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## Art work of the Wisconsin River Valley. 1901

Oshkosh, Wisconsin: Photogravure Co., 1901

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Part 1.

WISCONSIN

RIVER

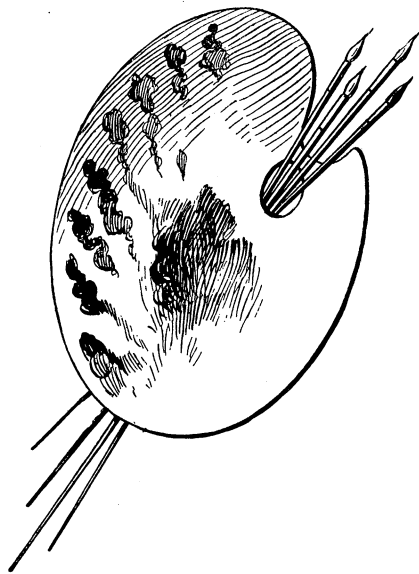
VALLEY



ART WORK

of the

Wisconsin River Valley



1901

THE PHOTOGRAVURE COMPANY,

OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN.



SCENE ON THE WISCONSIN.

## The Wisconsin River Valley.

THE Old Wisconse', in quiet and forceful beauty winds in and out among the bits of timber which, here and there, still fringe her banks, or glides, half-ashamed, past the barren slashings where the ruthless hand of the destroyer has despoiled her of her erstwhile beauty, gathering to her glistening bosom some of the pride of later circumstance as she babbles over rocks and dams where new-built mills give promise of a newer and larger usefulness for her. From the forest wildnesses in the far north, to the broader fields of civilization as she wends her way to the south, The Old Wisconse' is a connecting link between the glamour of the past and the progress of the present.

Speaking with strict geographical accuracy, the valley of the Wisconsin River commences at Prairie du Chien and extends to the myriad of little lakes in the far northern part of the state



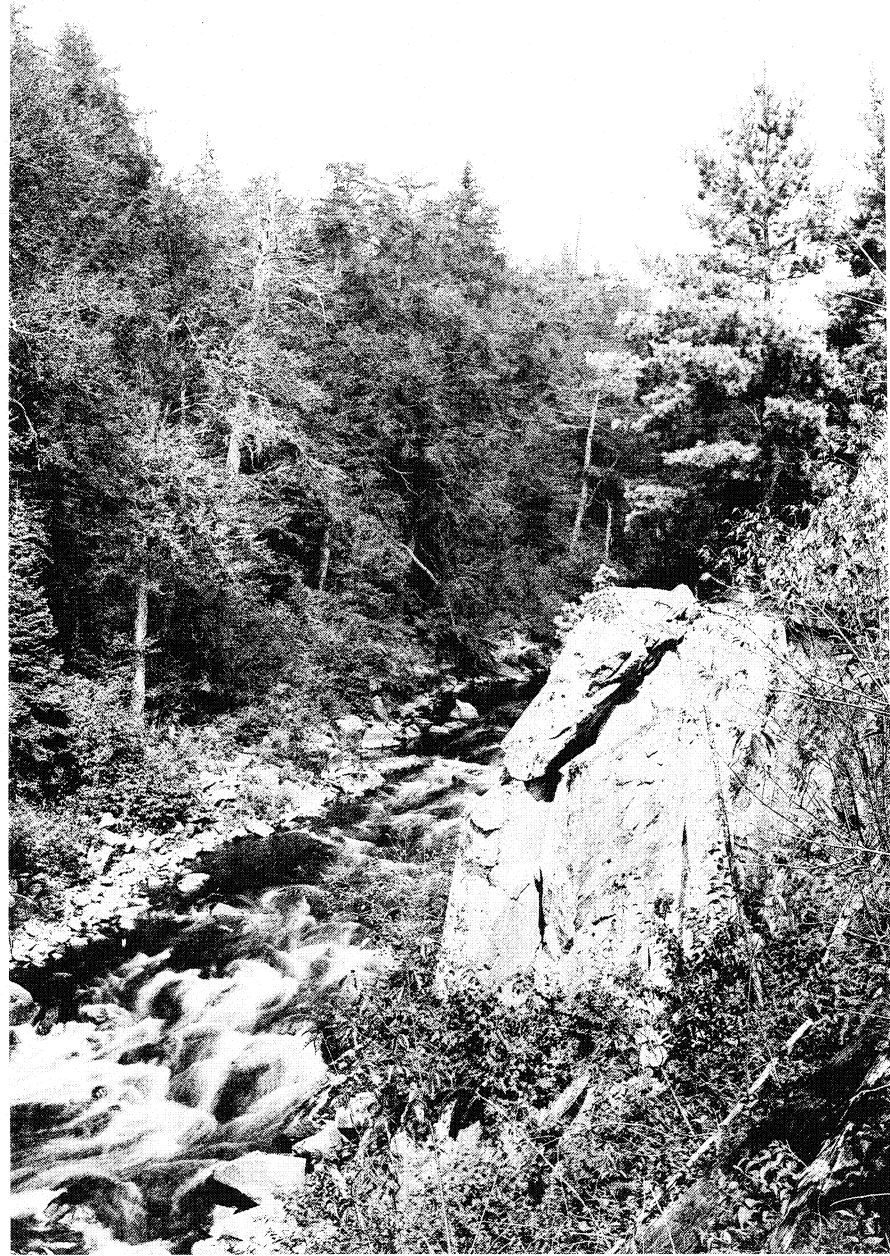


SCENE AT ROTHSCHILD NEAR WAUSAU.



SCENE NEAR THE DAM—RHINELANDER.





SCENES ON THE PRAIRIE RIVER NEAR MERRILL.



RAPIDS AND DAM ON THE WISCONSIN AT MOSINEE.





SCENE NEAR STEVENS POINT AT PAPER MILLS.





VIEW OF THE DAM—MERRILL.



SCENE AT TOMAHAWK.

which store up the snows of winter and the rains of summer to feed the stream around which so much of busy activity centers. But nature often overdoes things, in the spirit of prodigality, and so the name Wisconsin River Valley has come, of late years, at least, to mean only that part of it which lies above the famous Dells. From the Dells to the network of lakes out of which the silver strand of the river is woven, is perhaps, two hundred miles, and it is two hundred miles into which much romance and reality, roseate hopes and bitter disappointments, song and toil, have been interleaved. It has been the battle-ground of strong men with nature. The conquering of the continent is but a little way in the past. The marks of the axe and the sound of the saw are still with us. The war of the woods still wages.

There is majestic grandeur in the solitudes of the primeval forest; it is nature's heart-tones expressed in tenderness for those who can hear. The colours are all somber, the proportions are all heavy. Even the birds of the deepest forests are quiet; the flowers are timid and modest. The shadows of the woods are deep; the sunlight only steals in here and there, and always with the consciousness of an interloper. The man who penetrates the forest with his axe and saw grows strong and quiet, forceful and resourceful, in the very somberness of his surroundings. The forests breed a race of conquerors; the men of the woods are strong and dominant men. It is that which lends the glamour of romance to the story of the passing of the forests; it is that which makes the life of the prairies flat. Man seems to find no opportunity to do things where nature has not chosen to express herself. The history of the world has been made by the men and women who have come from the forests and the mountains. The lowlands have always been on the defensive.

More than half a century ago the scout-line of the woodsman was thrown out into The Wisconsin Valley. To-day there are men whose homes are within the sound of its waters who came here then as laborers by the day, and now count the laborers who toil for them by the hundreds. To-day there are those who came here then full of hope and ambition, who sit in the shadows of the evening, having only disappointment for their portion. The fickle lightnings of fate have played as reckless a game here as anywhere where men and fortunes are the pieces and the stakes. But in the later development of the cities and villages which stand where not so many years ago was the untouched timber, there is being reaped the rich harvest of which the seed was sown in the early days when conditions were rougher and men were hardier. Some one has said, that you cannot conquer a continent with gentlemen; that it takes the ruder surgery of the rougher fibre. And in a way this is so. But the very roughness and rudeness which the conflict with the storehouses of nature demands and breeds, whether in the mountains or the forests, makes men who are broad and strong and self-reliant, and it peoples the conquered country with a race whose mettle is tried, and whose force is developed.

The hardy pioneers who, more than half a century ago came from the woods of Maine and the pineries of Canada to accomplish the devastation of the forests of The Wisconsin Valley, brought to their task the heritage of woodsman's blood from generations back, and the



inspiration of the woodsman's hopes for future fortune. The axe and the saw were laid at the forest's inviting frontier, and Portage, which has long since forgotten what a Mackinaw looks like, was the outfitting point for cruisers and for the logging camps. Supplies, in those days were "toted" from Galena, Illinois, which was then the northernmost metropolis for the lumbering trade, St. Louis being the financial and commercial center of the whole north-west. Gradually, but surely the timber line receded before the resolute strokes of the invaders, and the logging camps gave way to the homes of the settlers. Where there had been pine slashings, the smoldering fires of the stumps and underbrush gave promise of the coming of seeding and harvesting. The axe gave way to the plow, and the saw to the harrow, and where all the activities of man had been devoted to destruction, all the energy of those who followed was expended in production. In their turn, Grand Rapids, Stevens Point, Wausau, Merrill, and Tomahawk, were the outposts of commerce on the edge of the forest, and now Rhinelander is the farthest up the river that a town of any size can be found. The farmer has followed in the close wake of the logger all the way, and as fast as the camps have been pulled up the settler has come in.

With the tremendous growth of modern progress in all directions there has been a remarkable change in the business which is the characteristic industry of The Wisconsin Valley. In the early days the railroad was not a factor in the world's commerce. It was a dream, which the sanguine ones hoped might some day come true, but even they did not believe it would ever have much effect on the lumber business. It was so easy to put the lumber into rafts and float it down the river, and it would surely cost too much to ship it by rail to ever make that a practicable system.

In those days the men went into the woods in the winter to get out the logs. And usually a merry winter it was. A crew of men shut away from all communication with the outside world, in the dead of a northern winter, with work from the early dawn of morning till the deepening shadows of evening, are bound to condense into the short hour after supper left for diversion, all the relaxation their ingenuity can devise. In the spring they "drove" the logs down the streams and rivers, and as soon as the "drive" was down, worked in the mills and at the rafting. Particularly fortunate were those who got work at the rafting, for that meant a trip into the fabled world outside, and a glimpse of the splendours which had only come to them in the tales that are spun by the fires of the camps in the winter nights. But the men who staid at the mills are mostly the ones who lasted longest; the enervations of the effete civilization of the lower river were too often too much for the denizens of the higher altitudes.

