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## **Wisconsin, its opportunities and inducements to home seekers : hundreds of thousands of acres of farming lands : no other locality can equal it. 1895**

Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin State Board of Immigration: State Journal Printing Co., 1895

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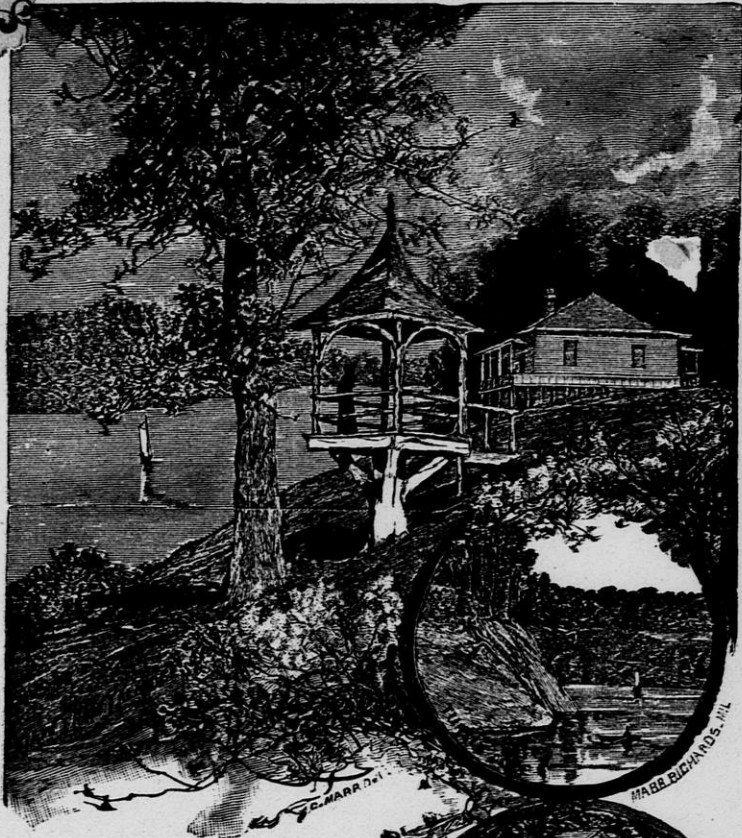
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ELKHART LAKE.

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no. 15

**DO YOU WANT  
TO SECURE A FARM**

**BY YOUR LABOR?**



**Wisconsin Affords the Opportunity.**

*1895.*



*W. T. M. R. BOCH*  
CAPITOL OF WISCONSIN.

10.15

# WISCONSIN.

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Its Opportunities and Inducements to  
Home Seekers.

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HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ACRES  
OF FARMING LANDS.

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NO OTHER LOCALITY CAN EQUAL IT.

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PUBLISHED BY THE  
WISCONSIN STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION.

