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Spence, James A. (1863 -)

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SPENCE, JAMES A.

File No. B-1260

James A. Spence, farmer and banker, was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, April 17, 1863, son of Elizabeth and Henry Spence. The other children of the family were Clemens, John and Henry. Clemens was the first to come to America. He settled in Richmond, Stearns County, in 1870. In 1871 he was joined by Henry, they then moved to Sauk Centre, Minnesota. In 1873 the parents and James A. came to America. The parents settled in Sauk Rapids, Benton County, where the mother died in 1893, and the father in 1898.

James A. worked on the farm with his parents for four years, and then secured a farm of his own near Foley of 165 acres. He built a small frame house and started farming with a team of oxen. This farm was successfully operated by James until 1897, when he retired and moved to Herman, Minnesota.

In 1905 he was made president of the Herman State Bank, which position he held until his death March 12, 1921.

James A. Spence was married May 11, 1884 to Thelka Robinson, who was born August 8, 1861, in Scotland. To James and Thelka (Robinson) Spence were born four children. In order of birth they are: Effie, Hazel, Esther, and Hector J. Effie, Hazel and Esther are all employed as teachers in the Chicago Public School system. Hector is employed by the Watab Paper Company at Sartell, Minnesota.

Thelka (Robinson) Spence died June 12, 1935. Both James A. and Thelka (Robinson) Spence are buried at Herman, Minnesota.

Interviewed: Hector J. Spence
Date: December 11, 1936
By: Walter Jernberg

Publication Granted