Now all that is changed. It is many years since the river has carried any of the lumber made in The Wisconsin Valley to market, and it has floated almost its last log. Certainly the volume of logs "driven" in the river will decrease measurably each year. The railroad, which for many years has distributed the manufactured product, is now by far the largest carrier of the raw material. Tracks and spurs are laid into the timber, and the logging operations are conducted summer and winter, while the mills not only run the year round in many cases, but



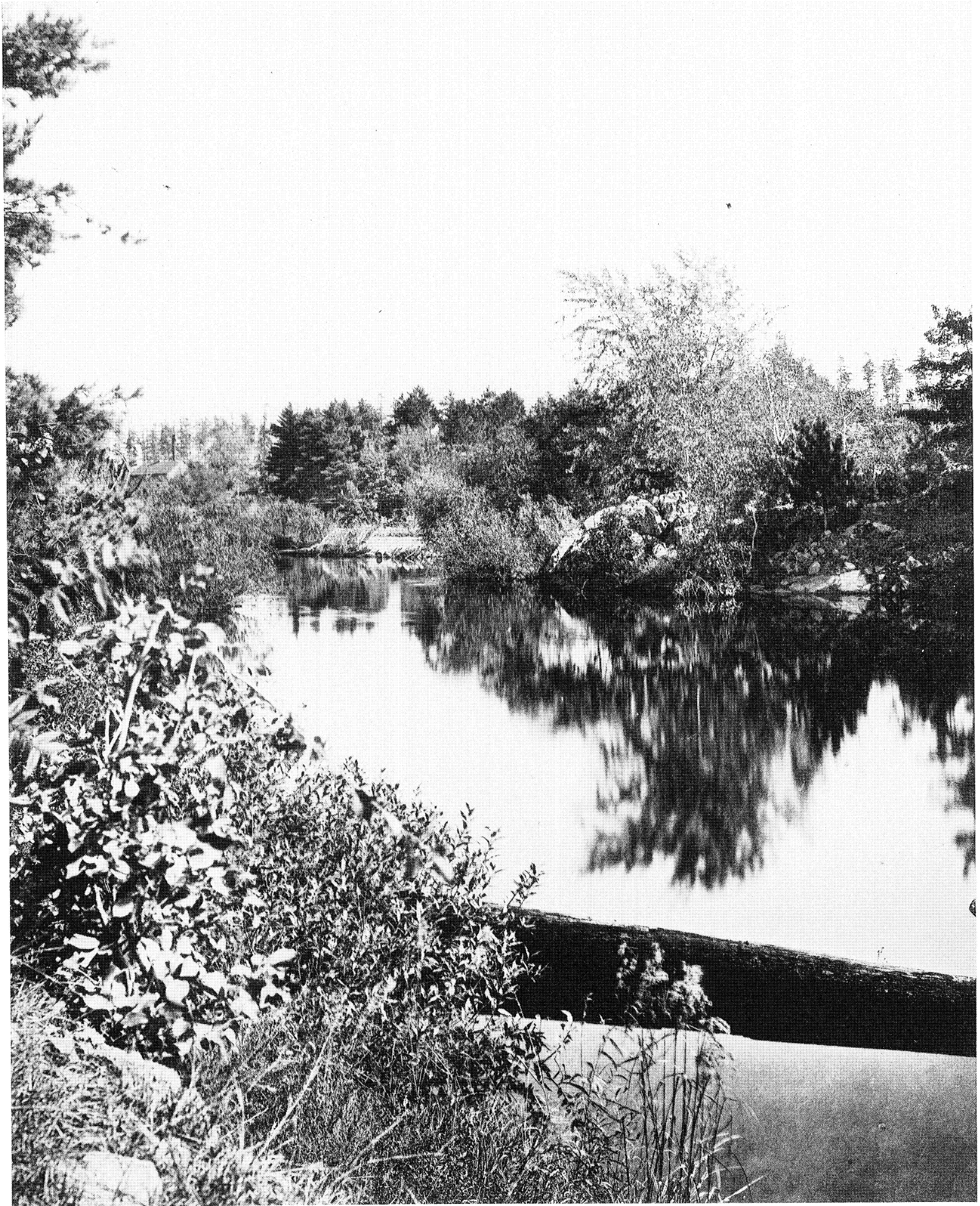
Part 2.

WISCONSIN  
RIVER  
VALLEY





SCENE AT THE DELLS ON PRAIRIE RIVER NEAR MERRILL.



SCENE AT MOSINEE.





SCENE ON JIM MOORE CREEK—WAUSAU.





SCENE ON RIVER—STEVENS POINT.



AN ISLAND ON THE WISCONSIN—GRAND RAPIDS.



A RUSTIC SPOT.





SCENE NEAR RHINELANDER.



DRIVEWAY NEAR WAUSAU.



BRIDGE AT RIB RIVER—WAUSAU.





SCENE ON THE LITTLE RIB RIVER—WAUSAU.

often night and day without interruption except for Sunday. This radical change in conditions has had a marked effect upon the character of the men employed in the work. They are no longer of the "floating" class which the varied demands of the old system produced. They have their fixed employments the year round, they have their homes and families, and the little mill-centers, even in the heart of the woods, have their school-houses and their churches, and the social life which belongs to the small community.

These vast lumbering interests, employing summer and winter thousands of men, producing millions upon millions of feet of lumber, involving financial operations which in the course of a year run up into the millions of dollars, is really the foundation of the commercial activity and business prosperity of the busy and prosperous section. Looking at the past, considering the thousands of acres which have been "logged off", measuring what seems by comparison the smaller portion of the Valley which remains with timber upon it, and looking at the dismantled mills which tell the tale of exhausted timber holdings, it would seem as if the day of the lumberman in The Wisconsin Valley were so near over that the end is in sight. Yet the pioneers of The Wisconsin Valley came from the camps of Maine sixty years ago because they thought they saw the approach of the end which has not yet come; twenty-five years ago the statisticians of the Michigan lumber field figured out the end of the business there, and the mills are still running. There is a marvelous vitality in the last end of lumbering operations.

More important however, than the future of the lumber business, is the future of the collateral industries which in one way or another arise out of it. The lumbermen of The Wisconsin Valley have become rich, most of them beyond the immediate demands of their business. The result is the presence of capital for home investment which results in the building up of many interests which make the general prosperity of the community. First of all came the organization in all the business centers of the Valley of banks with home stockholders, and home capital. This has insured a local financial policy everywhere, thoroughly identified with the interests of the people, and the extreme rarity of failure in this direction has amply attested at once the conservatism which this policy insures, as well as the advantage of having the financial supply of the community controlled and directed by those with interests in common. Beyond this, the capital wrested from the forests has been used in the very general development of factories which in addition to drawing upon the resources of the country for the raw material, furnish the employment which supports a large and growing population. The diversified nature of these industries insures their permanency, for they do not, as do the saw-mills, all draw upon a common source of supply, and that, one which is by its nature limited and not subject to replenishment. The future prosperity of The Wisconsin Valley depends more upon these growing and developing manufacturing institutions, than it does upon the saw-mills, which have, for the most part, done their work.

As the part which was played by the Old Wisconsin' in the early development of the Valley was of prime importance, so, in the more permanent growth of these later days she is a vital

factor. The undeveloped water-power of the old river is an inexhaustible mine of wealth which can be drawn upon as long as the sun continues to lift the moisture of the earth to the skies, and the rains of heaven continue to fall. In the ceaseless insistence of irresistible power the waters of the river fall over the slight declivities which here and there break the course of the stream, and in every one of these falls there is undeveloped power which means immense possibilities in the future. This alone has brought to the industries of the Valley the recent addition of paper-making, and while the daily output of the mills is now hundreds of tons, the probability is that in the future this will be largely increased. The wood used in this industry is that which the lumbering operations did not include, so that it gives a new lease of life to lands which had already been cut over.

The furniture factories are also drawing upon the resources of the hardwood belts with which the pine country is interspersed, and they are fast becoming a considerable element of the manufactures of the Valley.

The mineral deposits in one form or another are being developed. Graphite is mined in the Valley, and the famous quartzite deposit known as Rib Mountain is yielding up its treasure to the miner and the crusher.

Factories making a wide variety of commercial specialties, drawing for the most part or wholly on the hardwood resources of the Valley are numerous and well distributed through the different towns along the river.

The agricultural resources of The Wisconsin Valley are considerable and substantial. One of the Valley counties, Marathon, has for three years in succession been awarded the first county premium at the Wisconsin State Fair, and as that is a competition which is eagerly contested from all parts of the state, it is an honour which means much to the section of country to which it is awarded. While in the main the farmer has followed the logger, and agriculture has only come in after the lumbering was over, there are parts of The Wisconsin Valley which have been under agricultural cultivation for over fifty years, and many of its farms are now operated by the grandchildren of the original settler. There are whole farming communities in The Wisconsin Valley in which the mortgage which inevitably marks the dawn of life in the farmer's operations has long since disappeared, and in which the substantial homes and spacious out-buildings evidence the thrift and prosperity of the residents. There is also a considerable amount of stock-raising and dairying in the Valley, and creameries and cheese-factories materially encourage these branches of farming.

In short, those who regard The Wisconsin Valley as a lumberman's paradise, valuable until the timber is gone, would be enchanted by the revelation of all the possibilities, industrial, agricultural and commercial, which lie open before it. Its resources are diversified and well-nigh inexhaustible, and its people have the force and push and enterprise which is as necessary to communal success as are the gifts of nature without which it cannot be won.

In social activities the progress of The Wisconsin Valley has been no less marked than in



Part 3.

WISCONSIN  
RIVER  
VALLEY





ON THE PELICAN RIVER—RHINELANDER.



SCENE BELOW WAUSAU ON THE WISCONSIN.

