

with the operation of a large lumber business there, an enterprise which he founded in 1892 and which has had a prosperous existence since that time.

Mr. Svestka married Miss Mary Dukes and to their union have been born five children: Emma, the wife of Charles Balik of Mason City, Iowa; William also of Mason City; Ida, the wife of Joseph Wandas of Fort Atkinson; and Annie and Mary, both of whom live at home. The family are devout members of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Svestka is connected fraternally with the Bohemian Workmen and the Order of Foresters and gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, taking an intelligent interest in community affairs. He is however, not active politically preferring to concentrate his attention upon his business interests, which, being capably conducted, are bringing him a gratifying measure of success.

THEODORE A. SCHEIDEMANTEL.

Theodore A. Scheidemantel, who is one of the extensive landowners and prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of Winneshiek county and also controls important landed and financial interests in various parts of Oklahoma, was born on the old Scheidemantel homestead in Military township on the 20th of October, 1856. He is a representative of one of the oldest and most prominent pioneer families in this section of the state, being a son of Henry and Kunigunda Scheidemantel, of whom extended mention is made on another page in this work. The parents were natives of Bavaria, Germany, the father born on the 20th of October, 1820, and the mother on the 16th of June, 1832. In their family were eleven children: Eva J., whose birth occurred on the 18th of June, 1853; William, born January 7, 1855; Theodore A., of this review; Mary E., born October 9, 1858, Clemence, born on the 7th of December, 1860; Andrew H., born October 29, 1862; Caroline C, January 9, 1865; Henry J., January 25, 1867; Edward J., November 9, 1868; Joseph F., May 1, 1871; and Emilie M., born July 19, 1873.

Theodore A. Scheidemantel was reared upon the family homestead and throughout the period of his boyhood and youth assisted with the work of its cultivation, gaining in this way knowledge and experience in the details of farm operation which has proven invaluable to him in after life. In 1880 he left home and went to St. Paul, Minnesota, and thence to Minneapolis, where he became connected with the mercantile business as clerk with Engram & Company, wholesale dealers in dry goods. After remaining in this connection for about a year he went to Grafton, North Dakota, and there for two years engaged in the butcher business, building up a large and profitable trade before he disposed of his enterprise. When he did so, he turned his attention to the development of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres which he had taken up in Pembina county, North Dakota, a property which he afterward sold. Upon the death of his father he returned to Winneshiek county and when the estate was divided inherited two hundred and forty acres, known as the old McKinzie Hall farm. To this he has since added forty acres, making this a property of two hundred and eighty acres, practically all of which is under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Scheidemantel has also bought the old Carl Brouch place, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres on