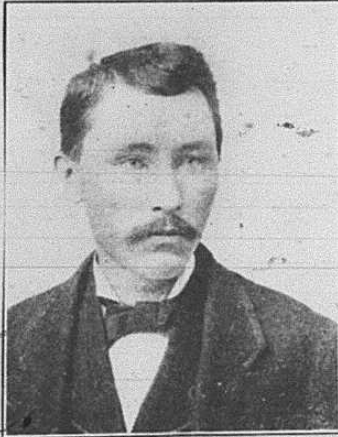


Larson, Ersin & Posey

The firm of Larson, Ersin & Posey dates back to the year 1893 when L. O. Larson and S. M. Berg engaged in the implement business under the name of Larson & Berg, their building being one of the first erected in Courtenay. The country was newly settled and business was brisk but mostly done on credit and after two years of short crops they found their money was tied up in book accounts and they had no means of meeting their obligations. Failure was staring them in the face and Mr. Berg became discouraged and sold out his interest to Mr. Larson who had great faith in the country and knew his time would come if he could but carry the burden a little longer.

In a short time Mr. Larson formed a partnership with H. N. Tucker. Farmers began to raise good crops and the country was prosperous and the firm prospered with them. After three years Mr. Tucker sold his interest to Mr. Larson who later

sold it to James H. Cooper and the firm name became Larson & Cooper. They enlarged their building and built up a large trade and at the end of four years they had made a lot of money. Mr. Cooper then sold his interest back to Mr. Larson who shortly sold it to J. E. Miller and the business was continued under the name of Larson & Miller until February 1, 1905, when Mr. Miller sold his interest to Mr. Larson who in turn sold a third interest to E. J. Ersin, one third to A. L. Posey and retained a third himself, the firm name now being Larson, Ersin & Posey. The firm now occupy a two-story structure, 50x80 feet, with large machinery sheds and yards in the rear. They handle all kinds of farm implements, gasoline engines and feed grinders, wagons and buggies, harness and horse supplies, furniture and undertaking, crockery and glassware, pianos and organs, and they pride themselves in carrying large and well-selected stocks and are considered the strongest dealers in their respective lines in this section of the country.



LEWIS O. LARSON

Lewis O. Larson was born in Columbia County, Wis., in 1856, and is the son of Ole Larson, who came to America in 1833 and was a farmer by occupation. He was the fifth in a family of nine children and received his education in the schools of Columbia County. At the age of 20 he went to the state of Washington and worked three years at Seattle and then was at home for one year and in the spring of 1882 went to the southern part of Nelson County, N. D., where he took land under his three rights. He erected a claim shanty on his pre-emption in which he lived alone for about six months and during his first year bought and shipped horses and stock. Later he engaged in farming and cultivated most of his 300 acres, erected nice farm buildings and raised grain successfully. He rented his farm in 1891 and moved to Coopers town where he resided one year and came to Courtenay in 1892 and built the first livery barn in this village and rented it out. Mr. Larson is a self-made man. Starting in life as a poor farmer's son, through hard labor, economical habits and shrewd business methods he has become one of the wealthiest and heaviest land owners in Stutsman County, owning 1,845 acres and is also interested in several pieces besides.



EMIL J. ERSIN

Emil J. Ersin was born at Anoka, May 30, 1871, and is the oldest son of John G. Ersin, a former clothing merchant of that place. At the age of three years his mother died and he was left to be cared for by relatives and friends. He received part of his education at the public schools of Anoka, and at the age of fourteen started his battle with the world as bell-boy at the Nicollet Hotel in Minneapolis. Later he returned to Anoka and went to work in the clothing store formerly owned by his father, and at the age of sixteen he joined his father, who had gone to San Francisco, Cal., and there received his business education at Heald's Business College. After three years he returned to Minnesota and entered the employment of a dry goods firm, following that business for some years, and later went to Chicago where he engaged with Seigel Cooper & Co. as dress goods salesman. After staying there for five years he returned to his former employers, S. E. Olson Co., Minneapolis, where he was promoted from dress goods salesman to general salesman and finally got to be manager of the third floor on which the furniture, carpet and drapery departments were located. From there he engaged with the Red Wing Furniture Co., as their representative.



ABRAHAM L. POSEY

Abraham L. Posey was born near Boscobel, Wis. He received his early education in the public schools near Boscobel, and spent his early days on his father's farm, who later sold the farm and engaged in the grocery business at which place A. L. received his first business experience. After working for some time in his father's store he engaged in the well-drill business with his brother Dennis under the name of Posey Bros. The firm enjoyed a well paying business and continued for three years when A. L. suddenly got the western fever and thought he would try his luck in North Dakota, arriving here in 1899 and engaged in farming twenty miles north of Courtenay. Two years later he purchased a farm five miles north of Courtenay which was closer to market and more convenient so he moved his family there, occupying this place for two years when his wife's health began to fail and he found it necessary to sell the farm and move to Wichita, Kan. After staying there for some time his wife's health improved and they returned to Courtenay August 18, 1904, and on the 29th formed a partnership with J. A. Coffey in the real estate and collection business, continuing until February 1, 1905, when he bought a third interest in the present firm of Larson, Ersin & Posey.