

to the work of the farm and remained with his father until he had attained the age of twenty-four, when, ambitious to engage in agricultural pursuits on his own account, he purchased forty acres of land on section 13, Springfield township, which he operated until 1906, in which year he sold that tract and purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 14, Springfield township. This farm has been developed year by year, as his progressive ideas have taken on material form, and today it is one of the valuable and highly improved properties of the township,—a visible evidence of his persistent purpose and well directed efforts. Success is his in large measure and as he has prospered he has become financially connected with several of the important business enterprises of the county, being a stockholder in the Nordness Creamery Company, the Nordness Telephone Company, the Farmers Hog Company of Decorah and the Ossian Produce Company of Ossian, Iowa, all of which are sources of a substantial annual income.

Mr. Orvella was married in November, 1885, to Miss Gunnild Tovson, a daughter of Tov and Signe (Vinlus) Tovson, both natives of Norway, who at first came to Wisconsin but after a few weeks went to Ossian, Winneshiek county. Of this union have been born five children, namely: Selma, aged twenty-six years, who is the wife of Ole Anderson, a farmer residing near Ossian; Hilda, aged twenty-four years, who lives at home; and Clara, Helmer and Grant, aged respectively twenty-two, nineteen and eleven, who are also under the parental roof. In his religious faith Mr. Orvella is a Lutheran while in his political allegiance he supports the progressive party. Progress has ever been the watchword of his life and has actuated him in the pursuit of his chosen life work with the result that today he ranks among the prosperous and successful agriculturists and business men of his native county.

OLE RUSTAD.

A native of Norway, Ole Rustad came to America in 1880 and 1881 marks his advent in Winneshiek county, where for many years he was engaged in agricultural pursuits in Highland township, but is now located in Springfield township, where for the past four years he has conducted the only mercantile establishment in Nordness, enjoying a large and profitable patronage. For the past two years he has also served as station agent for the Rock Island Railroad here. Born in the Norseland on July 12, 1857, Ole Rustad is a son of Martin and Lizzie (Gulbrandson) Rustad, natives of Norway. The father, who had been engaged as an agriculturist in his native land, came to America in his later years and located in Wisconsin in 1883, where he remained one year before coming to Winneshiek county. He has made his home with his son Ole ever since and is still enjoying good health at the remarkable age of ninety years. His wife passed away in 1859 when our subject was but two years of age.

Ole Rustad was reared and educated in Norway and in 1880 came to America, making his way inland to Wisconsin, where he remained one year before coming to Winneshiek county. Here he hired out for some time by the month, carefully husbanding his earnings and subsequently acquiring title to a farm of one hun-