

most progressive methods in the care of his crops and his energy and industry are producing excellent results, so that he annually gathers good harvests.

To Mr. and Mr. Svestka have been born six children: Emma, Eloise, Theresa, Leonard, Godlov and John. The parents and children are all members of the Catholic church and Mr. Svestka is likewise identified with the Catholic Workmen. His political views accord with the teachings of the republican party, to which he gives his support at the polls, but the honors and emoluments of office have never attracted him as he has always preferred to concentrate his efforts upon his business affairs, in which he is now meeting with creditable and substantial success.

#### JAMES PRASKA.

A valuable force in the development and upbuilding of Chickasaw county and northern Iowa is that furnished by its citizens of Bohemian birth, of which class James Praska is a representative. He now makes his home on section 19, Jacksonville township, but was born in Bohemia, November 5, 1857, his parents being Frank and Katie Praska. The first thirteen years of his life were passed in his native land and he then came to the United States with his parents, the family home being established in Deerfield township, Chickasaw county, where the father purchased land. His remaining days were devoted to agricultural interests in this part of the state and his death occurred in Deerfield township in 1913. His wife had passed away on the old homestead two years before.

James Praska obtained his education in the parochial schools of his native country and after coming to the new world with his parents devoted his time and efforts to the work of assisting his father in the improvement of a new farm. His training along that line was comprehensive and constituted the foundation upon which he has built his success in later life. He is now the owner of one hundred acres of land, which is at present being cultivated by his son-in-law, with whom he now resides.

It was in 1883 that Mr. Praska was united in marriage to Miss Katie Mashek, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vencil Mashek, who came to America from Bohemia. Mr. and Mrs. Praska had three children, of whom two have passed away. The daughter Carrie is now the wife of James Chihak and they reside upon the farm of Mr. Praska, for his wife died about twenty-one years ago in Paris township, Howard county.

Mr. Praska is also the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in Paris township. After a busy and useful life he is now in considerable measure living retired, leaving the further development and improvement of the farm property to his son-in-law. He and his family are members of the Catholic church of Lourdes, and his political endorsement is given to the democratic party.

#### JOHN NOVOTNY.

John Novotny, busily engaged in general farming on section 11, Utica township, Chickasaw county, was born in March, 1880, in the township where he still makes his home. His parents are John J. and Teresa (Vovas) Novotny, natives of Bohemia. In that country they were reared and married and three children were born to them ere they emigrated to the United States about 1870. After crossing the Atlantic they at once made their way into the interior of the country, settling in Chickasaw county, Iowa, where the father's first purchase was a modest forty-acre tract of land, on which he built a little frame dwelling or shack that served as the habitation of the family for some time. He afterward sold this property and for a number of years rented land but subsequently made investment in two hundred acres. He is still living and now resides at Little Turkey in Utica township.

John Novotny is indebted to the district school system of Chickasaw county for the educational opportunities that qualified him for life's practical and responsible duties.