

ing the greater part of his subsequent life. But for a number of years he was engaged in mining in the farther West, and still has holdings of value in gold mines at Telluride, Central City and Gunnison, Colorado. His present farm in Clay township, this county, comprises 260 acres of superior land, and in connection with its cultivation he carries on an extensive and thriving live stock industry. Both lines of his operations are profitable because of the intelligence, skill and vigor with which he manages them, and his success has made him one of the leaders in these industries in Shelby county.

Mr. Wheeler was married in 1883 to Miss Cora Allen Hirrlinger, a daughter of William and Magdalena (Doerrer) Hirrlinger, who were born in Darmstadt, Germany, but Mrs. Wheeler is a native of Shelbyville. She and her husband became the parents of seven children, five of whom are living: Nora, the wife of H. A. Jordan, whose home is in Clarence, this county; Eliza A., the wife of Peter Neuschafer; and Vincil O'Bryan, Virgil L. and John Leland. In politics the father is a pronounced and ardently interested Democrat, always true to his party and at all times ready to render it any service in his power. He has served on the school board for more than six years, and in many other avenues of beneficial effort has helped to build up the township and county of his residence and promote the welfare of their people. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, and in religious affiliation he and his wife are allied with the Methodist Episcopal church. His half cen-

tury of life has been judiciously employed in furthering his own interests and at the same time in essential contributions to the welfare of others. It has been eminently useful and upright, and given him an opportunity to exemplify in all relations the attributes of elevated and serviceable American citizenship.

#### JUSTUS F. ECHTERNACHT.

For a full quarter of a century this progressive and enterprising farmer and stock man has been a resident of Missouri, and has lived and labored in the township and county of his present residence. He is therefore well known to the people among whom his daily life of usefulness and sterling citizenship has been passed, and the universal esteem they give him is based on well determined grounds of merit, and is neither speculative nor sentimental. He has demonstrated the quality of his manhood and all who know him have found it worthy of their confidence and regard.

Mr. Echternacht is a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, one of the richest and most prosperous counties in the United States, where he was born on October 10, 1861, a grandson of John Echternacht, who came to this country from England, where he was born and grew to manhood. On his arrival in the United States he located in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and there his son William, the father of Justus F., was born, reared and, at the end of a long life of usefulness, buried in the region hallowed by his labor and devotion to the welfare of its people. He was a

farmer and gave all his energy to the pursuit of his chosen vocation except what was required for the service of his community. His wife, whose maiden name was Caroline Dean, was born at Lititz in the same county. They had eight children, seven of whom are living: Albert, Sophy, Justus F., Mary, Emma, Harry and George. The father died at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1900. The mother is still living and has her home at Adamstown, in her native county.

Their son, Justus F., grew to manhood in the county of his nativity and was educated in the district schools of Adamstown there. After leaving school he worked on a farm in the neighborhood of his home for a number of years, getting a start in life by slow accretions gathered by industry and carefully husbanded in frugal living. In 1885 he came to Missouri and located on a farm in Clay township, Shelby county, on which he is still living, and has bestowed his labor from that time to the present (1910). The farm comprises eighty acres and is devoted to general farming and stock-raising. It is well improved, highly productive and skillfully cultivated. By close attention to every detail of its work and the application of broad intelligence to its operation, Mr. Echternacht has made it one of the model farms of the township in which it is located and greatly enhanced its value since he became its owner and laid upon it the persuasive hand of his progressive husbandry, his good judgment in its management and his energy in tilling it.

But he has not allowed its require-

ments to wholly absorb him or lessen his interest in the welfare of the locality. To every worthy project designed to promote the development and improvement of his township and county he has given ready, judicious and effective aid, making himself one of the most useful citizens of the region, and winning the commendation of all its people by his energy and breadth of view in its behalf. He is an active, working Democrat in political faith and allegiance, but he has never sought or desired a political office of any kind, either by election or appointment. His fraternal affiliation is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and his religious connection with the Christian church. He has always taken a great and helpful interest in church work, and for years has been one of the trustees of the congregation to which he belongs. On December 17, 1886, he was united in marriage with Miss Belle Prange, a native of Clay township, this county, and a daughter of John and Kate (Heiman) Prange, who were born and reared in Germany. Six children have been born of the union, all of whom are living. They are: Vonedá, the wife of W. Lee, of Atlanta, Missouri, and John, Katie and Carrie (twins), Albert and George.

#### JACOB GABLE.

Born and reared in Germany, and trained to usefulness in the strenuous and frugal industrial life of that great and progressive empire, Jacob Gable, one of the prosperous and progressive farmers of Clay township, in this county, brought to the United States inherited