

and thrifty appearance of the place indicates the progressive spirit of the owner, whose capable management of his farming interests has resulted in well merited success,

In 1905 Mr. Thomson was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Steinman, of Vernon Springs township, by whom he has a daughter, Evelyn A. Mr. Thomson gives his political allegiance to the republican party. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons, belonging to the lodge at Cresco. His religious belief is indicated by his membership in the Congregational church, while his wife is of the Baptist faith. He has lived in Howard county from early boyhood and has gained a circle of friends that is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

#### REV. B. H. FORKENBROCK.

A man of untiring zeal in behalf of his church, one whose labors have been productive of splendid results, Rev. B. H. Forkenbrock is greatly endeared to the people of his parish. He is in charge of St. Mary's Catholic church in New Hampton, Chickasaw county, and the story of his life is an interesting one, displaying marked devotion to the cause to which he has dedicated himself. He was born at New Vienna, Iowa, October 17, 1865, and on October 19th was baptized by Rev. Anton Kortenkamp, of Dyersville, Iowa. His early education was acquired in the parochial schools at New Vienna and Dyersville, where the family moved in 1874 and where the father died May 27, 1916, the dutiful mother having been called to her eternal reward February 1, 1908. R. I. P. At the age of twelve he was sent to St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There he attended school six years and four months, eighteen months at St. Joseph's College, Dubuque, followed, and three more years at St. Francois Seminary completed his college education. He received his first Holy Communion May 12, 1878, in St. Francis church, Dyersville, Iowa, and at St. Francis seminary, St. Francis, Milwaukee county, Wisconsin. He was confirmed June 29, 1879, and received tonsure and minor orders March 17, 1888, and sub-deaconship and deaconship April 5 and 6, 1889, respectively.

On June 24, 1889, he was ordained priest by the Most Rev. Archbishop M. Heiss, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On July 2, the Feast of the Visitation, he read his first Holy Mass at Dyersville, Iowa. Six months later he was appointed to assist Rev. A. Sauter in work at Festina, where he made the friendship and won the affection of the people, who still hold him in high esteem. He remained at Festina until his appointment to St. Mary's Parish, July 2, 1894. On July 5, 1894, he drove into New Hampton from Festina, being obliged to make the drive on account of the great railroad strike of that year. In 1906 he was elected president of the Catholic Mutual Protective Society of Iowa, and in October, 1918, was elected for the seventh successive term. On June 24, 1914, he celebrated his silver jubilee. The occasion was made a memorable one, many representatives of the Catholic clergy arriving to participate in the silver jubilee celebration. The building of St. Mary's church was begun in 1892 and it was but two years later when Rev. Forkenbrock was appointed to take charge of the parish by the bishop of the diocese. Extensive and fitting ceremonies marked the occasion of the celebration, solemn high mass being observed at nine o'clock, with Rev. Forkenbrock acting as celebrant, while Rt. Rev. G.W. Heer, P. A. M. R., delivered a sermon. At eight o'clock in the evening a reception was held by the parishioners at the Auditorium, on which occasion a most attractive program was rendered. St. Mary's parish dates back to 1890, when an organization was perfected and steps taken to establish a parochial school, a school committee being elected on the 18th of October. This committee selected a beautiful site south of the business section of the city and work was at once begun on the school building. Following the arrival of Rev. Forkenbrock in 1894, he at once secured the services of the Franciscan Sisters, who had taught in the school since September of that year. The school developed so rapidly that in 1897 a new and larger building was erected and still the school grew so that in 1908 a large addition thirty-four by sixty feet was built, St. Mary's now having a fine