

and fourth loans and also again for the Victory Loan. He was chairman of the Red Cross fund of Stapleton township and made numerous speeches in his district in support of the various drives and the war work. He is a man of progressive spirit, satiety having no part in his nature. He is always looking to opportunities not only for the development of his individual interests but for the benefit of his town and county as well and his labors in this direction have been far-reaching and effective.

MARCUS OSCAR SWENSON.

Marcus Oscar Swenson is a plumbing and heating contractor of Cresco, conducting a business of gratifying proportions. Moreover, he is a native son of the city in which he resides, his birth having here occurred November 17, 1879, his parents being Frederick and Josephine (Iverson) Swenson. His father was born near Racine, Wisconsin, and there pursued his education in the public schools, after which he worked on a farm for his mother for a time and later he secured employment in a blacksmith shop and machine shop. He afterward came to Iowa, establishing his home in Cresco, where he obtained a position in the jewelry store of his brother, Ole Swenson. A little later he returned to Wisconsin but after a short time again came to Cresco, where he established a machine shop. Later he took up the business of manufacturing mowers, which became widely known as the Swenson mowers and were the first made in this part of the country. He continued in the business for a number of years and in 1892 he began the installation of heating plants and also did plumbing work. During this time he likewise manufactured engines and boilers. He thus developed important industrial interests in Cresco and ranked with its prominent and representative business men. His activities constantly broadened in scope and his business continually increased in volume. He continued an active factor in the industrial life of Cresco to the time of his death, which occurred April 11, 1905, when he had reached the age of fifty-eight years. His political support was given to the republican party and his religious faith was that of the Lutheran church. In 1878 he married Miss Josephine Iverson, a daughter of Lars and Anna Iverson. She was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, while her parents were natives of Norway. At an early day they left the land of the midnight sun and came to the United States, establishing their home near Leland, Illinois, where Mr. Iverson engaged in farming for some time. Subsequently he removed to Newburg township, Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he took up government land, upon which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. He at once built a little log house and began to break the prairie and cultivate the fields. He brought his farm under a good state of cultivation but eventually left that place and removed to Hesper township, Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he again purchased land. This he cultivated for a number of years and at length removed to Mabel, Minnesota, where he spent his remaining days in the enjoyment of a well earned rest. He died at the age of eighty-five years, while his wife reached the age of eighty-six years. Their daughter, Mrs. Swenson, was the first child born in Fillmore county.

Marcus O. Swenson of this review pursued his education in the schools of Cresco and in the normal school. His business training was received under the direction of his father and through the International Correspondence School. He began working with his father at the heating and plumbing business in the old machine shop and foundry and developed his mechanical skill and ingenuity. He also worked for the Grubbing Machine Company, owned by Caward & Swenson, and was employed at the city water works as engineer. He also spent some time as miller in a flour and feed mill of Cresco owned by John McCoy and John Casper and later he worked for the firm of Swenson & Moen in the plumbing business. His next step in his business career was to enter into partnership with his father and this relation was maintained until the latter's death on the 11th of April, 1905, at which time the father was fifty-eight years of age. Following his demise Marcus