

and took up the arduous task of developing the fields. The place was a tract of prairie land upon which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. He continued to develop this farm for eight years, when he sold the property and removed to Adams county, Nebraska, where he took up a homestead claim, residing there for sixteen years. He then disposed of his property in Nebraska and returned to Howard county, purchasing the present home place of two hundred and forty acres, of which he became owner about 1883. At the time it came into his possession there was only a small house upon it, sixteen by twenty-four feet, and no other buildings worthy of mention. About thirty or forty acres of the land had been broken and he turned the first furrows on the remainder. For two years he cultivated the farm and then sold it to his son Frank, a young man of twenty-three years. Practically all the improvements upon the place have been put there by Mr. Shelhamer of this review.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shelhamer -were married in Pennsylvania, but during the early boyhood of their son Frank they removed to Iowa, so that he was practically reared in this state and in Nebraska. His youthful experiences were those of the farm-bred boy on the western frontier. On the 16th of March, 1886, he wedded Elizabeth Young, a daughter of James and Margaret Young, who were farming people of Howard county. They have become the parents of two children, Winnie and Vera. The elder is now the wife of Daryl C. Grover, of Howard county, who is operating land belonging to her father. Vera is the wife of Rev. William Bell, a minister of Howard county. With Mr. and Mrs. Shelhamer resides his mother, the father having passed away in February, 1897, upon the home farm.

In his political views Frank Shelhamer is a republican, always supporting the party at the polls, and while he has never been a politician in the sense of seeking office as a reward for party fealty, he stands as a staunch supporter of all plans and measures for the general good. For a number of years he has served as school director and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend His religious- faith is indicated by his attendance at the Baptist church of Riceville. He and his wife are widely and favorably known in this section of the state, having an extensive circle of warm friends, and everywhere they are spoken of in terms of high regard.

#### MAURICE F. CONDON.

Maurice F. Condon, attorney at law of New Hampton, was born in Chickasaw county September 4, 1873, a son of Maurice and Elizabeth (Dorsey) Condon, who were natives of Ireland. The father came to the United States in young manhood and, his father having died on the Emerald isle, brought his mother with him to this country. For four years he resided in Connecticut, near Hartford, and then came to the middle west, making his way first to Racine, Wisconsin. It was there that he married Elizabeth Dorsey, who came to the new world when eleven years of age with a sister, her parents having previously passed away. Immediately after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Condon came to Chickasaw county, Iowa, settling on a farm in Washington township. This was in the year 1859 or 1860. Mr. Condon purchased a farm and later owned and bought various properties but continued to reside in Washington township up to the time of his death, which occurred on the 21st of June, 1894. His widow survived him for almost two decades, passing away on the 24th of April, 1913, at the age of seventy-three years, while Mr. Condon was seventy-five years of age at the time of his demise. They were of the Catholic faith.

Maurice F. Condon was educated in the district schools and in the Decorah Institute at Decorah, Iowa. He taught school for three years in order to earn the money with which to pay his tuition in the institute. He also attended the New Hampton Business College and afterward became a student in the law department of the Iowa State University at Iowa City, winning his law degree from that institution on the 6th of June, 1899. He had previously read law and acted as stenographer in the law office of Springer & Clary of New Hampton for a period of two