

Mr. Bower is one of the leading business men of Bethel, where he is junior member of the firm of Bower Brothers, who here conduct a thriving general merchandise business.

Mr. Bower was born in the village that is now his home and the date of his nativity was December 22, 1850. He is indebted to the public schools of Bethel for the early educational advantages that were accorded to him, and after leaving school he learned the trade of cabinet making, to which he continued to devote his attention for a period of eight years. In 1884 he became associated with his elder brothers, who had established themselves in the general merchandise business under the title of T. & A. Bower, and after four years of identification with this enterprise he and his brother August sold their interest in the same to their brother Theodore L., a member of the original firm. After his retirement from this business David Bower was associated with his brother August in general farming and stock-raising, to which he gave his undivided attention, making a specialty of the raising of horses and cattle, until 1891, when he and his brother August again entered the mercantile trade, by opening a large and well equipped general store in Bethel, where they have since conducted a large and prosperous business, under the firm name of D. & A. Bower & Company. The subject of this review still continues to give a general supervision to his farming and stock-growing interests, and is the owner of a fine farm of 400 acres, located in Bethel township. He was one of the organizers and incorporators of the Bank of Bethel, in which

he is now a member of the board of directors, and he is also a stockholder in the Commercial Bank of Shelbina, this county. He is known as one of the reliable and honorable business men and substantial and loyal citizens of his native county, where he commands unqualified popular confidence and esteem. His political support is given to the Republican party and he is now a member of the county central committee of Bethel township. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church,

In the year 1884 Mr. Bower was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Bair, who was born and reared in Bethel and who is a daughter of Reuben Bair, a representative of one of the sterling pioneer families of this part of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Bower have four children, Clara, Marvin, Frank and Fannie.

CARL E. ROWER.

Mr. Bower has the distinction of being the youngest bank president in his native county, being at the present time the chief executive of the Bank of Bethel, and he is known as one of the progressive and representative business men of the younger generation in Shelby county, where he is well known and where he is not denied the fullest measure of objective confidence and esteem. He is a son of Theodore L. Bower, one of the honored and influential citizens of the county, and one to whom is accorded consideration in a special article on other pages of this volume, so that further review of the family history is not demanded in the present sketch.

Carl E. Bower was born in Bethel, Shelby county, Missouri, on March 20, 1871, and he gained his early educational discipline in the excellent public schools of his native village, where he completed the curriculum of the high school when twenty years of age. He then, in January, 1892, engaged in the general merchandise business in his home town, becoming associated in this enterprise with his brother, John A., under the firm name of Bower Brothers. They continued the business with marked success for the ensuing five years, at the expiration of which the subject of this review sold his interest and, in 1897, opened a drug store, besides which he became associated with his father in the furniture business. He continued his active identification with both of these prosperous enterprises until February, 1909, when he sold his interest in the same, his father retiring from active business at the same time. On January 1, 1908, Mr. Bower was elected president of the Bank of Bethel, of which his honored father was the first president, and he is proving a most able and discriminating executive, directing the affairs of this substantial and popular institution with consummate judgment and according to the most approved and duly conservative ideas. He is devoting practically his entire time and attention to the bank and, as already stated, is the youngest incumbent of this important official position to be found in Shelby county. He is aligned as a stalwart supporter of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor, is affiliated with the Independ-

ent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America.

On October 26, 1898, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Bower to Miss Ella Vestry, of Shelbyville, this county, where she was reared and educated, being a daughter of John B. Vestry, a representative citizen of the attractive county seat city. Mr. and Mrs. Bower have two children, Vivian Maurine and Irene La-Carl. Mr. and Mrs. Bower are prominent and popular figures in connection with the social activities of the community, and their pleasant home is a center of gracious hospitality.

THEODORE L. BOWER.

The Bower family has been one of special prominence and influence in connection with the civic and industrial development of that section of Shelby county which has its business and social interests centered in the thriving little village of Bethel, a town founded by sturdy German colonists more than half a century ago and one that has retained to the present day a large percentage of representatives of these worthy pioneer colonists. Of this number is Theodore L. Bower, who is one of the substantial citizens of the county, where, he has large banking interests and is the owner of valuable farm property, besides which he was for many years one of the leading merchants of Bethel, where he is now living virtually retired, enjoying the rewards of former years of earnest endeavor and resting secured in the high esteem of all who know him.

Mr. Bower is a native of Beaver coun-