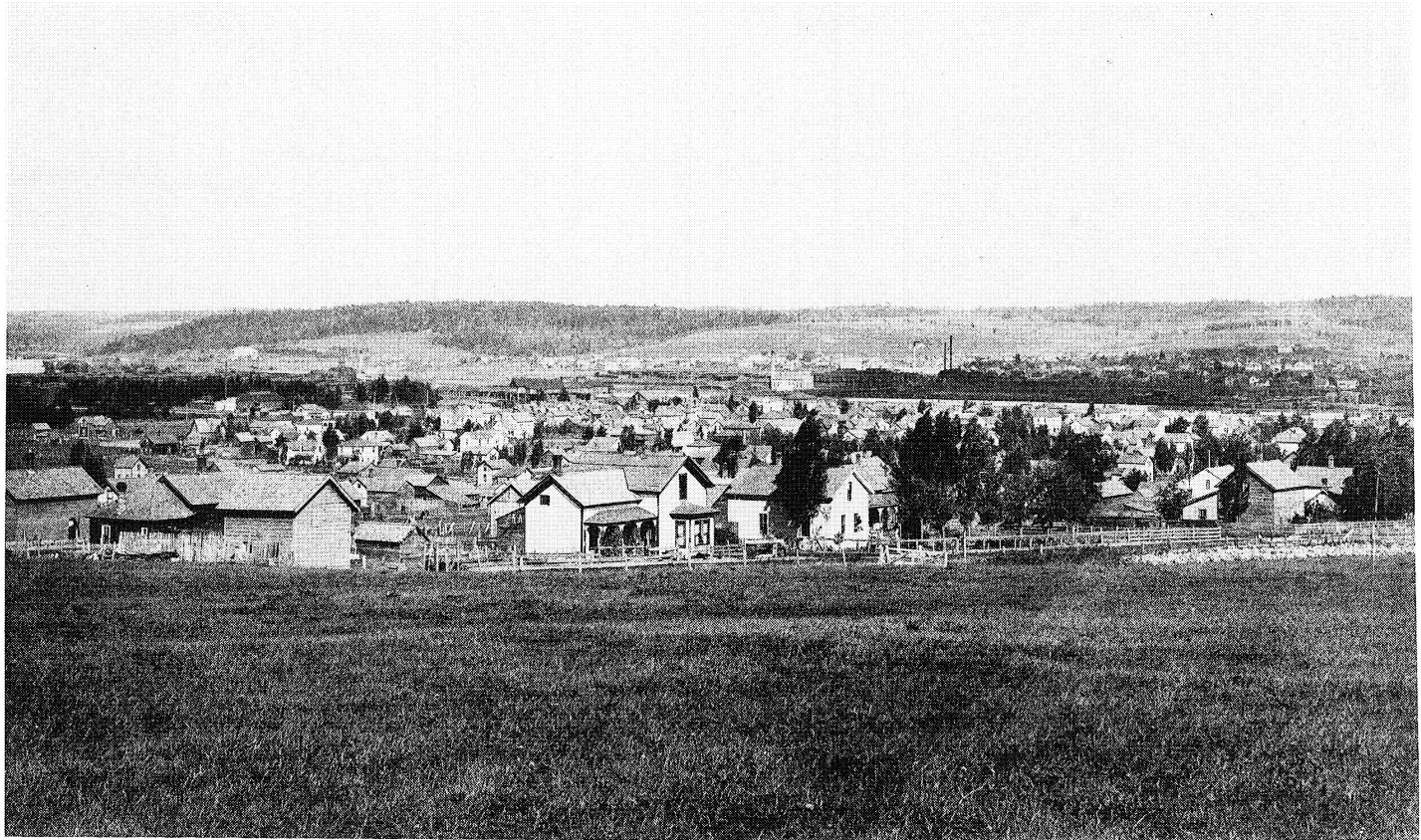




SCENE ON THE RIVER—GRAND RAPIDS.



ON THE PLOVER RIVER—STEVENS POINT.



VIEW OF WAUSAU FROM WEST HILL.



SCENE NEAR WAUSAU.





VIEW OF RHINELANDER LOOKING SOUTH-WEST.



SCENE AT TOMAHAWK.



SCENE BELOW GRAND RAPIDS AT PORT EDWARDS.

its material achievements. Schools and churches are maintained with conspicuous liberality, society organizations are numerous and well sustained, public libraries are established in almost all the communities and extensive traveling library systems are operated for the benefit of the farming communities. The Wisconsin Valley has always taken an active part in the affairs of state, and has contributed to the public service citizens who have served the commonwealth with marked fidelity and distinguished ability. In the interest of the unfortunate and dependent public and semi-public hospitals and asylums are provided liberally. The interests of the people are represented by a strong, fearless and earnest press. Throughout the length of the Valley there is a community of interest in public affairs which makes for better ideals, and produces high results. They are, as a whole, an energetic and progressive people, these dwellers in what was once the pine slashing, and the finishing and polishing processes of development are going forward with marvelous rapidity.

That the Valley of the Wisconsin is not devoid of scenic effects the accompanying illustrations amply demonstrate. At the south the Valley is flat, and, but for the embellishment of the river itself here and there, almost uninteresting. Going north, however, the land begins the gentle undulations which by the time Marathon county is reached have become hills, and even mountains. Mosinee Hill rises a massive mound, sharp and clear and round, shorn of the former glory of its timber, and in its sombre loneliness a fitting burial place for the old Chief Mosinee, who gave his name to the village a little to the south of it, and whose best hunting was in the forest which once surrounded it. A little to the north and west of this stands the grim granite of Rib Mountain, with its quartzite formation glistening and sparkling in the sunshine, the highest point of land in the state. Beyond this the land is broken into ranges of low hills, and further on to the north, almost every depression between the hills becomes a lake, fringed with timber, filled with fish, and, clear as crystal, lies like one of a thousand diamonds on the bosom of the earth.

These lakes play a most important part in the development of the country. They are nature's reservoirs, holding in reserve the water supply which the river needs. Their efficiency in that regard has been largely increased by the system of dams with which they have been supplemented. By means of the lakes and the dams, the water is held in storage until it is needed, and when the drives are ready to move, the necessary volume of water can be secured, first on the little tributary streams, and then on the larger feeders, and finally on the main river.

But the lakes of Northern Wisconsin, by far the most of which are within the limits of the Wisconsin Valley, are of more interest than this important commercial use to which they are



put. They are filled with the gamiest of the fresh-water fish, and with the "stopping places" with which they abound, afford a very paradise for sportsmen. It is in these waters that the king of all fresh-water game fish abounds. There are bass, and pike, and pickerel, but above and beyond all there is the muskellonge. Of course the bass has his points and his devotees, but when all is said, the bass is cunning, he is tricky, he fights by indirection. When you catch him, it is because you have caught him unawares. He knows a spoon hook as well as the man who made it, and there is no fly made that he does not know from the real article. But he is ambitious, and always hopes that he can show you how wise he is without danger to himself. And so bass fishing becomes a battle in which strategy is the basis, and the one most skilled in cunning comes out best. But with the muskellonge it is a battle royal, with no subterfuge, no trickery. The heavy artillery comes into play at the outset, and it is all a question of the ability to fight in the open. And the lakes of the Wisconsin Valley have been the scene of many an interesting battle on this line. There is rare sport and keen zest as the sportsman pulls along the shore with a good guide, the quiet of the woods as solemn as a cathedral, the gentle ripple of the water at the bow, just noise enough to make the silence seem more dense, a thousand thoughts and fancies to busy the mind, when, of a sudden the peculiar tug at the end of the line which the experienced fisherman can tell at once from the pull of the weed or the jerk of a snag, and, twenty to thirty feet behind the boat, as the line slowly pulls taut, with a churn of the waters that heralds the coming of his majesty, there rises from the water the great, black, lithe and active giant of the waters, who never fails to come to the surface first to see what manner of foe-man he is to do battle with. He looks you over from that distance, with ineffable contempt. He has conquered every foe he has ever met, and he knows he can conquer you. It is in that sublime instinct of confidence that he settles down to his fight. And fight it is. Slowly it dawns upon him that he has encountered a conflict which is new to him. Gradually he realizes that the tactics which have won the battles of the waters in countless conflicts before are worthless here. It is when he wakes up to a full realization of this fact that the real excitement of landing your musky begins. Heretofore he has fought in the water and on the line. He has run for the deep places, amazed to find himself towed along against his will; he has tried to beach what he supposes is the prey he has captured, and has wondered why the beach receded from him; he has tried to swallow the new and strange enemy he has assaulted, and it has only bitten him anew and inflicted fresh pain for his efforts. At last he realizes that he has entangled himself in a difficulty from which none of the known arts of fishcraft will extricate him, and with a bound of rage he leaps from the water into the air and makes vain efforts to shake himself loose.



Part 4.

WISCONSIN  
RIVER  
VALLEY





SCENE AT EARLING NEAR MERRILL.



A GLIMPSE OF THE WISCONSIN AT RHINELANDER.





SCENE AT GRAND RAPIDS.



SCENE ON THE WISCONSIN AT STEVENS POINT.

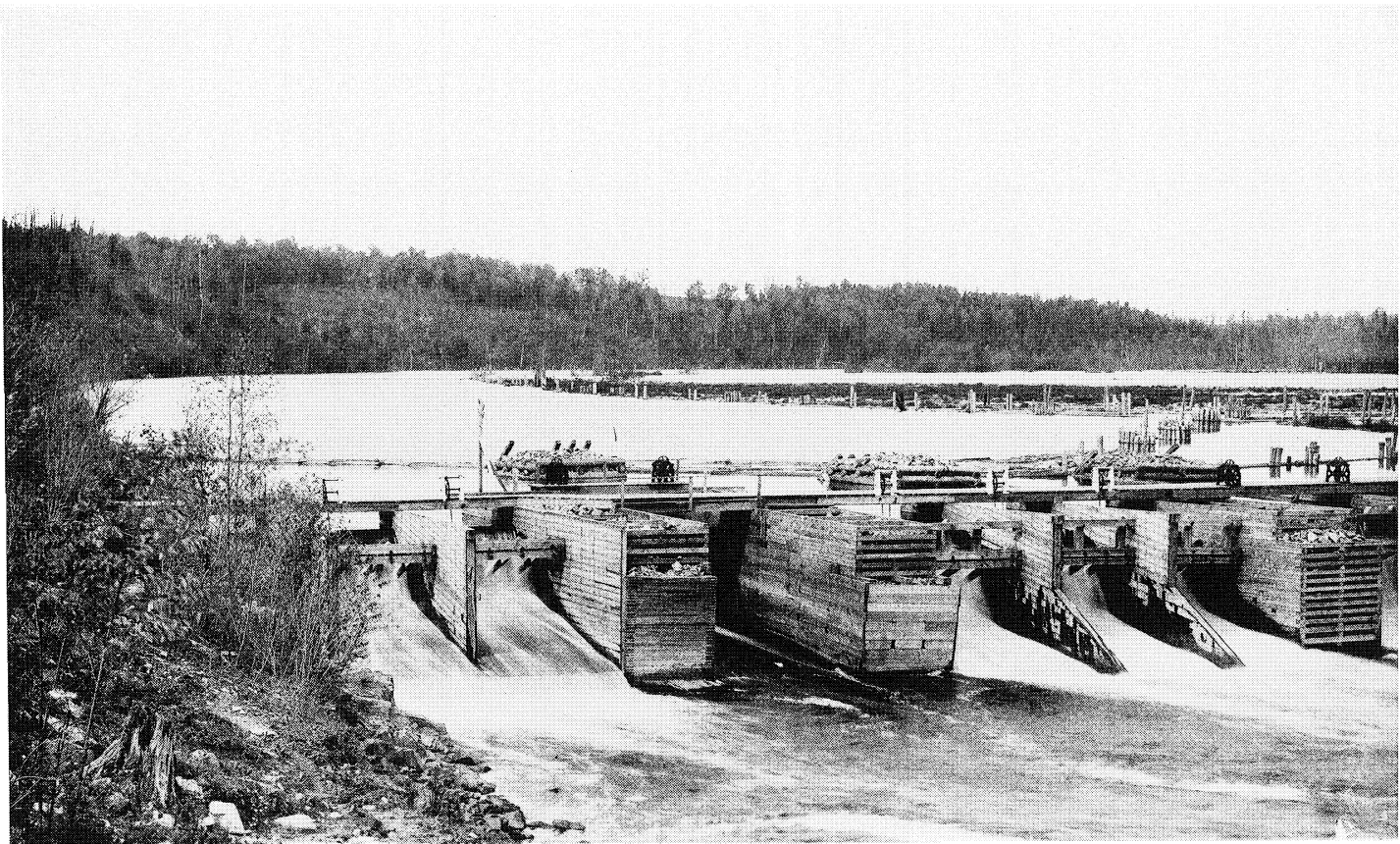




RIB RIVER—WAUSAU.



SCENE AT BROKAW.



DAM AT BROKAW.





SCENE AT MOSINEE.



A LOG SLIDE.

