

has engaged in the practice of law for barely a year, he is already recognized as one of the coming men in the profession.

In October, 1905, Mr. Conley was united in marriage to Miss Jensena R. Larson, a daughter of Lewis and Bridget (O'Malley) Larson, the father of Norway and the mother of Ireland. Mr. Larson has long resided in this country and is now engaged in the mercantile business in Lawler, Iowa, where the mother is also living. Mr. and Mrs. Conley had four children, namely: Francis L., deceased; Marjory Marie, who died February 21, 1909; Eileen Agnes, aged four; and Mary Gertrude, aged one year. Politically Mr. Conley is a democrat and his religious faith is that of the Catholic church. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus lodge of Waterloo, Iowa. While advancement at the bar is proverbially slow, no dreary novitiate awaited him, for he soon demonstrated his ability to capably handle intricate problems and his practice is already of such proportions that he receives gratifying financial returns. Both Mr. Goheen and Mr. Conley are men of sterling traits of character who receive the high regard and confidence of their fellowmen and take as much interest in movements for the general advancement and development as in the promotion of their own success.

OLE J. NESS.

Ole J. Ness, one of the leading grocers of Decorah, occupies an important position in the business life of his community, having attained success by his industry, perseverance and innate integrity. He was born in Norway, November 23, 1865, a son of John O. and Jorend (Halverson) Ness, natives of the Norseland. The father followed agricultural pursuits in his native country and in 1870 came to the United States, locating at Highlandsville, Winneshiek county, where he purchased land and engaged in farming. Success attended his labors, his means enabling him to retire in December, 1912, when he came to Decorah, where he and his wife now enjoy a well earned rest.

Ole J. Ness attended the district schools in the acquirement of his education, and in his leisure hours and during vacations assisted in the minor duties on the farm, early becoming acquainted with thorough methods of agriculture. After leaving school he continued at home until twenty years of age, when he accepted a position as clerk in the general store of Mr. Schelldorf, of Highlandsville. He remained in that connection for eight years and then came to Decorah, establishing a grocery store on West Water street, which is now occupied by the Selz-Schwab Shoe Company. Later Mr. Ness removed to the store which is now the home of the Public Opinion and in 1909 purchased his present property at No. 400 West Water street, where he has since been located. His store is modern and up-to-date in its appointments and the management leaves nothing to be desired. He carries an extensive line of staples and fancy groceries, meats, shoes and notions, and giving his attention to the smallest detail of the work has by the gracious manner in which he treats his customers and by his fairness and integrity built up an extensive and profitable business.

On June 8, 1893, Mr. Ness married Miss Martha C. Anderson, a daughter of T. G. and Maria Anderson, both natives of Norway, and the former a farmer