

of the home farm and finally he began independent operations in the buying and shipping of cattle and hogs, devoting his attention to this line of enterprise during the winter season, and having also followed the trade of cobbler for some time, working at the same principally in the evenings.

At the age of twenty-seven years Mr. Blair came to Indianapolis and engaged in the buying and selling of horses. He opened a retail sales stable on Capitol avenue, and in 1889 he formed a partnership with William W. Baker, with whom he has since continued to be intimately associated in his business enterprises. In 1893 the firm of Blair & Baker established headquarters at the Union Stock Yards, where their extensive operations have since been centered. As already stated, the Blair-Baker Horse Company succeeded to control of the firm's business in 1900, incorporation having been made to expand the commercial facilities of the enterprise. Mr. Blair is a substantial, thoroughgoing business man and his marked success represents the direct result of his own efforts. His course has been so ordered that he has never lacked popular confidence and esteem and his dealings have at all times been honorable and straightforward, so that the concern with which he is identified well merits its high reputation. The Indianapolis Sales Company forms an adjunct to the Blair-Baker Horse Company and its operations are in the handling of high class speed horses. In politics Mr. Blair accords a stalwart allegiance to the cause of the Republican party, but he has never cared to enter the domain of so-called practical politics. He is a member of the Columbia, Commercial, Marion and Woodruff Clubs.

On the 28th of October, 1884, Mr. Blair was united in marriage to Miss Ida P. Pray, who was born in Morgan County, Indiana, a daughter of Joseph and ——— (Johnson) Pray, both of whom were born and reared in Indiana, where they passed their entire lives, Mr. Pray having been a tanner by trade and having conducted a tannery at Mooresville, this state, for many years. He was a Republican in politics and both he and his wife were birthright members of the Society of Friends, in which they were zealous workers. Of their eleven children six are living, Mrs. Blair being the youngest child. Mr. and Mrs. Blair have one son, William B., who was reared and educated in Indianapolis and who is now a buyer for the Blair-Baker Horse Company, being one of the representative young business men of the city.

WILLIAM H. SPAHR. One of the staunch representatives of business activities of the capital city of Indiana is William H. Spahr, who is senior member of the firm of Wm. H. Spahr & Son, engaged in the handling of mortgage loans and real estate, with headquarters in the Talbott building, at the corner of Pennsylvania and Market streets.

William H. Spahr claims the fine Old Dominion commonwealth as the place of his nativity, as he was born in the historic city of Fredericksburg, Virginia, on the 24th of July, 1842. He is a son of Jacob and Maria Spahr, the former of whom was born in Switzerland, on the 8th of February, 1808, and the latter in Lancaster City, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1810. In 1845, when the subject of this sketch was about three years of age, his parents came from Pennsylvania to Indiana and located at Millersville, Marion County. The future metropolis of the state was then a mere village, and Jacob Spahr was offered the quarter square on which the magnificent Claypool hotel in Indianapolis now stands, for the sum of four hundred dollars. He brought with him five thousand dollars in cash, an amount that was considered a comfortable fortune in those days. This he had accumulated through his operations as a contractor in Virginia and Pennsylvania. Upon coming to Indiana he purchased a flour mill and distillery in Millersville, and he conducted the same until 1847, when he rebuilt the mill, greatly increasing its capacity, and thereafter he operated the mill and distillery until the early '50s, when he disposed of the property and business, owing largely to his wife's opposition to the manufacture of whiskey.

Jacob Spahr was about eight years of age at the time of his parents' immigration from Switzerland to America, in 1816. They landed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in that state his parents passed the remainder of their lives. The mother of the subject of this sketch was born at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in May, 1810, and her maiden name was Miller. She was of Swiss French and Swiss German descent. Jacob Spahr was killed by a train on the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, on his farm, near Millersville, Indiana, on the 22d of September, 1872, and his wife, who attained to the venerable age of eighty-seven years, passed the closing days of her life in Indianapolis. The father was an appreciative student of the bible and was well fortified in his views in regard to political and religious matters. His wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for more than fifty years. They became the



parents of three children, of whom William H. is now the only one surviving. George W., one of the sons, became a representative member of the bar of Indianapolis, dying on the 15th of January, 1909, while delivering an address in a local auditorium. He was a graduate of Butler College (which was known at the time as the Northwestern Christian University), and also of the Indiana Law School. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. John M., another son, died about thirty-five years ago, at the age of forty years; he had been a successful farmer and stock dealer.

