

pendently. He purchased a farm in Bremer county, nine miles south of Sumner, but soon afterward disposed of that property and in 1892 became owner of two hundred and forty acres in Howard county, upon which he now resides. It was a tract of raw prairie land when it came into his possession, but characteristic energy and thrift on the part of Mr. Lauck soon brought a marked transformation in the appearance of the place.

In September following the purchase of his land Mr. Lauck was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Smith, of Afton township, Howard county, and thus completed his arrangements for having a home of his own. In the same fall he built a small house and other farm buildings upon his tract of prairie land and started upon what has proven a most successful career as a farmer and dairyman. While he has carefully, systematically and successfully developed his fields in the cultivation of crops best adapted to soil and climate, he has also profitably carried on dairying and the raising of hogs and these different lines of business have brought him a substantial fortune. He has owned and milked as high as sixty cows at one time and the revenue from cream alone during the year 1918 was over thirty-six hundred dollars, while in the month of July, 1919, his sales of cream amounted to four hundred and forty-two dollars and fifty-four cents and his cream check for the month of August exceeded that amount. Thus his business is steadily growing and as the years have passed and his financial resources have increased he has added to his holdings and is now the owner of six hundred acres of land, having made purchases of four other farms, three of which he still holds. He has two hundred acres on section 28 and one hundred and sixty acres on section 9, Howard township.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lauck have been born seven children, of whom six are yet living: Dora, the wife of Henry Rimroth, a resident farmer of Howard township; and Albert, August, Jr., Mabel, Elsie and Rosanna, at home. The son William J., died in France of spinal meningitis November 1, 1918, while in the service of his country. Shortly prior to his entrance into the war Mr. Lauck had deeded to his son a farm and had built for him the finest barn in Howard county. This is the third fine barn which Mr. Lauck has built on his land. The last one has all the modern labor saving devices known in barn construction and is equipped with a ventilating system that would be a credit to a modern sky scraper. It is indicative of the progressive spirit which actuates him in all things. He has a nature that can never be content with mediocrity but always picks out the best and he employs every avenue for improvement in business.

In politics Mr. Lauck is a republican and is keenly interested in the success of his party but is not an office seeker. He and his family are members of the German Lutheran church. He has cooperated in many interests that have been of public benefit and is now one of the directors of the Howard County Farm Bureau. The consensus of public opinion places him among the most progressive and successful farmers of Howard county. His home place is one of the best improved properties in this section of the state and the fertility of his land could not be surpassed because of the care he has given to it, employing all modern scientific methods in the further development of his holdings.

#### CLYDE HENRY MITCHELL.

Clyde Henry Mitchell is the manager of the Cresco Opera House and has been identified with theatrical interests in Cresco since 1906. He was born in New Hampton, Chickasaw county, Iowa, on the 3d of August, 1882, his parents being Alonzo and Hattie (McCallum) Mitchell. The father spent his boyhood days in New Oregon, Iowa, where he was reared and educated, and then removed to New Hampton, where he lived for some time. He afterward accepted the position of salesman in the music house of George H. Kellogg, in Cresco, Iowa, and traveled through the country as a representative of that house, selling pianos and other