

Iowa, the former of whom engages in farming in Madison township. The Neste brothers are stockholders in the Farmers Creamery Company of Decorah and their ability is widely recognized in business circles. They give their political allegiance to the republican party and they are devout members of the Lutheran church. Although still very young they have already made their influence felt in agricultural circles of their township, are reliable business men and public-spirited citizens, and Winneshiek county is proud to number them among her native sons.

REGINALD F. B. PORTMAN.

For many years Reginald F. B. Portman has been importantly connected with the legal business of Winneshiek county and Decorah, but now lives retired from active practice, devoting his time largely to looking after his investments and other interests. Born in Staple, Fitzpaine, Taunton, England, February 20, 1853, he is the son of Rev. F. B. and Frances Ann (Darnell) Portman, both natives of the mother country. The Portman family is one of great distinction in England, Viscount Portman, of Bryanston, being a first cousin of our subject. The father was the youngest son in the family and, as is often the case, embraced a ministerial career. He became a rector of the Episcopal church and served as rural dean for Taunton for twenty-five or thirty years. He was also for some time canon of Wells cathedral in Somersetshire, England. He died in 1893, his wife having died some time previously.

Reginald F. B. Portman, of this review, early became connected with Her Majesty's navy, becoming a member of a training ship when twelve years of age. He became a midshipman but his career was cut short after four and a half years of service, when he was discharged on account of an injury on April 21, 1869. He crossed the Atlantic to the United States in 1872, locating in Decorah, where there was a large English settlement. He engaged in farming and in the machine shop business as a member of the firm of Horn, Portman & Clive Company until 1877, when he began to read law in the office of C. T. Brown, in Decorah, being admitted to practice in November, 1878. Mr. Portman then formed a partnership with Mr. Brown under the firm name of Brown & Portman, the relationship continuing for two years, since which time he practiced alone until his retirement. A man who exemplified in his conduct the lofty ideals of an ancient and honorable calling, he honored his profession by paying it honor, and by his adherence to the solid virtues and enlightened principles underlying the law. He soon secured a very extensive practice, success being the best evidence of his capability. Of keen perceptive power, he always applied the principles of the law accurately to the point in litigation. Since retiring from the profession he gives his time largely to his investments and is also prominent in Masonry, in which he holds high rank.

In 1878 Mr. Portman was married to Mrs. Caroline S. Warren, a daughter of John Stewart, for many years a resident of Decorah, now deceased. They had three children: Blanche E., the wife of James H. Duncan, of Decorah; vol. 1. n-5