

improving the homestead tract which the latter had entered. In 1895 Mr. Beck purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 23, Winchester township, later buying an additional quarter section in section 14, and still later adding fifty acres, now being the owner of three hundred and seventy-five acres, five of which is timber land. He has the place in excellent condition and has remodeled all the buildings, and is regarded as one of the progressive farmers of the township.

In 1914 William Beck was united in marriage to Myrtle Swanson, born in Minnesota in 1886, daughter of August and Carrie Swanson, the former of whom is a farmer now living retired at Osseo, Minnesota, and still is the owner of a parcel of land. Mr. Beck gives a good citizen's attention to public affairs and served as a director on the local school board for eleven years, and as township supervisor for eight years. He is a director of the Lake Ida Telephone Company and vice-president and director of the Borup Produce Company, which he helped to organize. He is a member of the Woodmen, in which organization he takes a warm interest. In addition to his farming operations, Mr. Beck raises a fine strain of graded stock and also farms his father's place in this county. He cultivates oats, potatoes and wheat, and is generally regarded as conducting his farm operations along modern lines of agriculture, keeping well informed on all the latest phases intended to improve farming conditions.

VALENTINE ONDRUSH.

Valentine Ondrush, a prosperous farmer of Waukon township, Norman county, where he is the owner and proprietor of one hundred sixty acres of well-tilled land and where he is connected with several of the important co-operative business enterprises of the community, was born in Austria, November 25, 1872, a son of Joseph and Theresa (Pakofsky) Ondrush, both of whom were native Austrians. As many of their countrymen had become comfortably situated in this country, the father came to America in 1891 and came on out to Norman county. Here his wife and a part of the family joined him in 1892. After their son, Valentine, the subject of this review, had established himself on his present farm, his parents lived with him until they bought eighty acres of land in Wild Rice township and there they resided until the death of the mother. Later, the father returned to Austria, where his death occurred. They were the parents of six children, as follow: Mary,

Valentine, Ann and Richard, all of whom came to America; Frank and Anton, who were soldiers in the Austrian army, but were farmers after they had finished their term of service; however, their deaths occurred before the beginning of the present war.

Valentine Ondrush spent his early boyhood and manhood in the land of his nativity, where he received his common-school education in the elementary schools of the kingdom, but when he was twenty years of age, he accompanied his mother and a part of the family to America, where they joined the father in Norman county, Minnesota. Two years later, in 1894, he bought forty acres of land, a part of his present farm, and began his agricultural operations in which he has experienced an unqualified success. As the years have passed, he has experienced marked prosperity in all his undertakings and has been enabled repeatedly to add to his holdings until he now is the owner of one hundred sixty acres of well-improved land on which he carries on general diversified farming.

In 1904, Mr. Ondrush married Eliza Dostel, who is also a native of Austria, and to this union six children have been born, all of whom are living: Rudolph, George, Mary, Anna, Francis and Lewis. Mr. and Mrs. Ondrush are members of the Catholic church and in the affairs of the local parish they are quite active. Mr. Ondrush has never gone in much for politics, but he takes a good American citizen's interest in local, state and national affairs. Since every progressive farmer is cognizant of the need of good roads, he has rendered a conspicuous service to his community in the capacity of road overseer. Mr. Ondrush is connected with several of the important co-operative business enterprises of the community in which he lives. He helped to organize the Faith Milling Company at Faith, the creamery and mercantile company, both of Waukon, and is interested in the Gary Telephone Company at Gary.

JACOB SCHMIDT.

Jacob Schmidt, a prosperous and well-known farmer of Mary township, Norman county, where he is the owner and operator of a fine, well-improved farm of two hundred and twenty-five acres, and who is actively connected with the co-operative business interests of this section and takes a good citizen's interest in the civil affairs of the township in which he has lived for many years, was born in Bavaria, Germany, August 30, 1868, a son of George and Christina (Link) Schmidt, both of whom are natives of