

since resided, his time and attention being successfully given to general agricultural pursuits. His first wife died in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and lie was later married in Howard county to his present wife.

Prank J. Maruska was educated in the district schools and at the age of nineteen years started out upon an independent business career. He went first to Elma, Iowa, and began work in the implement house of Frank Smart, with whom lie remained through the summer. He then accepted a clerkship in the general merchandise establishment of William Deikmann, with whom he remained for a year. He afterwards worked a short time for the Gilchrist Elevator Company at Elma, Iowa, and then went to Alta Vista, where he entered the employ of Timmermans Brothers, general merchants, with whom he continued for two years. Following this he went to work for E. C. Brenner, a general merchant of the same town, and continued with him for seven years at two different periods. Between these two periods, or in the fall of 1906, he went to Dickinson, North Dakota, to take charge of the grocery section of a department store but in the following year went to the Twin Cities and for four months was employed by the St. Paul Railway Company. He then returned to Alta Vista and again became an employe of Mr. Brenner, with whom he remained until 1910, when he came to Cresco. In July of that year he entered the employ of Peterson Brothers, hardware merchants, with whom he continued until November, 1914. In January, 1915, the Maruska-Smith Company was organized and on the 30th of the month its doors were thrown open for business. Since that time the firm has remained active in the trade circles of the city and they have built up a very substantial patronage. They carry a large line of shelf and heavy hardware and their reasonable prices, straightforward dealing and earnest efforts to please their customers have been the salient forces in the attainment of their success.

In 1901 Mr. Maruska was united in marriage to Miss Clara Ruzicka, of Howard county, and to them have been born six children, as follows: Mildred, Regina, Clarence, Mabel, Agnes and Roger.

In his political views Mr. Maruska is a democrat and in 1912, through the solicitation of his friends, he allowed his name to be placed on the ticket for county clerk of the courts, but he was not desirous of the office and made no effort to be elected. However, notwithstanding the big republican majority in the county, he was defeated by only twenty-two votes, his support indicating his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him. In the spring election of 1918 he was elected a member of the city council of Cresco and is now serving in that body, exercising his official prerogatives in support of all interests for the public good. He is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and also of the Knights of Columbus and both he and his wife hold membership in the Catholic church. He ranks with the representative citizens of Cresco and is highly esteemed as a man of genuine worth, thoroughly reliable in matters of business and in citizenship.

#### ADOLPH ARNDT.

Adolph Arndt, busily engaged in agricultural pursuits in Howard county, his home being on section 18, Afton township, was born in Germany, October 20, 1863, and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Arndt, who in the year 1868 came with their family to the United States. They took up their abode in Mitchell county, Iowa, where they resided for a year, the father working on a farm during that period. He then brought his family to Howard county in 1869 and established his home in Afton township, where he rented a farm, on which he lived for five years. He was very desirous of owning property, however, and the family practiced economy as well as industry in order to gain a start. About 1874 therefore the father was enabled to purchase land, becoming the owner of a farm on which his son Adolph now resides. He and his wife continued to occupy that place until they were called to their final rest, the father passing away in 1912, while the mother's death occurred in 1909.