

but the resolute purpose and well directed energies of father and sons soon brought about a changed condition. However, during the period of his boyhood J. F. Biber had but little opportunity to attend school, as he worked from early spring planting until crops were gathered in the late autumn in the fields. He has, however, been a broad reader and his study and experience have made him a well informed man. He continued to assist in the cultivation of the home farm until twenty-six years of age, when his father assisted him in buying eighty acres of land and he began farming on his own account. Ambitious to attain more property, he has added to his holdings as his financial resources have increased and is today the owner of three hundred acres of valuable farm land in Howard county He also owns a threshing rig and in addition to cultivating his crops he specializes in the breeding of thoroughbred Hereford cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs and is regarded as one of the most successful stock raisers of this part of the state. In fact he carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. In his vocabulary there is no such word as fail and every obstacle and difficulty in his path seems to serve but as an impetus for renewed and persistent effort on his part. He is likewise a stockholder in the Howard County Cooperative Equity Association and a stockholder in the Elma Cooperative Creamery Company.

In 1900 Mr. Biber was united in marriage to Miss Frances Shatek, of Paris township, Howard county, a daughter of Frank and Mary Shatek, both of whom were born in Bohemia. They have become the parents of six children, namely: Clarence, Paul, May, Joseph, Ralph and Norbert, all at home.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and in politics Mr. Biber is a republican. His interest in community affairs has been manifest in many tangible efforts for public good. Those who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance, speak of him in terms of high regard, recognizing his progressiveness, enterprise and reliability in business, his loyalty in citizenship and his devotion to high standards of life.

#### D. W. DAVIS.

The steps in the orderly progression of D. W. Davis are easily discernible. He has steadily advanced in his business career through the wise use of his time, talents and opportunities and has for a long period been numbered among the substantial and successful men of this section of the state. He has now retired from active business and makes his home in Lime Springs. For many years he has been not only a witness of the growth and development of Howard county, but a most active contributor to its upbuilding. He was born in Columbia county, Wisconsin, August 5, 1855, a son of William P. and Catherine (Davis) Davis, both of whom were natives of Anglesey, Wales, where they were reared and married. Soon after, or in the year 1849, they came to the United States, establishing their home in Columbia county, Wisconsin, where they remained until 1861 and then removed to Beaver township, Fillmore county, Minnesota, on the Iowa line. The father secured a squatter's claim but afterward found that it had already been entered. He then bought the land for two dollars and a half per acre and resided thereon until 1869, when he sold his farm and crossed the boundary line into Howard county, where he had purchased land the previous year. The farm was located five miles northeast of Lime Springs and comprised a fractional section of land, most of which was covered with brush that had to be grubbed out. With the assistance of his sons, however, he prepared the land for the plow and in course of time had his fields under a high state of cultivation. For several years he did all of his plowing with oxen, keeping from five to seven yoke on his place. He remained upon the farm until called to his final rest in 1883 and was regarded as one of the representative and substantial farmers of his section of the state.

D. W. Davis of this review early became familiar with all the experiences of pioneer life such as fell to the lot of the farm-bred boy. He did his share in the.