

came the owner of two hundred and eighty acres. He continued to reside thereon until 1904, when he sold that property and made investment in his present home farm, comprising three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land on section 25, Utica township, Chickasaw county, and known as the Pleasant Valley Stock Farm. While he produces excellent crops and his fields respond generously to the care and labor which he bestows upon them in the cultivation of his crops, he also makes stock raising an important feature of his business, handling black polled Angus and shorthorn cattle.

Mr. and Mrs. Jirak are the parents of five children, namely: Frances, who is the wife of John Koudelka, a farmer of Utica township; Leonora, the wife of John Kovar, also an agriculturist of Utica township; Gottlieb, who is engaged in general farming in Utica township; and Stanley and Jerry, both at home.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and in his political belief Mr. Jirak is a democrat. He served for several years as a member of the school board of Winneshiek county but has never been active in political circles as an office holder. He has always preferred to give his time and attention to business affairs and aside from his farming and stock raising interests he is a stockholder in the Waucoma Farmers Creamery Company and in the Lawler Creamery Association. Well directed energy has brought him to a place among the foremost farmers and business men of Chickasaw county and his success is well deserved, as it has come to him as the direct reward of earnest and persistent labor.

#### J. B. JONES.

J. B. Jones is one of the substantial citizens of Chester and has been a resident of this section of the country from pioneer times. He has therefore witnessed the greater part of its growth and development and has contributed in substantial measure to the work of general improvement. He was born in Beloit, Wisconsin, September 28, 1848, a son of Richard P. and Elizabeth (Davis) Jones, both of whom were natives of Wales, where they were reared and married. In 1846 they came to the United States, settling first in Beloit, Wisconsin, where they resided for six years. On the expiration of that period they removed to a point about one hundred miles north in Green Lake county and in 1865 they made their way west of the Mississippi and took up their abode in Fillmore county, Minnesota. They located on a farm on the southern boundary line of the state, which is also the Howard county line and but four miles north of Chester. In 1904 they moved across the line into Howard county, where they resided until called to their final rest.

J. B. Jones, whose name introduces this review, received but limited educational privileges—such as were afforded by the district schools of that early day. In the school of experience, however, he has learned many valuable lessons. In 1876 his father left the home farm, taking up his abode in Foreston, and the care of the property thus devolved upon Mr. Jones of this review. He cultivated it for a few years as a renter and subsequently purchased the place. He bent every energy to the further development and improvement of the farm, year by year carefully tilling the soil and as the result of his diligence and determination harvesting good crops. He was thus successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1904, when he removed to Chester, where he has since lived retired, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of his former toil.

In 1876 Mr. Jones was married to Miss Rosa Goite, a daughter of George Goite, one of the earliest of Howard county's pioneers. Mr. and Mrs. Jones became the parents of eight children, seven of whom are living: Roy, a member of the firm of Jones Brothers, hardware dealers of Chester; Clara, the wife of Thomas Williams, a farmer living at Highmore, South Dakota; Arthur, at home; Manney, who is in partnership with his brother Roy; Llewellyn living at Columbus, Ohio; Myrtle, the wife of Earl Barker, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Nellie, a commercial saleswoman