

faith is that of the Catholic church. Elma justly accounts him one of her leading citizens and most progressive business men, while the same spirit of advancement is manifest in all of his relations to the public.

JAMES MUSEL.

James Musel, busily engaged in the further development of his farm on section 4, Paris township, Howard county, is a native son of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Tama county. September 8, 1869, his parents being Albert and Ann (Herska) Musel, who were born in Bohemia. They came to the United States in youth with their respective parents, both families settling in Iowa. For a short period they were residents of Iowa City and then made permanent location a year or so later in Tama county, being among the first of the settlers in that part of the state. The first habitation of the Musel family was a dugout in the side of a hill with a board lean-to. It was in Tama county that the parents of James Musel were married and they are still residents of that county. They have lived to witness many changes as the work of progress and improvement has been carried forward and their present comfortable home bears no resemblance to the pioneer dwelling which they occupied.

James Musel was educated in the district schools but his opportunities were somewhat limited, for from the age of ten years he assisted in the work of the fields. Whenever there were tasks to be done on the home farm he had to remain to assist in the work. The teacher, however, always boarded at the Musel home and James Musel was given much help in his studies in the evenings by reason of this fact. On the 2d of January, 1894, he married Miss Fannie Upah, of Tama county, and following his marriage carried on farming for a few years in that county. He afterward devoted four years to general agricultural pursuits in Pocahontas county and on Christmas day of 1912 removed to Howard county, purchasing his present home farm, which is a valuable tract of land of three hundred and four acres. This he has brought to a high state of cultivation and the many modern improvements which he has added make it one of the valuable farm properties of the district.

To Mr. and Mrs. Musel have been born eight children, namely: Charles, Carrie, Albert, Edward, Lucille, Leo, Pauline and Joseph. The family are members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Musel is a member of the Farmers Catholic Workmen. His political endorsement is given to the democratic party but he has never sought nor desired office. His time and energies have ever been concentrated upon his business affairs and his close application and unremitting industry constitute the foundation of his growing success in business.

DIEDRICH LAUE.

There seems to be a considerable similarity in the lives of the farmers and yet there are in each individual certain traits of character which set him apart from his fellows—qualities and characteristics which he manifests that are the basic elements of his success or his failure. Diedrich Laue is now busily engaged in farming on section 5, Howard township, but has not devoted his entire life to agricultural interests. However, since taking up farm work he has displayed a ready adaptability that has enabled him to steadily progress and he now occupies an enviable position on the plane of affluence. He is also the secretary of the Maple Leaf Creamery Company and one of Howard county's foremost business men. He was born in Germany, January 1, 1860, a son of Henry and Betha (Christopher) Laue, both of whom spent their entire lives in Germany.

The son, however, when but fourteen years of age left that land and went to sea. He followed a seafaring life for five years and first touched at New York in 1874. In 1879 he determined to make permanent settlement in the United States and estab-