

EMIL THOMAS.—One of Lincoln county's wide-awake and progressive citizens is Emil Thomas, of Merrill, dealer in plip wood, pine logs, cedar posts and poles, railroad ties and pilings and also real estate and farm lands. He gives employment to from fifty to one hundred and fifty men during the winter season, and runs from one to seven camps in getting out timber and logs for his large and increasing trade. Mr. Thomas owns about 8,000 acres of land in Lincoln county, which is for sale, and he has some rare bargains to offer those who are seeking a permanent location. Correspondence solicited from all sections of the country. Mr. Thomas was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1863, and came to this country with his parents when two years old. His father, August Thomas, first loca-

FRED J. SMITH, member of the law firm of Curtis, Reid & Smith, was born at Maunston, Wis., in 1870. Finishing the public schools he studied at the Milwaukee Normal and then graduated in civic history and law courses at Madison in 1896. That year he was one of the debaters that won in the debate contest with the North Western University over the question of the annexation of Cuba. Mr. Smith was superintendent of schools in Juneau county one term as well as principal of the Elroy High school for a time. At present



Mr. Smith is district attorney pro tem, and will succeed to that office in January, having been elected at the November election. A Democrat in politics, his ability as a speaker always makes him in demand on the stump. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen and occupies an enviable position in social and professional circles. Marked political honors also bids fair to greet his future.

LEW W. HEILMAN, proprietor of the well known merchant tailoring establishment of Heilman Bros., was born in Berlin Wisconsin, in 1863, and received his education in the High school of that city. In 1884 he came to Merrill and with his brother, John M., purchased the tailoring business of Dan Smith. Since the death of his brother in 1890, Lew has conducted the business known as Heilman Bros., the oldest tailoring establishment in the



city. The firm has ever enjoyed a reputation of the highest order and under the able management of the present proprietor has established a patronage second to none in Northern Wisconsin. During the busy season employment is given to twelve experienced workmen, and the quality of fabric and fit of garment have stamped the product of Heilman Bros. as par excellence of the tailoring art. The stock carried, which is the largest in the city, is always new and up-to-date, embracing both imported and domestic woolsens. Mr. Heilman is a member of St. Omer Commandery A. F. & A. M., and has hosts of friends.

HON. DAVID FINN.—A man widely known in this county and one who has done much to develop the resources of this section is David Finn, who has a fine farm in Pine River and a saw mill at Heights. He is a native of Columbia county, N. Y., and in '59 came to Merrill with his father, Daniel Finn, a man who was identified with the best interests of this county until his death which occurred in 1868. David Finn was educated in the public schools of Wausau and a three years' course in Lawrence University at Appleton. He taught school several years and then engaged in farming and lumbering, which he still conducts. He was a member of the board of supervisors several years, county superintendent of schools four years and member of the assembly two terms. He is a true blue Democrat and has ever taken a prominent part in public affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Finn have a pleasant home in Pine River which is brightened by two children—Daniel and Claudia.



CITY HALL.

DAVID M. PHINNEY, abstract of title and insurance, has been a resident of Merrill for the past eighteen years. He first engaged in the insurance business in '86 under the firm name of Commer & Phinney, but the following year sold out and engaged in the jewelry business which he conducted for four years. He then went back to the insurance business and opened his present office in the old First National bank block. Mr. Phinney represents the following fire insurance companies: American of Boston, Caledonia of Scotland, English-American Underwriters, German Insurance Co., of Freeport, Ill., Grand Rapids Fire, Hanover Underwriters, Manchester of England, Madgeburg of Germany, Mercantile Fire and Marine, Northern of England, Prussian National, Prov-

idence of Washington, Phoenix of Hartford, Rhode Island Underwriters, Saguave Valley Fire and Marine, Spring Garden, Thuringia of Germany, and the Western Underwriters; and the New York Life, the Fidelity and Deposit Co., and the Fidelity and Casualty of New York. Mr. Phinney also has a complete set of abstracts of Lincoln county and the city of Merrill. Mr. Phinney is a native of Scotland, his father, James B. Phinney, was a sailor all his life, being a captain on panies: American of Boston, Caledonia of Scotland, English-American Underwriters, German Insurance Co., of Freeport, Ill., Grand Rapids Fire, Hanover Underwriters, Manchester of England, Madgeburg of Germany, Mercantile Fire and Marine, Northern of England, Prussian National, Prov-



REV. FATHER BLUME was born in Paderborn, Westphalia, Prussia, on Sept. 24, 1843. His classical education was received in a nine years' course in the Gymnasium at Paderborn; which was followed by a two years' course in philosophy and theology. In 1867 he came to this county and on Dec. 19, 1868, at St. Francis, Wis., was ordained a priest by the right reverend Bishop Henmi of Milwaukee. Father Blume at once went to Missouri where he labored seven years until his health forced him to return to Wisconsin. He took up his labors at Sturgeon Bay remaining there eight and a half years and then coming to Merrill and taking charge of St. Francis Xavier's church, and during the five and one half years here erected the present beautiful edifice for the worship of that congregation.

Father Blume then went to Minnesota, being at Arlington two and a half years and at Stewart five years. After thirty years of faithful service, Father Blume was retired, at least temporarily, from Parish work and returned to Merrill to make his home, where he has considerable property. He has opened a private school and will teach the languages and other classical branches. He is a highly gifted scholar and many will avail themselves of the opportunity of studying with him. Father Blume is a man whose whole being invites friendship and confidence as naturally as the spring invites the flowers. He is robust in physique and in mental and moral qualities, and is a man whose voice and smile and eye and hand-grasp all testify to the solidity and worth of his manhood.