Again and again he repeats his futile effort, and then, like the true philosopher the hard fighter always is, he settles down to his fate and awaits the course of events. If he can get his powerful tail, which has gone back on him now for the first time in his life, against the side of the boat, he will make one frantic and usually successful effort. But if he is handled wisely at this critical stage he suffers the ignominy of death by drowning—as though you should asphyxiate a man with air. The bass is crafty and cunning, but the muskellonge is the fighter of the waters. The bass comes to your hook for food, and only for food. The musky comes for a fight, and only for a fight. And having come he does his best to make it an interesting one. Incidentally, the muskellonge is also one of the most prolific sources of inspiration for infractions of the ninth commandment.

In the fall, as the fishing passes, the rice beds of the lakes afford feeding grounds for the ducks with which the waters abound, and the gun replaces the rod and reel, but the sport goes on. The lakes of the Wisconsin Valley are as famous shooting ground as they are fishing preserves, and from early spring until they are sealed in the coat of winter's ice they lure their devotees from all parts of the country to the pleasure ground they make.

Then comes the hunting of the woods. There are partridge in profusion for the early shooting, and when the protection of the law is withdrawn, the annual slaughter of the deer commences. With the careful safeguards which the state have thrown around this game, and its own strenuous effort to out-breed extermination, the probability is that the woods of the Wisconsin Valley will provide its visitors with the peculiar delights of hunting this fascinating game for many years to come.

And, for those who do not care to hunt or fish, the wildwood retreats of the Valley are a very nature's sanitarium. For those who live the year through in the toil and bustle of the city, the quiet and repose of the woods is a balm to nerve and brain. The clean air, charged with the resin of the pine and softened by the contact of the waters that are fresh from the springs and the clouds, gives new zest to the appetite and a new vigor to the sleep, which sends the dweller of the cities back to his steam-dried atmosphere with a new hold on life, and a fresh grip on its activities. The resorts which have been established all through the woods country are picturesque and attractive, and the annual hegira from the cities to this Mecca is becoming greater each year.

#### THE OLD WISCONSE'.

An' so ye think The Old Wisconse's a mighty pretty stream?  
A tumblin' 'round among the rocks, an' sparklin' with the gleam  
Of sunshine fallin' through the spray, like di'monds in the hair  
Of women who seem bent to see what gewgaws they kin wear?



Well, yes, she is a pretty stream, leastwise she is to me—  
But laws—I've seen the days when 'deed she was a stream to see.  
She ain't no-ways the crick she was way back in early days,  
With lots of camps an' loggers all along her windin' ways.  
The railroad seems to kind o' knock the beauty from the scene,  
The birds don't seem to harmonize with sizz'lin screechin' steam;

There ain't no livin' railroad that can run a piece o' wood,  
An' do the sense of nature in a man a bit of good.  
It kind o' takes the tuck clean out a quiet peaceful stream,  
To see the world go rushin' by behind the push of steam.  
An' when it comes to foliage, bright with all its autumn shades,  
You can't get that from wire-strung poles cut out from forest glades.

You folks don't know The Old Wisconse', a-ridin' by in cars;  
A-leavin' Tomah when the sun's just kisin' out the stars,  
An' gett'n up to Tomahawk along at sun-high noon—  
That's goin' up The Old Wisconse' a heap o' sight too soon.  
You can't see where she glides out from the overhangin' trees—  
That smile upon her as they bow beneath the gentle breeze:  
You can't see where the waters dash up into angry foam  
Against the rocks that seem to try to stop them as they roam.

I mind the time—it's years ago—I started from the P'int,  
An' got along to Joe Dessert's to stay for over-night,  
An' thanked my lucky stars an' all the gods I ever had,  
That I had got a chance to sleep another night in bed;  
'Cause I was on my way clear up to seven-thirty-three,  
An' I knew that was nigh the last of livin' I should see,  
Yes, bless your soul, I looked the land all over this here stream  
Long 'fore they ever had a mill that used a pound of steam.

An' when a feller's got his house all strapped across his back,  
An' starts out in the woods to tramp without a sign of track,  
With heaven's great, broad blue, deep sky the only roof he's got,  
An' sweetly smellin' boughs of pine to be his only cot,  
He somehow gets a long ways nearer to what God had ought to be,  
Than you can get in any church that I have ever see;  
An' I don't b'lieve you ever heerd such songs of music sweet  
As comes from God's bright songsters in the wildest wood's retreat.

Somehow you get away from things that bother up the mind,  
An' then you can't help thinkin' things a mighty different kind  
Than when the rush of saw-mills an' the crash of railroad trains,  
Keep business deals and figgers hustlin', bustlin' through yer brains:



Part 5.

WISCONSIN  
RIVER  
VALLEY





VIEW ON THE RIVER BELOW WAUSAU.



VIEW OF RHINELANDER FROM COURT HOUSE.



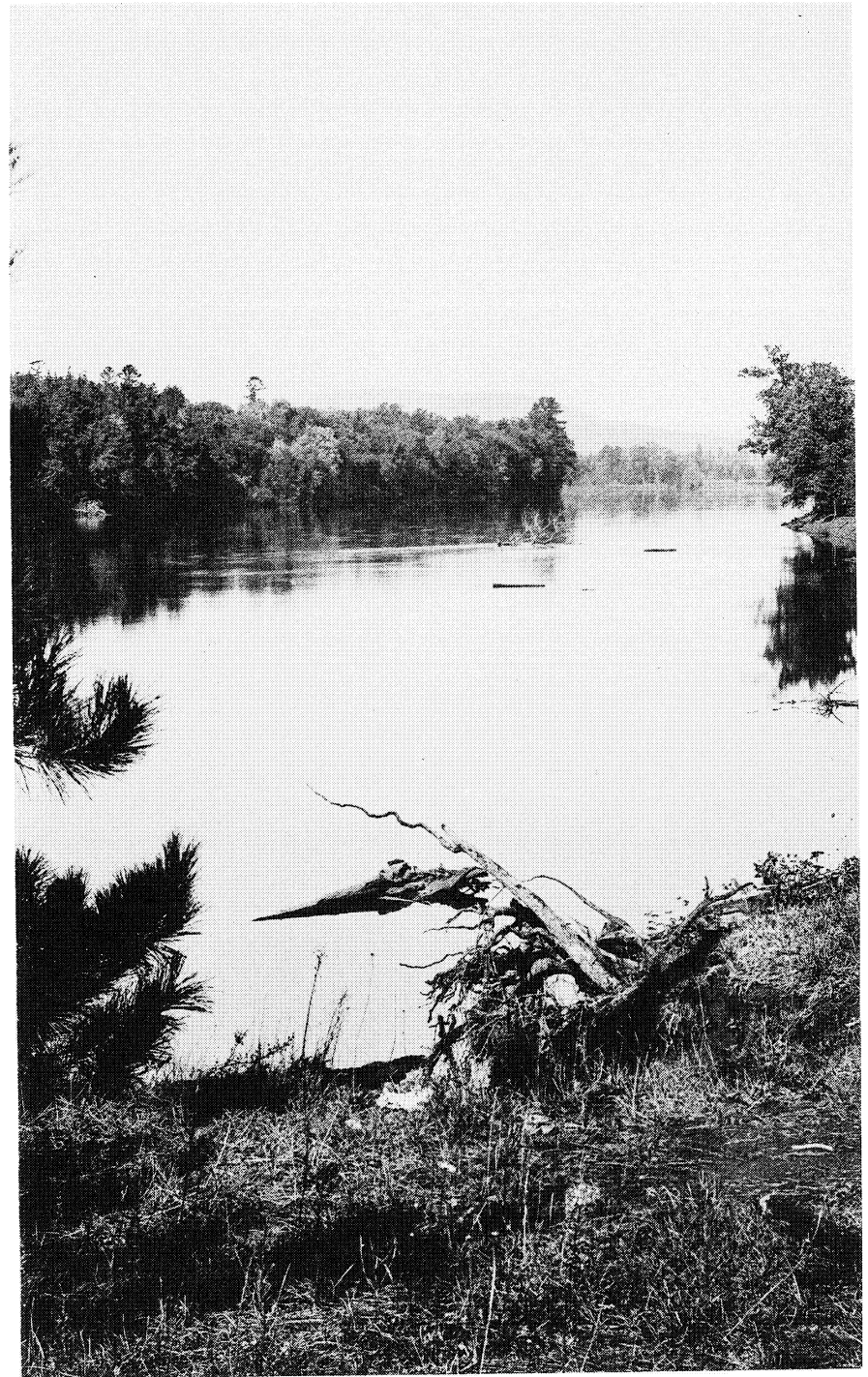
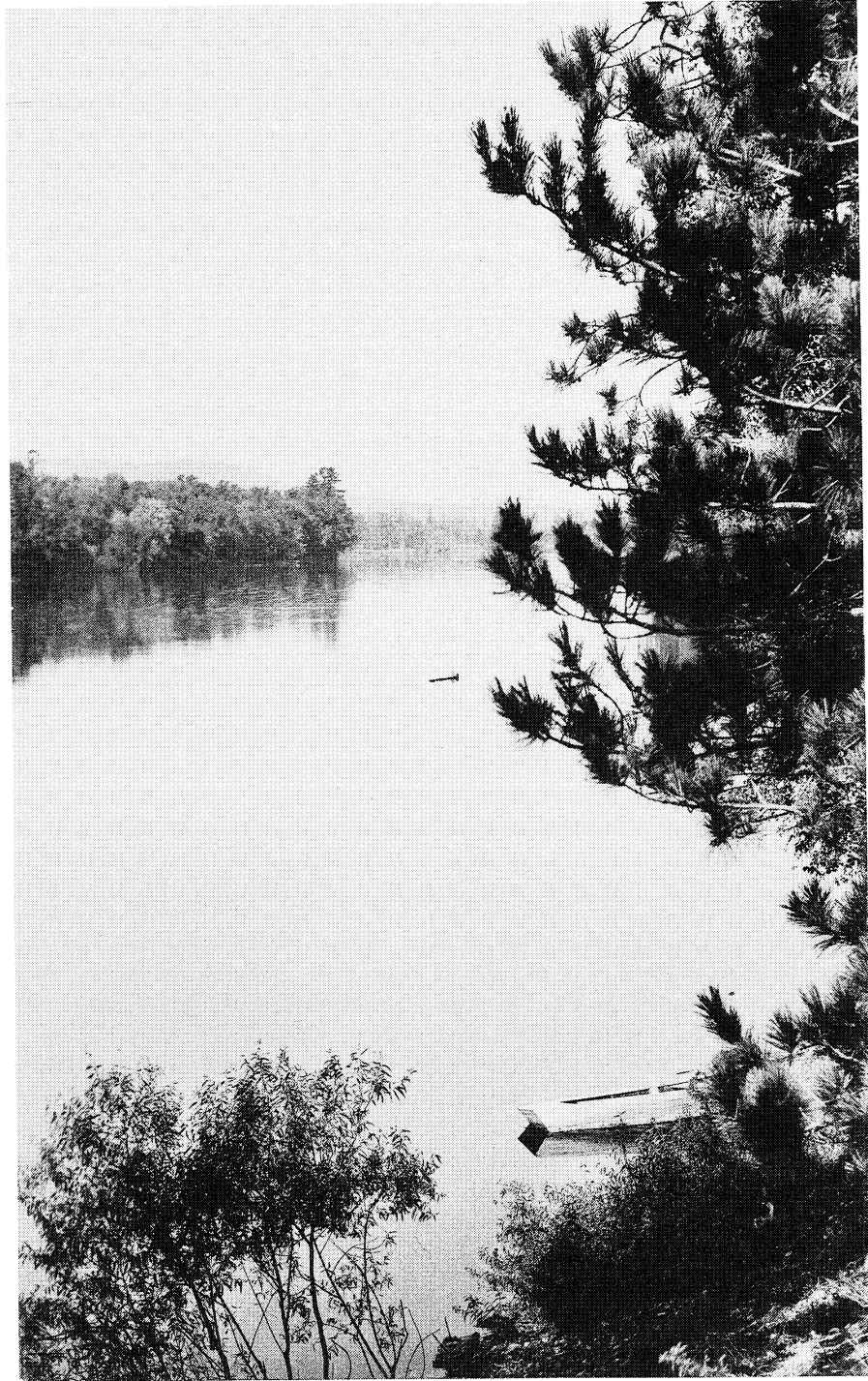


VIEW FROM WEST MERRILL.



