

tended the district schools and in vacation periods worked in the fields, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He continued to assist his father in the further development of the home place until twenty-two years of age, when he took over the home farm, which he has since cultivated, bringing the fields under a high state of development and adding many modern improvements to the farm as the years have passed on. He rotates his crops and keeps the soil in good condition and annually gathers good harvests.

On the 29th of October, 1918, Mr. Praska was married to Miss Celia Panoch, of Howard county, a daughter of Frank and Barbara Panoch, farming people of this section of the state. Mr. Praska and his wife are members of the Catholic church at Protivin. He votes with the democratic party, which he has supported since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He is yet a young man but already has made for himself a creditable position in agricultural circles and the qualities that he has displayed argue well for a successful future.

#### CHARLES L. PECINOVSKY.

Charles L. Pecinovsky, who is engaged in farming on section 23, New Oregon township, Howard county, was born on the old homestead farm just north of Protivin on the 1st of March, 1888, and is a son of Joseph F. Pecinovsky, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work. He obtained his education in the public schools of Protivin and of Cresco, the period of his youth being largely devoted to the mastery of the branches of learning constituting the curriculum of the public schools in those places. On the 29th of October, 1912, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Berka, of New Oregon township, Howard county, a daughter of James Berka, who was also a native of Howard county and a son of Joseph Berka, who was one of the pioneer settlers of this section of the state, coming to Iowa from Bohemia in pioneer times.

In the spring following his marriage Mr. Pecinovsky began farming on his own account on the land which he now owns but which then belonged to his father. In 1915 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of the old homestead and has since given his attention to its further development and improvement. He has brought this land under a high state of cultivation so that he annually harvests good crops. The farm presents a most neat and thrifty appearance, indicative of the careful supervision and the practical and progressive methods of the owner.

To Mr. and Mrs. Pecinovsky have been born three children, two sons and a daughter: William L., Anna S. and James. The parents are members of the Catholic church and in his political views Mr. Pecinovsky is a republican, having always supported the men and measures of the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He is one of the successful farmers of the district who never stops short of the successful accomplishment of his purpose if his object can be won through earnest and honorable effort.

#### NELS LARSON.

Nels Larson, now one of the well-to-do farmers of Howard county, living on section 5, Howard township, arrived in Iowa with but fifty cents in his pocket. Thus empty-handed he started out in the business world, employed at farm labor, and through the intervening period his steady progress has brought him to the front as one of the substantial agriculturists of northern Iowa.

He was born in Denmark, November 6, 1848, a son of Lars and Johanna (Tompson) Larson, who spent their entire lives in Denmark. The son was reared in his native land and acquired a common school education there. The favorable reports which he heard concerning the opportunities of the new world led him to the determination to try his fortune on this side of the Atlantic and in 1870 he bade adieu to friends and native country and came to the United States, being then a