

by occupation. Upon their arrival in the United States the parents located in Highland township, where Mr. Anderson successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. He brought his land to a high state of productivity, made high-class improvements and installed such equipment as is considered indispensable to modern agriculture. In 1897 Mr. and Mrs. Anderson came to Decorah, where they both still make their home. Mrs. Ness was born on February 28, 1872, on her parents' farm in Highland township, her marriage to our subject taking place in the Big Canoe church. She passed away unexpectedly, April 14, 1910, deeply mourned by her immediate family and her many friends. She was a woman of many fine qualities of mind and character and rare accomplishments. Mr. Ness is now devoting his life to his children, who are: Melvina, aged seventeen, a student in the Lutheran Ladies Seminary at Red Wing, Minnesota; Janette, born in 1900, attending the Decorah Lutheran parochial school; Thelma, born in 1903, who attends the same school; Mildred, born in 1905, also attending there; and Louise, born January 24, 1907. Two sons of the family have passed away: James Harris, aged five months; and an infant, who died at the time of the mother's demise.

Mr. Ness gives his allegiance to the republican party and holds membership in the Norwegian Lutheran church, of which his wife also was a member, and to which all the children belong. He still owns a half interest in the old homestead in Highland township. He keeps alive the spirit of his native land by holding membership in the Norske Selskab society of Decorah, in which he is popular. Progressive and a successful business man, Mr. Ness is an important factor in the social life of Decorah, receiving the good-will and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact in a business or social way.

#### RUDOLPH J. BECKER.

The attention of Rudolph J. Becker is largely taken up by his extensive real-estate business, in which he has been engaged in Calmar since 1905. He is not only laying the foundation of individual prosperity but his activities largely affect the progress and upbuilding of his city, and as the years go by he becomes more and more important as a factor in the general advancement. He was born in Ossian, this county, on February 12, 1884, a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Dessel) Becker, natives of Germany. The father, upon coming to America, located in Ossian at an early day in the history of this section and after having settled here two years engaged in the hardware business, in which line he still continues. The mother is also surviving.

Rudolph J. Becker was reared at home and in the acquirement of his education attended the public schools of Ossian and Calmar. He then accepted a position as clerk in a dry-goods store in Ossian, so continuing for one year, when he went to Chicago, becoming connected with the firm of Marshall Field & Company for four years, in which relation he worked up to an important position in that large establishment. He then removed to New York city, continuing along the same line, but only remained for eight months before he returned to Iowa, locating in Manilla and becoming manager of a general store there, holding