

here working at his trade in the employ of the Decorah Manufacturing Company for some time. He then formed a partnership with a Mr. Olson and for about five years was engaged in business as the junior member of the firm of Olson & Johnson. On selling out to Mr. Olson he established the enterprise which he now conducts and has since carried on a heating, plumbing and general machine business, operates a garage and also an automobile repair shop. The establishment is one of the largest of its kind in this part of the country and is equipped with all the latest and most modern machinery, while employment is furnished to fourteen men. In 1901 Mr. Johnson admitted his stepson, Oscar, to a partnership and in June, 1912, his sons, George and Melvin, became members of the firm, which was incorporated under the name of Peter Johnson & Sons. The gentleman at its head possesses splendid executive ability and sound judgment and the success which has attended his efforts is well merited.

Mr. Johnson has been married twice. He first wedded Miss Emma Simley, who passed away in 1887, leaving the following children: George W., Melvin, Alma, Nora, Ida, Isaac and Otis. For his second wife Mr. Johnson chose Mrs. Mary Bander. He owns a handsome residence at No. 714 McLane street. Fraternaly he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Yeomen, while his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church.

MARTIN J. AKRE.

Martin J. Akre, a partner in the Highlandville Creamery, is leading a busy and useful life that brings to him a substantial measure of success as the years go on. Moreover, he is recognized as a citizen of genuine worth, interested in all that pertains to the substantial progress of the community. He was born in Pleasant township, May 1, 1867, a son of John and Martha (Servold) Akre. There were nine children in the family, of whom he was the second in order of birth and the eldest son. His youthful days were spent with his parents and during that period he attended the public schools and worked in the fields, but when twenty years of age he left home and sought employment as a farm hand, spending two years at farm work by the month. For a year he was in North Dakota, working as a farm hand, but in December, 1891, returned to Winneshiek county and was here employed through a part of the succeeding summer.

Anxious, however, to engage in business on his own account, Mr. Akre bought a cream route and began collecting cream, at which he has since been engaged. After three years he purchased a third interest in the Highlandville Creamery and eight years later, through a change in the partnership, became half owner of the business his partner being his brother-in-law, P. J. Bidne. Since June, 1892, Mr. Akre has been engaged in collecting cream from the farmers, while his partner has charge of the inside work of the creamery. Success has attended the undertaking and the large annual output finds ready and profitable sale in Chicago. In addition to his creamery interests Mr. Akre was president of the Highlandville Telephone Company for two years.

Since engaging in his present business Mr. Akre has erected a nice home upon his place, giving him a fine view over the village of Highlandville. He was married