

the new departure. His position is a responsible one, for he is called upon to direct and to look after the welfare of a considerable number of men. The company is constantly making expenditures, laying new mains and spreading out over the Valley; and as Mr. Spencer has entire charge of all outside work, he is a very busy man. Able and devoted, it need hardly be said that he gives his employers and the public entire satisfaction.

At Santa Ana, on November 5, 1906, Mr. Spencer was married to Miss Ada Hix, a native of Santa Ana, and the daughter of Alva and Blanch Hix, pioneers of Orange County, who came to Santa Ana thirty-seven years ago, when the town had only a couple of stores and few houses. One son has blessed the union, a lad named William A. Spencer. Mr. Spencer is a member of the Odd Fellows.

EDWARD WALTER THOMAS

One of the old settlers of San Dimas, Edward Walter Thomas was born at Galveston, Ind., September 28, 1862. His father, David Thomas, was born in Johnstown, Pa., while the grandfather, also named David Thomas, was born in Wales and settled at Johnstown, Pa. Edward's father was a millwright and came out to Indiana when a young man, where he built and operated flour mills. Later on he engaged in building and running sawmills and lumber manufacturing, being located at Galveston, Ind., where he had a large lumber yard. In 1879 he removed to Grand Island, Nebr., where he was among the early settlers to break prairie and improve a farm. In 1890 he located in Pomona, setting out an orange grove on Holt Avenue. He died in Pomona, aged eighty years. Mr. Thomas' mother was Miss Louise Jane DeMoss before her marriage, and she was born in Galveston, Ind., of French descent, and she also passed away in Pomona two years after her husband. This worthy couple had three children: Mrs. Mariella McEndree of Pomona; W. F. Thomas of Pomona, and E. W. Thomas, the subject of this sketch. The youngest of the family, he was reared in Indiana till 1879, when he came to Grand Island, Nebr., and received a good education in the public schools, after which he learned the dry goods business. Later, he bought out the store of his employer and continued in business until 1889, when he sold, came to California, arriving in Pomona in January, 1890, and six months later he engaged in the dry goods business on Second Street, continuing until 1893, when he disposed of his store and located in San Francisco in the employ of the Hamburgers. There he continued for one year, when he quit to locate in Sacramento in the employ of Wasserman, Davis & Company for two years, when he resigned and returned to Pomona, and then he located in San Dimas and soon purchased an orange grove and engaged in citrus culture. Since then he has owned five different groves, every one of which was a success, and was sold at

a profit. In 1914 he entered the employ of the Elwood Fruit Company, and since then has been foreman of their packing house at San Dimas, as well as being engaged in citrus growing.

In Pomona occurred the marriage of Mr. Thomas and Myrtle R. Cowan, a native of Thorntown, Ind., of whom he was bereaved in 1912, leaving him a daughter, Nadine, now the wife of J. G. Middleton of San Dimas, a progressive, enterprising and liberal citizen. Mr. Thomas is an ardent protectionist and Republican.

JOHN CARSON BOWEN

In disposing of the chances that have come his way in life, John Carson Bowen has evinced both discretion and sound business judgment and has won a place among the business men of his locality. Self-made in every sense implied by the term, he has become the proprietor of a business establishment by his own persevering efforts and is meeting with the success deserved by men of his caliber. Born October 20, 1884, Mr. Bowen is a native of Mt. Gilead, Ohio, and the son of John F. and Julia A. (Jenkins) Bowen. Five children were born to John F. and Julia Bowen, and the family have lived in Pomona since April, 1896. The father has passed on, and the mother is still living with her family surrounding her.

The youngest child born to his parents, John Carson Bowen, was educated in the public schools of Pomona, and on finishing his school-days, learned bicycle repair work with E. E. Izer, later in the same business with Padgham & Abbott for four years. He then found employment with Midgley Brothers, in the clothing business, remaining with them six years, two years with Harris Brothers, and for the next three years was with Evans and Combe.

After this length of time given to clerking, Mr. Bowen felt himself fitted to engage in business on his own account, and on February 14, 1914, he opened an establishment of his own, with an up-to-date and carefully selected stock of men's furnishing goods. Since his first opening he has met with the encouragement Pomona affords to enterprising and progressive men, and when these attributes are combined with energy and strict integrity, success is an assured fact.

The marriage of Mr. Bowen united him with Miss Winnifred Hill, the ceremony occurring October 9, 1907, and one son has blessed their union, Jack. Fraternaly Mr. Bowen is a member of the Masons, and of Pomona Lodge No. 789, B. P. O. Elks, of which he is a past exalted ruler. Fond of outdoor life, as are most of Pomona's citizens, he takes his recreation in golf and other outdoor sports. With his own business to look after, he is never too busy to aid in all public-spirited movements for the betterment of the community, and is readily interested in projects which favorably affect Pomona Valley.