

grounds surrounding the church and school are being improved and the erection of a large, modern brick church to accommodate its increasing needs is contemplated. The property occupies the north half of the block between Second and Third streets "West on Third avenue, West.

The present pastor, Very Rev. Father Ryan, was ordained to the priesthood at St. Joseph's College of Dubuque, where he completed his studies in 1882. After his ordination his first appointment was that of assistant pastor at the Dubuque Cathedral. His next charge was that of the first pastor of a little settlement of Catholics in Delaware county consisting of about seventeen families. As the support and accommodations which they were able to extend to him were but meager, he was compelled to live in one of the two sleeping rooms in the home of one of his poor but devoted parishioners for a number of years. Today that little settlement, with a foundation of seventeen families, has one of the best equipped parishes, consisting of a beautiful brick church, school and parochial residence, in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. These buildings are located in what is now known as the town of Ryan, which name was given to it in recognition and appreciation of the untiring labor of Father Ryan in behalf of his people and the community at large.

Father Ryan is yet an unusually active worker in the Lord's vineyard; and when the new church which he has in contemplation is completed, the Assumption parish of Cresco will be among the best equipped and most substantial in the whole Archdiocese of Dubuque.

STEPHEN A. HAMILTON.

Stephen A. Hamilton, well known in industrial circles of Howard county as the proprietor of the Cresco Novelty Works and also identified with public interests as a member of the city council, was born in Clayton county, Iowa, October 15, 1860, his parents being John and Orilla (Miller) Hamilton, the former a native of Ireland, while the latter was born in Vermont. They were married in Clayton county, Iowa, to which place the mother had removed in her girlhood days with her parents, while Mr. Hamilton took up his residence there in young manhood. In 1868 he removed to Howard county, settling on a farm twelve miles southwest of Cresco, and six years later took up his abode in Lime Springs, where he resided until within four years of his death. His last years, however, were passed in Cresco.

Stephen A. Hamilton received a limited district school education, for the school facilities were very poor in those pioneer times, the sessions being held in the homes of the early settlers. On reaching his sixteenth year he entered upon an apprenticeship to the blacksmith's trade and after completing his term of indenture conducted a shop in Lime Springs for a year. He then went to Emmetsburg, Iowa, where he worked as a journeyman for two years, and in 1882 or 1883 returned to Howard county, establishing his home in Cresco, where he has been in business on his own account most of the time continuously since. He carries on his interests under the name of the Cresco Novelty Works, doing blacksmithing and wagon and carriage repairing, also horseshoeing. He does engine, boiler and plow repair work, making gas engines and combination hog racks and wood tanks. He has the best equipped machine shop in Howard county and by reason of his skill is able to turn out a variety of wood and iron work.

In 1885 Mr. Hamilton was married to Miss Minnie Hilke, of Cresco, and they have become the parents of five children: John F., who assists his father in the conduct of the business; Mabel O., who is employed in a millinery store in Chicago, Illinois; S. Archer, at home; George C., who is first class mechanic on the U. S. S. Panther, having served for two years in the navy; and Harry H., who is at the Dunwoody naval training station at Minneapolis.

Mr. Hamilton maintains an independent course in politics, voting for men and measures rather than party. He is serving for the second term as a member of the city