

History of Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas Counties compiled by George O. Jones, Norman S. McVean and others. Published by H. C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., Minneapolis, MN 1924.

The Lincoln Knitting Company was founded and incorporated in 1919, the capitalization being for \$25,000. The incorporators were: Paul W. Leopold, Emil Semling, and E. W. Schield. Shortly afterward Mr. Semling and Mr. Schield sold their interests and H. Helstein and John F. Topel entered the company. The present officers are Paul W. Leopold, president, treasurer, and manager; H. Helstein, vice president, and John F. Topel, secretary.

The Merrill Knitting Company was organized as a stock company in 1912 and took over a plant that had been moved here from Cleveland, Ohio by Carl Hendrichs in 1912. This plant, located on East second Street, the company has continued to operate. The officers are as follows; W. F. Peterman, president; F. W. Kubasta, vice president; and John F. Rehfeld, secretary, treasurer, and manager. Woolen sweaters and hose are manufactured, the annual capacity being 6,000 sweaters and 9,000 pairs of hose. About 60 people are employed in the factory in addition to the office and sales forces. The plant is a two story solid brick structure and has a frontage of 65 feet and a depth of 80 feet, the basement is under the whole; it is equipped with thoroughly modern machinery. The product goes into nearly every state in the union and is sold exclusively to jobbers. Selling headquarters are maintained in New York City during the selling season and a force of traveling salesmen is employed.

The Perfect Knitting Mills were started by Carl Hendrichs in 1914 at the time he severed his connections with the Merrill Knitting Co., which he had brought to Merrill from Cleveland, Ohio. The Perfect Knitting Mills are still under his ownership; he now operates six machines and manufactures a complete line of men's boys' ladies' and girls' sweaters, scarfs, and stocking caps. The yarns are purchased in the Eastern markets and the product is sold locally.

Carl Hendrichs, proprietor of the Perfect Knitting Mills at Merrill, Lincoln County, was born in Saxony, Germany in 1870, son of Carl and Deraisa Hendrichs, both of whom are now deceased. He was reared in his native land, where he attended school, after which he spent three years working for nothing in a knitting mill to learn the trade, which he followed in Germany for 13 years subsequently. In the year 1900 he came to the United States, locating first in Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked at his trade for eight years. At the end of that time he started in business for himself and for three or four years conducted a knitting factory in Cleveland. In 1912 he moved his equipment to Merrill, Wis. and started what was the first knitting mill here, conducting the business under the name of the Merrill Knitting-mill Co. After two years he got out of that concern and started the Perfect Knitting Mills, he and his wife operating the machines which they have continued to do successfully up to the present time. Mr. Hendrichs was married in Germany in 1900 to Emma Reichilt, daughter of August and Selma Reichilt, natives and lifelong residents of Germany..