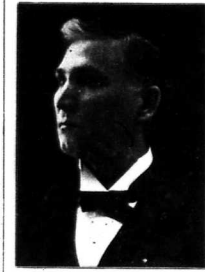
Property of Father Blume.

H. R. ALLEN came to Merrill in 1881. He worked with the Merrill Manufacturing Company three years and after fifteen months service in the insurance and collective business for others, started in for himself with the result that he now has a flourishing real estate, insurance, rental and collective business with an office in West Merrill. Mr. Allen was born in Honesville, N. Y., in 1843. He learned blacksmithy, and in 1862-3 taught school. In July 1864 he enlisted in Co. D,



184th infantry and saw a year's service in the Shenandoah valley with Sheridan. He was mustered out in July, 1865, and studied and taught and worked on the farm until May, 1869, when he married Miss Eleanor Cole and commenced life's partnership at Fond du Lac, Wis., where he was in the shoe, door and blind business for twelve years. Mr. Allen is a member of the Masons, Odd Fellows, G. A. R. and several other orders.

M. C. PORTER.—Born near Neenah, Wisconsin, in 1855. M. C. Porter finished the classical course at Lawrence University in 1879 and then came to Jenu, now Merrill, took the school and taught it continually until 1887, with marked success. He not only organized the Merrill high school and graduated the first class, but also was city superintendent of schools two years. In the meantime Mr. Porter had been reading law and in 1887 he went to Oshkosh to read with Hooper & Hooper. Admitted to



the bar January 1, 1888, he formed his present partnership with Wm. H. Flett in Merrill. Mr. Porter is a Republican and served as city attorney two years and district attorney two years. He is a member of the board of education and chairman of the Republican County Central Committee. He also belongs to the Masonic Fraternity. Mr. Porter was married in 1881 at Hortonville, Wis., to Miss Emma L. Rideout, to them three children have been born.

W. S. VAN NOSTRAND.—West Merrill has in W. S. Van Nostrand a dentist who gives eminent satisfaction. He keeps all the latest instruments and employs the most modern methods. So-



cially, he is as popular as he is successful professionally. Dr. VanNostrand was born and reared at Elgin, Ill., his family being among the earliest settlers. After completing a course at Elgin Academy, he saw three years service in Chicago with C. C. Wallin & Sons, wholesale dealers in leather. He next took a thorough course in the Chicago college of dental surgery, graduating in the class of 1891. That same year he came to Merrill and commenced a practice which he has continued up to the present time and built up to proportions highly profitable.

J. J. HOFFMAN.—In 1865, six miles south of Merrill, in a little log house, was born J. J. Hoffman, now superintendent of Lincoln county schools. Finishing a common school training, with study in the LaCrosse high school and business college, before fifteen years of age, Mr. Hoffman commenced his first term of school in Hamburg town, Marathon county. He has been steadily engaged in educational work ever since. Aside from twice serving as superintendent of the Merrill



schools, eight years ago, Mr. Hoffman was nominated county superintendent of Lincoln county by the Democrats and elected. His services have been so satisfactory that party lines are less heeded than formerly. Mr. Hoffman belongs to the Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen, Home Forum and Equitable Fraternity. He was married eight years ago, but after an illness of four years, lost his most estimable wife some months ago.

JOSEPH A. EMERICH.—One of the aldermen representing the Sixth ward in the common council is Joseph A. Emerich—a young man, but one who has acquired success in both politics and business. Born in Marathon county, Wis., in 1874, he secured a public school education and when 14 years old commenced service in the grocery business. Seven years ago Mr. Emerich came to Merrill and after clerking two years, five years ago went into business for himself in company with his present partner, E. H.



Stuats and to-day the firm has one of the best grocery trades in all Merrill. Mr. Emerich is a Republican in politics and takes a live interest in public affairs. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen. In December 1895 was married to Miss Annie Westphal and they have a happy home in West Merrill.

O. B. SUGHT, familiarly known as "Pat" Smith, who is still a resident of Merrill, came all the way from Chicago to Wausau on foot. It was he who built the dam across the Wisconsin river at the site of the T. B. Scott mill, in 1849.

When the river men returned from their perilous trips down the Wisconsin there was great rejoicing in the town, and a dance was invariably given in honor of the occasion.



ted in Dodge county, but six years later removed to Seymour, Outagamie county, where he was engaged in lumbering and farming. In '84 he came to Merrill where he continued in the lumbering business until '88 when Emil succeeded him in the business which he has since conducted on a more extensive scale. Aside from the land owned in Lincoln county, Mr. Thomas also has property and farming land in Minnesota and city property in Minneapolis. Mr. Thomas is a Republican in politics and is at present supervisor of the Second ward. He is highly respected in this community and has hosts of friends. He was married in 1887 to Miss Katherine Romins of Dodge county. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have a beautiful home in the Second ward.

C. F. GROENKE.—Six years ago C. F. Groenke bought the Merrill Iron Works and to-day he has one of the best equipped plants for general machine work, casting, metal and brass work in all central Wisconsin. A specialty is made of saw mill work. The power transmission plant of the Stange Lumber Co. was installed by Mr. Groenke with the highest satisfaction to the mill company. Mr. Groenke also makes a plant for hot water heating, his own patent, which is said to excel anything on the market. C. F. Groenke was born in Prussia in



1858. Coming to America in 1871, he settled in Racine. When fifteen years of age he learned the blacksmith's trade. After finishing his apprenticeship he spent a year in a New York trade school. He worked as a journeyman until 1890 when he was compelled by poor health to change employment. He was engaged in newspaper work for two years and in 1892 bought his present business. He is an affable gentleman and a good citizen and fully merits all of his success in life.

In 1853 a road had been cut through from Wausau to Stevens Point, and the following year one was cut from here to Wausau.