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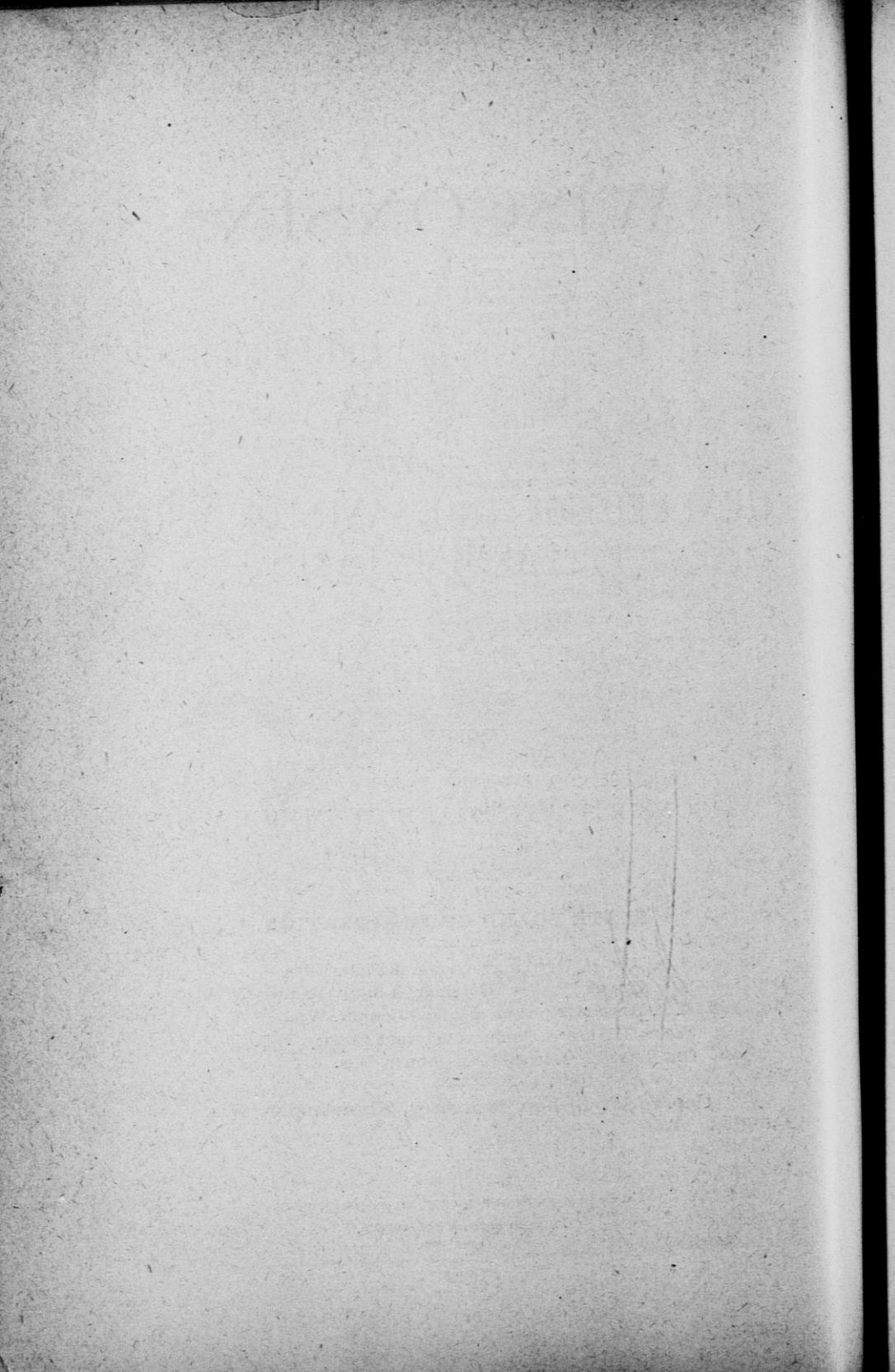
George W. Bishop, Secretary, Rhinelander, Wis.

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STATE JOURNAL PRINTING COMPANY,  
PRINTERS AND STEREOTYPERS,  
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1895.



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## WISCONSIN DESIRES MORE SETTLERS.

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The Wisconsin State Board of Immigration, created by an act of the Legislature of 1894-1895, has for its purpose the promoting of immigration to the State. More especially is this sought for the northern part of Wisconsin. To that end the Board will, by any means within its power, assist people with information who may desire to take advantage of the opportunities offered. Any inquiries for information not contained in this pamphlet can be addressed to Mr. George W. Bishop, Secretary of the State Board of Immigration, at Rhinelander, Wisconsin, and will be promptly attended to, and any information regarding a certain county or locality of the State can be easily obtained by addressing the local Immigration Board of that County. A list of the members of each County Immigration Board will be found in this pamphlet. They are all representative men of their community, and interested in its development. They are anxious that the opportunities which there await home-seekers be taken advantage of. They will not only furnish cheerfully any information desired by correspondence, but they will gladly show people about who desire to investigate their respective counties, and any home-seeker who desires to view the lands which he or his friends may wish to purchase will be shown them by some of the members of these Boards. They are not land agents with land to dispose of to people regardless of whether or not it will prove satisfactory for farming purposes, but are organized and will work for the sole purpose of settling their respective counties, and will, so far as lies in their power, see that the settler is advantageously located and that his efforts prove successful, for in the success of a few lies the secret of securing many. Many of the counties of Northern Wisconsin

now offering hundreds of thousands of acres of land for farming purposes are at present by no means small, from an agricultural standpoint. In fact some of the counties are among the leaders of crop-growers in the State. At the State Fair held in Milwaukee in 1895, where all sections of the State had exhibits, the highest award for vegetables was given to a county which borders upon Lake Superior, and the grain and general farm product exhibits of a number of Northern Wisconsin counties were excelled by none located in the old rich agricultural districts. What can be done in the way of farming in this section of country has been thoroughly established, and as personal investigation is always best, Wisconsin asks any and all who are looking for homes where labor will bring its highest reward, to investigate the State before they locate elsewhere.

