

of impaired eyesight the latter retired from active business in 1907 and has since resided in Longmont, Colorado.

It was in May, 1907, that John S. Swenson and Frank E. Stehlik established a plant for the manufacture of lightning rods in Cresco and began business under the name of the Electra Lightning Rod Company. Mr. Swenson had become acquainted with Mr. Stehlik by reason of the fact that the latter sold him wire rope for his stump pullers as a salesman for the American Steel & Wire Company. On the 16th of March, 1909, the Electra Lightning Rod Company was incorporated with F. E. Stehlik, as president and J. S. Swenson, secretary and treasurer. Mr. Stehlik maintains an office for the company in the Stock Exchange building of Chicago. The company manufactures exclusively for dealers and has built up a trade which extends throughout the United States, turning out more than a million feet of copper rods annually. In the conduct of his business affairs Mr. Swenson displays sound judgment, keen sagacity and unfaltering enterprise and has long enjoyed a leading position among the representatives of the industrial interests in northeastern Iowa.

In 1907 Mr. Swenson was united in marriage to Miss Dora Carver, her father being Chester M. Carver, who came to Howard county, Iowa, before the railroad was built and before the town of Cresco came into existence. Mr. Carver married the daughter of Elder Fall, one of the pioneer preachers of Howard county, who performed the marriage ceremony for hundreds of the county's young people and was one of the best known divines of this part of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Swenson have one daughter, Mary Adeline.

In his political views Mr. Swenson is a staunch republican, loyally supporting the men and measures of that party at the polls. Fraternally he is identified with Cresco Lodge, No. 150, A. F. & A. M., and in his life exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft. Both he and his wife have an extensive circle of warm friends throughout the community and occupy a most enviable social position here.

HON. HENRY CLAY BURGESS.

A history of Howard county would be incomplete and unsatisfactory were there failure to make prominent reference to the Hon. Henry Clay Burgess, who was prominently identified with the commercial and political history of the state and who left the impress of his individuality for good upon its material development and upon its legislative records. Actuated at all times by an earnest desire to make his life of worth to the community in which he lived, his labors wrought for good and he enjoyed the respect and confidence of all who knew him. He was born in Fairfield, Maine, on the 20th of December, 1846, and in 1864 his parents removed westward with their family, establishing their home in Lansing, Iowa, but two years later they came to Howard county.

After reaching man's estate Henry Clay Burgess took charge of a lumberyard for Fleming Brothers, and with them continued for seventeen years, having charge of their yards at Ossian and at Hull, Iowa, and also at Mitchell, South Dakota, while finally he came to Cresco to assume the management of the lumber interests at this place. In 1885, after a six years' stay in Cresco, Mr. Burgess purchased the interests of his employers and continued active in the lumber trade of the city. He was thus long connected with that line of commercial activity and had a splendidly appointed lumberyard, carrying a large line of builders' supplies of all kinds. Moreover, he was faithful to the terms of every contract and the integrity of his business methods as well as his enterprise constituted an important feature in his growing patronage. In the latter part of his life he turned the business over to his sons, although he still remained the owner to the time of his death. His sons had been actively engaged with him in business for several years and in addition to conducting the lumberyard in Cresco, Mr. Burgess had established lumberyards in neighboring towns throughout the country, conducted by his successors.

In 1869 Mr. Burgess was united in marriage to Miss Emily J. Cooper, a daughter