

the lodge, Mr. and Mrs. Topliff becoming charter members. Air. Topliff has also become closely connected with the business life of Decorah, owning a valuable business block in the down town district. Although seventy-seven years of age, he is still active and takes a deep interest in all matters that affect the community life. Widely known, he is highly respected and esteemed by all for what he has accomplished and those qualities of mind and character which have made possible his success.

#### CHARLES SPALLA.

Among the prosperous agriculturists of Lincoln township is Charles Spalla, who owns a valuable farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 36. He was born in Conover, Winneshiek county, November 25, 1874, and is a son of John and Mary (Halek) Spalla, natives of Bohemia, who emigrated from that country directly to Conover at an early date in the history of the settlement of this section. The father has been engaged in agricultural pursuits for many years and is now living in Madison township. Mr. and Mrs. John Spalla became the parents of eight children: John, of Hancock county, this state; two who died in infancy; Mary, the wife of Wencel Kraser, of Festina; Frank and Joseph, both of whom reside in North Dakota; Charles, of this review; and Christina, the wife of Henry Rohdmeyer.

Charles Spalla was reared at home and early directed by his parents in the qualities of thrift, energy and industry. He acquired his education in the local schools and soon began to assist his father with the work of the farm. He subsequently gave his entire time to the cultivation of the fields until he was twenty-six years of age, when he bought one hundred and twenty acres on section 36, in Lincoln township, where he has built a fine home two stories in height and erected modern barns, sheds and outbuildings, making his farm in every way one of the best improved and most valuable in the district. His fields are in a high state of cultivation and he engages in general farming and in stock-raising.

On January 17, 1905, Mr. Spalla married Miss Rosie Bender and to this union were born five children, Charles, Mary, Christine, Joseph and Helen, the last of whom has passed away. Mr. Spalla is a democrat and his religious faith is that of the Catholic church. He is interested and plays his part in the progress of his section of Winneshiek county and has proven himself a valuable citizen and a helpful and kindly neighbor. He is esteemed by all who know him and enjoys the respect and confidence of his friends and the general public.

#### GERHARD JORGENSON.

Winneshiek county has been exceptionally fortunate in its public servants, having had men of ability and unswerving honesty, who have administered the offices of which they have had charge with circumspection and in the interests of the public. Such a man is Gerhard Jorgenson, who now serves in the second