A large, finely-illustrated book has been prepared by Prof. W. A. Henry, Dean of the Wisconsin Agricultural College. It is a treatise on the climate, soil and other advantages of Northern Wisconsin, and shows over one hundred views of growing crops in that section. A copy of this book can be had by writing Mr. Geo. W. Bishop, Secretary of the Immigration Board.

The object of the Legislature in passing the law creating the Board of Immigration and expressed in the act was to make known conservatively what inducements Wisconsin offers to people desiring a home, and to secure for those people, who wish to make settlement within the borders of the State, fair treatment from the land-owners and full opportunity to take advantage of the many excellent chances that await them. The movement is in no sense a commercial one, as the State does not seek to sell its own land, but, as a commonwealth, looks for its reward in the settlement of the undeveloped sections and in the increased population of the thinly-settled portions of the State and the increased valuation of the State's property.



SETTLER'S HOME IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN.

REPRODUCED FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## LANDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOUSANDS.

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The State of Wisconsin offers to all industrious people desiring a home, opportunities that not only are unexcelled by any State on the continent, but, all things considered, are unequaled. The time was when cheap agricultural lands were common to almost all the States, but at the present time but few localities remain where the home-seeker can secure, practically without capital, the opportunity to make himself well-to-do by simply his labor. The State of Wisconsin has to-day two million people, yet within its borders there are at least two and one-half million acres of land which can be purchased by settlers at from \$1 to less than \$10 per acre, and sufficient time given for payment to allow any industrious family, no matter how limited their capital may be at the start, to take advantage of the opportunity. Aside from this great amount of land, there are yet thousands of acres which can be homesteaded under the general laws. The lands are such as will raise crops unexcelled in any locality, and for diversified farming they are the equal, if not the superior, of lands in some of the now richest agricultural sections of the country. The reasons for this condition of affairs are plain. Northern Wisconsin is a timbered country; the lands now offered so cheaply have been entered from the government for the value of the timber upon them solely, and those which did not contain timber enough to make it profitable for lumbering are as yet government lands. During the past twenty years billions of feet of timber have been taken from Northern Wisconsin, and many hundreds of thousands of acres have been left in the hands of those who bought them simply for the timber. While many counties in Wisconsin were in the same condition twenty years ago, some even ten years ago, and have since become rich agricultural

sections, there yet remain a score or more of counties which are now going through the transformation from a lumbering to a farming community. The manner in which the counties like Portage, Waupaca, Waushara and others have been changed from what was considered a worthless area when the timber was gone to a more prosperous section than they ever were before, is simply an illustration of what will take place in all of the counties in Northern Wisconsin, situated now as those named were ten years ago.

North of a line drawn east and west through the geographical center of the State is as yet a sparsely-settled country. Within this radius there are many large cities and hundreds of towns containing from three hundred to five thousand population, but nearly all of the population of the country is in these towns. The cutting of timber from this section will last for a generation to come, and the clearing of the lands has and will make opportunities for farmers that no prairie country can surpass, if equal. There are many advantageous features for farmers in the timber country which are not possessed by the prairies: one is fuel in abundance; another, building material from the clearings of one's own land. Anything that can be grown on a prairie can be grown in timber countries; and some things which can't be produced profitably elsewhere. The country is more particularly adapted to diversified farming, which is much better than the dependence upon any one kind of crop. The markets of Wisconsin offer to the farmer advantages that no other country at present possesses; the innumerable milling and mining towns make a market at the farmer's door, and the prices secured for the products are invariably better than those paid for the same products in localities where the farmer has to ship them to more populous centers.

The State of Wisconsin is desirous of adding to its population more of the same class who have done so much to develop the State to its present position of thrift and prosperity. To those people in the overcrowded centers of population who toil harder for a mere subsistence than would be necessary on their

own farm in Northern Wisconsin, it offers invitation to secure not only a living, but a home which will every year increase in value. To the renter who pays each year all that a farm of his own in Northern Wisconsin would cost him, it offers an opportunity to change from tenant to landlord. To the farmers' sons who are seeking a location, it offers the same chances that their own locality does, and the extra inducement of cheap land. The State does not seek to sell and locate people upon its own lands, although there are many thousand acres of good land owned by the State which can be purchased at from \$1.25 to \$3 per acre. What the State will do is to take all who desire to investigate the situation or purchase a farm, to the owners of the land, see that they are protected in their purchase thereof, and that they secure exactly what is represented at the price and upon the terms agreed upon.



