

CHRISTIAN NICKLAY.

Christian Nicklay, a prominent and well-to-do farmer and owner of a fine farm of four hundred and forty acres of land in Barnesville township, Clay county, treasurer of the township board for the long period of thirty-two years and treasurer of the district school board for twenty-two years, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, March 1, 1861, a son of John and Susan (Birk) Nicklay, both of whom were natives of Germany and who immigrated to the United States while still young.

John Nicklay was born in Germany in 1833 and was educated in the schools of that country, coming to America when about twelve years old. He moved from Buffalo county, Wisconsin, to Minnesota in 1879, driving two teams; leaving Buffalo on May 1, that year, and arriving at Barnesville, Clay county, at the end of twenty-eight days. He immediately homesteaded a farm in section 14, Barnesville township, and shortly afterward took a tree claim of one hundred and sixty acres, south of Barnesville. Mr. Nicklay proceeded at once to break up his land and get it into a state fit for the planting of crops and presently had things well under way, his labors from the very start being successful. He continued to operate his land for the remainder of his active life and died in November, 1897, at the age of sixty-four years. His wife, Susan Birk, also was a native of Germany, born in that country in 1835. She came to America when eighteen years old and four years after her arrival was married in Dane county, Wisconsin, to John Nicklay. They were the parents of the following children: Christian, the subject of this sketch; Jacob, a farmer in Barnesville township; Anna, married and living in the state of Washington; Peter, in Humboldt township; Lizzie, married, living in Montana; William, a railroad engineer, and John, a railroad conductor. The mother of these children died in 1905.

Christian Nicklay was educated in the public schools of Dane county, Wisconsin, and in 1879 accompanied his father to Clay county, and worked on the farm of the latter until he was twenty-three years old, at which time he made his first purchase of land. He bought eighty acres in Barnesville township and commenced the life of a farmer on his own account and as he prospered in his labors he continued to add to his holdings and is now the owner of four hundred and forty acres of excellent land in sections 11, 14 and 15. Mr. Nicklay has carried out many valuable improvements and his farms are now classed among the best in that section of

Clay county, he being accounted one of the substantial and progressive farmers of the township.

On January 9, 1890, at Mankato, this state, Christian Nicklay was united in marriage to Anna Bruels, who was born on August 4, 1868, in Blue Earth county, Minnesota. To this union the following children have been born: George, Leo (married), Mary (married), Catherine, Dora, Anton, Fred, Francis (deceased), Edmond, Mathilda and Mildred (twins) and Olivia. The family are members of the Catholic church of Barnesville and are active in support of all its good works. Mr. Nicklay is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters. He served as treasurer of the township board for thirty-two years and has been treasurer of the district school board for twenty-two years, and in these representative public positions has rendered valuable service to the people of the district.

EDWARD ALBERTS.

The business of the farm and the business of farming, while in many points analogous, are in reality quite distinctive. The former carries with it the consideration of dollars and cents in the employment of labor, the outlay of capital on buildings and improvements; the cost of raising crops, as against the revenue received after harvesting and sale, the maintenance and repair of machinery and implements, and the saving to be made possible if improved machinery be installed on the farm. One of the citizens of Cromwell township, Clay county, who understands all phases of farming is Edward Alberts.

Mr. Alberts was born in Goodhue county, Minnesota, November 30, 1868. He is a son of Klaus and Margaret (Bauman) Alberts, both natives of Germany, from which country they came to America when young and single. After their marriage they located in Goodhue county, Minnesota, where they made their home for about fifteen years, then moved to Dodge county, this state, where they spent the rest of their lives on a farm. Their family consisted of eleven children, all of whom survive at this writing but one daughter, namely: George, William, Hiram, Mary, Edward, Kate, Ida (deceased), Margaret, Elizabeth, Frank and Benjamin.

Edward Alberts grew to manhood on the home farm and attended the public schools in Dodge county, this state. There he began farming for himself. In the spring of 1899 he came to Clay county and located on