

less than fifty thousand dollars to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars since he assumed active control and the bank's business has developed in every particular. The institution most carefully safeguards the interests of depositors and at the same time follows progressive methods that result in the upbuilding of the business.

In 1906 Mr. Thomas was married to Miss Ida A. Jones, of Bonair, Howard county, and they have become parents of four children: Theodore, Gwendolyn, Alice and David H., Jr. In politics Mr. Thomas is a republican and for six years he served as mayor of Lime Springs. His administration was characterized by a most progressive policy, resulting largely to the benefit and upbuilding of the city. He was also a member of the town council for four years and for the past eight years he has served as chairman of the republican county central committee, doing everything in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of the republican party because of his firm belief in the efficacy of its principles as factors in good government. He belongs to Howard Lodge, No. 214, A. F. & A. M., of Lime Springs, and he and his wife are consistent and faithful members of the Presbyterian church, guiding their lives according to its teachings. They are highly esteemed by all who know them and most of all by those who know them best.

#### A. E. MARSH.

A. E. Marsh is a hardware dealer of Lime Springs and one of the foremost business men of Howard county. Moreover, he is numbered among the pioneer settlers of this section of the state, having for many years not only been a witness of the growth and progress but also a factor in the continuous development of northern Iowa. He was born in Elgin, Illinois, October 14, 1845, and is a son of Melvin M. and Sarah (Mason) Marsh, both of whom were natives of Onondaga county, New York, where they resided until after their marriage. In 1834 they removed westward to Illinois, passing through Chicago when there were but seven houses in the town. Mr. Marsh located on a farm in Kane county, about five miles from where the city of Elgin now stands. He was a railroad contractor and built the first dam and the first bridge across the Rock river at Rockford. He established all of the depots and built many of them on the Fox River Valley Railroad and he also constructed several sections of the road. Subsequently he removed to McHenry, Illinois, and in 1856 came to Howard county, Iowa, settling on the site of the old town of Lime Springs, one mile north of the present town. There he purchased the town plat of sixty or eighty acres from D. C. and Joseph Knowlton and the following year he began the erection of a grist mill, which he completed in the succeeding year. He was busily engaged in the operation of that mill for eleven years, meeting with success in the business until 1869, when he sold the property and afterward lived retired until death called him to his final home. His political allegiance was given to the whig party until its dissolution, when he joined the ranks of the new republican party, of which he was an earnest supporter.

A. E. Marsh was a lad of but eleven years at the time of the removal of the family to Howard county, where he has since made his home, covering a period of sixty-two consecutive years. He was educated in the district schools, also in the Lime Springs Academy and in the Cedar Valley Seminary at Osage, Iowa, before entering the Upper Iowa University at Fayette. After completing his education there he bought out a drug business in the old town and was identified with the trade for fifteen years. He later spent a year in the west as a traveling salesman, covering North and South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. In the spring of 1878 he returned to Howard county and decided to engage in farming but was unfortunate enough to take up this work at a time when the state had had two years of almost complete failure in the wheat crop. He had therefore invested ten thousand dollars which brought him no return. He next rented the hotel building in the new town of Lime Springs and conducted the hotel for three years, after which he spent a year in looking over Kansas and Indian Territory. However, he returned to Lime