## HONEST, INDUSTRIOUS PEOPLE WELCOME IN WISCONSIN.

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The advantage to anyone in coming to Wisconsin to locate permanently is that he is not taking his family to a wild and barren region which it will take years to develop: he is coming to a country that is already possessed of all the advantages to be secured in almost any country of fifty years of age. The manufacturing and lumber interests have built up prosperous and happy communities in almost every ten miles of the vast area of Northern Wisconsin. The railroads have networked the State in a manner that makes cities like Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Minneapolis almost neighbors. The country has already excellent schools; in fact there is no place in Northern Wisconsin to-day where there exists the need of a teacher to instruct six children and a school-house that they are not supplied. The people who are in the country engaged in manufacturing and other lines dependent thereon are an enterprising, far-seeing class who recognize the necessity of improving the now unprofitable timbered lands. Every county and its people will lend to settlers all the assistance that is possible in making their home a pleasant one and their farm a profitable one. The size of some of the counties which invite immigration is so large and so generally misunderstood that it is surprising to know that counties which contain twenty thousand people have cheap lands for fifty thousand more. None of the counties nor none of the sections of Wisconsin which ask people to come and locate there are without a fair-sized population now, but the extent of the territory and the hundreds of thousands of acres of land which are unoccupied make it possible for one hundred thousand more families to find within the borders of Wisconsin plenty of land which

will bring to them a better return for their labor and a happier home and a more certain livelihood than their present occupations. Not only are the advantages of schools, railroads, churches and society awaiting those who come to Wisconsin to locate, and not only do the municipalities, town government and the law officials guarantee to new settlers just and equitable laws, taxes and conditions, but come from whence he may, no nationality can come to Wisconsin and feel that he has entered a strange land. Many of the northern counties of the State are settled largely by foreigners.

During the past twenty years a large number of colonies have located upon lands similar to those now offered, and uniformly have the colonies prospered and grown. They have come from all parts of the world, and especially have those from the Scandinavian Peninsula, Germany and Central Europe done well. They have not only prospered as farmers; many of them have become engaged in mercantile and professional pursuits, and to-day some of the best citizens, officials and business men are from the ranks of those who came to the State only a few years ago with nothing but their labor and energy to work out for them competence and success.

## THE SOIL.

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The soil of Wisconsin is varied in character according to locality, and diversified in a manner to permit of the raising of almost any crop. It is one of the greatest dairy States in the Union, and the cheap lands that are now offered to home-seekers will some day be one of the richest butter and cheese producing sections of the Northwest. The northern part of the State is a great grass country. There are large areas of low lands which can, with small labor, be made into very profitable meadows; wherever this plan has been tried it has proved a very paying one and the quality of the hay grown has been unexcelled. The nature of crops and the amount grown per acre in the year 1895 show that the country north of the line drawn through the center of the State is capable of the greatest possible development to the agriculturalist. The crops of Northern Wisconsin this year were uniformly larger and better than those of any surrounding State or section. There are many reasons for this. Long-continued droughts are unknown; hot winds never blow in this locality, and the season is quick and sure. In some sections of the thinly-settled part of the State the soil is heavy clay loam, wonderfully rich and productive; from that it varies to a lighter loam, which is no less valuable insomuch as it is much quicker. Rains are plentiful and sure. There is no part of the State where irrigation is necessary. A good average of the crops raised in the northern counties of the State, which offers lands and homes for thousands, has been compiled from reports of twenty different counties. The average is this:

Oats, 60 bushels per acre; barley, 40 bushels per acre; rye, 30 bushels per acre; corn, 40 bushels per acre; wheat, 30 bushels

per acre; potatoes, 200 bushels per acre; hay,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tons per acre; peas, 30 bushels per acre; turnips, 400 bushels per acre. The qualities of these products were extraordinarily good. There can no country excel this part of Wisconsin in the abundance and excellence of the crops of all kinds of vegetables and grain.

