

HISTORY OF THE CITY SINCE 1883.

Up to 1883 Merrill was under village organization. That year it was incorporated as a city. In 1894, certain provisions of the general charter law of Wisconsin was adopted and it became a city of the fourth class.

Today, Merrill has in the neighborhood of 10,000 intelligent, law-abiding, industrious people. The assessed valuation of the property is \$1,630,921. The rate of taxation ranges from 3 1/2 to 3 3/4 per cent. The finances are in excellent shape. The floating indebtedness is \$9,000 and the bonded indebtedness is only \$48,314.50.

lected for constables. The first city marshal appointed was John T. Adams and the first superintendent of schools was M. C. Porter.

The first board of supervisors under incorporation comprised H. R. Skinner, John Woodcock, H. H. Chandler, Wm. Canfield and V. R. Willard.

The various city officers of Merrill at present comprise the following: Mayor, August H. Stange; clerk, J. P. Anderson; city attorney, M. C. Porter; assessor, H. A. Kyes; health officer, Dr. Collier; superintendent of schools, Prof. W. L. Morrison; jus-



Residence of D. Livingston.

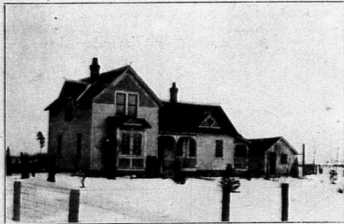
Merrill is governed under an admirable system. The mayor is the official head and is the presiding officer of the common council which comprises fourteen aldermen—two from each of the seven wards. The mayor, aldermen, city treasurer, assessor, constables and justices of the peace are elected by the people. The members of the school board are named by the mayor and confirmed by the aldermen. The mayor appoints the chief of police, but he is not confirmed by the council. The common council elects the city clerk, city attorney and city engineer.

After incorporation the first election

ties of the peace, H. R. Allen and J. W. Bruce; constables, Thos. McGeorge, Chas. J. Byrne and J. J. Harvey.

John Godfrey wears the star and bears the responsibility of chief of police and is responsible to the mayor or also are the three policemen, C. F. Greene, Albert Hubbard and Erick Nelson.

The board of aldermen is composed as follows: First ward, Wm. Redfield and B. J. Bartelme; Second ward, N. L. Alderson and Fred Smith; Third ward, Victor Larson and Wm. Aderson; Fourth ward, Simon Christensen and Carl F. Hank-



Residence of Emil Thomas.

in Merrill was held March 6, 1883, and city officers chosen as follows: Mayor, T. B. Scott; treasurer, M. W. Sweeney; city attorney, A. A. Helms; assessor, J. H. McMurray; city clerk, B. W. McLeod.

The first aldermen were as follows: H. Bartelme, Thos. P. Matthews, John Phelps, M. Borts, A. H. Stange, Adolph Drewson, Fred Wilkes, Wm. Bisbee, W. H. Cannon, M. O. Munnick, Henry White and S. M. Hoyt. The first meeting of the common council was held in Hoyt & Helms' office, March 13, 1883, and T. B. Scott was elected president of the body.

witz; Fifth ward, John English and C. M. Howard; Sixth ward, Thos. J. Sullivan and Joseph A. Emerich; Seventh ward, Wm. F. Peterman and Peter E. Berard.

The supervisors for the different wards are as follows in the order named: Joseph P. Weiss, Emil Thomas, Erick Jacobson, Chas. S. Stimers, Wm. P. Thatcher, Edward Stants, Timothy O'Connor.

The first board of school commissioners named after incorporation comprised the following: S. Wiley, Theo. Compton, M. W. Sweeney, E. Arnold, A. Drewson, R. H. Hayner, M. W. Sweeney was the first president,



Residence of S. Heineman.

There was only six wards then, the seventh being organized later. The vote cast at the first election was as follows: First ward, 113; Second ward, 122; Third ward, 77; Fourth ward, 52; Fifth ward, 139; Sixth ward, 119. The Fourth ward, which cast only 52 votes, is now the largest voting strength in the city—over eight times as much as in 1883.

At that election D. W. McLeod and C. C. Townsend were elected justices of the peace. Herman Zipp, George Gibson and H. W. Boyer were se-

The board today is comprised as follows: A. H. Reid, president; D. McDonald, vice-president; M. C. Porter, R. C. Schulz, John Elson, J. C. Anglebeck, Nels Ejeje, J. H. Hilley, and A. A. Helms.

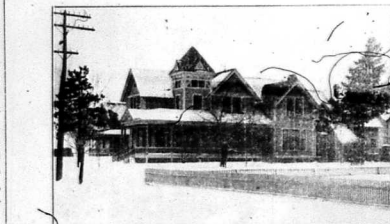
As yet none of the public utilities, water works, telephone, electric lights and street railway, are owned by the city. There is a handsome brick, three story city hall, however, which was erected in 1888-89 at a cost of \$16,275. There is a High school building and five ward school

buildings. Of these, the one in the Fifth ward is especially worthy of note. It was erected in 1895 at a cost of \$17,000. Two-trick fire halls are maintained and are equipped with hose carts, hook and ladder trucks, five horses and three salaried drivers. The volunteer fire department comprises 22 members who are paid so much a fee.

