

the business alone. In 1879, repairs were made at a cost of about \$20,000. Mr. Meiners distils highwines, alcohol, spirits and whisky, and uses 500 bushels of grain per day, three-fourths of which is corn, the remainder being rye, malt and oats. The product of the distillation requires thirty-five barrels, and pays about \$1,700 United States internal revenue, daily. The distillery feeds 475 cattle. Mr. Meiners employs twelve men and has \$50,000 invested in his business. The greater part of the liquors is sold in the city.

JOHN MEINERS, proprietor of distillery No. 5, known as the Spring Street Distillery. This business was established in 1859, by Wendt & Pfeil. It was purchased in 1867, by Mr. Meiners and Ernst Vilter. Mr. Meiners was born in 1825, in the Grand Dukedom of Oldenburg. He received his education and engaged in the mercantile business in his native land. He came to Milwaukee in 1848. The next day after his arrival, in connection with Herman Hoyer, he bought a farm in the Town of Lake. He followed farming four years, then built a starch factory and saw mill, which he continued several years, when he sold his interest to his partner and came to Milwaukee. He kept books for J. Naunemacher two years and then became partner in a distillery in the Town of Lake, where he remained until 1867, when he took the management of the distillery, which he now owns. Its capacity is 500 bushels per day. In 1853, he was married to Miss Wielyn Thede, a native of Germany. She died in 1869, leaving six children. In 1871, he was again married to Miss Eliza Meyer. His oldest son Gustav assists him in the business. His trade is mostly local, but they occasionally ship to France and Germany.

THOMAS O'NEILL, residence Pleasant Valley Distillery, was born in Dublin in 1821, a son of William and Elminor O'Neill; came to America in 1832, and to Milwaukee in 1844. Mr. O'Neill was married to Miss Margaretta Reynolds, a native of Michigan, in 1858, by whom he has three sons. John, the oldest, has charge of the distillery. Mr. O'Neill is one of the oldest farmers in the Town of Greenfield, and established the "Pleasant Valley Distillery" in Greenfield in 1860; moved it to its present site in the Town of Lake in 1864. He was the first man who introduced wosted machinery in Milwaukee in 1856. It proved a failure, as it was not appreciated at the time. He was in the Assembly in 1875, and has acted as Town Clerk. The family are still unbroken, consisting of seven sons and two daughters, who all came together from Ireland in 1832.

JAMES HOBART, store-keeper for the O'Neill distillery, residence No. 242 Greenbush street; born in Columbia, New Hampshire, January 17, 1834. In 1854, he came to this State, and located in Beloit, where he engaged for a time in the carpenters' business with his brother. In 1859, he engaged with the old La Crosse & Milwaukee Railroad, in whose employ, together with the St. Paul Company, he continued until 1875, serving in the capacity of conductor throughout the whole time, with the exception of one year. He was married, December 28, 1864, to Miss Celia Holmes. They have one son.

MORITZ N. BECKER, No. 515 Ninth street, was born in Bavaria, on the Rhine, in 1829; came to Milwaukee the 20th of October, 1850, direct from the old country. Mr. Becker married Miss Minnie Gutman in this city in 1863. She is a native of Wurtemberg. They have had five children, two sons and three daughters. Previous to his appointment at the "Pleasant Valley Distillery," he had been in the commission business; was in the Assembly in 1872 and 1873; held the office of Deputy-Sheriff from 1875 to 1877; has always been in active life, and made what he has by his own efforts.

The William Bergenthal Company, distillers of copper-distilled Bourbon, rye and malt whiskies, gins, brandies, rums, and cordials; also importers and dealers at wholesale in wines, champagnes, and cognacs. The offices of the company are located at Nos. 476 and 478 Fourth street, and are situated in a large two story and basement building, having a frontage of 50 feet by a depth of 150 feet. Here they have the largest and finest wine vaults for storing wines in the Northwest, as well as a distillery and other buildings. This company was incorporated in 1873. The officers of the company are: W. Bergenthal, President; A. M. Grau, Vice-President; and August Bergenthal, Secretary. The "Meadow Spring" distillery owned by this company occupies a considerable extent of ground, and is situated on the Milwaukee River, five miles from the city. Their distilling capacity is one thousand bushels per day. They are manufacturers of pure hand-made sour mash Bourbon and rye whiskies, and manufacturers of the famous Palmetto and Rosebud gins. They are also direct importers of fine Rhine and Moselle wines, cognacs, rums, etc.