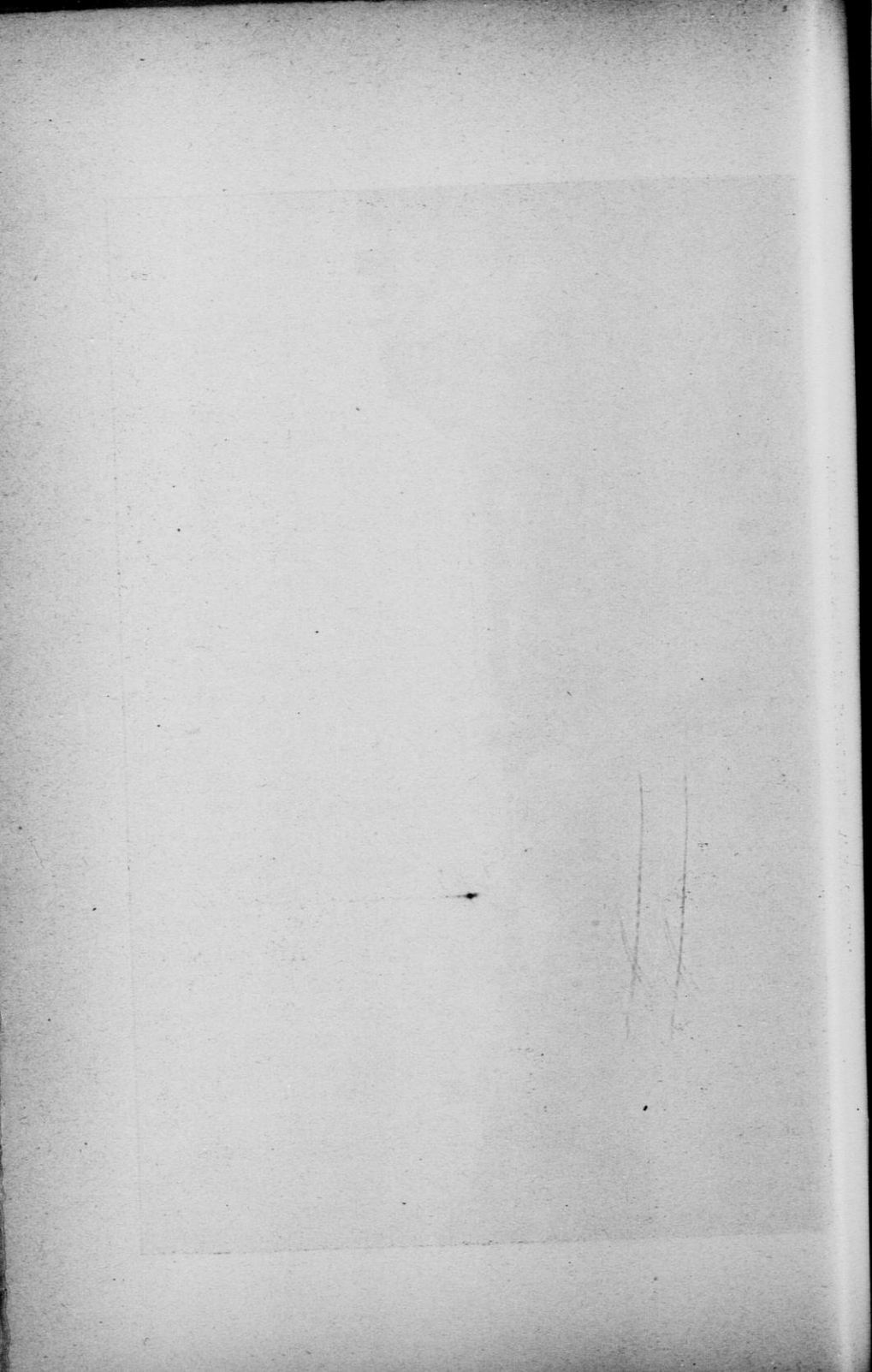
## THE LANDS ARE NEAR RAILROADS.

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An important question with all home-seekers is whether or not a location otherwise desirable has sufficient and acceptable railroad facilities. It is highly important to any section which hopes to become an agricultural one that the farmers' crops can be moved quickly to market and that the facilities for getting in and out of the country are equal to those of old settled agricultural regions. Northern Wisconsin is extraordinarily well equipped with railroads. The great lumbering, mining and manufacturing districts have long ago brought the railroads to the country, and the majority of the counties have at least three (3) lines of road running through them, and but one county has less than two. The unsettled lands of Wisconsin are not remote from railroads or civilization; they are traversed by trunk lines and are within easy access of small towns and large cities. Few States have the railroad advantages Wisconsin has, and the more thinly settled portion more lines and many more miles of railroad than many States of the Union. Such roads as the Chicago & Northwestern, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, The Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie, The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, The Wisconsin Central, The Green Bay, Winona & St. Paul, and many other lines run through the country where these cheap lands and unexcelled opportunities are offered. Aside from the advantage of transportation and accessibility to the market and trading points, the railroads will lend substantial and efficient aid to all actual settlers who desire to improve the lands. They will carry people to and from the lands at low rates, will transport their household goods, work-tools, teams, etc., in the same way, and will assist in securing to the settler the best possible cash markets for the products of his land or labor.



