

FRANK GOTTSACKER

In all that makes the good newspaper the National Demokrat is well equipped. Its plant is supplied with the latest improved presses and accessories necessary in mechanical production, its reportorial staff is efficient and its literary and news interests are carefully directed by Frank Gottsacker, who is its editor. He was born June 15, 1852, in the Rhine Province of Germany, and is a son of William Gottsacker, whose birth occurred in 1823 in the same locality in which his son was born. The father came to America, settling at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, in 1853, and there followed the shoemaker's trade. He made the voyage alone to the new world but when he had completed his preparations for a home in this country he sent for his family, consisting of his wife and one child, Frank Gottsacker, of this review. They arrived in 1855 and the family home was maintained at Two Rivers until 1860, when a removal was made to Sheboygan, where the father engaged in shoemaking to the time of his death, on the 7th of August 1898. He was reared in the faith of the Catholic Church of which he was ever, a loyal adherent. His wife, Mrs. Anna Maria (Hoemig) Gottsacker, -was born in Germany in 1831 and died January 14, 1896. Her father was Franz Hoemig, who was an educator in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. William Gottsacker became the parents of two sons and three daughters: Frank, of this review; Amalia, the wife of Frank Bartz, a tanner in Sheboygan; William, who died at the age of nine years; Maria, who died at the age of eleven; and Clara, the deceased wife of Peter Hildebrandt.

The educational opportunities of Frank Gottsacker were somewhat limited, owing to the fact that when eleven years of age he entered upon an apprenticeship to the printing trade under August Pott, with whom he remained for four years, beginning in 1864. He was afterward employed in the office of the Milwaukee Herald for two and a half years, but since the 8th of October 1870, or for a period of almost forty-two years, he has been with the National Demokrat of Sheboygan. He entered the office as foreman and became a stockholder when the business was reorganized under a company form. In 1886 he was chosen editor in chief and has so continued, making it one of the leading German papers of Wisconsin. In 1885, during the administration of President Cleveland, Mr. Gottsacker was appointed deputy collector of revenue in his district but in the fall of 1886 he resumed his connection with the National Demokrat and has continuously served as its editor to the present time, also acting as secretary and treasurer of the company. In the publication of the paper he has adopted a progressive policy and in his editorial capacity has discussed the significant and vital questions of the day, looking at these from a standpoint of broad-minded, public-spirited citizenship and measuring each issue by the broad standards of public opinion, of public necessity and of the possibility for improvement.

Mr. Gottsacker has long been recognized as, one of the democratic leaders of this state and has been prominent not only in matters relative to the commonwealth and to the nation but also in local interests. For two years he represented the eighth ward on the board of aldermen, for six years was county chairman of the Democratic Party and for three terms has been a member of the school board. He has also been member of the state central committee and a masterful grasp of the political situation has made his opinions both wide and important in the councils of his party.

On the 25th of October 1875, Mr. Gottsacker was married to Miss Anna Brand, who was born March 17, 1855, and is a daughter of Andrew and Georgina (Buckel) Brand. To them were born eleven children, eight of whom are now living, as follows: William, of Sheboygan; Mrs. Amalia Sukowatey of Sheboygan; John; Frank, of Sheboygan; Mrs. J. P. Schladoweiler, of

South Dakota; Joseph, of Sheboygan; and Peter and Antonia, also of Sheboygan. The mother died November 22, 1900, and in 1902 Mr. Gottsacker married Margaret Gottsacker.