

MERRY, FRANK W

Frank W. MERRY, president of the Indiana Glass Company at Dunkirk, president of the First State Bank of Dunkirk and in other ways actively and prominently identified with the industrial and commercial interests of Dunkirk and of Jay county, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Indiana and of Dunkirk for the past twenty years and has thus long felt himself as much a part of the community in which he resides as though native and to the manner born. During the period of American participation in the World war Mr. MERRY served as a member of the selective draft board for Jay county and also served as a member of the war service committee for the associated glass industries of the United States, in both of these important capacities rendering invaluable service to the nation. He is a Republican and in the party convention which nominated Mr. Hughes for President at Chicago in 1916 was a delegate from this district, and was later elected to represent the Eighth district as an elector from Indiana in the electoral college which declared the election of the President. He is a member of the Congregational church at Dunkirk and of the Portland lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mr. MERRY has been actively identified with the glass industry since he was twenty-one years of age and has for years been recognized as one of the dominant figures in that industry in this country.

He was born at Bowling Green, Ohio, June 18, 1874, and was graduated from the high school in that city in 1893. He then entered Oberlin College and after a course of two years there entered the employ of the Ohio Flint Glass Company, coming to Dunkirk in July, 1895, as bookkeeper and paymaster of the company's plant at that place. In 1899 this plant was destroyed by fire and was not rebuilt, the company transferring the business here created to a new plant at Lancaster, Ohio, and Mr. MERRY removed with the staff to Lancaster, continuing his connection with the company's affairs there until the Lancaster plant was merged in the fall of that same year with the other plants of the National Glass Company, a combination of twenty-one glass plants, with offices .at Pittsburgh, Pa., when he was transferred to the general offices of the company at Pittsburgh, where he was made assistant treasurer of the company. In 1902 he was elected treasurer of the company and on January 3, 1903, returned to Dunkirk to take charge of the No. I plant of the National Glass Company. In the following year (1904) Mr. MERRY helped promote the organization of the Indiana Glass Company, which leased the local plant of the National Glass Company at Dunkirk, and he was elected president of the company, a position he ever since has held. The plant was purchased in 1909. Upon the organization of this company J. E. MERRY was elected vice president, H. H. PHILLIPS, secretary and treasurer, and H. J. BATSCHE, factory manager. This organization continued effective until in 1915, when C. W. SMALLEY was elected to succeed J. E. MERRY as vice president, and in 1916 Charles L. GAUNT was elected to succeed H. H. PHILLIPS as secretary-treasurer. Elsewhere in this work there are set out details regarding the operation of the extensive plant of the Indiana Glass Company, which since the plant was taken over by the present organization has doubled its

output. It is now doing an annual business in excess of \$1,250,000 and its local payroll aggregates more than \$500,000 a year. The company long ago demonstrated that it is panic proof and its plant is kept in continuous operation day and night, employing a force of right around 550 persons, a most important contribution to the industrial life of Dunkirk and of Jay county. The plant has a capacity of over three carloads of glass a day, the output being confined to table ware, vases and lamps, the table ware being pressed and the vases and lamps blown. Prior to 1906 the company was able to use natural gas effectively, but with the diminution of the supply of this wonderful natural fuel was forced to manufacture its own gas and has a capacious plant for that purpose. While Mr. MERRY gives his chief attention to the affairs of the Indiana Glass Company, the very nature of his position as executive head of this important industry requires an extension of his activities, and he has other interests which, all together, make him a very busy man. As noted above, he is president of the First State Bank of Dunkirk, and he also takes an active and intelligent interest in local civic affairs. He has long been regarded as one of the leaders of the Republican party in the Eighth district and has rendered valuable service to his party, his interest in party affairs having been demonstrated ever since he first became a resident of this county when little more than a boy, back in the summer of 1895, in the days when the natural gas boom hereabout was just about at its height. From the hour of his introduction to this community, Mr. MERRY has cherished a hearty interest in all that pertains to the common welfare hereabout, and that interest has found an outlet in many a useful channel, so that he long has been recognized as one of the typically representative men of Jay county.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.110-111. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.