

the position for one year. At the end of that time he engaged in the real-estate business in Sioux City, Iowa, remaining until 1905, which year marks his arrival in Calmar, where he has since successfully followed his business. He is well informed upon local real-estate values and his judgment upon matters pertaining to his business is sound. His advice is often sought by local and foreign investors and as the years have passed he has built up a business which is extensive and assures him of a gratifying income. He has a handsome, well furnished office, from which he directs his affairs.

In May, 1912, Mr. Becker was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Meyer, a daughter of Peter and Julia Meyer, residents of Calmar. Mr. and Mrs. Becker are the parents of one son, Laurence P., who is now one month old.

Progressive and public-spirited, Mr. Becker upholds all movements undertaken to promote public progress, although he has never cared to accept office. Politically he is independent, following his judgment in supporting candidates irrespective of party lines. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church and fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Columbus. As his means have increased he has made judicious investments and besides extensive property in Calmar owns other valuable farm land in Winneshiek county. A young man of aggressive tendencies, he has become a serviceable factor in the upbuilding of his city and enjoys the high regard and confidence of all who know him. His career is proof of the fact that energy and industry will carry the day and that success is but ambition's answer.

NESTE BROTHERS.

Madison township finds worthy and progressive representatives of its agricultural interests in Theodore and Otto Neste, who own and operate one hundred and sixty acres of fine land on section 26 and are numbered among the most successful of the younger farmers of this vicinity. The brothers are twins and were born upon the property they now occupy on the 16th of January, 1886, sons of Knute K. and Gro Neste, natives of Norway. When the father came to America he located at McGregor, Iowa, where for some time he worked in the timber. Eventually he came to Winneshiek county, purchasing land in Madison township. This he cleared, improved and developed, operating it along modern and progressive lines until his death, which occurred on the 4th of January, 1911. His wife passed away in September, 1903.

Theodore and Otto Neste were reared at home and acquired their education in the district schools of Madison township, later entering Breckenridge Institute at Decorah, Iowa. They have never left the homestead and after the death of their father, in 1910, bought the property, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres on section 26, Madison township. They have improved and operated this since that time and success has steadily attended their well directed efforts and practical methods, the farm being today one of the finest and best managed in this vicinity.

On the 5th of April, 1911, Otto Neste was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Flasherud, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eric O. Flasherud, natives of