

land on sections 2 and 3 in Springfield township. Energetic and industrious, he gave his whole attention to clearing and improving the property, erecting buildings and installing machinery, and that he has succeeded is evident from the fact that the land which he purchased at thirteen dollars per acre is now valued at about one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre. In 1909 Mr. Haugen bought one hundred and ten adjoining acres and he has ever since operated his two tracts together, his annual returns increasing in a gratifying degree.

In September, 1877, Mr. Haugen was united in marriage to Miss Olena Viste, a daughter of Ole and Sigrid (Oppen) Viste, both natives of Norway. The father emigrated to America in 1853, locating first in Wisconsin, but the following year came to Winneshiek county, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits. He retired from the active cultivation of his farm in 1895 and passed away March 8, 1905, after having attained the venerable age of eighty-eight years. The mother is still living and now makes her home, at the age of eighty-four years, with her son, Olaus Viste. Mr. and Mrs. Haugen became the parents of eight children, as follows: Gustav, a resident of North Dakota; Thomas, at home; Albert; Edwin; Mary, who lives in Decorah; Bertha, a trained nurse; Agnes, in Decorah, who is training to become a nurse; and Sophia, whose demise occurred in March, 1913.

Mr. Haugen has ever taken a deep interest in matters of public import and upon the foundation of the new progressive party eagerly embraced its principles in the hope that by the realization of its ideals may be obtained valuable improvements which will relieve politics of contamination and restore to the masses political power. He also believes that the new party is predestined to relieve the living conditions of the wage earner and that with its coming a new era of greater prosperity and greater freedom will dawn upon the nation. He has been active in the public life of his community, having served as township assessor for the past three years and has also served as trustee. He is a stockholder in the Nordness Creamery Company and Nordness Telephone Company, having formerly been manager of the former. Later he was for a time in charge of the Red Oak Creamery and is still interested in the Farmers Hog Company of Decorah. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church and he exemplifies its teachings in his everyday life. He has become a valuable and useful factor in his community and is highly respected and esteemed for what he has accomplished and as one of those who has witnessed the evolution of this district from primitive conditions to the present state of civilization,—one, who not only has witnessed the development, but who has actively labored to bring it about.

THEODORE H. ORVELLA.

There is no more progressive and able farmer in Winneshiek county than Theodore H. Orvella, whose fine homestead of one hundred and sixty acres lies on sections 14, 13, 23 and 24, Springfield township, and constitutes the farm upon which his entire life has been spent. Upon this property he was born September 1, 1866, a son of Hans and Ingeborg Orvella, of whom more extended mention is made elsewhere in this work.