

Philip, who is a partner in his father's business and of whom more extended mention is made in a separate article of this work; Stella and Edith, at home; Gerhard, who passed away at the age of seven months; and one who died in infancy.

The family are faithful adherents of the Lutheran religion, to the local organization of which they give their material and moral support. In his political affiliations Mr. Hexom is a republican, taking a citizen's interest in public matters and being well informed upon all questions that affect the people and their government. The handsome family residence is located at No. 606 East Main street and there Mr. and Mrs. Hexom entertain their many friends, who highly esteem and honor them for their many good qualities of mind and character.

#### HON. LAURITZ M. ENGER.

Among the men of Decorah who have by their own efforts risen from a comparatively humble position to a place among men of marked ability and substantial worth in Winneshiek county is numbered Hon. Lauritz M. Enger, representative of his district in the state legislature. He is, moreover, classed among the prominent business men of his city, where he is in control of an important and growing insurance concern. He was born in Norway, November 3, 1856, and is a son of Magnus and Anna P. (Overby) Enger, also natives of that country, the former of whom engaged in farming there during his entire active life and never came to America. He died in 1877 and was survived by his wife until 1903.

Lauritz M. Enger attended public school in his native country until he was fifteen years of age, but during the last two years of this period was obliged to gain his own livelihood. At the age of fifteen he borrowed enough money to pay his passage to the United States and afterward worked at farm labor in order to pay his debt. When this was discharged he continued at his former occupation, working as a farm hand during the summer months and attending district school in the winters. He later became a student at Breckenridge Institute in Decorah and upon leaving that institution secured a position as a clerk in a general store in this city, retaining it for six years thereafter. At the end of that time he rented a farm but after operating it for two years returned to Decorah, where he purchased a shoe store, turning his attention to mercantile pursuits. For nine years he continued to conduct this enterprise and during a portion of this time was employed also in the Decorah post office as mailing clerk. He then accepted a position in the office of the Decorah Posten, beginning in the mailing department and rising until he had full charge of same and later assisted in the editorial and business departments. He also did a great deal of illustrating and he remained connected with the paper for sixteen years, during which time he also established himself in the insurance business. In this line of work he has since been active and is now in control of a large and representative patronage and is numbered among the substantial business men of the city.