

burg (Iowa) high school for two years, at the end of which period he was elected superintendent of schools at Clermont, Iowa, remaining in that position for the same period of time. He then went to Calmar, Winneshiek county, as superintendent of schools, discharging his duties with such efficiency and evident results that he was taken in view for the position of county superintendent. He resigned on Christmas day of 1912 to enter upon his new duties, having been elected on the republican ticket in the fall of that year. His wide experience and natural ability in dealing with teachers and children highly qualified him for his position and an era of progress in educational matters may well be predicted under his administration.

In August, 1904, Mr. Miller married Miss Matilda Martin, a daughter of Herman and Paulina (Stoelting) Martin, both of German descent but natives of this country. They made their home at Storm Lake, Iowa, at the time of the marriage of their daughter to our subject. There they still live, occupying a prominent position in the life of the community, where the father is well known in commercial circles as a contractor and builder. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have four children: Harriet, born June 7, 1905, who attends public school in Decorah; Ruth, born August 1, 1907, who also attends school; Katharyn, born April 6, 1909; and Gladys, born December 5, 1911.

Public-spirited and progressive, Mr. Miller takes an active part in the public life of Decorah and the county and is widely popular not only in the profession but with the general public, who rightfully expect great things from his administration. Politically he is a staunch republican and both he and his wife give their adherence to the Methodist Episcopal church, of which they are devout members. Along professional lines Mr. Miller is a member of the Iowa State Teachers Association and also of the Big 5 Teachers Association, comprising five counties, and served last year as chairman of the executive committee and is now serving as president of the committee. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons, being a member of Copestone Lodge, No. 509, A. F. & A. M., of Calmar. It is a conspicuous compliment to the ability of Mr. Miller that he was carried to victory by his constituents to the important office which he now holds, and there is no doubt that he will justify the confidence reposed in him by a course of action which will mark his administration as one of the most beneficial to the interests of the county.

JOHN J. BRUENING.

Winneshiek county numbers among its valued and worthy native sons John J. Bruening, who since 1899 has devoted practically all of his attention to the development and improvement of his farm of ninety-eight acres in Washington township. He was born on the 2d of June, 1874, and is a son of John Charles and Christina Bruening, of whom further mention is made on another page of this work. He began his independent career at the early age of thirteen, engaging in farming in the employ of others for some years thereafter. At the age of twenty-five years he was an able and practical agriculturist and he then purchased land of his own, buying the ninety-eight acres in Washington township