STOCK-FARM SCENE IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN.



## THE STATE WILL TREAT NEW-COMERS FAIRLY.

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When the home-seeker is asked which locality he would choose — one which is offered him simply to effect a sale and secure a profit on land for some speculator; and one which is offered him by the people of the State for the reason that they desire more industrious farmers to settle up a large undeveloped section, and to that end give him encouragement and protection, which all new-comers in a country need — he will promptly answer: the latter. The various counties and towns in the thinly-settled portion of Wisconsin invite all who desire to secure a home for themselves, whether or not they are possessed of abundant means. All they ask is that the new-comer shall be industrious, willing to work for his own interests and permanently become one of them. Under these conditions the new settler is given advantages that cannot be obtained under any other. The question of taxes is a highly important one to the farmer, and the policy of all the towns and counties in Wisconsin which invite this immigration is to treat the new-comer in a fair, business-like way that they will be well satisfied with, and in a manner that will induce them to write their friends that it is a good country to live in, and a good community to be associated with. The taxes upon the lands offered for settlement will not average over ten cents per acre, but of course as improvements are made the taxes will be more, but never more than the farmer himself will think just or equitable. The building of towns with their many extensive improvements at the start is not one of the tax-increasing propositions that the settler in Wisconsin has to meet. Lands which will be secured by settlers in this State are within easy access of towns



which now have all these improvements. They have been built by the manufacturing interest, and the farmer has to pay none of the bills for costly court-houses, jails, schools and other public improvements. The policy of the Wisconsin people is to encourage and satisfy the immigrants to their State instead of to secure them for speculative purposes.

## GRANDEST HUNTING FORESTS AND FISHING STREAMS IN THE WORLD.

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Nature has done much to make Wisconsin attractive to the home-seeker in the way of beauties; but, more than that, it has made it the greatest hunting and fishing paradise in the world. The country is annually visited by thousands who love the sport of rod or gun, and nowhere can such a diversified amount of game and fish be found. Deer are abundant, the forest is thronged with them; and, as the law permits the shooting of them but twenty days in the year, it will be generations before they are extinct. Partridge, ducks, geese and other birds are plentiful, and in season the hunting of them is always good. Northern Wisconsin is the home of the famous muscalonge, the greatest of all inland-water fish. It is no exceptional thing for twenty-pound or thirty-pound specimens of this unique variety to be captured almost daily. The greatest trout streams of the world are here, and the bass, pike and pickerel fishing is good in almost any of the innumerable streams. The State does not allow the wholesale destruction of these priceless gifts which nature gave to her, and stringent laws protect the slaughter of both fish and game in a way that it will be perpetuated for residents of the State for centuries to come. Only during certain seasons can the game be shot or the fish be caught, and never by those methods which are unsportsmanlike and barbarous. The farmer in the new part of Wisconsin has to himself for all time to come, protected by the game and fish laws, a paradise that is equalled no where.

## PROFITS FROM THE LAND BEFORE A CROP IS HARVESTED.

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A home in the timber regions of Wisconsin means more than a mere possession of so many acres of land. As a rule there is a great deal of standing timber left upon cut-over lands, and the amount that can be secured off the timber that is removed in fitting the land for agricultural purposes is surprising. Saw logs, which always find a ready market and good prices, bring considerable to the farmer, and railroad ties, posts, cord-wood, telegraph-poles, etc., which are removed in clearing the lands bring a good cash price at any time they are ready for shipment and are never far from the railroad line. This gives to the settler money at the time when it is most needed, and is a great advantage over the prairie country, where nothing can be secured until the crop is harvested. When the land is clear it will produce as much as any land, and the farmer has the advantage of having made considerable in clearing it. All the way from \$50 to \$200 worth of timber and wood are taken from forty acres, besides a great abundance of fire-wood and building material for the farmer.

