

involved, but is somewhat liberal and votes independently of party ties at local elections. He served for five years as assessor of New Hampton township while upon the farm and has served as assessor of Ionia for two years, while at the present writing he is a member of the town council. He and his family are members of the Catholic church and he is one of the directors of the church. He also belongs to the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters. His life has been actuated by a progressive spirit that has brought about substantial results in his business career, while in matters of citizenship his aid and influence are ever given on the side of advancement and improvement.

CHARLES I. VOPAVAL.

An excellent farm property of two hundred and forty acres is being carefully cultivated and developed by the owner, Charles I. Vopava. The place is situated on section 5, New Oregon township, Howard county, and its excellent appearance is the visible evidence of the life of thrift and enterprise which the owner is leading. He is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred in Winneshiek county, August 31, 1887, his parents being Jacob A. and Elizabeth A. (Jarosh) Vopava. His grandparents were among the first settlers in Winneshiek county and contributed to the pioneer development and upbuilding of that section of the state. The parents of Charles I. Vopava are still living and yet occupy the old homestead property in Winneshiek county.

It was there that Charles I. Vopava was reared and educated. At the usual age he became a pupil in the public schools of Winneshiek county and afterward had the benefit of instruction in a business college at Oelwein, Iowa, in which he spent three months. During the period of his boyhood and youth and after his schooldays were over he worked upon his father's farm, being thus employed until five years ago. Since that time he has conducted the farm on his own account and is numbered among the progressive agriculturists of the district. What he has accomplished represents the fit utilization of his innate talents.

On the 30th of June, 1913, Mr. Vopava was united in marriage to Miss Emma Markovetz, a daughter of Antone and Katherine (Kostohayz) Markovetz, who were among the first, settlers of Howard county. Mr. and Mrs. Vopava have become the parents of two children, Irene and Georgina. The parents attend the Congregational church at Cresco and Mr. Vopava belongs to the Woodmen of the World and the Modern Woodmen of America and is loyal to the teachings and purposes of those organizations. In politics he is a democrat but has never sought or desired office, preferring that his public duty shall be done as a private citizen. He is loyal to every interest committed to his care and stands at all times on the side of progress and improvement in relation to everything that has to do with the general interests of society.

FRANK J. MARUSKA.

Frank J. Maruska, a hardware dealer of the Maruska-Smith Company and a member of the city council of Cresco, is keenly interested in all plans and projects having to do with the upbuilding and development of his section of the state. He was born in Fort Atkinson, Iowa, October 20, 1878, a son of Frank and Maggie (Rausch) Maruska, the former a native of Bohemia, while the latter was born in Fort Atkinson, Iowa. The father came to the United States about 1870, when a young man of twenty-one or twenty-two years, and made his way directly westward to Iowa, establishing his home in Winneshiek county. He was there married and in 1888 removed to Howard county, where he rented the Bullis farm and later invested his savings in eighty acres of farm land north of Lourdes. There he has