

SAMUEL E. BARTMESS, a leading business man of Hood River, is one of the respected and highly esteemed citizens of Wasco county. He stands at the head of a large furniture and undertaking establishment and also deals in all kinds of building material. His trade is far reaching and has been gained by his careful and upright business methods and constant attention to the interests of his patrons.

Samuel E. Bartmess was born in Dayton, Indiana, on September 15, 1853, the son of Oliver Cromwell and Sarah (Clark) Bartmess. The father was born in Preble county, Ohio, in 1819 and his father, Jacob Bartmess, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Maryland. He married Sophia Riser. In 1829, they moved to Indiana, being pioneer farmers of that country. Their ancestors came from Germany. The father is now living with our subject. The mother of our subject, was born in Butler county, Ohio, in 1823 of English parentage and is now deceased. Samuel E. grew up on a farm and after completing the graded schools, took a course in the Otterbein university at Westerville, Ohio, graduating in 1879. After that he turned his attention to farming near Dayton, Indiana until 1890 when he moved to Hood River. A few months later, he bought out Hanna and Zeigler, who were handling a furniture business. Since that time, Mr. Bartmess has given his attention to his business, which is increasing and has closely identified himself with this country. He is an energetic worker in all lines of building and progress and has done a lion's share in building up Hood River.

On January 27, 1880, at Dayton, Indiana, Mr. Bartmess married Miss Elda F. Crouse, a native of that town. Her father was born at Germantown, Pennsylvania, in 1812, and came of German ancestry. He was a physician and about the first one in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where he practiced for forty years. He was a very prominent man and for two terms represented his county in the state legislature, his name appearing on the Republican ticket. He married Miss Rachel Baker, a native of Indiana and of English parents. They are both now deceased. Mrs. Bartmess is finely educated, having graduated from the Logansport academy in Indiana.

Mr. Bartmess is a member of the I.O.O.F., while he and his wife belong to the United Brethren church. He is a trustee of that denomination and was one of the organizers of the church in Hood River and has been a devout and zealous worker in it since. Mr. and Mrs. Bartmess are very active Sunday school workers and are esteemed and highly respected people. Their son, Earl K., is superintendent of the Sunday school. They have four children; Earl K., at home; Meigs, a graduate from the agricultural college at Corvallis, now a member of the faculty of Hill's Military Academy, Portland; Sallie A., a school girl, aged ten; and Marie Louise, six years of age, who shows marked talent in music.

Politically, Mr. Bartmess is a zealous Prohibitionist. He is a genial, bright minded man always interested in public enterprises and one who lives out his faith in daily life, consequently, he has hosts of friends and stands exceptionally well in the community.