he has made a record for law enforcement that meets with the approval of the people in this law-abiding community. His is a four-year term of office under the new law, and when he has rounded out the full term of his office, he will be found to have been a faithful public official and to have made a record for efficiency upon which he need have no fear to go before the people for re-election for a second term, if he desires to do so.



GREAT NORTHERN DEPOT, WARREN, MINN.