

Merrill Woolen Mills Sale Told

Announcement was made Wednesday of the sale of all operations of the Merrill Woolen Mills to the Rock River Woolen Mills of Janesville. The sale, effective Jan. 2, includes the complete facilities of the Merrill firm.

The Merrill firm started in 1915 as a wool carding operation owned by Louis Stickler. Albert Anderson, former clerk of court for Lincoln county, became associated with Stickler in 1916. In 1917 a group of Merrill businessmen became interested in the business and it was given its present name.

The firm made blankets until 1934, when a fire impaired facilities. Then the firm turned to other items in the textile industry. Lyndon B. Emerich, manager of the firm since 1934, was credited with the growth of the firm over the years. It operated retail stores in Merrill, Tomahawk and Wisconsin Rapids and franchised stores in a number of places, including Minocqua.

Employment at the Merrill plant has averaged 75 in recent years. The Rock River Mills employs more than 200 and has been supplying woolen fabrics to the Merrill company in recent years. The Merrill firm will continue operations at Merrill as a subsidiary of Rock River, and Emerich continues as manager.