## THERE ARE CHANCES FOR SETTLERS TO EARN MONEY.

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The question of whether or not a country offers to a new settlement anything in the way of employment other than the tilling of his own land is a highly important one, and on that point Wisconsin offers to people more than any other State can. There is an abundance of work. Man with or without a team can ordinarily secure employment during the winter months with some of the many lumbering or manufacturing concerns, and it is no small item to a person who starts with small means to work the farm. Wages are ordinarily better than in the overcrowded cities or in manufacturing towns of other localities. Work is plenty and good land is cheap, and any man who is willing to work can support his family and improve his farm at the same time. That condition exists to-day in Wisconsin in almost any of the thinly-settled counties.

## GOOD PURE WATER FOR EVERY FARM.

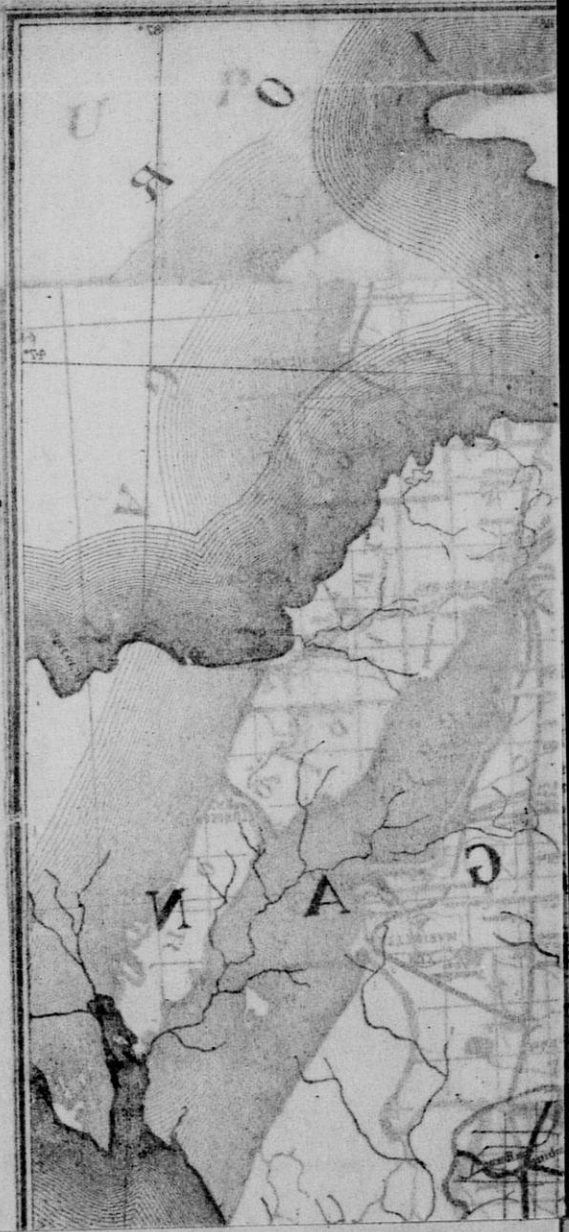
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The climate of Wisconsin is a healthy, invigorating one, free from any complaints that are justly lodged against other sections advertising for new-comers. The winters have a clear, bracing atmosphere continually, and in summer the growth is rapid without excessive heat. The northern portion of the State is free from fever and ague, hay fever, and kindred diseases so frequent in other localities. While in winter the thermometer registers a lower degree than in points of northern Illinois and Indiana, the cold is never felt as much; the air is clear and dry, while strong winds never prevail; the blizzard is an unheard-of thing in Northern Wisconsin. That great index of the healthfulness of any section — the water — is particularly good in Wisconsin; in fact, Wisconsin supplies the world with water to a certain extent. The famous springs of Waukesha have a world-renowned reputation, and but little behind are those of Chippewa Falls, Bethania and others, which are in the heart of the country offered to settlers. Thousands of springs giving forth pure water are to be found all through the State; the northern portion is bounteously supplied with lakes and rivers. There is hardly a section of land that does not have a running brook through it. A few large rivers, thousands of pure-water lakes and innumerable small streams give an abundance of water, which is no small item in the making of a stock-raising country, which many undeveloped sections of Wisconsin are bound to become.





WESTERN







MAP OF  
**WISCONSIN**  
PUBLISHED BY THE  
STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION.

H. L. BESSE, President, BUTTERNUT, WIS.  
G. W. BISHOP, Sec'y, RHINELANDER, WIS.

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