

for one so advanced in years.

Matthew John Von Pein, an efficient and popular councilman-at-large of the city of Richmond, has been a resident of Wayne county for nearly two-score years; and is one of the representative citizens and progressive mechanics of the city mentioned. His well appointed home is located on the South Side and out far enough away from the noise and dust of the city to make an ideal dwelling place, with a large yard, orchard, and garden spot, and all within a block of the street car line. He has been continuously incumbent of the office of councilman-at-large for more than five years, and this fact alone offers adequate voucher as to the confidence and esteem in which he is held in the community. Matthew J. Von Pein was born at Emden, a fortified seaport town in the province of Hanover, Germany, Feb. 18, 1852, a son of John H. and Etta (Claassen) Von Pein, both natives of Germany. John H. Von Pein spent about sixteen years of his life as a sailor and as a ship-carpenter, at a time when those occupations were not conducted under the favorable conditions that obtain in this Twentieth century. His life was one of consecutive industry, and such measure of success as came to him was the result of his own ability and efforts. His integrity was inviolable. and thus he merited and received the implicit con-

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confidence and esteem of his fellow men. He continued to reside in the Fatherland until 1856, when he came with his wife and son, whose name introduces this review, to the United States, landing at Castle Garden, N. Y., and settling in Cincinnati, Ohio. During the troublous days of the Civil war in that vicinity he served 100 days in the defense of the city, but did not become a regularly enlisted soldier. He continued to reside in Cincinnati until 1894, when he removed to Richmond, Ind., and there lived retired until his death, which occurred in 1902; and his wife passed away in 1900. They became the parents of five sons: Matthew J.; Fred, who died in Richmond, in 1907; John, of Chicago, Ill.; George, of Indianapolis, Ind.; and Edward, of Dayton, Ohio. Thus it will be seen that the subject of this review is the first born and the oldest surviving member of the immediate family. Matthew J. Von Pein has reason to know and appreciate the dignity of honest toil and endeavor, for with the same he has been familiar from his boyhood days. Even as he has been the architect of his own fortunes as one of the world's workers, so has his educational training been largely one of self-discipline and experience. He attended the Cincinnati public schools, and through reading and association with men and affairs has become recognized as a man of more than ordinary intelligence. Upon leaving school he found ample demand upon his time and attention in connection with the work of the cabinet-maker's trade, in which he continued to be associated in Cincinnati until 1875. He then took an important step, in that he removed to Richmond and became connected with the Starr Piano Company—or, what was then the Trayser Piano Company, later the Chase Company, and eventually the Starr Company—in September of that year. Through all the intervening years he has been associated with this concern, and he has charge of what is called the Bellying Department. His advancement upon the upgrade of independence and definite prosperity has been gained by earnest and well directed effort, and he has so ordered his course as to command at all times the high regard of those with whom he has come in contact in the various relations of life. In politics Mr. Von Pein is a staunch advocate of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor and has long been prominent in public affairs of a local order. In the office which he occupies his course has been marked by conservatism, and yet by legitimately progressive ideas, so that he has aided materially in conserving a wise administration of city affairs. The popular appreciation of his efforts is best attested by the fact of his re-election to the position which he holds. He is a man of broad and liberal views and is tolerant in his judgment. In 1876 Mr. Von Pein was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Knauer, of Eaton, Ohio, and she died in Richmond in 1895, the mother of the following children: Fredericka, who resides at the parental home; John, assistant foreman with the Starr Piano Company; and Fred and Elsie, who also reside at home. Mr. Von Pein's second marriage was to Miss Emma Kloecker, of Richmond, and of this union there have been born two children—Matthew and

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Julia. Mr. Von Pein is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, of Richmond, and fraternally has membership in Harriman Lodge, No. 199, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was the secretary of the South Side Improvement Association for a period of five years and is a passive member of the Maennerchor.