

FRANK ERDLITZ, secretary and treasurer of the Menominee River Brewing Company, is a native of Austria, born on the 14th of January, 1864. His father, Joseph Erdlitz, was also born in the same country, and, emigrating to America in 1870, settled in Branch, Wisconsin, where he yet makes his home. Frank acquired his education in the district schools, and with his father came to this country when a child of six summers. He lived in Branch until 1879, when he came to Menominee and secured a position as cook in the lumber camp of K. C. Camp, thus serving until 1886, when, with the capital he had thus acquired, he embarked in the saloon business in Menominee. He purchased the houses Nos. 417 and 419 Kirby street, which he furnished and renamed the Erdlitz House, conducting the same from 1880 until the 1st of May, 1894. He then sold out and built a private residence at No. 423 Kirby Street. About the same time he opened a new saloon on Main street, in connection with Joseph Schroeter, and was interested in that concern until October 18, 1894, when he accepted his present position.

The Menominee River Brewing Company rivals any concern of the kind in Wisconsin or northern Michigan. Upon an eminence overlooking the river the brewery stands, a structure that is especially attractive, for, like some ancient castle, it occupies a prominence which makes it the cynosure of all eyes. The business grew out of a small concern which was established about 1886 by Messrs. Eichert & Skala, who erected a small brewery, two stories in height, with limited machinery. The former gentleman soon sold out to Wolfgang Reindl, and under the administration of Messrs. Reindl & Skala trade constantly increased, and a brick building had to be erected and more extensive machinery added. These improvements were made in 1890, but they were still insufficient to meet the growing demand for the product of this brewery. In consequence a stock company was formed and incorporated under the name of the Menominee River Brewing Company, and plans were immediately consummated and operation begun on a magnificent plant which has few equals in this part of the country. The success of the new company is demonstrated by the stately pile of brick and stone, which is 110 feet in height and

is surmounted by a tower of beauty which is topped by the figure of a rampant buck. The old structure was also put to use and remodeled to accord with the change. The brewery has a capacity of 120 barrels of beer per day, and is so constructed that if necessary almost double that amount can be produced. New and improved machinery in every department assures an excellent product, and the brewery is a model of neatness and cleanliness. Thirty men are constantly employed in the establishment, and it is under the management of one the ablest and most skillful brewers of the Northwest. The entire plant covers about five acres, and this large area of land is taken up by eight buildings used in the active operations. This would indicate an extensive plant, a fact which is also denoted by the fact that \$125,000 would just cover the investments made in the buildings.

The officers of the Menominee River Brewing Company are: W. Reindl, president; F. C. Nowack, vice president; Frank Erdlitz, secretary and treasurer; Albert Lowenstein, bookkeeper. The directors are W. Reindl, F. C. Nowack, Frank Erdlitz, M. Bohmann, S. Peltier, P. Lowenstein, G. Weiner, George Harvath and Frank Oberkircher. The success of the company is shown by the fact that the business done in 1894 was three times as great as that of 1891.