

At the usual age Theodore Roths became a pupil in the district schools of his native county. He accompanied his parents to Iowa and remained upon the home farm with his father until the time of his marriage. It was on the 25th of April, 1900, that he wedded Susanna Peters, a daughter of Nick and Lena (Durgey) Peters, who are of German birth but came to the United States in early life and were married on this side of the Atlantic. They are now residents of Dayton township, Chickasaw county. Mr. and Mrs. Roths have become parents of five children: Mabel, Carl, Arlene, Marie and Charles Theodore, all at home.

Following his marriage Mr. Roths cultivated a rented farm for eight years and then made investment in his present farm property of one hundred acres, which he has since carefully cultivated and improved, greatly enhancing the productiveness and the value of his land through the care and labor which he has bestowed upon it. At the same time he finds opportunity to assist in matters relative to public progress and upbuilding- He and his family are members of St. Boniface Catholic church of Ionia and he is a member of the Knights of Columbus Council, No. 1697 at New Hampton. In politics he is a democrat, and while he has never been an office seeker, he did active work for his country as a member of the Liberty Loan committee during the third, fourth and fifth loan drives. He is a man of resolute spirit, accomplishing what he undertakes, and his success in business is the direct outcome of earnest and persistent labor. Aside from his farming interests he is today a stockholder in the Ionia Farmers' Creamery Association and has won for himself a place among the substantial residents of Chickasaw township.

F. J. KLIMESH.

F. J. Klimesh, a dealer in agricultural implements and one of the foremost business men of Protivin, was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, about three miles east of Protivin, on the 9th of July, 1861, his parents being John and Anna (Mikota) Klimesh, both of whom were natives of Bohemia. The father came to the United States when twenty-eight years of age, bringing with him his mother and sister, his father having died in the old country. Mrs. John Klimesh was a maiden of fifteen summers when she came to the United States with her parents. The families settled in Winneshiek county, where the parents of Mr. Klimesh were later married and made their home until called to their final rest, the father dying in 1909, while the mother passed away in 1906. He was a farmer by occupation and became the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of valuable land in Winneshiek county. He was a poor man when he came to the United States, owing five dollars on his passage across the Atlantic at the time he landed on American shores. He was a mason and worked at his trade while paying for his land. When he had cleared it of all indebtedness he concentrated his efforts and attention upon farming and as the years passed won a place among the substantial agriculturists of his section of the state.

F. J. Klimesh had but limited educational opportunities. He attended the district schools for about two months and for about eight months was a pupil in the parochial school at Spillville. This constituted the extent of his educational training, but in the school of experience he has learned many valuable lessons, and possessing an observing eye and retentive memory, he has constantly broadened his knowledge through reading and observation.

In 1882 Mr. Klimesh was united in marriage to Miss Lena Sobolik, of Winneshiek county, and in the spring of 1883 he began farming on his own account, having previously purchased eighty acres of land in Utica township, Chickasaw county, for which he paid twelve dollars per acre. In subsequent years he bought an additional forty acres, also an eighty acre tract and another tract of one hundred and forty-three acres but since that time has divided all of his land among his children with the exception of eighty acres, which he retains in his home farm. He operated a threshing machine for thirty-two seasons and it was said of him that he was one of the most efficient and successful threshers in this section of the country, for he stayed with his machine, fixed