

as a newspaper publisher are given to every plan and project which he believes will prove of practical value in the upbuilding of the city, the development of its resources and the upholding of its civic standards.

F. E. THORNE.

F. E. Thorne, who is a partner in the firm of Sloan, Thorne & Smith, general merchants of Fredericksburg, is also active along other lines that lead to the development and upbuilding of the city, being the president of the First State Bank. His activities have ever been of a character that have contributed to public progress and improvement as well as to individual success, and, moreover, in his support of any plan or measure for the general good he has displayed sound judgment, recognizing that which is of true value and worth.

Mr. Thorne was born in Winnebago county, Illinois, on the 21st of May, 1861, and is a son of Justus P. and Elizabeth (Golly) Thorne, who were natives of the state of New York, where they were reared and married. About 1855 they removed to the middle west, settling in Winnebago county, Illinois, upon a farm which the father developed and improved and at the same time he carried on carpentering there until the fall of 1877. At that date he became a resident of Chickasaw county, Iowa, and took up his abode upon a rented farm of four hundred and eighty acres in Stapleton township three miles north of Fredericksburg. The father continued to engage in carpentering and the four sons developed the farm of four hundred and eighty acres through a period of seven years and the family succeeded in saving twelve hundred dollars during this time. Mr. Thorne then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Fredericksburg township, two miles north of the city of Fredericksburg, upon which he resided to the time of his death in 1907. Mr. Thorne was a most ardent republican and while never an aspirant for office put forth every possible effort to secure the success of his party at the polls. On election day he would drive into town with his horse and buggy and round up the republican voters, conveying them to the polls. The story is told of him that on his return one evening of an election day his wife jokingly asked him if he had voted, and bringing his fist down on the table with a crash, he said: "By George! I forgot to vote myself," and jumping into the buggy, he barely made the polls in time to deposit his ballot.

F. E. Thorne, whose name introduces this review, was educated in the schools of Pecatonica, Illinois, and through a period of seven years after the removal of the family to Iowa he remained upon the farm with his father and assisted him in gaining his start in Chickasaw county. The year after the father purchased the farm F. E. Thorne, feeling that his labors were no longer needed upon the home place, started out in the business world independently and spent one year in the employ of Leonard Nourse. He then returned to Illinois and for ten years was again a resident of the old home county. During the last five and a half years of that period he was employed as a clerk in a dry goods store and thus laid the foundation for his later business success.

In 1895 Mr. Thorne returned to Fredericksburg and in partnership with F. S. Sloan established a store under the firm style of Sloan & Thorne. Eight years later he purchased his partner's interest in the business, which he conducted independently through the succeeding ten years. In 1913 he sold the store and for a time was engaged in the automobile trade. In 1917 he bought the interest of Mrs. Nellie M. Whitcomb in his former business and thus became a partner in the firm of Sloan, Thorne & Smith. In 1913, after selling his mercantile interests, he bought into the First State Bank and the following year was elected president of the institution, in which capacity he has since served. He has thoroughly acquainted himself with banking methods and has assisted in making the institution of which he is the president one of the strong moneyed concerns of this class of the state. In every