WISCONSIN RIVER DAM—TOMAHAWK.





SCENES NEAR SCOFIELD.



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF GRAND RAPIDS.





VIEW OF WAUSAU FROM THE EAST.



GRANDFATHER'S FALLS NEAR MERRILL.



An', somehow when ye get alone, away out in the pines,  
Ye think of things ye wouldn't think at any other times.  
An' on such trips as these, alone, in days long years ago,  
The Old Wisconse' an' me was friends, as on her way she flowed  
An' then she was a pretty stream—shy like a modest maid,  
She'd peep out from a glassy pool beneath a forest glade,  
Then coy she'd dance along awhile, as gay as any girl,  
An' then she'd break out in the gayest, maddest, merriest swirl,  
An' dash down over rocks an' stones, as mad as any shrew,  
An', 'shamed-like, on she'd float away in quiet, placid blue.  
Oh, she was like a woman in them good old by-gone days—  
She had her failin's, true to tell, but she had her winnin' ways.

But now her beauty's most all gone; she's broken down by work,  
For, what with all her loveliness, the Wisconse' ain't no shirk;  
She's toted down the saw-logs that was once her life an' pride,  
She's turned the wheels of saw-mills, that have sprung up by her side;  
She give her wealth of water to the clouds for gentle rain  
That bathes the land in plenty so it brings forth fruit again;  
She waits in prison-cage dams for the drive the saw-mills need,  
While beauty fades and glory dies to satisfy man's greed.

But then, she's still The Old Wisconse', an' still she's dear to me;  
I love her for the long years past; for what she used to be;  
An' now I s'pose she's worth the more, with all her towns an' mills  
The whistles mean more business than the wild birds' sweetest trills,  
But I can't help rememb'rin' how she looked long years ago,  
When through the untouched timber was the path she used to flow,  
An' 'taint no use a talkin', them there was the days for me—  
The Old Wisconse' won't never seem the crick she used to be.

#### GRAND RAPIDS.

Grand Rapids was one of the earliest settlements in the Valley. Located at one of the principal water-powers on the river it was naturally selected as a milling point in the early days, and for many years it maintained its supremacy as the lumber metropolis of the Valley. But that was many years ago. For years there was no lumber cut at Grand Rapids. Then, with the changes in the nature of the lumber business, brought about by the introduction of the innovation of logging by rail, a mill was built and again the city numbers lumber manufacturing among its industries.

For years there were two cities at the rapids which give their name to the present city, and on the east bank of the river was located the city of Centralia. Two or three years ago, after long and persistent effort on the part of many of the citizens of the two places, the cities

were consolidated, and the community is now one in government as it has always been in interest.

Grand Rapids is destined to be one of the important manufacturing points of the Valley, for in addition to the natural resources in the numerous water-powers there and in the immediate vicinity, it has drawn to its commercial support four railroads, which is two more than any other city in the Valley has.

The city is well equipped in the matter of civic improvements, having water-works, electric light, police and fire departments, and street pavements. The location of the principal residence portion of the city along the high banks which overlook the broad expanse of the river at this point makes it a picturesque place, and affords the natural opportunities for beautiful home building which the material prosperity of these later days makes possible of realization.

The water-power of Grand Rapids extends for several miles beyond the city itself, and large paper mills are utilizing its advantages. At Grand Rapids and its environs there are some of the largest paper mills in the valley, one mill, running night and day, supplying almost the entire need of one of the largest of the Chicago dailies.

Grand Rapids has four school buildings which employ thirty teachers, and have an enrollment of upwards of a thousand. A modern high school building is under contract and will be erected next year.

There are two newspapers here.

There are eight churches in the city, representing the following denominations: Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist Episcopal, Moravian, Congregational and Episcopal.

The fraternities represented in the city are Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Elks, Catholic Knights of Wisconsin, Modern Woodmen and Royal Arcanum.

#### STEVENS POINT.

Stevens Point is one of the old cities of the Valley, having been established as a "stopping place" and outfitting point over sixty years ago. Its growth has been steady and substantial, until today it is a thriving and prosperous city of about ten thousand. The educational establishment of the city consists of eight buildings, well distributed, and a corps of forty-five teachers in addition to the superintendent of schools. The public schools are supplemented by five parochial schools. There are fourteen churches in the community, representing the following denominations: Seventh Day Adventists, Baptists, Roman Catholic, Christian, Episcopal, Evangelical, Lutheran, Methodist Episcopal and Presbyterian. There are three newspapers, two printed in English and one in Polish. There are two banks with a combined capital and undivided surplus of about \$200,000. There are about twenty incorporated companies in the



Part 6.

WISCONSIN  
RIVER  
VALLEY





SCENE NEAR MOSINEE.





FALLS AND RAPIDS—WAUSAU.



SCENE ON THE WISCONSIN AT GRAND RAPIDS.



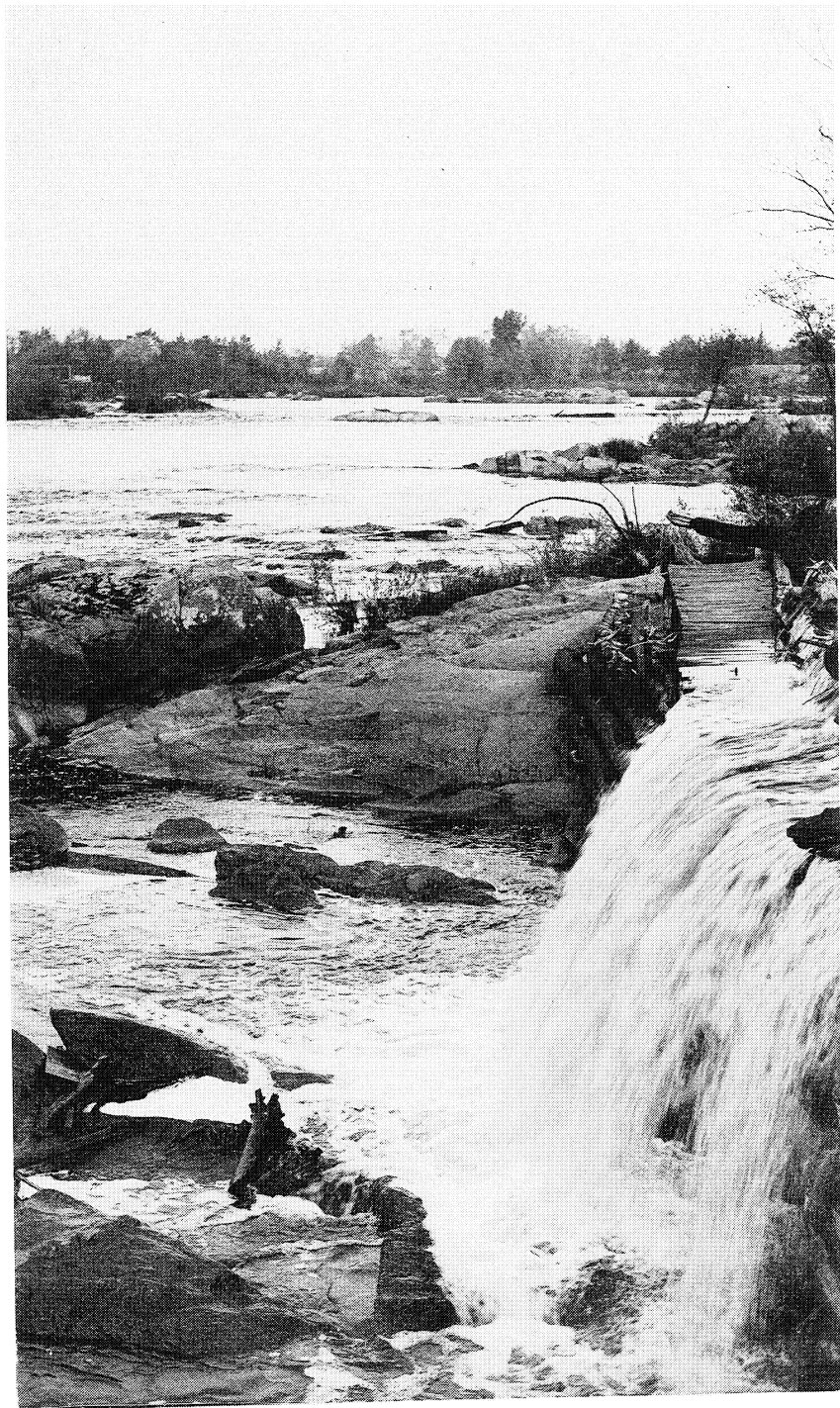


SCENE ON ROAD BETWEEN MERRILL AND TOMAHAWK.



STEVENS POINT FROM THE RIVER.





