

upon which he now resides. His land is highly improved with the necessary buildings and equipment and is in an excellent state of cultivation, Mr. Bruening dividing his attention between the cultivation of his fields and the conduct of his extensive stock-raising interests. He is very careful in the operation of his property and has everything on hand with which to pursue farming by modern methods.

Mr. Bruening married, on the 19th of October, 1897, Miss Anna Hemmer, a daughter of John and Mary Ann (Weller) Hemmer, natives of Germany, the former of whom came to America as a young man, locating in Winneshiek county, where he engaged in merchandising, dying when his daughter was only five years of age. He and his wife became the parents of five children: Mary and Henry, both deceased; Anna, the wife of the subject of this review; Catherine, who married Henry Zender, of Austin, Minnesota; and Barbara, who has passed away. The father had been previously married to Miss Louisa Votova, and to this union were born two children: Margaret, who married Victor Zender, of Cresco; and John, who resides in Austin, Iowa. After the death of John Hemmer his widow married George Wahnfurter, and they became the parents of two daughters: Barbara, the wife of Peter Zender, of Austin, Iowa; and Elizabeth, who has passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Bruening became the parents of five children: Albert, who was born May 28, 1900, and who died October 25th of the same year; Edward Joseph, born May 18, 1902; Frances, who was born on the 29th of June, 1906, and who died on the 8th of December, 1907; Marion, who was born April 23, 1909, passing away on the same day, and Margaret Regina, born on the 25th of February, 1913.

Mr. Bruening gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and his religious views are in accord with the doctrines of the Roman Catholic church. A man of excellent qualities of character, of strong and resolute purpose, industrious and enterprising, he is well known throughout the community for his uprightness and honesty and he merits and enjoys the respect and confidence of his neighbors and friends.

WILLIAM M. LEE.

A native of Decorah, William M. Lee, county engineer of Winneshiek county, is widely and favorably known by all, and most appreciated by those who have known him from his boyhood and who take an interest in his career. Born on September 6, 1887, he is a son of David and Mary (Tobiason) Lee, the former a native of Norway and the latter of this county. The father had learned the tailor's trade in his native land and after coming to America followed the same here. He first located in Wisconsin, remaining a short time there, but in 1871 came to Decorah and subsequently established, in partnership with a brother, a merchant tailoring establishment which he conducted until his demise, which occurred in December, 1910, at the age of sixty years. The mother survives at the age of fifty-seven years.

William M. Lee was reared under the parental roof and, acquiring his education in the local schools, was graduated from the Decorah high school