

JOHN F. BERTSCHINGER

John F. Bertschinger, who engaged in business in Egg Harbor as a dealer in grain, potatoes and produce, in lumber, shingles and cement, came to Door county in 1904. He is a native of Switzerland, his birth having occurred in the land of the Alps, November 21, 1875. His parents were John and Bertha (Hoefer) Bertschinger, who were also natives of that country, whence they came to the new world in 1884. The father had followed the occupation of farming in Switzerland and in the new world he took up his abode in Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, where he managed a large herd of cattle. Later he was actively engaged in farming on his own account, successfully tilling his fields for many years, but at the present time he is living retired from active business, he and his wife being now residents of Port Washington, Wisconsin.

John F. Bertschinger spent the first nine years of his life in his native land and then accompanied his parents to the United States, remaining under the parental roof until he attained his majority, at which time he began learning the molder's trade, which he followed for eight years, residing in Milwaukee during that period. In 1904 he came to Door county, settling in Egg Harbor, where for eight years he conducted a hotel and during that period he was engaged in buying produce and handling real estate. He afterward extended the scope of his commercial activities to include the sale of lumber and building materials. He likewise built a dock and is engaged in the transportation business. His boat carries about sixty tons and is used most largely in hauling his own goods. He has built up a substantial trade in grain, hay, potatoes and other produce and also in the sale of lumber, shingles and cement. He built the Harbor Inn which he sold in 1912. He owns two farms, one of one hundred and twenty acres and the other eighty acres, and he also owns one hundred acres of shore property, which is summer resort property. On his eighty acre farm he has an orchard of thirty acres, while the remainder is cultivated in the production of grain. He employs someone to operate this farm and rents the other place. Both are well improved and in addition to cultivating his fields he raises thoroughbred Holstein cattle and also deals in horses. He is also engaged in the operation of a planing mill and his business interests extend all along the shore even to Washington island.

On the 13th of May, 1899, Mr. Bertschinger was married to Miss Anna Guenther, and to them have been born three children: Arthur, who is seventeen years of age; Wilbert, age fifteen years; and Clara, a maid of twelve years. The parents are members of the Union church and in politics Mr. Bertschinger is a stalwart republican who does everything in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of his party. He was town chairman in 1912 and he is the present justice of the peace at Egg Harbor. He was also instrumental in locating the state park here, and he has done everything possible to advance the interest and promote the upbuilding of the district in which he resides. His labors have been far-reaching and effective in advancement of the public good, while in the management of his private business interests he has displayed rare judgment and sound discernment which have brought him very substantial success.