

In his political views Mr. Simpson is a republican but has never been an office seeker. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His life is that of an enterprising and progressive farmer whose labors are being crowned with well merited success, and the upright life that he has lived has won for him the confidence and regard of all who know him.

A. J. BLAZEK.

Bohemia has furnished to northern Iowa a substantial portion of its citizenship and the representatives of that land, adapting themselves readily to new and changed conditions, have become leading farmers and active business men of this section of the state. To this class belongs A. J. Blazek, who is living on section 19, Utica township, Chickasaw county. He was born in Bohemia, June 13, 1871, a son of John and Mary (Bouska) Blazek, who, leaving their native country, came to the United States in 1890, a year and a half after the arrival of their son, A. J. Blazek.

The latter spent the first seventeen years of his life in his native land and then, attracted by the opportunities of the new world, bade adieu to friends and native country in order to try his fortune in America. He traveled westward across the United States to Cresco, Iowa, and for a time worked on the farm of his uncle, Anton Bouska, in that district. After the father and mother reached the United States a year and a half later they also lived with Anton Bouska, Mr. Blazek aiding in the cultivation of the farm. At a subsequent period he and his son, A. J. Blazek, rented a tract of land of two hundred and twenty acres in New Oregon township, Howard county, near Protivin, and thereon resided for three years. Subsequent to that period the father made investment in one hundred and forty acres of land, constituting the farm upon which his son, A. J. Blazek, now resides. Throughout his remaining days the father devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits and his life's labors were ended in death in 1911. In the meantime he had converted the old home farm into a valuable and productive property, having brought his fields to a high state of cultivation. For a number of years he survived his wife, who passed away in 1900.

From the time of his arrival in Iowa until the present A. J. Blazek has been identified with farming interests. He established a home of his own through his marriage on the 18th of May, 1897, to Miss Mary Bouska, after which he bought his father's land and still occupies the old homestead, although he has since greatly extended its boundaries by the purchase of other property until his holdings now embrace four hundred and forty acres of valuable land. It was upon this property that he and his wife took up their abode following their marriage. Mrs. Blazek is a daughter of John and Anna Bouska, who came to America from Bohemia, and the latter passed away in Protivin, Iowa, February 9, 1919, but the father still survives and makes his home in Protivin. Mr. and Mrs. Blazek have become the parents of ten children who are yet living, namely: Mary, who was born March 5, 1898; John, born August 24, 1899; Vennie, September 20, 1901; Aurelia, December 23, 1903; Anton, October 13, 1905; Agnes, February 21, 1908; Edward, February 27, 1910; Adolph, May 2, 1912; Louis, November 16, 1915; and Clarence, February 10, 1919, all of whom are yet at home.

This large family are communicants of the Catholic church of Little Turkey. Mr. Blazek is a democrat in politics and is now serving for the second year as road commissioner of Utica township. He has also been a school director in his district for a period of nine years and has been active in advancing the educational interests of the community. These things, however, are side lines in his life work, for he gives the major part of his time and attention to his farming and other business interests. He has become a stockholder in the Protivin Telephone Company and he is a director of the Farmers Equity Association of Lawler. He likewise owns stock in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Lawler and in the Farmers Elevator Company of Lawler. His connection with these corporations indicates