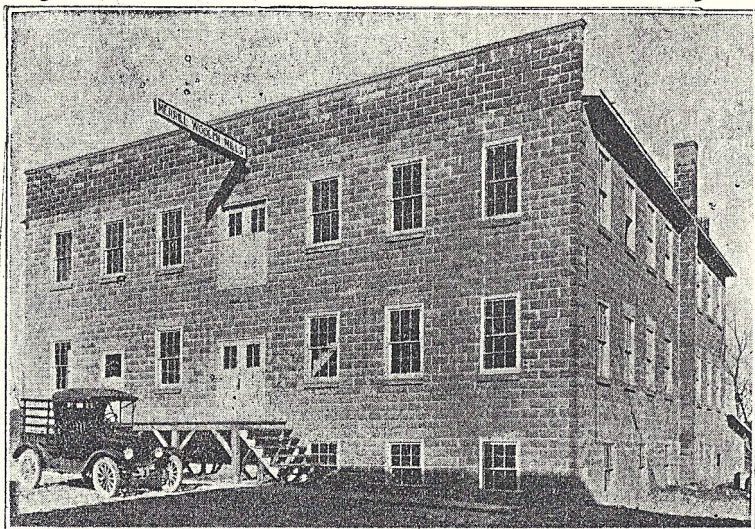


THE MERRILL WOOLEN MILL



This modern concrete block structure houses one of Merrill's most prosperous and far-flung new industries. With the lumber rapidly disappearing, it is in plants like this which depend on agriculture or other resources that Merrill places much of its hope for the future.

Woolen Mill Has Far- Flung Trading Area

The Merrill Woolen Mill has one of the most wide-spread businesses in point of territory covered of any firm in Merrill.

Doing custom work with raw wool, it has had orders from most of the states in the country. Visitors have come from as far away as 150 miles to accompany their wool through the mill and see it made up.

The mill was started in 1917 in the wooden building now used as a warehouse for the shoe factory and was incorporated in 1919, when the present building was erected.

Farmers send in wool and order blankets, trousers, sweaters, underwear, or other woolen goods according to a set schedule, so much wool for each article. The company processes the wool and makes it up into cloth for suiting or blankets or into yarn and sends these goods out to be made up into the finished product.

Although it has recently adopt-

ed the policy of selling goods made at the factory directly to the consumer at factory prices, it is farmers who have their wool made up who benefit most by the custom plan. By sending in his own wool, the farmer not only gets the top market price allowance but a substantial reduction in the cost of his goods.

As the wool comes into the factory it is hand-picked, shredded, washed, and dried. Then it goes to the carding machines, where a series of spiked drums turn it out into loosely matted sheets of fibre. It is then wound onto spindles in yarn and finally made up into cloth on the mill's three looms. All the company's cloth is preshrunk.

Fall is the rush season at the mill, and recently orders have come in so fast that several new employees have been added. A new method of handling wool bats in cheese-cloth covering in standard sizes is proving popular.