

On the 15th of November, 1899, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Maggie Hein and they have become the parents of five children, Nora, Irvin, Herbert, Louis and Bertha. Air. Smith is a devout member of the Roman Catholic church and politically gives his allegiance to the democratic party, taking an active and public-spirited interest in community affairs, although never seeking office for himself. He early learned that industry is the basis of all success and he has labored diligently and earnestly throughout the years to gain a comfortable competency and to win for himself a creditable position in agricultural circles. The many sterling qualities of his character have commended him to the confidence and good-will of all and he has an extensive circle of friends in the community where practically his entire life has been spent.

#### THEODORE FLEISCHER.

Theodore Fleischer, engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in Ossian, was born in Racine, Wisconsin, on the 6th of December, 1853, and is a son of Adolph and Gertrude (Cremer) Fleischer, natives of Germany. They came to America in the early '30s and settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the father afterward following the carpentering trade in various parts of that state until his death in 1872. His wife survived him some years, her death occurring in 1898. To their union were born seven children: Theodore, the subject of this review; Fredricka, deceased; William and Alary, who have also passed away; Nicholas, who resides in San Diego, California; Carrie, the wife of Frank Beffel of Racine, Wisconsin; and Lizzie, who resides in Butte, Alontana.

Theodore Fleischer was reared in Racine and acquired his education in the city schools. After laying aside his books he took up cabinet work, following that trade in his native city for about twelve years. At the end of that time he went to Nebraska and there spent about four months before coming to Ossian. After his first settlement in that city he remained there for two years and then returned to Racine whence, after one year, he came again to Ossian, establishing himself in the furniture and undertaking business in 1881. He has since conducted a large establishment of this character and in the course of years has met with a gratifying success. He carries a full line of furniture which may be relied upon both for style and workmanship and he has built up a flourishing and growing trade along this line, his business methods being at all times reliable and straightforward and his business integrity above reproach. The undertaking department is also well managed and profitable and Air. Fleischer stands today among the representative and substantial business men of the city where he makes his home.

Mr. Fleischer has been twice married. On the 13th of January, 1880, he wedded Miss Elizabeth Meyer who passed away August 4, 1886, leaving three children: Andrew, who resides in Chicago; and Julia and Carrie, of the same city. Air. Fleischer's second wife was in her maidenhood Miss Pauline Helwig, a native of Winneshiek county, and to this union were born three children, Rose C, Amanda and Tephherine.