

addition and has now fifty rooms at the disposal of his guests, doing the foremost hotel business in the town. He seems to be a born hotelkeeper and the position he has attained is the more creditable as he started out in life empty-handed. On the 4th of June, 1913, he purchased the Wales Hotel of Dubuque, which is the best hotel in that city, being five stories in height and containing one hundred and forty rooms.

In February, 1911, when the Calmar Savings Bank was organized with a capital stock of ten thousand dollars, Mr. Pierce became one of its stockholders and has served as vice president since its organization. He also is an extensive dealer in real-estate and owns valuable tracts of land in South Dakota and Canada.

In his political affiliations Mr. Pierce is a republican, and although he has never cared for office keeps well informed upon all public questions, giving his eager support to all movements intended to upbuild and develop Calmar and surrounding territory. His faith is that of the Methodist church and fraternally he is affiliated with the Masonic order, belonging to the lodge in Calmar, and also to the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Pierce has come to be recognized as one of the substantial men of his community, in the development of which he has played no mean part. His career is but proof of the fact that industry and energy pave the way to success and that prosperity is but ambition's answer.

LOUIS A. JIRAK.

Louis A. Jirak is the proprietor of the Rosebud Farm, a fine property of one hundred and forty-five acres lying on sections 28, 29 and 32, Jackson township and in its management has displayed both energy and ability, his work being rewarded with that success which always follows earnest, well directed and persistent labor. He is in addition well known in mercantile circles of Jackson Junction as manager of an important lumber concern there and in this connection has proven reliable, efficient and discriminating, his business ability being undoubted and his business integrity standing as an unquestioned fact in his life. He is one of Winneshiek county's most successful native sons, his birth having occurred on the 25th of August, 1869. He is a son of Wenzel and Mary (Dvorak) Jirak, natives of Bohemia, who came to America in 1860, locating in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the father engaged in farming until his death which occurred on the 24th of July, 1901. His wife has also passed away, dying May 17, 1910. To their union were born twelve children: John, who resides in Jackson township; Joseph, of Chickasaw county, Iowa; Wenzel A., who resides in Jackson township; a son and a daughter who died in infancy; Frank, of Protivin, Howard county; Louis A., of this review; William, of Winneshiek county; Mary, the wife of Antone Tupy, of Jackson township; Anna, the wife of W. A. Busta, of Chickasaw county; Rosie, twin to Anna, who has passed away; and Charles, of Chickasaw county.

Louis A. Jirak was reared on his father's farm in this county, gaining in his childhood an excellent knowledge of the best agricultural methods and of all the details of farm operation. At twenty-three he began his independent