

of four children: Orville and Raymond, both of whom are high school students; Luella, who is still in the grades; and Merle.

In politics Mr. Wentz maintains an independent course, but his interest in community affairs is deep and sincere and is manifest in many tangible ways. He served for one year as secretary of the Commercial Club of New Hampton. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen' of America, with the American Yeomen and the Knights of Columbus and he and his family are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church. Starting out in life without any special advantages, he has steadily worked his way upward, for he early recognized that there is always room at the top and he resolved not to be one of the laggards in life. He has brooked no obstacle that could be overcome by determined and persistent labor, and while there have been no spectacular phases in his career, the sterling worth of his character and the reliability of his business methods have commanded for him the respect, confidence and good will of all.

#### EWING L. BRADLEY.

Ewing L. Bradley, who is engaged in the undertaking business in Cresco, was born near Hopkins, Missouri, June 23, 1880. His father, Alonzo S. Bradley, was a native of Illinois, born in Monmouth, and at the place of his birth he remained until ten years of age, when his parents removed with their family to Siam, Iowa, where the grandfather traded a wagon for eighty acres of land. He then began the development of that tract, which was entirely wild and unimproved when it came into his possession, and throughout his remaining days he resided thereon. Following his demise his widow removed to Bedford, Iowa, where she lived with her daughter, with whom she remained until death called her to the home beyond. Their son, Alonzo S. Bradley, was reared on the old homestead in Iowa, where he continued until his marriage, after which he started out in farming on his own account on rented land, his first home being a log cabin. He occupied that place for four years and then with his earnings purchased a farm west of his former place, comprising eighty acres, which he owned and cultivated for eight years. He next sold that property and bought one hundred and twenty acres about two miles west and concentrated his efforts and attention upon its further cultivation, while to the farm he added many modern improvements. Upon that place he continued for four years and later established his home on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres one-half mile east of Siam. This he continued to further develop and improve until 1900, when he sold his land and took up his abode at Gravity, Iowa, retiring from active business cares. Both he and his wife have reached the age of fifty-nine years. They are consistent members of the Christian church and Mr. Bradley gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He is now enjoying the fruits of his former toil and his perseverance and energy have been the salient features in winning for him a competence that now enables him to rest from further labor.

Ewing L. Bradley spent his boyhood days upon his father's farm in the vicinity of Siam, pursuing his early education in its public schools, while his preliminary training was afterward supplemented by study in the normal school at Bedford, Iowa, which he attended during the summer months. He afterward took up the profession of teaching, which he followed for six years in his old home, and for two years he taught school at Gravity. On the expiration of that period he settled at Lenox, Iowa, where he taught for a year, and then, thinking to find a broader and more profitable field of labor along commercial lines, he turned his attention to the furniture trade and to undertaking in Lenox. For five and a half years he was connected with business interests at that place and in 1914 came to Cresco, where he entered the employ of the Meverden Furniture & Undertaking Company, with which he continued for three years. He then established business on his own account and now has a well appointed store and undertaking parlors. He practices the most scientific methods in the care of the dead and has a liberal patronage in that connection.

In 1901 Mr. Bradley was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Wheeler, a daughter of Elisha and Ellen (Torrance) Wheeler. She was born in Siam, Iowa, and by her marriage has become the mother of four children, Cecyle, Norman, Luella and Lester.