

for work in a lumberyard which belonged to a Mr. Riley. Paying close attention to business, studying methods, details, transactions and also the qualities of material handled, he soon became an expert in his line and after only two years was appointed manager of the Wilbur Lumber Company of Decorah. He remained in this connection until 1890, when he acquired an interest in Mr. Riley's business, becoming a partner in the concern. In the fall of 1903 he acquired Mr. Riley's part and has since been sole proprietor. Under his able management the business has largely increased and the annual income derived from the enterprise is a most gratifying one.

In 1891 Mr. Baker was united in marriage to Miss Leila A. Adams, a daughter of A. W. and Emma (Fuller) Adams, the former a special police officer of Waterloo, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Baker have one son, George A., born February 14, 1894, who is a senior in the Decorah high school.

It is but natural that a man of the ability and enterprise of Mr. Baker should become intimately connected with the public life of his community and the service he has rendered in that connection is such as to be worthy of the highest commendation. He served with distinction for four years as alderman of the fourth ward and still is a member of the school board of Decorah, promoting the cause of education in every possible way. His interest in the commercial expansion of his community is evident from the fact that he at present serves as president of the Decorah Commercial Club, doing in this important position valuable work in attracting new industries and enterprises toward the city. He is president of the Winneshiek County Agricultural Society and as president of the Building & Loan Association of Decorah has been instrumental in helping many of moderate means to erect their own homes. He is a stockholder and director in the Winneshiek Hotel Company of Decorah and is also interested in the Ronan Wood & Land Company of Decorah and is chief executive officer of an outside concern, the Baker Lumber Company of Salt Lake City, Utah, this company having nine retail lumberyards in that state. J. H. Baker, a brother of our subject, is the manager of this firm.

Mr. Baker votes the republican ticket and fraternally is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Mrs. Baker is president of the Ladies Aid Society. It is readily recognized that the modern growth of cities is largely due to commercial expansion and for that reason Mr. Baker must be given high credit for what he has done for Decorah. True and loyal to his home city, he promotes her interests wherever the opportunity offers and his name stands high among those who have materially contributed to her upbuilding.

#### OLE O. RODVANG.

Ole O. Rodvang, who has lived in Springfield township since 1854, is now classed among the representative and successful farmers of this vicinity, operating the property upon which his parents settled in pioneer times. His name has long been an honored one in this community and his record is an added credit to it, since his life has been in all its relations upright and straightforward. He was born in Norway on the 6th of January, 1850, and is a son of Ole Olfson.