

ductive land, and the many improvements which may now be found thereon are largely due to the enterprise and thrift of its present owner. Bounteous harvests annually reward his labors and bring him a gratifying financial return. He is the secretary and a stockholder of the Nordness Creamery Company and well deserves recognition among the substantial and representative citizens of his native county. Mr. Bragestad gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has served as trustee of Decorah township, making a creditable record in that connection. In religious faith he is a Lutheran. He holds the office of treasurer of the Norwegian Mutual Insurance Company of Winneshiek county and is widely recognized as an able business man. Mr. Bragestad is unmarried and lives with his sister Anna. He has witnessed the growth and transformation of this county for the past half century and his own labors have been a factor in the work of general development and upbuilding.

#### WILLIAM B. INGVOLDSTAD.

A man who largely through his own efforts has attained one of the foremost positions in the commercial life of Decorah is William B. Ingvaldstad, owner of one of the largest lumberyards in the city, the business being conducted under the firm name of Ingvaldstad & Company. In a comparatively short time he has built up a large and prosperous enterprise which returns to him gratifying financial results, and in 1910 was enabled to buy out the business of his first employer, thereby enlarging the capacity of his yard to a considerable extent. Born in Decorah, Iowa, June 21, 1875, William B. Ingvaldstad is a son of Peter O. and Josephine (Engbertson) Ingvaldstad, natives of Norway. In their family were twelve children, nine sons and three daughters, and inclusive of the parents they celebrated a family birthday every month in the year. All of the children are now living and are a credit to the family name. After the father came to this country he located in Decorah at an early date in the history of the city, and being a carpenter by trade engaged in that business until his demise, which occurred in April, 1902. He was known as a contractor and builder and erected a large portion of the residences and business houses in Decorah. The mother yet survives him.

William B. Ingvaldstad was reared under the parental roof and was early grounded in the old-fashioned virtues of industry and honesty, attending in the acquirement of his education the public schools of his native city. Deciding upon a commercial career, he then entered the employ of the Wilbur Lumber Company, remaining with that firm for about six years. Having become well acquainted with the details of the business and possessing no mean business ability, he engaged on March 1, 1898, in partnership with E. K. Hovden, in the lumber business at the corner of Washington street and Broadway, the partnership continuing until October, 1905, when our subject acquired Mr. Hovden's interest and has since continued the business under the firm name of Ingvaldstad & Company. In February, 1910, Mr. Ingvaldstad bought out the Wilbur Lumber Company, whose yard adjoined his property, and his firm is now one of the largest in this