

married. About 1854 or 1855, soon after their marriage, they came west to Iowa, settling in Fayette county, where the father purchased a quarter section of land from a man who had preempted the tract from the government. Mr. Capper resided upon that farm until his declining years, when he retired from active agricultural pursuits and established his home in Elgin, Iowa, where he passed away on the 7th of May, 1911. He had for many years survived his wife, who died on Christmas day of 1893.

Mr. Capper of this review was educated in the district schools and on attaining his majority became identified with the creamery business. He thoroughly learned the art of butter making and was active along that line for thirteen years. In 1898 he established a mercantile business in Chester and in the past twenty-one years has had three different partners, Charles H. Thomas, his present associate, buying into the business on the 14th of February, 1911. The business relation between them has thus been maintained for eight years and the firm of Capper & Thomas has the leading general mercantile house of Chester, carrying an extensive line of goods and putting forth every effort to please their patrons, so that their trade is constantly growing.

On the 3d of May, 1885, seventeen days prior to the celebration of his twenty-first birthday, Mr. Capper was married to Miss Helen B. Snyder, of Fayette county, Iowa, and they have become the parents of two children: Earl C., who is butter maker in a creamery at Blue Grass, North Dakota; and Archie F., who is cashier of the Farmers' National Bank of Aurelia, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Capper are both consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Capper also belongs to Chester Lodge, No. 444, I. O. O. F., and to the Modern Woodmen of America. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, but he has never been an aspirant for office, preferring to concentrate his efforts and attention upon his business affairs. He is never remiss in the duties of citizenship, however, but cooperates in all well defined plans and measures for the general good.

HON. J. E. CARMEN.

Hon. J. E. Garmen is the mayor of New Hampton and one of the progressive business men of the city, being senior partner in the firm of Garmen & Forkenbrock, hardware dealers and steam fitters. He comes to Iowa from Ohio, his birth having occurred near Alliance, in Columbiana county, on the 9th of August, 1857, his parents being Samuel and Susan (Bruner) Garmen, both of whom were natives of Switzerland, whence they came to the United States, the father making the trip in young manhood, while the mother crossed the Atlantic with her parents in young womanhood. Both became residents of Columbiana county, Ohio, where they were married. They settled upon a farm in that district and upon the outbreak of the Civil war the father enlisted for active service in defense of the Union and was killed at the battle of Gettysburg. The mother afterward became the wife of Christian Greenewald, and following the close of the Civil war they removed to Wisconsin, settling near Monroe, where they resided until 1874 and then came to Iowa, establishing their home in Chickasaw county, where Mrs. Greenewald continued to reside to the time of her death in 1915.

J. E. Garmen was a youth of seventeen years when he came to Chickasaw county with his mother. He had been educated in the district schools of Wisconsin and Iowa and on attaining his majority he located in New Hampton, where he entered the employ of O. B. Sherman & Son, general merchants. He continued with that firm and their successors for a period of fifteen years, a fact indicative of his capability and faithfulness. He entered the store as general utility boy and rose to the position of manager of the clothing department. He recognized the fact, however, that there is little in working for some one else and bought the interest of F. S. Briggs in the hardware business of Dixon & Briggs, the firm style being then changed to Dixon & Garmen. About 1898 Joseph I. Forkenbrock took over the interest of Mr. Dixon in the business and the present firm style of Garmen & Forkenbrock was assumed. They have since conducted a successful hardware and steam fitting business and now enjoy a liberal patronage.

Mr. Garmen was united in marriage to Miss Sarah J. Shaffer, a daughter of H. H.