

district schools and acquiring a knowledge of the English tongue, entered the employ of L. A. Rossing, a merchant at Argyle, as clerk. Behind the counter in the store of that gentleman he remained faithful to all trusts until July, 1881, when he came to Monona County and accepted a place in a store at Moorhead and has followed mercantile life there ever since.

In October 1886, Mr. Erickson purchased a half interest in the business of his employer, G. P. Benjamin, and they, under the firm name of Benjamin & Erickson, carried on the business until April 1, 1889, when he bought out his partner. He added to the storeroom by building an addition to the building shortly after, and increased his stock, and now carries a large and varied assortment of goods and has a large and lucrative trade. He was appointed Postmaster January 16, 1888 and has retained the office since.

Mr. Erickson was married May 25, 1887, at Woodbine, Harrison County, Iowa, to Miss Wilma Eades, a native of Missouri, who was born February 27, 1863, and is the daughter of Embrose and Martha Eades. By this union he is the parent of one child, George Elmer, who was born June 10, 1889. Mr. Erickson is a zealous and consistent member of the Lutheran Church, in which faith he was reared, while his wife draws spiritual consolation from the ministrations of the Presbyterian communion.



WILLIAM T. DAY, the enterprising young merchant of Castana and a member of the firm of W. T. Day & Co., was born in Monona County, May 8, 1865, and is the son of Joseph B. P. and Sophia E. (Thomas) Day. In the common district schools of his native county he sought the true foundation of practical education until the fall of 1878, when he went to Mapleton and was in attendance at its graded school until January 13, 1879. At the latter date he began mercantile life as a member of the firm of F. A.

Day & Co., and in 1883, in company with his father, purchased the business and carried it on in Old Castana until the laying out of the new town and then removed it thither. With their large and complete stock and a numerous acquaintance throughout an extended scope of country they at once assumed their present position as leaders in the business life of the village. Feeling the want of a commercial education, Will T., from January until July, 1884, attended a course at the Commercial College of Bloomfield, Iowa.

W. T. Day was married August 15, 1888, to Miss Helen Hanson, a native of Norway, born July 23, 1865, who had come to America with her parents when an infant. Her father and mother both died in this county in 1884, leaving three children, Helen, Charles T. and Louise.

One of the finest residences in the village of Castana is that of Mr. Day, and was erected in 1888. They have had born to them one child, Sophia Isabel, whose birth took place August 6, 1889.



FREDERICK BUTCHER, an enterprising farmer of Franklin township, living on section 34, was born in Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo County, Mich., December 28, 1858, and is the son of Edmund and Mary (O'Leary) Butcher, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in the pages of this volume. He came to Monona County in 1866, with his parents, and since that time has made his home in Franklin Township, with the exception of three years spent at Sioux City. He received his education in the common schools of the county, and, being a natural born mechanic, has followed carpentering from his youth up, carrying it on in connection with farming. The last three years he has devoted his attention entirely to agriculture. In the fall of 1883, Mr. Butcher purchased the farm where he now resides which at that time was entirely wild land, for which he paid \$10 per acre. The whole one hundred and sixty acres of it is now thoroughly well improved and most of it is brought into cultivation and has a present value of over \$30 per acre.