

a flock of sheep across the country with the assistance of a dog. He was ten weeks upon the road, camping out by the wayside at night. He left his bride in New York, sending for her the following spring. She journeyed westward by train as far as Waverly, Iowa, where she was met by Mr. Darrow with a team and wagon and thus taken to her new home. Mr. Darrow, upon his arrival, had settled upon a farm in Deerfield township and later he purchased a farm from a Mr. Door, who had taken up the property as a homestead claim. Mr. Darrow continued upon this place for four or five years and concentrated his efforts and attention upon the development of his fields through the summer seasons, while in the winter he taught both common schools and singing schools. At the end of that period he removed to New Hampton and secured a contract for carrying the mail from that place to Deerfield. He likewise continued his work as a singing school teacher. He was frugal and industrious and thus was soon able to loan money in a small way. This constituted his initial step toward his banking experience. Later he became the agent for eastern capitalists in loaning money on farm mortgages and other property and in this he proved quite successful displaying sound judgment in placing the loans. For some years he was identified with his brother, Asa K. Darrow, in a private banking business and about 1910 the Darrow Trust & Savings Bank was incorporated and W. L. Darrow became the president of the institution. He thus gradually worked his way upward in financial circles until he occupied a prominent position as one of the bankers of northern Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrow became the parents of but one child, Verna, who is now the wife of A. F. Markle, vice president of the Darrow Trust & Savings Bank. Mrs. Darrow is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Darrow was also a member of the same church and also of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to the lodge, chapter, commandery and shrine. In politics he was a republican and for several years served as town clerk but otherwise did not seek or fill public positions. He certainly deserved much credit for what he accomplished as he worked his way steadily upward through persistent effort and indefatigable energy. As a business man he was conspicuous among his associates, not only for his success, but for his probity, fairness and honorable dealing. In his life his continuous and intelligently directed activity had been accorded the due recognition of labor which is substantial success. His interests were thoroughly identified with those of Chickasaw county, where he made his home for fifty-five years, and at all times he was ready to lend his aid and cooperation to any movement calculated to benefit this section of the country or advance its wonderful development.

THOMAS J. HOOPER.

One of the most prominent and widely known of the farmers of Howard county is Thomas J. Hooper, whose place is on sections 24 and 25, Paris township. The landed possessions he superintends aggregate ten hundred and twenty-four acres and the careful cultivation and development of his fields have placed him with the prosperous and representative agriculturists of this section of the state. Mr. Hooper was born in Ontonagon county, Michigan, on the 27th of August, 1871, and is a son of Thomas and Henrietta Augusta Hooper, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work.

Thomas J. Hooper of this review spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native county to the age of seventeen years and acquired his education in the public schools, while in farm work he was well trained. Leaving home in 1888, he went to Fort Arthur, Ontario, Canada, where he was employed in a silver mine until 1893. He then left that district and removed to Great Falls, Montana where he engaged in working in a smelter. He spent about two years in that locality and in February, 1895, left Montana and made his way to Howard county, Iowa, where he took up his abode upon his father's farm, which he has since occupied. This place is one of the largest and finest farms of the county. It is equipped with every modern convenience and accessory known to the model farm property of the twentieth century. The buildings are large