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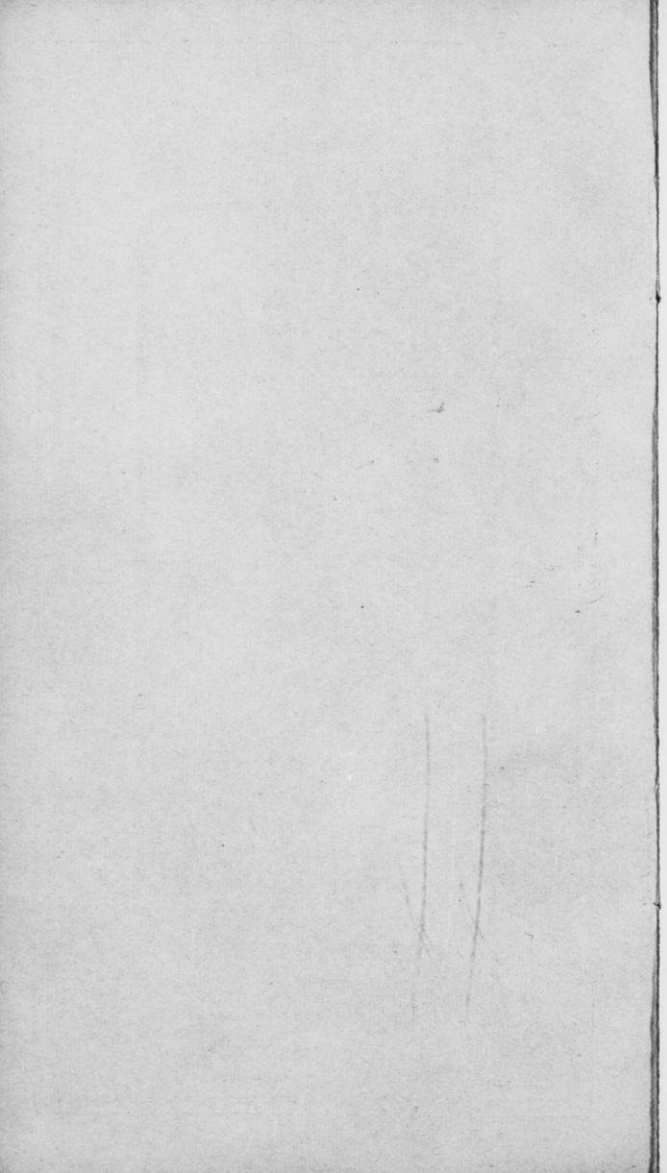
*Agricultural
Advantages
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Agricultural Possibilities of Northern Wisconsin

An Address delivered at a
Farmers' Institute by

PROF. W. A. HENRY

Dean and Director Agricultural
Experiment Station
University of Wisconsin

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THE following address puts fairly before you the many advantages of Central and Northern Wisconsin, as an agricultural region. Prof. Henry is a well-known authority in these matters, and his opinions must therefore be given consideration and carry more weight than anything I could offer.

WILLIAM J. STARR

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Prof. W. A. Henry).*

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Agricultural Possi- bilities of Northern Wisconsin

People familiar with agriculture in the southern half of the state are the very class of people to build homes in the northern part. This is especially true of the sons and daughters of our farmers. Familiar with our customs and practices, and knowing of our interests socially and politically, these people drifting northward, become the very best of farmers and citizens. They are proud of Wisconsin and loyal to its every interest.

Thousands of readers of this article need not be told what can be produced in the northern half of our state.

Grasses and Clover.

For the benefit of others let it be noted that grasses and clovers flourish particularly in this region. Timothy grows everywhere and Kentucky blue grass seems indigenous for one finds it creeping along the roadsides and through the bare spots in the timber-lands. The clovers are particularly at home. Red and alsike clover usually give two crops a year. These plants are not so easily

killed out in winter as in southern Wisconsin, because when winter comes on in our northland, cold weather prevails continuously and there is the absence of freezing and thawing which is so fatal to clover life. White clover is found everywhere in the north, and, like blue grass, seems indigenous.

Potatoes.

We all know that the potato plant thrives best in a cool summer climate on rich soil. Central Wisconsin is already widely advertised for its great crops of magnificent potatoes. In that region this tuber has paid off many a mortgage. What is true of the central portion of the state holds equally well for large regions further north. Northern grown potatoes are more completely filled with starch and possess a higher, better flavor than the soggy, half-developed specimens of the same tuber growing further south in this country. Rutabagas, sugar beets, common peas and garden vegetables generally, are of the highest quality when grown in the north.

Peas.

A plant that should be particularly dwelt upon is the common field pea and garden pea. We all know that Canada

grows a choice brand of field peas. Northern Wisconsin can easily equal Canada. The same variety of pea vines which will grow 2.5 feet high in southern Wisconsin will stretch up to 3.5 and even four feet in northern Wisconsin. The yield of field peas is from twenty to thirty-five bushels per acre. They are free from the pea weevil. Peas can be grown for hay and the grain is an excellent food for dairy cows and fattening hogs. In the not distant future there will be factories established all over northern Wisconsin canning this delicious vegetable when in the best stage for preservation.

