

Lawler, where he engaged in merchandising, establishing business in a small way on the site that the present extensive establishment of O'Connor Brothers now occupies. His brother Timothy was a partner in the business until 1913, when he sold his interest to another brother, Joe O'Connor, and the trade has since been carried on by James and Joe O'Connor under the style of O'Connor Brothers. In 1916 they purchased three buildings, giving them command of the principal business corner of the town, and on this site they erected one of the most commodious and finest business blocks in Chickasaw county with a frontage of sixty-six feet on Main street and a depth seventy feet on the two east lots and a depth of sixty feet on the west lot. They occupy two floors of the building with their business, carrying a large and carefully selected line of general merchandise, and their sales have reached a very substantial figure.

On the 20th of May, 1902, James O'Connor was married to Miss Agnes McEnaney, of Waucoma, and to whom have been born five children: Leo, Madonia, Clarice, James J. and Catherine.

The brothers are both democrats in their political views and both are members of the Catholic church. James O'Connor is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters. He takes a deep and helpful interest in promoting the work of the church and in advancing many activities of public benefit. In addition to his mercantile interests he owns a farm near Cresco, Iowa, in partnership with his brother Timothy. The name of O'Connor has long been regarded as a synonym for enterprise and progressiveness in commercial affairs, and Lawler may well be proud of the establishment conducted by the firm of O'Connor Brothers.

#### EMIL J. POLASHEK.

One of the well known commercial establishments of Alta Vista is the meat market owned by Polashek & Kaderabek, of which firm Emil J. Polashek is the senior partner. He has always lived in Iowa, his birth having occurred in Tama county, March 26, 1887, his parents being William and Rose (Bittner) Polashek, who came originally from Austria. They arrived in the United States in 1880 and established their home in Tama county, Iowa, where the father followed farming for a quarter of a century. In 1905 he sold his farm property there and removed to Chelsea, Tama county, where he bought a butcher shop, which he conducted for five years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Protivin, and, disposing of his meat market at Chelsea, bought another shop at Protivin, which he conducted until 1916, when once more he sold out and on this occasion retired from active business life. He still makes his home in Protivin, where for a long period he occupied an enviable position in business circles.

Emil J. Polashek was a pupil in the district schools of Tama county and afterward attended the St. Prokopius College at Lisle, Illinois, for ten months, pursuing a commercial course there and thus qualifying for life's practical and responsible duties. When twenty years of age he began working at the butcher's trade, being first employed at Garwin, Iowa, where he continued for a year with the firm of Brechtbill, Morrison & Company. At the end of that time he bought out the business in connection with W. H. Tode and became active in the organization of the firm of Morrison, Conant & Company. A year later Mr. Polashek sold his interest in the business to W. H. Tode and removed to Howard county in company with his parents, his father having also disposed of his business interests in Tama county. The family home was established in Protivin and Emil J. Polashek became the active assistant of his father in the conduct of the meat market which the latter acquired at that place. He continued as his father's assistant until 1910, when he purchased a shop at Waucoma, Iowa, which he conducted for fifteen months. At the end of that time he sold his business there and removed to Monona, Iowa, where he again became the owner of a butcher shop, which he carried on for two years. Once more he sold out and on this occasion removed to Cresco, Iowa, where he