

his books he turned his attention to farming, with which he had become familiar in his childhood through practical experience upon his father's property. He entered into the above mentioned partnership with his father and brother and has never since left the homestead, which since 1890 he has owned and operated. Upon it he has made substantial improvements in buildings and equipment and in its cultivation has followed the most practical methods, the property reflecting in its neat and attractive appearance his many years of care and labor. Mr. Istad owns in addition to it a fine farm in Montana. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Creamery Company and a stockholder and director in the Farmers Cooperative Hog Buying Company of Decorah, and his ability is widely recognized in business circles.

In November, 1908, Mr. Istad was united in marriage to Miss Clara Woldt, a daughter of Gottlieb and Julia (Meyer) Woldt, natives of Germany. The parents came to this country at an early day and the father engaged in farming in Winneshiek county during the remainder of his life. His wife has also passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Istad became the parents of one daughter, Bertha Elizabeth, aged four. Mrs. Istad passed away in February, 1910.

Mr. Istad is a devout member of the Evangelical Lutheran church of Decorah. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and served for four years as township clerk and did excellent work as assessor for three years. He was for a similar period of time secretary of the school board and in 1913 was elected president of the board, the cause of education finding in him a loyal and practical supporter. A resident of Winneshiek county since he was seven years of age, Mr. Istad has become widely known in this part of Iowa and his life has been such as to merit the confidence and regard which are generally accorded him.

ISAAC W. BRUNT.

Isaac W. Brunt, who has been a resident of Decorah for the past two decades, was for a number of years successfully engaged in the conduct of a drug store here but since January, 1911, has acted as secretary of the American Drug & Press Association, an association of druggists and newspaper men of the United States, which manufactures toilet articles and medicinal preparations. His birth occurred at Sigourney, Keokuk county, Iowa, on the 19th of July, 1868, his parents being John M. and Mary A. (Davis) Brunt, natives of Indiana. The family has been represented in this country for more than two centuries, the first of the name coming from the south of England. John M. Brunt removed to Keokuk county, this state, in an early day and was there engaged in general agricultural pursuits, operating a farm for some years and also teaching school. He eventually became an engineer and acted as United States deputy surveyor, his work in this connection covering California, Wyoming, Nevada, Oregon, Arizona and New Mexico. Since retiring from the active work of his profession he has spent the winters in Kansas City and during the summer seasons resides with his son Isaac in Decorah. His wife passed away in 1907.