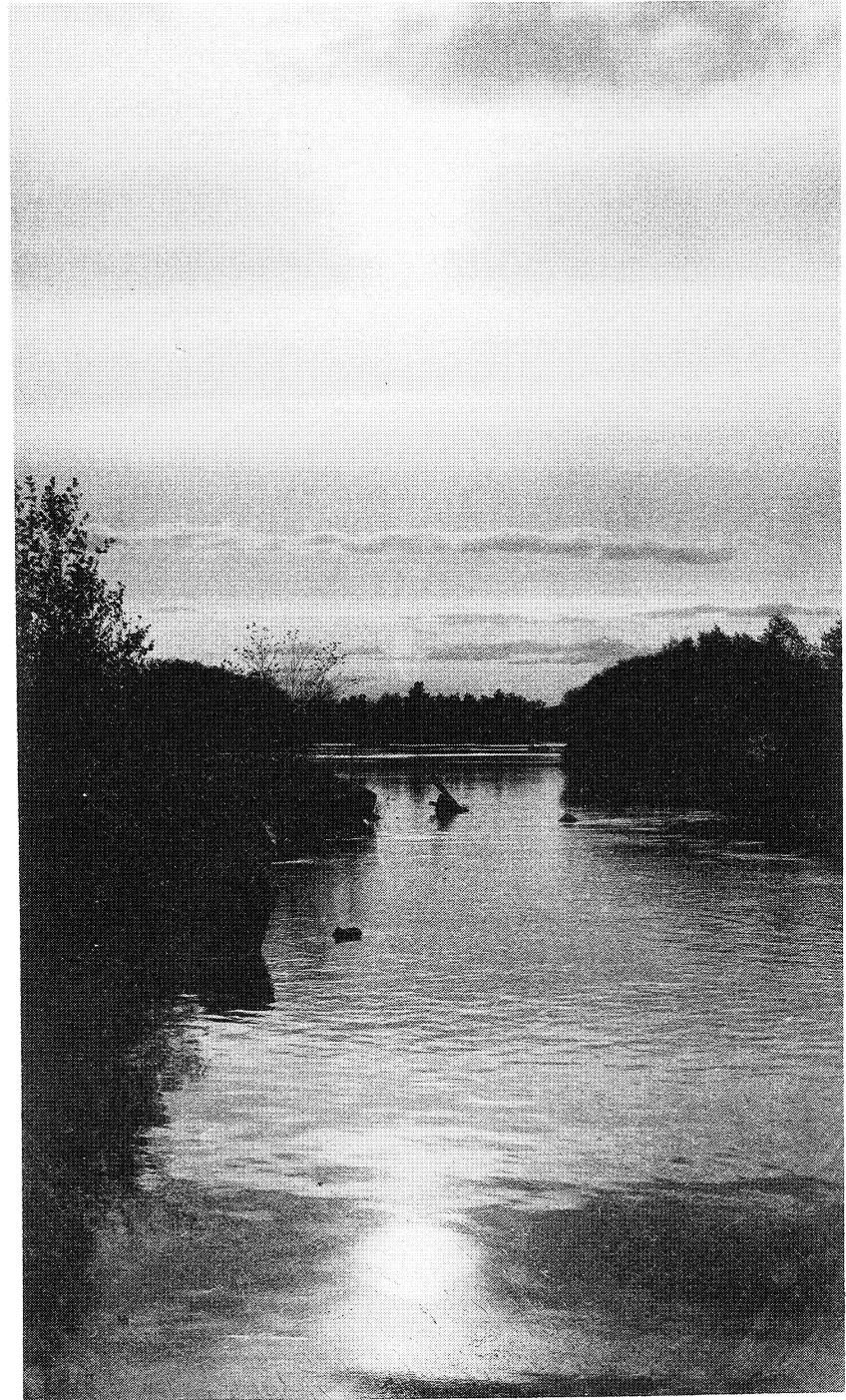
VIEW OF FALLS—GRAND RAPIDS.



SCENE NEAR NEKOOSA.



SCENE ABOVE STEVENS POINT.



SUNSET ON THE WISCONSIN.





VIEW OF MERRILL—EAST SIDE.

city with an aggregate capital of about a million dollars, and the factories represented include the making of furniture, flour, mineral paint, box shooks, textile starch, as well as several commercial corporations engaged in the business of merchandising. The secret and benevolent societies are well represented in Stevens Point, the Masonic fraternity having established lodge, chapter, commandery and Eastern Star; the Odd Fellows lodges, encampment, canton, and a lodge of Daughters of Rebekah; the Grand Army both post and relief corps; the Catholic Order of Foresters both men and women's courts; the Knights of the Maccabees two tents and two hives; besides which the following organizations are each represented by one body: Catholic Knights of America, Catholic Knights of Wisconsin, Daughters of the American Revolution, Elks, Equitable Fraternal Union, Daughters of Liberty, National Union, United American Mechanics, United Workmen, Women's Christian Temperance Union, and several flourishing industrial unions. The miscellaneous societies of the city comprise all the various organizations which are usually allied to the different churches, and several literary clubs are included among them, as well as a Woman's Club which is allied with the Wisconsin State Federation.

Stevens Point is the location of one of the Normal Schools of the state, which has a fine plot of ground in the city, on which a beautiful building has been erected. The faculty consists of twenty-four educators, and the attendance from the section of the state in which it is located is large.

The city is essentially an industrial community, though the agricultural resources of the country surrounding it contribute to its commercial activities in no small degree.

The manufacture of paper at large mills so near to Stevens Point that many of the mill operatives live there, and much of the business of the mills is transacted there, makes these mills really a part of the industrial resources of the city.

There are two railroads at Stevens Point, the Wisconsin Central, and the Green Bay and Western. The Wisconsin Central has a branch from here running south to Portage, which opens a considerable amount of trade to the city.

In the matter of civic improvement the city is well abreast of the times. The principal streets are paved, the streets are well lighted, and ample water supply fills the need of the citizen in that direction, as well as affords adequate protection from fire dangers.

#### MOSINEE.

The next point up the river is Mosinee, a little village which is one of the oldest settlements on the river. Almost as early as Stevens Point was settled, lumbering operations were commenced at the water power afforded by Little Bull Falls. For more than fifty years those operations have been continued under the same ownership. It is at Mosinee that the river



begins to show the first signs of the scenic beauty which characterizes the upper part of her course. The turbulence of the falls and the peaceful quiet of the water which is held back by the guard-lock, form a contrast which is effective, and catch the eye of the traveler as he passes by on the train. Though one of the oldest settlements on the river, Mosinee has been content to run her course rather quietly, and her only industry today is still the mill which she had at the start, though, of course, grown much larger in the years. The land surrounding the village, however, has filled up with settlers, and each year sees an appreciable increase in the commercial trade of the place. The village has a good system of public schools, a fine public library, built and endowed by the founder of the village, a newspaper, three churches, lodges and societies, and is a thriving busy little village.

Just north of Mosinee the Rib River empties into the Wisconsin, and not far from there the Eau Claire comes in from the east. Here is located the village of Schofield, which also has the dignity of age to distinguish it, but which is today the same mill village that it was in the years gone by. It has a graded school, two churches, and draws its support from the business of a large saw-mill, which, together with its lineal predecessors has been operated there nearly fifty years.

#### WAUSAU.

As the lumbering operations proceeded up the valley, it was inevitable that Big Bull Falls should become an important manufacturing and supply point. And so the settlement of Wausau dates back to the very earliest days. Its situation, between two ranges of hills, with old Rib Mountain just at hand on the southwest, makes it one of the most picturesque cities in the Valley, and the river running through the center of the city adds to the beauty of the place. The present population of Wausau is about fourteen thousand.

The city has a system of public schools which comprises nine buildings that are worth about two hundred thousand dollars, in which about seventy-five teachers are employed, and of which the annual enrollment is about three thousand. There are six newspapers published in Wausau, four of which are published in English and two in German, while near the city is published a German poultry paper of considerable prominence, and in the city a monthly magazine of general circulation. There are twenty churches in the city representing the following denominations: Baptist, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Evangelical, Lutheran, Evangelical Lutheran, Zion's Church, Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, German Reformed, and Universalist, services being held in English, German, Swedish, Norwegian and Polish.

The secret societies and fraternities are well represented in Wausau. The Masonic fraternity has lodge, chapter, council and commandery as well as Eastern Star; the Odd Fellows



Part 7.

WISCONSIN  
RIVER  
VALLEY





SCENE ON THE WISCONSIN ABOVE GRAND RAPIDS.



LOOKING TOWARD SCOFIELD FROM WAUSAU.





SCENE NEAR MERRILL ON PRAIRIE RIVER.



VIEW OF RHINELANDER FROM COURT HOUSE.





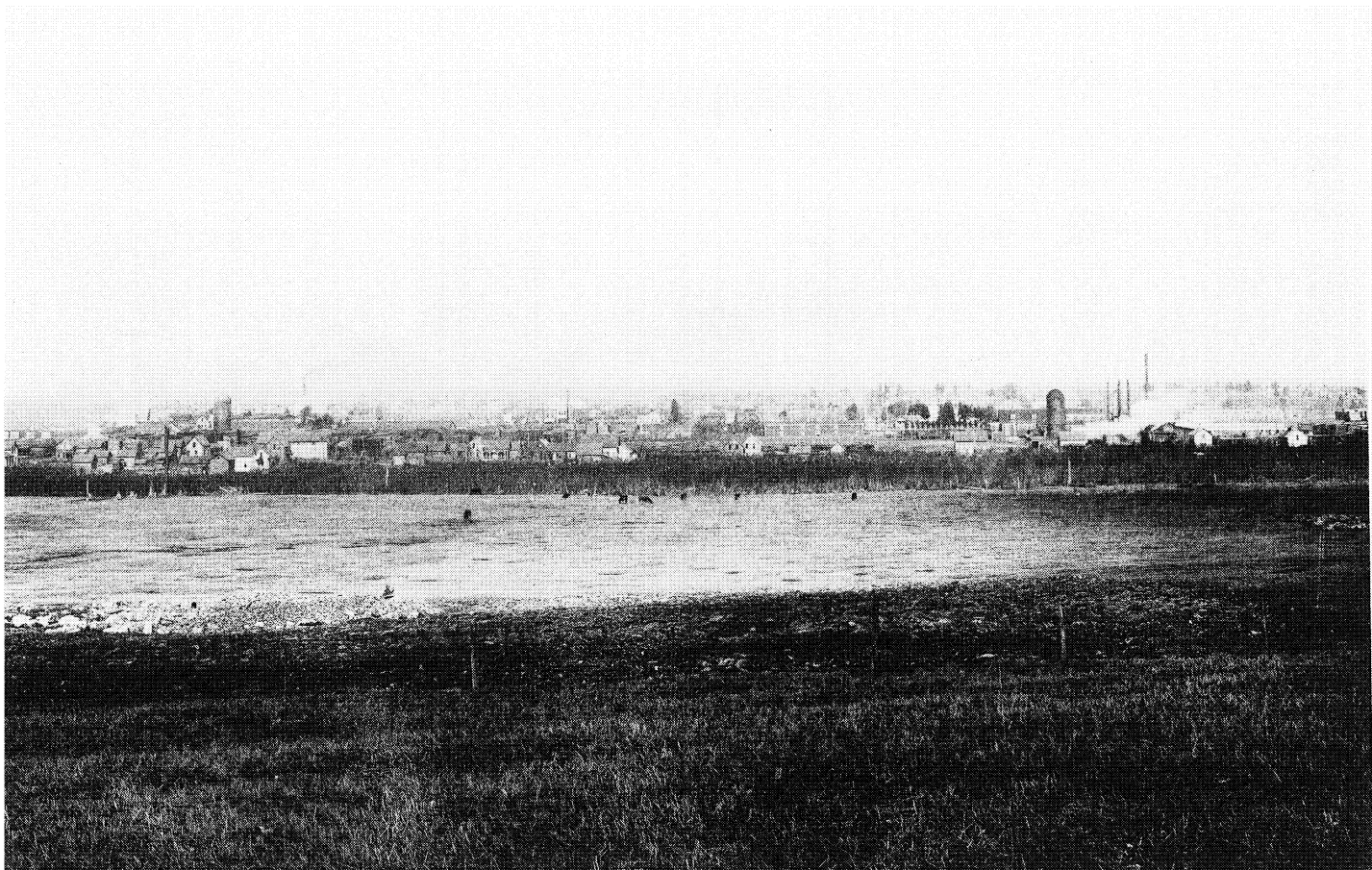
VIEW OF WAUSAU FROM EAST HILL.



