

NICHOLAS RICH.

Nicholas Rich, who today is one of the most prosperous and successful farmers of Monroe township, Adams county, was born in French township, Adams county, December 6, 1867. He is a son of Joseph and Anna (Moser) Rich. His father was born in Germany, where he spent his boyhood and received his early education. When he grew up he left Germany and crossed the Atlantic to find a home in the new continent. He settled in Canada, where he lived for a short time. He became dissatisfied with the prospects for success in Canada and decided to cross the line and settle in the United States. Accordingly he sold his land holdings in the Dominion and came to Indiana. He purchased land in French township and began the life of a farmer under the stars and stripes. At the time he settled in French township the country was but thinly settled. The land was unimproved and the conditions were not inviting. However, he possessed determination to surmount all obstacles and in a few years had his land well cleared and improved so that it was productive and profitable. He became the father of ten children, nine of whom are still living. The living children are: Peter, Barbara, Joseph J., Christ, Nicholas, John, Anna, Mary and David. Jacob died some years ago. The father of this sturdy family is still living, enjoying the fruits of the labor and industry of his early life. He is a highly respected man and is one who has enjoyed the esteem and confidence of his fellows during his long and useful life.

Nicholas Rich was the fifth of this family in order of birth. He saw the light of day for the first time on his father's farm and was reared on this estate. He attended the schools of his neighborhood as a youth and secured a good English education. He assisted his father in the cultivation of the family homestead as soon as he was old enough to take an active part in farm work, and he learned the lessons of agriculture. He was an industrious boy and when he reached his maturity he was considered a skilled farmer, who knew the intricacies of his profession. In 1884 he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Bailey, a daughter of Daniel and Mary (Leininger) Bailey. Her parents were natives of Ohio who came to Indiana and settled in Wabash township, Adams county, in the early eighties. They were the parents of nine children: Andrew, deceased; Jacob, Elizabeth, Mary, Daniel, Lydia, John, Samuel and an infant that died unnamed. The parents of Mrs. Rich are still living.

Mr. Rich is the owner of a farm of one hundred and forty acres in Monroe township, where he makes his home. It is one of the finest and most productive estates in the township. He secured his farm when it was but little, if any, improved, and he has developed it to its present valuable state. The years that have passed since he purchased this tract have been filled with the hardest kind of labor, but he has not faltered, and in the end he conquered all difficulties. His place is admirably located in one of the most fertile sections of the county. It is well drained and tilled, and the fencing and buildings are substantial and adequate. His home is a most attractive building and modern in all

respects. Recently he erected a large barn eighty-eight by forty feet. He follows a general farming business and his crops, which are rotated with judgment and intelligence, are always satisfactory and bring a handsome profit in the markets. He has all of his place under cultivation with the exception of thirty-two acres, and twelve acres of this tract are covered with fine timber. He raises fine stock and his strains of Durham cattle and I. O. C. swine are known throughout the county. He is a Democrat in politics but cannot be said to be a public man. He is alive to the interests of his fellow residents of his township and contributes to the advancement of the county's interests. He and the members of his family are members of the Reformed church and he contributes to the charities and support of this denomination with liberality. Three children have been born to him and his estimable wife. These children are: William, Ida and Edna.

Snow's History of Adams County, Indiana, John Fletcher Snow, B. F. Bowen, Indianapolis, IN, 1907, p. 255 (image 523)