

game, Kansas, but only remained two years. From there he moved to North Topeka, Kansas, and there he remained actively engaged in a large practice as a physician until his death, November 17, 1900, aged seventy-eight years.

In 1848 he was united in marriage with Miss Delia Elizabeth Stofer, at the time a resident of Ohio, as he was, and they became the parents of six children, three of whom are living: Burton D., a resident of this county; Byron L., the subject of this brief review; and Lillie B., the wife of Jacob Griggs, whose home is in Parsons, Kansas. After the death of his first wife he again married, March 23, 1893, his second wife being Miss Miriam A. Blakeslee, who survives him. In his political allegiance the father was a devoted member of the Republican party from its birth to his own death, and he gave the organization the best service in all its campaigns he was capable of, although never seeking any of its favors for himself or allowing its demands to interfere in any way with his business.

Byron L. Swift was reared on his father's farm, and as soon as he left school began farming and raising live stock on his own account. He has steadfastly adhered to these occupations in spite of many temptations to give his attention to other callings, and has made his operations in them substantially profitable to himself and of very material benefit to his township and county. He has conducted his business with enterprise and intelligence, studying the best modern methods in connection with it and applying the results of his observations with excellent judgment and con-

tinuous industry, progressiveness and breadth of view.

He was married on October 25, 1893, to Miss Katy A. Wolfe, of New Orleans, Louisiana. The five children born of the union are all living and all yet members of the parental family circle. They are: Ruby, William, Bessie, Katy and Byron. Their mother died on August 27, 1908. The father is a Republican in his political connection, with an earnest and unceasing interest in the welfare of his party, and at all times renders it all the service he can. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which, also, he takes an active and serviceable interest. The enduring welfare of his township and county is a matter of constant concern and energetic effort on his part, no worthy undertaking involving it going without his earnest, intelligent and helpful assistance. He is regarded as one of the best and most useful men in his locality.

#### JAMES POLK CONNAWAY.

While the great state of Missouri attracted the attention and commanded the admiration of the world during the late Spanish-American war by her prolific production of superior mules well adapted for hardy service and long endurance, which enabled her to supply all the requirements of the American army with this necessity of modern warfare, she is no less entitled to credit for her great industry in the production of high grade horses for almost every use to which the noble animal is put in the service of mankind.

The pre-eminence of the state in bring-

ing forth this product as a creation for use, enjoyment and commerce has not been so pronounced as in connection with the other four-footed animal of great utility, and no great public exigency has brought the name of Missouri into universal notice in reference to it, but the industry is, nevertheless, an extensive one in the commonwealth and engages the energies of a large number of the people here, many of whom have national reputations for the excellent quality of their output in this line.

Among this number Polk Connaway, of Salt River township, Shelby county, is in the front rank and he well deserves the high standing he enjoys in connection with the industry. He has made a specialty of it for many years, and become an authority on every feature and department of the business and his name is as familiar as a household word in every horse market in the country that has any general and widespread reputation of its own or is frequented by dealers of extensive trading.

Mr. Connaway was born on February 22, 1871, in Shelby county, Missouri. His parents, John Henry and Anna (Swain) Connaway, were born and reared in the state of Delaware, and there their forefathers lived from colonial times. The father, who came into being in 1841, was a son of Minus Connaway, who lived on a farm in Delaware which the family had occupied for generations. He was prominent in the affairs of the little state, whose proud boast has often been that she "produces greatness, not bigness," and his son had the prospect of a career at home in line with the long habits and stimulating examples of his

ancestors. But the West wore a winning smile for him, and he yielded to its persuasive blandishments, coming to Missouri at an early day in his own life and that of the state.

He located on a farm in Shelby county, three miles west of Shelbina, and there he farmed and raised live stock actively, extensively and successfully until 1908, when he retired from active labor. Since then he has made his home with one or another of his children. He was married to Miss Anna Swain, and they became the parents of eight children, six of whom are living: Mary, the wife of Frank Barnes, of Ohio; Polk, the interesting subject of this writing; Frank, who is also a resident of this county; Ollie, the wife of Charles Raplee, of Shelby county; John, another member of the family who dignifies and adorns the citizenship of this county; and Mattie, now Mrs. Earl Porter, of Palmyra, Missouri. The father is a Republican in politics and a member of the Southern Methodist Episcopal church in religious affiliation.

Polk Connaway was educated in the country schools of Shelby county, and after leaving school worked on his father's farm and others in the vicinity until 1895. He then began farming and raising live stock in a general way on his own account, and has been energetically and successfully engaged in these pursuits from that time to the present. Soon after starting in business for himself he determined to give his whole attention in the stock industry to the production and handling of superior strains of horses, making that his specialty and allowing no other line to

interfere with his extensive operations in it. He has been very successful in the business and, as has been noted, has reached considerable prominence and won a national reputation for himself in it as one of the best and most intelligent horsemen in the state of his residence.

On February 5, 1895, he was united in marriage with Miss Sallie Churchwell, of Shelby county, Missouri. The five children born of this union are all living and still reside under the parental roof-tree. They are: Anna Valience, James Lester, Ethel C., Mattie Hazel, and an infant daughter, named Tomie D. The father gives his active support and loyal allegiance to the principles and candidates of the Republican party in political affairs, and to the Modern Woodmen of America in fraternal relations. He is highly esteemed for his public spirit and enterprise in connection with the progress and improvement of his township and county, and held in strong regard for the elevated character and general usefulness of his citizenship.

#### HUGH DEMPSEY.

Starting with practically nothing in the way of financial resources, and now owning and cultivating a fine farm of 195 acres in an advanced state of improvement and productiveness, Hugh Dempsey, of Salt River township, in this county, furnishes an impressive illustration of the possibilities of industry, enterprise, thrift and good business management in our land of unmeasured resources and great wealth of opportunity. His career also gives another proof of

the versatility, adaptability and readiness for any conditions so characteristic of the Irish race, and its powers of achievement in every field of human endeavor to which it sedulously devotes itself, whatever the circumstances.

Although born in Adams county, Illinois, on November 7, 1852, Mr. Dempsey is but one generation removed from the Emerald Isle, where his father, Charles Dempsey, and his mother, Sarah (Dempsey) Dempsey, were born and reared, the father's life beginning in that country in 1815, and the mother's two or three years later. The father came to the United States a very young man and located first in Pennsylvania. A few years afterward he moved to Adams county, Illinois, and in 1866 brought his family to Missouri and took up his residence in Shelby county. Here he was energetically and continuously engaged in farming and raising live stock until his death in 1882.

By his marriage to Miss Sarah Dempsey he became the father of eight children, six of whom are living: Edward J., of St. Louis, Missouri; Hugh, whose life story this review especially records; Lizzie, the wife of Marshall Baker, a resident of this county; Nancy, the wife of William Barry, of St. Louis; Charles Mark, who is also a resident of this county; and Margaret, the wife of Thomas Finney, another member of the family who is adding to the growth, improvement and prosperity of Shelby county. In politics the father adhered to the Democratic party and in religion to the tenets of the Catholic church.

His son Hugh obtained a limited com-