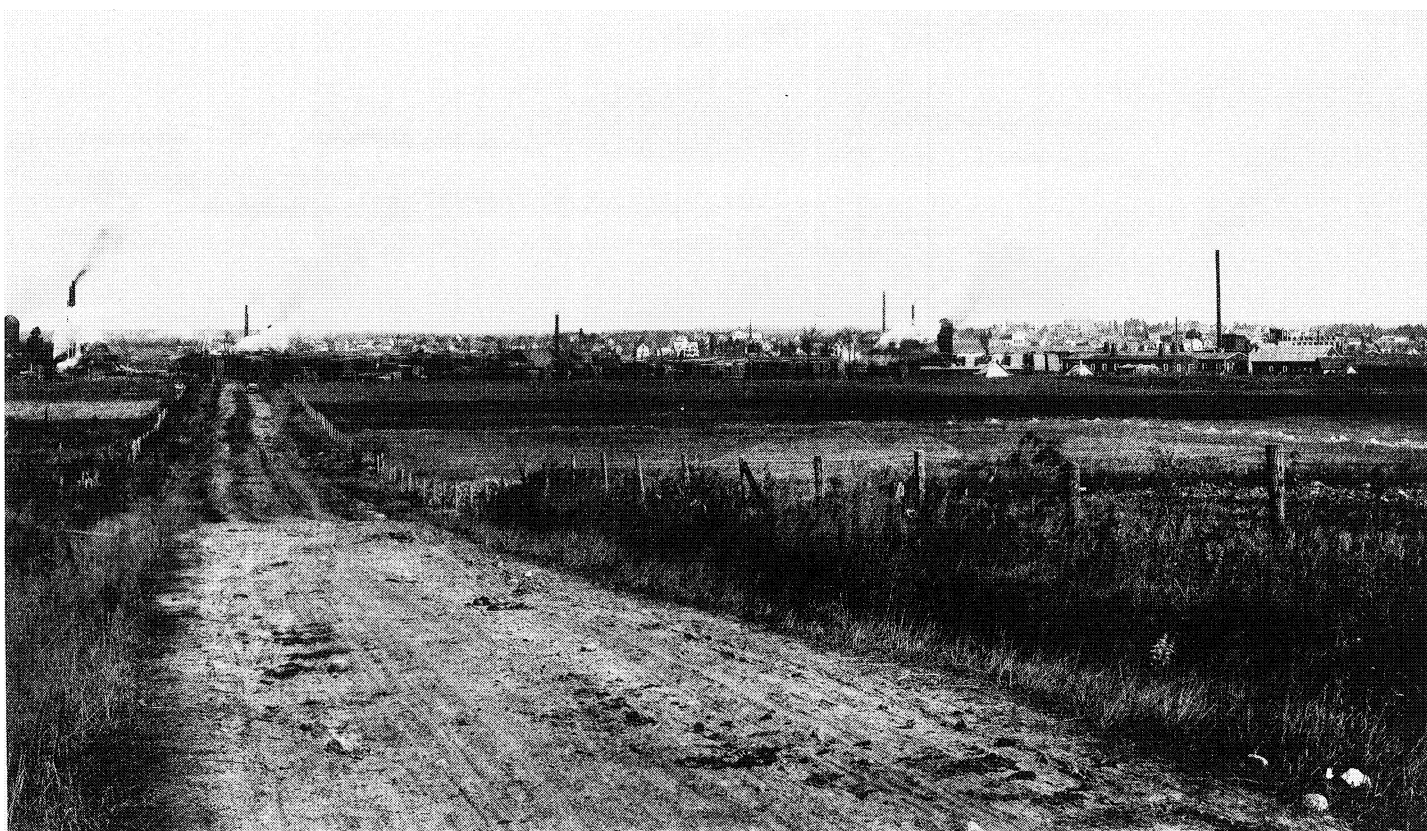
SCENES BELOW GRAND RAPIDS.







VIEWS OF WEST MERRILL FROM THE SOUTH.





RAPIDS ON THE WISCONSIN—RHINELANDER.



have lodge and encampment and Daughters of Rebekah; the Catholic Order of Foresters have both men's and women's courts, and the Catholic Knights of America, Druids, Elks, Modern Woodmen, Sons of Herman, Knights of the Maccabees, Legion of Honor, National Union, Royal Arcanum, United Workmen, Fraternal Alliance and Beavers have local organizations. The social and benevolent clubs and organizations number twenty, and the organized church societies number twenty-six.

There are three banks in Wausau with a combined capital and surplus of about \$330,000. There are about thirty incorporated commercial and industrial companies in the city, whose combined capital is about \$2,250,000, and Wausau is the headquarters of one mining corporation with a capital of \$3,000,000.

Wausau has two railroads, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and the Chicago & North Western, which afford a wide outlet for her manufactured products.

The manufactures of the city include flour, saw mill machinery, veneers, box shooks, excelsior, woodworking novelties, crushed quartz, sandpaper and books. This wide diversity of output furnishes employment for a small army of workers, many of whom are necessarily skilled in their crafts, and many of whom need only have the strength and the will to work. The change from the saw mills, which furnished employment only through a part of the year, to the factories which keep their men employed the year around, has been gradual, and has been of inestimable industrial value to the community.

There is also some wholesaleing of merchandise done at Wausau, with every prospect that this branch of business will rapidly increase in the future.

Wausau has a fine system of waterworks and an efficient fire department, and extended system of sewerage, many miles of improved streets, some of them boulevarded, notable public buildings, and many fine homes.

Located near Wausau, and practically tributary to it, are the large paper-mills at Brokaw, which run night and day, and have a capacity of upwards of thirty tons of paper daily. Special train service from Wausau results in the residence of most of the workmen employed there in that city, so that the mill is practically a Wausau industry.

#### TOMAHAWK.

Twenty miles above Merrill, where the Somo River empties into the Wisconsin, is located the city of Tomahawk. Here is located the main storage dam of the river, affording at once a magnificent water-power, and the source of control of the volume of water in the main river, for logging operations. The dam itself is an imposing structure, the largest and finest on the river.

At this power is already located a paper mill, and doubtless other enterprises will sooner or later share the industrial wealth which is afforded by the flowing waters.

Tomahawk has five public school buildings which are worth about \$20,000, in which fourteen teachers are employed, and in which the average enrollment is about eight hundred.

There are six churches in Tomahawk, representing the following denominations: Roman Catholic, Congregational, Methodist Episcopal, Lutheran and Episcopal.

There are two newspapers published at Tomahawk.

The Masonic Fraternity has a lodge and a chapter and the Order of the Eastern Star; the Odd Fellows have lodge and encampment and Daughters of Rebekah; the Knights of the Macabees, tent and hive; the Catholic Order of Foresters, both men's and women's courts, and the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin, Modern Woodmen, Fraternal Alliance and Equitable Fraternal Union, each one organization.

Tomahawk has one bank with resources of \$378,000; is the home of twenty-eight incorporated companies with a combined capital of \$4,500,000, and has the general offices of a railroad company with a capital of \$1,000,000.

It has water-works, electric lights, fire department, police department, sewerage, and local improvements of that nature. A new city hall is being built at a cost of \$30,000.

#### MERRILL.

The city of Merrill is located at what was known in the early days as Jenny Bull Falls, and was named in honour of S. S. Merrill, the former general manager of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway.

The falls, which are located in the center of the city, are improved by means of a large dam, and form a valuable water-power. A little way above the falls the Prairie River empties into the Wisconsin, dividing the city into two parts, each of which is a well developed business and residence center. An electric car line, the only one in operation in the valley, connects the two parts of the city.

The city has six school buildings, and a new high school, centrally located, is now in process of construction. Thirty-four teachers are employed. Besides the public schools there are four private and parochial schools.

Merrill is the county seat of Lincoln County, and a new court house of attractive architecture and substantial construction is now being built.

There are about twenty industrial and commercial corporations at Merrill, having a combined capital of about \$1,150,000. There are two banks with a combined capital of about \$125,000.

Merrill is essentially a manufacturing city, having four large saw mills and two sash and



Part 8.

WISCONSIN  
RIVER  
VALLEY





A PICTURESQUE SPOT—RHINELANDER.





SCENE AT NEKOOSA.



ON THE RIVER AT GRAND RAPIDS.





SCENES NEAR WAUSAU.





A TROUT STREAM.

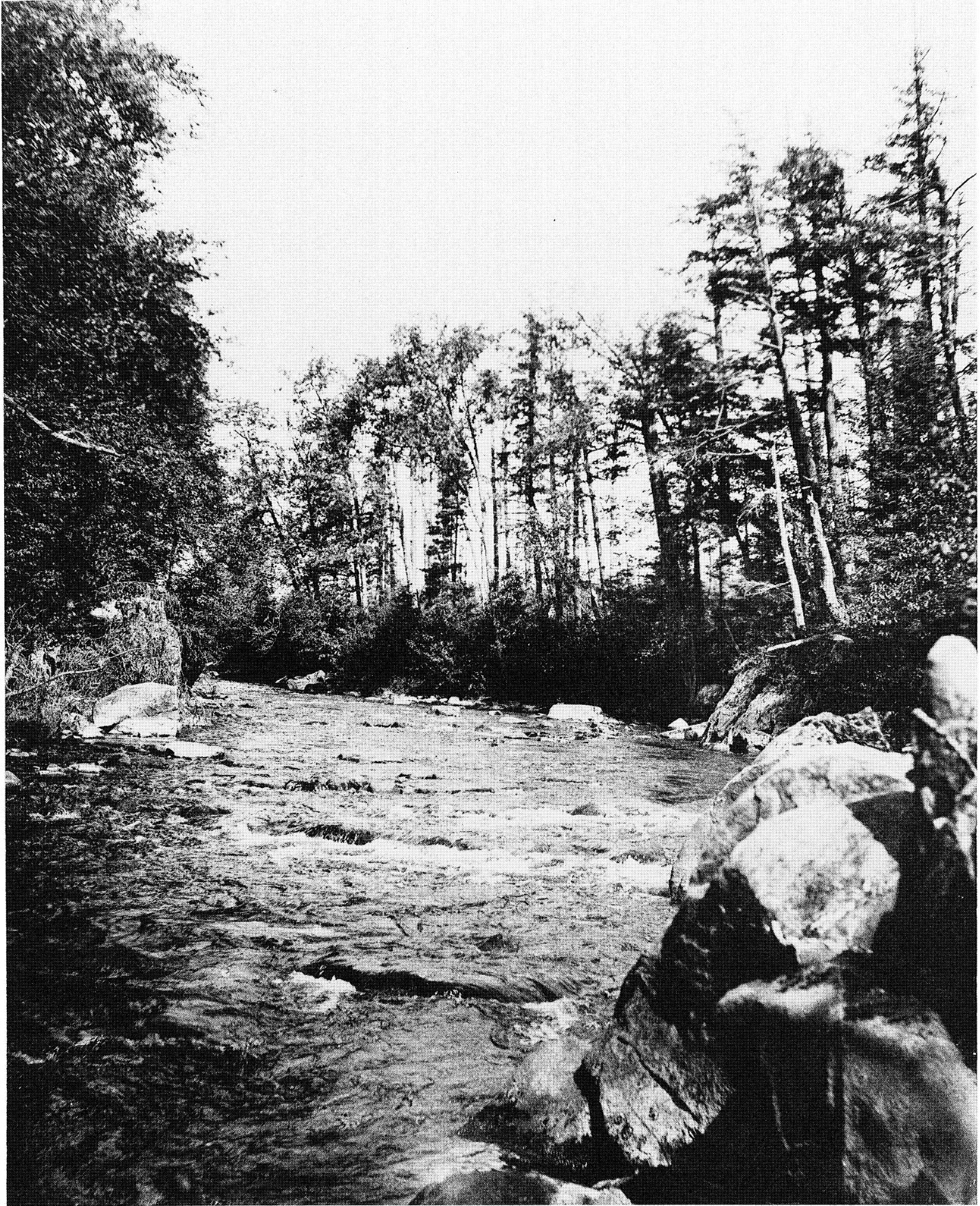


SCENE NEAR DESERT JUNCTION.