Corn.

But I am asked: "What about Indian corn; will it grow in northern Wisconsin? By the proper selection of varieties and growing one's own seed, this greatest of all crops in the Mississippi valley will become a common one all over the north. If the farmers can grow corn as far north as Winnipeg, Manitoba, as they are doing, what is the use of questioning the possibilities of growing corn in northern Wisconsin?"

Other Grains.

Oats, barley and wheat, especially the

former, yield good crops in northern Wisconsin. The finest field of oats the writer ever saw was in northern Wisconsin. Under favorable conditions as much as 100 bushels of oats per acre have been produced, although the common yield is from forty to fifty bushels per acre.

With all of these facts firmly established, there is no need of longer discussing what crops can be grown in our new north. The next question is: "What industries will flourish there aside from mere crop growing?"

Dairying.

First of all let it be known that northern Wisconsin is particularly adapted to dairying, and in dairying, cheese production should be the leading line. The farmers of Iowa and northern Illinois can produce milk which will make fine butter. These farmers, however, cannot send milk to the factory that will make the highest grade of cheese. Milk for cheese making must be purer and more wholesome than that which will make good butter. Now, because of its abundance of luscious grasses, its healthful climate and its cool, pure waters everywhere present, the farmers of northern Wisconsin have special advantages for

the production of milk of unusual excellence, and from such milk there can be made a quality of cheese that is equalled nowhere else in all this great country. We all know the high quality of Canada cheese. Wisconsin's climate is much the same as that of Canada, the difference being in our favor if anything. Farmers should endeavor therefore to secure cheese factories and engage extensively in the manufacture of cheese, remembering always that if they will follow reasonable rules they can soon be producing a brand of cheese that will bring a higher price in the market than that produced further south, and that a reputation once established will be worth a great deal of money to them. In order to rear the calves and thus keep up the herds, it is well to have a combined butter and cheese factory, making butter in the early spring when the calves need the milk, and then turning to cheese making later on when that article commands a good price and the price of butter has fallen.

Sheep.

Next to dairying comes sheep rearing, which should become a most extensive industry in this great region. There are

many kinds of vegetation in our north suited to the sheep. Mutton produced in that cool summer climate will have a firmness and flavor unequalled by the softer, more greasy product from sheep reared further south. The Wisconsin Agricultural college has been an easy winner in competition with other institutions showing sheep at state and international fairs. This is in no small measure due to our superior climate, and if we can produce better sheep than the average at Madison, then our farmers still further north can easily lead us in the excellence of their muttons.

Hogs.

Pork production will also prove a most profitable industry in our new north, because of the abundance of clover pastures, the numerous by-products from the dairy, the fair yields of corn and especially the large crops of field peas which can be raised. By growing rape and peas, and turning the hogs into these fields to do their own harvesting, and finishing with a little corn, pork can be cheaply produced.

Northern Wisconsin should raise no grain for sale; neither should it produce hay for the market. Hay and grain pro-

duction for direct sale means the ruination of the agriculture in any country where such practices are followed. Farmers should let hay go off their farms only in rare cases. Feed all these products at home, keep up the fertility on the land and ship to market only finished products like butter, cheese, eggs, pork, mutton and beef.

Careful Inspection Advised.

The land seeker need make no mistake in purchasing if he will but move cautiously, dealing with reliable firms and taking his time to look over different sections. Let him never forget that while northern Wisconsin is a good region for farming, it nevertheless contains large tracts of land that should be severely avoided. In determining whether lands are suitable for agriculture and whether the soil is rich or not, let the landseeker be guided largely by what settlers already in the region are doing. If the soils seem of fair quality by direct observation, and if the crops the more thrifty settlers are growing are satisfactory, then one need not hesitate about buying similar lands.

Advantages.

Railroads penetrate every portion of

our new north. There are settlers in every township. Roads are largely laid out and the newcomer will have but few privations to suffer. If he find the right kind of lands, he will soon have a farm on which he can grow crops of some kind every year without fail. He is sure of markets. He is certain of lumber at reasonable prices, of abundance of firewood, of pure water and of living in a region where there is no malaria or other diseases incident to the soil or climate. Thus his conditions are very different from those living on the plains where rainfall is uncertain, where lumber must always be hauled from the town lumber yards at high prices, where fuel is scarce and where neighbors are far distant and advantages of civilization but scant indeed.

If You Buy Wisconsin Land Buy the Best

I OWN THE CHOICEST IN
Hardwood Timber Lands,
Drained Swamp Lands,
and Hemlock and Hardwood
(mixed) Lands.

Located in about Twenty
Counties in Northern and
Central Wisconsin. Most
of these Lands are in old
settled Districts.

Write me telling what you want.

WILLIAM J. STARR,

EAU CLAIRE, WIS.