It has been the privilege of William H. Spahr to witness the development and up-building of Indianapolis from a mere village to a metropolitan city, and he accounts himself fortunate to have been so closely identified with its business and civic interests during the period of progress and growth. Practically his entire life has been passed within the limits of Marion County, and the capital city can claim no citizen who is more thoroughly appreciative and loyal. His early educational training was secured in the primitive log schoolhouse of the pioneer days, and he early began to assist his father in the operation of the mill and also in the work of the home farm, his father having secured a large tract of land near Millersville at the time when he purchased the mill previously mentioned. In the late '50s he was enabled to enter the Northwestern Christian University (now Butler College) at Irvington, a suburb of Indianapolis, where he was a student about one year, after which he continued his studies in Franklin College, at Franklin, Indiana. In 1861 he was graduated in Purdy's Commercial College, in Indianapolis. In the spring of 1862 Mr. Spahr began buying horses and mules for the United States army, and with this line of enterprise he was successfully identified until the close of the war. He then turned his attention to the buying of live stock, which he shipped to the markets in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburg and Buffalo. With this line of enterprise he was connected for a period of about five years, in the meanwhile maintaining his home and headquarters in Indianapolis. His next business venture was in connection with the operation of a flour mill at 352 W. Washington street, this city, and later he engaged in the loan and real estate business, in which he has since continued, having both city and farm property and having built up a large and profitable enterprise. In the business he now has as his coadjutor his son Marcus R., and the agency is one of the best

known and most substantial of its kind in the capital city. Mr. Spahr has ever maintained a high reputation as a reliable, straight-forward and enterprising business man, and has never been denied the fullest measure of popular confidence. Though he has never been an aspirant for public office, he accords a stanch allegiance to the Democratic party. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Honor.

On the 27th of September, 1865, Mr. Spahr was united in marriage to Miss Amelia A. Hare, who was born in Noblesville, this state, and who was a daughter of David and Elizabeth Millard Hare, both of whom were likewise born in Indiana, being members of sterling pioneer families of the state. Her father was for many years engaged in the dry goods business in Noblesville and was a citizen of prominence and influence. Mrs. Spahr was the mother of eight children, seven of whom are now living. Concerning them the following brief data are given: Alice M. is the wife of John W. Morrison, Frankfort, Indiana, and they have six children; Nellie is the wife of Stanton Dawson, of Broad Ripple, Indiana; George M. is a bachelor and lives at Frankfort, Indiana, and Walter Q., married in 1909, resides in Indianapolis; Marcus R., who married Miss Maryette Norton, is associated with his father in business, as already noted, and is also city salesman for J. C. Perry & Co.; Clara Elizabeth (commonly known as Bessie) and Esther Teresa remain at the paternal home. The family enjoy marked popularity in the social life of the community, and the subject of this sketch is to be considered, at the present time, as one of the sterling pioneer business men of "Greater Indianapolis".

RICHARD OTTO JOHNSON. Among the sons of Indiana who are honoring their native commonwealth through their able and effective services in positions of distinctive trust and responsibility is Richard Otto Johnson, the popular superintendent of the Indiana State School for the Deaf, in Indianapolis, of which office he has been the valued incumbent for twenty-one years—a fact that offers the best voucher as to the value of his administration as the executive head of this noble institution of the state. He is a scion of honored pioneer families of Indiana, is a member of the bar of the state, but has found outside the work of his profession ample scope for productive endeavor in connection with the splendid institution of which he is superintendent, having gained prestige as one of the foremost and most successful educators of the deaf to be found in America.