

In his childhood Theodore H. Orvella aided with the operation of the farm, dividing his time between these duties and attendance at the district school, and becoming while still a young man an able and progressive agriculturist. Eventually he rented the homestead and thus conducted it for about twenty years, or until after the death of his father, when he purchased the property which he has since improved and operated along progressive and modern lines. Upon this one hundred and sixty acres lying on sections 14, 13, 23 and 24, there are fourteen modern buildings all in good repair and the equipment of the farm is thorough in every respect, the machinery being all modern and up-to-date. Everything about the property reflects the owner's careful and practical supervision and the farm may well be ranked among the best improved and best equipped in this section of the state.

Mr. Orvella is a stockholder in the Nordness Creamery Company, the Nord-ness Telephone Company and the Union Produce Company of Ossian and is widely known as a man of resourcefulness and discriminating business ability. He is a devout member of the Lutheran church and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. In the community where he resides and where his entire life has been spent he is widely known and respected, his sterling qualities of character having gained him the confidence and good-will of all who are associated with him.

SIMON R. YAGER.

The activities of Simon R. Yager have in various ways influentially affected the city of his residence, for he has since 1893 conducted the Calmar Courier and has here, since 1884, in partnership with a brother, conducted a jewelry store which is one of the foremost establishments of its kind in this part of the county. A man of ability and public spirit, he has also served as city clerk and mayor and now holds a position in connection with the school board. A native of Winneshiek county, Iowa, he was born May 30, 1861, his parents being Henry and Mary (Musser) Yager, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of Pennsylvania. The father was one of the pioneer settlers of Winneshiek county, coming here in 1857. He bought a farm at that time which he improved and cultivated until the fall of 1892, in which year he was elected county treasurer, serving one term. He then resided in Calmar for one year, removing at the end of that period to Riceville, this state, where he resided until his death, which occurred on March 10, 1908, at the age of eighty-one years. The mother is still living at Riceville, Iowa, at the age of eighty-eight years.

Simon R. Yager was reared at home and in the acquirement of his education attended the district schools and also Breckenridge Institute at Decorah. He remained with his family on the farm until he reached his majority and then taught country school for about four years, learning at the end of that period the jeweler's and watchmaker's trade, which he followed for a few years. He then learned the trade of printer and in 1893 issued the Calmar Courier, which he has conducted ever since. It is one of the substantial papers of the county. In the passing years it has increased in circulation and in value as an advertising