

By this time Mr. Snider's mind was firmly fixed on establishing a home of his own, and in accordance with his desire to do this, he began farming and raising live stock on his own account. Although his progress was slow at first, it has been steady from the beginning. The way before him was ascending and rugged, for he was without material resources, and had nothing but his personal qualities of head, heart and spirit to depend on, but he kept climbing it, whatever the difficulties, and as he gained higher ground and surer footing, he enlarged his estate and his business operations in proportion to his increasing prosperity.

His farm, as has been stated, comprises 211 acres and it is well improved, highly developed and very productive. It is all under cultivation and is tilled with intelligence and vigor, every acre being made to yield the best result the most advanced modern agricultural methods can produce, according to the season and other circumstances. He studies his work with earnest thought and reflective observation, and he applies the information he thus gains to all his efforts with energy and zeal that leave nothing to chance, in so far as such industry can overcome or command it.

In December, 1873, Mr. Snider united in marriage with Miss Ella Coleman, of Hannibal, Missouri. Three children were born to them, but one of whom is living, their daughter Allie P., the wife of Alvin Lippincott, who lives in this county and stands well among the people. Her father follows faithfully the fortunes of the Democratic party and is loyal in his service to it, although he

seeks none of its honors or profits for himself. He and his wife are zealous and devoted members of the Southern Methodist Episcopal church and are held in high regard as useful forces in the congregation to which they belong.

#### BYRON L. SWIFT.

Although not a native of Missouri, Byron L. Swift, one of the successful farmers and representative citizens of Salt River township, has lived in Shelby county most of the time since he reached the age of five years, when he came to this state and county with his parents. He grew to manhood on the soil of Shelby county, drew from it his stature and his strength, obtained his education in its public schools and from the dawn of his maturity has been engaged in helping to promote its industrial greatness and power in his quiet and unassuming way, but with material enterprise and substantial results for the good of the people.

Mr. Swift was born in the town of Richfield, Summit county, Ohio, on March 20, 1860, and is a son of Stiles P. and Delia Elizabeth (Stofer) Swift, the former a native of Michigan and the latter of Ohio. In 1863 the father moved to Missouri and located in Shelby county. His family came two years later. Here he practiced medicine in the Homeopathic school for a number of years, and also conducted farming operations in connection with raising live stock. In 1865 he changed his residence to Shelbyna and there devoted himself wholly to the practice of his profession. Some years afterward he moved to Burlin-

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-