

JOHN C. OHLER.

The United States owes as much to its farmers as to any other class of its citizens, and it has often been remarked that farmers constitute the real backbone of our body politic. Ohio has, from the beginning of its civilization, been blessed with a class of farmers characterized by patriotism and sturdy independence beyond those of some other states. Not alone in the field of politics have the farmers of Ohio been active and useful, but at their country's call to arms they have been among the first to respond and have been brave soldiers, risking life gladly, faithfully performing every duty and patiently enduring the hardships to which the fortunes of war subjected them.

Of such admirable Ohio stock came the subject of this sketch, John C. Ohler, who was born near Perrysville, Ashland county, February 17, 1845, a son of Jacob Ohler, and at the early age of five weeks became a settler of Monroe township, Richland county, being brought there by his parents in March, 1845. Jacob Ohler was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in 1819, and was brought by his parents to Ohio in 1820. The family settled on the farm now owned and occupied by Mrs. Lewis Leiter, in 1821, and shortly afterward moved upon an "eighty" in another part of the township, where John Ohler's grandfather, the original settler, died, at the age of seventy-one years. Jacob Ohler, the father of the subject of this sketch, married Abigail Hersh, and they had seven children, as follows: Hannah, who is deceased; Solomon, who lives on a part of the old family homestead; Martin, who has passed away; Elizabeth, the wife of J. C. Sowash, of Lexington, Ohio; Catherine, who is dead; John, the subject of this sketch; and Jessie, who also has departed this life.

For a time Jacob Ohler lived in Ashland county, and on his return to Richland county he located on the farm now owned by Newton Hersh. He died in Monroe township in 1889, having lived a life full of honor. He was a member of the Lutheran church, active and helpful in all its work, and was respected by his fellow citizens for his good judgment and the integrity of his entire career.

John C. Ohler was reared to the every-day work of the farm and educated in the public school and at Bellville, Ohio. At the age of twenty-one years he began to work by the month for A. Tucker, on the same farm which

is now his homestead, and was thus employed for three years. At the expiration of that time he rented the farm of Mr. Tucker, whose daughter, Miss Jane M. Tucker, became his wife in 1870. He had married Miss Elizabeth Baughman in 1867, and she had died a year later, leaving one child, Marion M. By his present marriage he has eight children, as follows: Lena B.; Horace A., who lives in Sandusky county; Ivan D., who is a resident of Monroe township; Le Roy C.; Emma E., who married John Culler; Tracy T.; Charles C.; Jessie Day; and Lena, Le Roy and Tracy are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Ohler own two hundred and thirteen acres, one hundred and forty of which is under cultivation, and he is a successful stockman and general farmer. Politically he is identified with the Reform party. He was formerly a Democrat. He was eighteen years a deacon and has been six years an elder in the Pleasant Valley Lutheran church.