LAKE JULIA—RHINELANDER.



SCENE AT THE DELLS ON PRAIRIE RIVER—MERRILL.



door factories, one of which does the largest export business of any sash and door factory in the world, as well as many other industries which follow naturally in the wake of the lumber business.

There are four newspapers published at Merrill, three in English and one in German.

Merrill has thirteen churches, representing the following denominations: Baptist, Roman Catholic, Congregational, Episcopal, Evangelical, Evangelical Lutheran, Lutheran, Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, and a Union Church.

Merrill has a fine public library, handsomely endowed by the late Thomas B. Scott, one of the pioneer lumbermen of the valley.

There are many flourishing organizations among the secret and fraternal societies. The Masonic Fraternity has lodge, chapter and Order of the Eastern Star; the Odd Fellows have two lodges, encampment and Daughters of Rebekah; the Catholic Order of Foresters have two courts; and the following organizations have one organization each: Catholic Knights of Wisconsin, Druids, Fraternal Alliance, Fraternal Union, G. A. R., Woman's Relief Corps, Sons of Herman, Home Forum, Knights of the Maccabees, Modern Woodmen, Royal Neighbors, United Workmen.

Besides these there are numerous social and benevolent organizations in the community, as well as the societies usually connected with the various church organizations, so that Merrill is well equipped with the requirements of pleasant and diversified social life.

At present there is but one railroad at Merrill, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, but projects are on foot looking to the building of a new line to Antigo, which will bring the Chicago & North Western line into the city, and to Prentice which will give a connection with the Wisconsin Central Lines.

The growth of the city has been steady and substantial, and the natural division into two parts by the Prairie River affords the opportunity for wholesome local rivalries which all tend to the material upbuilding of the city. There is a zest in the development of industries and enterprises which the very division of the city lends to the work of advancement.

#### RHINELANDER.

Rhineland, which is now the northernmost city of any size on the Wisconsin River, is about twenty years old, and is one of the largest manufacturing points for lumber in the Valley. The annual cut at Rhineland is fully a hundred million feet. In addition to this, the proximity of the city to the northern woods makes it a considerable outfitting point for the camps, and brings a great deal of trade to the merchants for supplies consumed in the camps for a wide surrounding radius.

Rhineland also has an important outlet to the far east over the Soo Railroad and its lake connections, so that a considerable portion of its lumber goes to the markets of the lake ports, and connections with eastern firms send much of it to Boston.

The city is still essentially a lumbering city, though other industries are already beginning to be developed. One of the largest screen door factories in the world is located here, and a large box factory adds to the industrial resources of the city. But while the lumber business is at its height, most of these northern cities let that absorb their energies and efforts, and it is only with the decline of the saw-mill that the rise of the other industries comes. But all in good time that will be worked out, for Rhineland has back of it all the hardwood and hemlock resources which have been developed in other places and on which the later and more permanent activities of the Valley depend.

This is the county seat of Oneida county, and a handsome court house and substantial jail mark the seat of county government. The city is equipped with water-works, electric light, police and fire departments, and is a well-kept and thriving place.

The water-power at Rhineland is one of the important powers on the river, and in the future will have an important bearing on the industrial development of the city.

The lands surrounding Rhineland are exceptionally well adapted to agriculture and grazing, and the permanent prosperity which development along these lines always brings is fast being realized.

Rhineland has five public school buildings which employ eighteen teachers and have an enrollment of about eight hundred. In addition to this there is one parochial school.

There are three newspapers published in the city, all in English.

There are eight churches representing the following denominations: Roman Catholic, Congregational, Methodist Episcopal, Baptist, Lutheran and Episcopal.

The following fraternal societies have lodges in Rhineland: Masons, lodge and chapter, Elks, Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Maccabees, Modern Woodmen, Odd Fellows and Catholic Foresters. There is a post of the G. A. R.

The commercial importance of Rhineland is much enhanced by the wide connections with eastern trade which it enjoys through its outlet over the Soo road, and its location close to the vast bodies of uncut timber which lie contiguous to it, and it is probable that its supremacy as a lumber manufacturing point will last long after the saws of the other towns of the Valley have ceased, and the waste burners have melted their lurid glow into memories of the grandeur of other days.

And so these cities have grown up in the path of the logger and the lumberman, busy, ac-



tive, thriving and prosperous communities, with their social activities, and their influences radiating into the surrounding country, all making for the higher and better development of the Valley. And, dotted here and there among the lakes of the northern part of the Valley are the summer resorts which have made Wisconsin famous the breadth of the land, filled from early summer till late fall with the tourists who are seeking pleasure, recreation and sport.

The pineries of the north are the winter play-ground of the storm-king as well. Not marked by special severity, the winters of The Wisconsin Valley are sufficiently insistent to be at least pronounced. The haze of Indian Summer often lingers over the hills until late October and even sometimes early November. And then, as though he would make up for the complacency of his tardiness, old Boreas breaks forth, and whirling the snow mantle through the forests and down the valleys, decently covers the wreck and ravage of the summer and the autumn, and locks in the stern embrace of ice the lake-jewels of the earth. When winter comes to The Wisconsin Valley it makes a business of it till the springtime wrests the land from the ice and snow. There is nothing half-hearted about it. And then the ringing steel resounds in the air, the merry clamour of the logging crews wakes the echoes of the woods, and the quiet of the forest gives way to the song of its conquerors. Winter in the woods is for the strong, but for those who can enjoy its wondrous beauty, who can withstand its assaulting vigors, who can bear up under the tonic of its ozone, for them there is no time and no place like the balsam-laden frost-bitten air of the pineries in winter. The snow sifts through the trees as though it would find refuge from the winter, itself. It nestles to the ground as though with its own warmth it would atone for the death and the stagnation of the cold. It clings to the boughs of the trees as though it would cherish the one remaining green thing of nature. And when the spring comes it speeds its way reluctant to the river, as though it too loved the woods of which it had been for so long a part. The pine woods in winter have not the desolation of the hardwood forests. There the leaves are gone, and the bare branches seem hard and dry and dead. In the pines the boughs are green and vigorous in the strong life of the cold and the frost, and they stand out against the sky as though they would forever defy the onslaught of nature; but they succumb to the assaults of man. The winters in the woods are quiet; there is a majestic peace about them. They have the force and strength of conscious dignity.

Then comes the spring; the awakening from lethargy, the triumph of life, the bursting forth of hopes. Gradually the snow gives way to the persistence of the returning sun, and as it melts away to join the river it leaves its invigorating moisture to the pregnant soil, as though it would even in its departure give its best to the summer which is coming. And then the logs come down in the drive, and the woods are deserted. The crews of men who have made their



Part 9.

WISCONSIN  
RIVER  
VALLEY





PRAIRIE RIVER—EARLING.

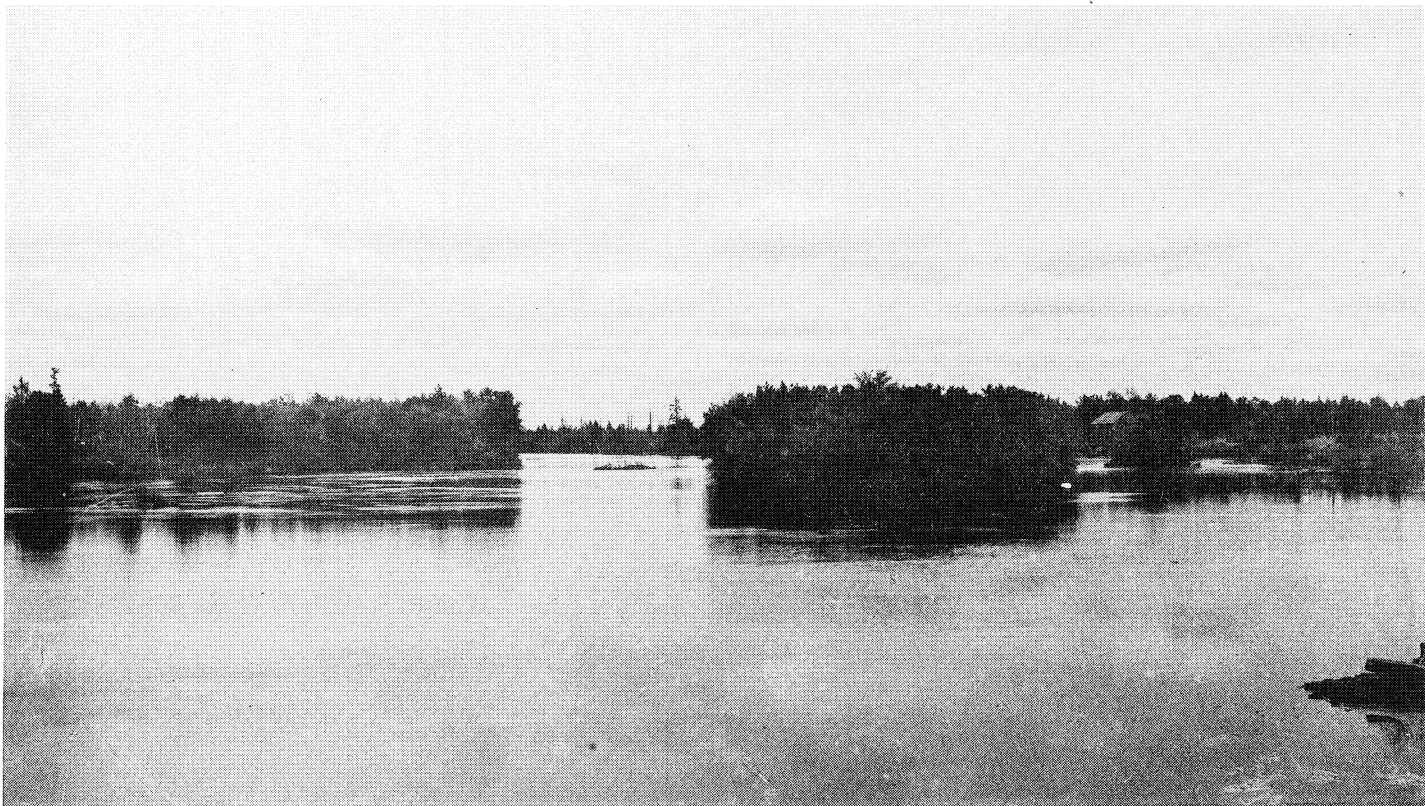


VIEW NEAR WAUSAU.





LOOKING TOWARD SWALLOW ROCK—NEKOOSA.



BETWEEN STEVENS POINT AND GRAND RAPIDS.



A PICTURESQUE SPOT ON THE DELLS, PRAIRIE RIVER—MERRILL.