

paths whereby he might reach the desired goal. In all of his business life he followed constructive methods, his path never being strewn with other men's failures.

It was amid an admirable home environment that Mr. Owens of this review was reared. He enjoyed the educational opportunities afforded by the common schools and was thoroughly trained in farm work by his father, his youthful experiences well qualifying him for duties and responsibilities that have come to him in later life. On the 26th of October, 1876, when twenty-five years of age, he was married to Miss Ida A. Fletcher, a daughter of William and Elizabeth Fletcher. Her father passed away in Macoupin county, Illinois, on the farm where he was born and which is still in possession of the family. Mrs. Fletcher is still living and now makes her home in Palmyra, Illinois. Although she has attained the age of eighty-one years she is remarkably well preserved and is able to care for all of the work of her own household.

To the time of his marriage Mr. Owens had assisted his father upon the home place, and he then rented a farm, which he cultivated for a few years, taking over the development of one hundred and sixty acres of land. He afterward purchased eighty acres of land near his father-in-law's place in Macoupin county and conducted that farm for thirteen years, at the end of which time he sold the property and purchased one hundred and sixty acres adjoining his former farm on the north. This he developed and improved for a decade, when he again sold out and at that time removed to Daviess county, Missouri. For eight years he cultivated rented land in that state and then came to Iowa, since which time he has made his home in Chickasaw county. He has lived upon various farms and at present is cultivating one hundred and twenty-one acres on section 23, Dresden township, which he owns. He makes a business of breeding registered Poland China hogs and also registered shorthorn cattle, having on hand stock for sale all of the time. His farm is pleasantly situated a mile south and a mile west of Frederickburg and he is conducting a profitable business.

Mr. and Mrs. Owens have become the parents of four children: Mrs. Della Scott; G. W. Mrs. Osie T. Faulkner and Mrs. Elizabeth Troy. In politics Mr. Owens is a democrat but he has never been an office seeker. He belongs to the Farmers Equity Association and fraternally is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen Camp at Lawler. He is loyal to the teachings and purposes of these organizations and has many friends in the membership of the lodges.

#### NORMAN L. FRITCHER.

Norman L. Fritcher, a wide-awake an energetic farmer of Chickasaw township, Chickasaw county, residing on section 20, was born two miles south of Ionia, in the township where he still resides, on the 25th of November, 1871. His parents were L. E. and Helen (Smith) Fritcher, the former a native of the state of New York, while the latter was born in Wisconsin. They became acquainted in Iowa, however, and were married in Chickasaw township, subsequent to which time the father devoted his attention and energies to general agricultural pursuits in that township, where he lived for a number of years. He afterward worked in the creamery at Ionia for a period of eighteen years and then, severing his business connections in Chickasaw county, took up his abode in Hubbard county, Minnesota, where he now resides. His first wife passed away and he afterward married again, his second wife living, however, for but a year. Later he married a third time and with this wife now makes his home in Hubbard county, Minnesota. He is yet remembered by many friends in Chickasaw county, who ever esteemed him as a progressive business man and reliable citizen.

Norman L. Fritcher obtained a district school education of a somewhat limited character, for he left home when but twelve years of age, at the time of his mother's death, and went to live with his maternal grandparents. He continued with them