

he purchased the hardware business of Albert Bridges in 1890 and for the past twenty-nine years has been a dominant factor in the commercial circles of Riceville. In 1910 he admitted his son, M. A. Brown, to an equal partnership under the firm style of F. A. Brown & Son. He owns the brick block in which is conducted his hardware business and also the grocery business of C. E. Adams, as well as the moving picture theatre, which Mr. Brown operates.

In 1880 occurred the marriage of F. A. Brown and Miss Frances A Radford, a daughter of Stephen Radford, one of the pioneers of Howard county of 1855. Mrs. Brown was a teacher in the public schools for three years prior to her marriage. She became the mother of three children, but Minn A. is the only surviving child. Mrs. Brown is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Brown has membership with the Modern Woodmen of America and in his political views is a republican. He served for several years as a member of the town council and has given loyal and earnest support to every plan and project for the general good during the long years of his connection with Riceville. A spirit of advancement has dominated his career at all times and has proven an element in the substantial progress of his city.

M. A. BROWN.

M. A. Brown is a member of the firm of F. A. Brown & Son, hardware dealers of Riceville, and was born upon a farm in Howard county May 17, 1883, his parents being F. A. and Frances A. (Radford) Brown, mentioned above. He pursued his education in the graded and high schools of Riceville and when his schooldays were over entered his father's store as a clerk, thus receiving his initial commercial training. In 1910 he was admitted to an equal partnership in the business, with which he has thus since been associated, and the enterprise and enthusiasm of the younger man ably supplement the experience and sound judgment of the father, making this a very strong business combination.

In 1906 M. A. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Nettie Irvin, a daughter of James Irvin, now deceased. He, too, was one of the pioneer farmers of Howard county. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have become the parents of five children: Marian, Hazel, Arthur, Franklin and Bernice. Mrs. Brown attends the First Congregational church.

Mr. Brown is a republican in his political views and is now filling the office of justice of the peace. In addition to his hardware business he has been engaged in writing tornado insurance for the past ten years. He eagerly embraces every opportunity for business advancement and at the same time his interest in community affairs and the general welfare is manifest in hearty cooperation with all plans and movements which his judgment sanctions as factors for public good.

REV. RUDOLPH LAKOMY.

Rev. Rudolph Lakomy, pastor of the Holy Trinity Catholic church at Protivin, Howard county, was born in Bohemia on the 17th of April, 1862, a son of Anthony and Mary (Kubicek) Lakomy, who spent their entire lives in Bohemia, where the father followed the occupation of farming and also carried on business as a building contractor.

The son acquired his education in the schools of his native country, pursuing a Latin course in a gymnasium at Olomouc, Bohemia. He afterward served for a year in the army and then entered upon a theological course of study in Vienna, Austria, where he was a student for four years. In 1887 he was ordained to the priesthood at Vienna by Cardinal Gaugelbauer and following his ordination he served as priest at different points in Austria for a period of eight years. In 1895 he came to the United States, landing in New York city on the 13th of September of that year. From the eastern