

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

Germany and now make their home here with their son, the subject of this sketch. George Schmidt, who never owned land after he came to America, was born in 1833, in the old country, where he was a day-laborer, and came to America with his wife, who was born in 1843. They were the parents of three children, as follow: Eva, the wife of Louis Karcher, now living in Missouri; Mary, who married John Arends, and Jacob, the subject of this review.

Jacob Schmidt was only sixteen years of age when he came to this country in 1884 with his father and the family, who came here to improve their condition over what it was in their native land. Being the only son in the family, it was necessary for him to begin work immediately as a laborer to help out the family income. After nineteen years of hard work as a laborer, he has acquired enough capital to permit his entering agricultural pursuits, and in 1903 he arrived in Norman county, where the land was cheap and fertile, and bought two hundred acres in section 15, Mary township. To this holding, he later added twenty-five acres more in section 16, same township. When he first arrived on his new holding, he found it entirely unimproved, save a few shacks scattered here and there. He set about improving his land and to date he has expended five thousand dollars in erecting his house and farm buildings. All of the farm buildings are in an excellent state of repair, being supplied with running water. He has a comfortable and convenient farm home with seven rooms, a gas-lighting system and bath room, hence he here enjoys urban conveniences in the quietude of the rural districts. In 1912 he erected a fine, new, capacious barn at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars. He is an up-to-date farmer, adding to his equipment of farming machinery all the modern improvements in this line. At present, he has an excellent tractor and automobile. He carries on a scientific type of diversified farming, which includes a carefully-worked-out system of crop rotation, and in addition, raises some stock, having at this time about twenty head.

On April 24, 1899, Mr. Schmidt married Rosie Hock, who was born in Germany, February 25, 1874, a daughter of Joseph Hock and Mary Reinhart Hock, with whom she came to this country in 1891, settling in Wilmington, Illinois, where she was married to Mr. Schmidt. Her death occurred on September 25, 1916. This marriage resulted in the birth of five children, namely: George, who is fifteen years of age and lives at home; Annie, aged fourteen; Margaret, eleven years old; Helen, who is eight years of age, and Adolph, five years old. Mr. Schmidt is a devout member of the Catholic church, and takes a deep interest in local parish affairs.

Mr. Schmidt has taken a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs, having actively participated in the road and educational improvement of the community. He has been a road overseer and for six years he was a director on the board of the local school district. Local co-operative business enterprises have come in for a share of his attention. He was a member of the board of directors of the Lee Co-operative Telephone Company for six years and he helped to organize the same enterprise. He also has shares in the potato warehouse at Borup.

LESLIE WELTER

Leslie Welter, one of the prominent business men of Moorhead, Clay county, was born at St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada, in 1864. He is the son of David and Margaret (McClellan) Welter, both of whom were natives of Ontario, where they both died. David Welter was a successful farmer and cattle man.

Leslie Welter received his education in the schools of Ontario. When he was eighteen years old, after finishing his course in the Collegiate Institute of St. Thomas, he was employed by the government as a member of a surveying party in the Canadian northwest. In the fall of 1884 he left Canada and came to the United States and located at Moorhead, Minnesota. For the first two years of his residence in Moorhead he taught school. Afterwards he engaged in the mercantile business with F. G. Asselstine and later with H. G. Finkle. The latter partnership continued until the death of Mr. Finkle in 1890, when Mr. Welter continued the business alone. He gradually became more interested in the business of handling potatoes and in the year 1902 sold his store in order to be able to devote more time to his potato business. He is today one of the largest dealers of potatoes in this section and has warehouses at Moorhead, Glyndon, Hawley, Dale, Nielsville and other points in Minnesota. In addition to his extensive business in the handling of potatoes, Mr. Welter is interested in the mining and selling of sand and gravel and has been president of the Muskoda Sand Company since its organization in 1907.

In 1889 Mr. Welter was married to Ella G. Gedney, of La Crosse, Wisconsin, and to this union two children have been born, namely: Leslie, Jr., and Helen Margaret. Mr. and Mrs. Welter have long been prominent in social and religious circles of Moorhead and vicinity. Mr. Welter