The city maintains 156 hydrants for fire protection and pays out for them \$6,460 per annum. One hundred of the hydrants cost \$45 each per annum and 56 of them only \$35

per annum. Of these, the one in the Fifth ward is especially worthy of note. It was erected in 1895 at a cost of \$17,000. Two-trick fire halls are maintained and are equipped with hose carts, hook and ladder trucks, five horses and three salaried drivers. The volunteer fire department comprises 22 members who are paid so much a fee.

The city maintains 156 hydrants for fire protection and pays out for them \$6,460 per annum. One hundred of the hydrants cost \$45 each per annum and 56 of them only \$35



Residence of L. N. Anson.

per annum. Sixty are street lights which burn all night, every night in the year, cost \$55 apiece per annum. The entire light bill for the year, including lights for the city hall is only \$3,300.

Merrill is blessed with a public library and reading room. This valuable institution was established in March, 1891, and is supported by an endowment of \$10,000 bestowed by T. B. Scott, the deceased lumberman. Rooms, heat, light and librarian's salary, are provided by the city. The shelves now have 5,100 well se-

lected volumes and 22 magazines and periodicals are in the reading rooms. The affairs of the library are administered by a board of nine members appointed for three years each by the mayor. The executive duties fall chiefly on the library committee which at present consists of A. H. Reid, H. H. Foster and Z. J. Graham.

The library is open from 1:30 p. m. to 6 p. m. on week days. On Saturdays admission is from 2 to 6 p. m. The first year the circulation was

Looking to the Future.

In a Kentucky court room recently an Irishman who had been arrested for assault, made use of some language during the trial, which enticed the judge to fine him \$10 for contempt of court. The Irishman pulled out the \$10 and handed it to the judge. The judge refused to take it, and said that the court did not accept money and he must give it to the sheriff or clerk. He did this, and as the sheriff took it he said: "But your honor, I want a resate."

"The court does not give receipts," was the reply.

"But, your honor, I must have a resate."

"But you can't have a receipt. The court never gives receipts. You will not be asked for the money again and the books of the court will be a receipt. What more do you want?"

Why, you see your honor, I'm a good Catholic and I expect to go to heaven, and when I come to the gate I will find St. Peter there with his keys to let me in or keep me out, and St. P. ter will say, "Pat, are you fit for heaven?" And I will say, "Yes, your honor." And St. Peter will say, "Have you paid all your debts, Pat?" And I will say, "Yes, your honor." And then he will ask for my resates, and when he looks over them he will want to know about this \$10, and when he finds I haven't got it he will send me back to get it. And, your honor, I don't want to be running all over h-l after you to get that resate."

Lost.

A very early Spanish, white-breast, white curly, about one year old, Finder return to A. F. Chilson and receive reward.

Extra copies of this paper only ten cents.



WEST MAIN STREET—Looking West.

journalist wears tailor-made clothes, a plug hat, and has his pants newly crossed every day. We shall study journalism by mail.

A journalist does nothing but write pretty pieces and draw his salary. His salary does not consist of a bag, stuffed sausage and chicken wing, either. He knows his business and uses the footprints of the bee hotel in town, not caring a damn whether a notice is tacked up or not. "For Guests Only," or not. He fans the fire-long day. He does carry in the coal or look forty-five. The newspaper man does this. One time I looked for several days, and I found them, which gratified me, and the printers also.

By the time a man has studied journalism by mail a few weeks, wouldn't him for type line or a quill splitter or the lead temper machine? He would then be able find his mouth when he slungry and would hardly ever need anybody to take him by his little hand and lead him in out of the wet.

If anybody should attempt to drive a nail into his head to hang his hat on, he would object and there would be an end of it.

Anybody can be a newspaper man. As already stated, it takes nothing but a few imagination and a lead pencil. A journalist has to have a rich father or marry well. One is just as good as the other, provided there is as much in it. If the girl's



R. Laatsch, Photographer.

father shows an inclination to get mad about it and seems to be disinclined toough up, don't marry her; burgo into the newspaper business, which is not taught by mail, hence requires less financial backing.

A mail-toug't journalist will put every comma and exclamation point and semi-colon exactly in the right place, and that is what makes interesting literature. When it comes to punctuation, just look at Ray's arithmetic or Webster's dictionary. Every punctuation mark is just where it belongs. And the multiplication table; there isn't a mistake in it. One can read it out instead of it. One and not find a mistake. That is because it has been properly done by a journalist who learned his



Ice House of Justin Means.

cheap clothes, a trade advertising contract for something he doesn't want and couldn't use if he did, and when his shirt is in the wash, or when he needs some buttons or wool on his pants, he goes to bed while the necessary repairs are made. A

trade by mail. If you were going to build a sidewalk or have a horse shod, wouldn't you employ a man who had learned his trade and knew enough to drive the nails at the right place. So with your reading matter. Get a man who has learned the trade and there will be no errors staring you in the face. Accuracy is the crown of all literature. That is why railway guides are so interesting. They are never accurate. That is the train you expected, on-time is always late, and the one you figured late arrives on schedule time.

So, if you happen to have any originality or horse sense, suppress it and take lessons on journalism by mail, taught by some wooden-headed huck who has been worn out and fired out as a newspaper man, and now answers to the grand title of journalist. There is no bar to anybody becoming a first-class journalist if the conditions herein are observed and if his brain has begun to become atrophied, if it may be allowed the use of a scientific term whose meaning I do not know.

Copies of this issue 10c. each.