

**Grand Rapids, Wis.,
1900.**

SOUVENIR
TO
STATE PRESS ASSOCIATION
FROM
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS,
WISCONSIN.
1900.

A VISITOR to this locality goes into ecstacies over the beauties of the great Wisconsin river. Its beauty is not limited to this particular locality, but all along, from its head, among the vast network of lakes in Northern Wisconsin, until it reaches its parent stream—The Mississippi. It has points of interest to offer its admirers at every turn. The present city of Grand Rapids with its population of nearly six thousand people is the fruit of fellowship which brought about the unity of the cities of Centralia and Grand Rapids under one government, into oneness of purpose and a bond of love. Our future development is to a great extent linked with the development of the water power along the rapids, which engineers estimate to be one of the finest in the Northwest and capable of developing something like ten thousand horse power. But this growth is not alone dependent on this gift of nature. Grand Rapids is the county seat of Wood County. A County which in late years has made rapid strides in population and wealth. This county is one of the richest in way of soils of any in Wisconsin and will before long rank far ahead of many in its dairy and stock products and will soon take its place as one of the best counties in the State. This growth cannot continue without benefiting this city. The accompanying illustrations have been selected from a great range of scenes though many and choice scenes have been omitted from lack of space. The commercial interests are herein well represented. The beauties of the scene will remain in the camera of the eye of our visiting friends. Consider the short time since harsh regulations prohibited the use of our water powers and it is astonishing to note how quickly this section has risen to such great height in manufacturing lines and especially that of Paper and Pulp. One of the largest manufacturers in the paper line in the state is the Nekoosa Paper company, whose present capacity is being greatly enlarged by the addition of a new 128-inch machine and the building of a new finishing room, 146 by 166 feet. Condensing this matter in closer form we give herewith something of an idea of the output of our various concerns.

NAME	TONS PRINT PAPER	WOOD PULP	SULPHITE	MONTHLY ESTIMATED PAY ROLL
Nekoosa Paper Company.....	80.....	60.....	30.....	\$10,000
John Edwards Manufacturing Co.....	40.....	40.....		5,000
Centralia Pulp & Water Power Co.....	25.....	20.....		3,500
Grand Rapids Pulp & Paper Co.....	30.....	24.....		3,800
Pioneer Wood Pulp Co.....		6.....		500

From the Northern Paper Co., the purchasing agency for these mills, we find that they use 18,000 tons of coal, 45,000 cords spruce wood, 20,000 cords of hemlock, 3000 cords of poplar and 20,000 cords fuel wood, the total cost of all this footing up \$531,000. The Oberbeck Bros. Manufacturing Co., making a line of furniture employ 100 hands, with monthly pay roll of \$2,800. E. Oberbeck, manager of this company, is the oldest furniture manufacturer in the state. F. MacKinnon Manufacturing Co. own the patents for a new metal covered hub employing 70 hands and average monthly pay roll is \$2000. Their annual purchase of timber is over \$20,000. This is a model Hub and Spoke factory and the best in the state.

The Grand Rapids Lumber Company employ 100 men and their monthly pay roll exceeds \$4,500. They will cut this year over 14 million feet lumber. Grand Rapids Foundry Co. started from small concern doing light machine work and casting, now produce several special machines for which they find increasing demands and are unable to cope with fast increasing trade in present quarters. Their monthly pay roll will average \$500. The Grand Rapids Pressed Brick Co., capacity 3,000,000, monthly pay roll \$1,500. Grand Rapids Table company make specialty of a table of their own and find themselves also behind on account of increasing orders.

Jackson Milling company, one of the oldest, if not by many years the oldest of our manufactures, has seen the city grow from small beginnings to its present size and has furnished its people with breadstuffs all through the many years. Their output is 30,000 barrels of wheat flour, 4000 rye flour and 500 barrels buckwheat, yearly besides a general milling business. Monthly pay roll being about \$600 and they buy locally something like \$15,000 worth of grain products.

Besides the Centralia Lumber Co., who represent large wholesale and retail lumber interests here and at Nekoosa, we have also the local yards of Gordon & Kruger and John Farrish. The amount of lumber and builders supplies sold here annually is astonishing.

Our city has demonstrated successfully co-operative methods. The Twin City Telephone company was first of these organizations; it started in 1897, with no subscribers, while The Bell Telephone company had in 54 'phones, and charged a monthly rental of \$4.00. Our co-operative company now owns and operates 260 'phones at a monthly charge of \$2.25 for business houses, and \$1.00 for dwellings. The monthly dividend to stock-holders and most 'phone users are stock-holders, reduces net cost per month to \$1.50 and 25c respectively. Lately connections have been made with The Union Telephone company at Plainfield, giving us Stephens Point, Plover, and other cities in adjoining counties, and we will soon be connected with the Waushara county line, which will then give us connections with the eastern cities of the state.

The Twin City Electric company organized March 28, 1899, with a capital of \$20,000. It now owns and operates its own plant, which is the best built and perfectly arranged, being a model of its kind. They carry 1500 incandescent lights, and 50 arc lights. The average cost to houses, being 30c to stock-holders, which is less than the lighting charge of any other plant in the state, operated either by water power or steam. The average cost for business houses, is 45c per mo., with a dividend to stock-holders of 10c per month. Monthly average service amounts to \$825; operating expenses per month, including interest on plant, \$348.75; monthly dividends to stock-holder users, \$110., leaving average monthly profit, \$366. This is a showing from the first nine months of operating. The number of users is rapidly increasing, which is shown by the income for May, being \$1098.

Banking interests are probably the best for the size of the city. The oldest institution is the First National Bank,

organized 1872—followed by Bank of Centralia in 1888 and Wood County National Bank, organized in 1891. Their combined capital is \$125,000 and deposits are \$750,000.

Our railroad connections are very good. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, the Green Bay & Western and its connections with the Wisconsin Central and the Lake Shore Division of the Northwestern system, besides the Marshfield & Southeastern gives us many outlets for both passenger and freight traffic. Prospects appear good at present time for the extension of the Northwestern Road from Princeton across country and connecting here with the Marshfield & Southeastern, which road they will probably absorb. This would give them connections with their own roads at Marshfield. Giving us another large line which will materially add to our advantage.

Nearly all church denominations and fraternal societies are represented. Our Public Library known as the T. B. Scott Free Public Library is located in the library building on the East Side. The number of copies now exceed 5000. In addition to city buildings we have the many county offices, which, with the Howe High School are easily picked out in the first illustration. In educational lines our schools are up to grade and both East and West Side schools are on the university accredited lists. Located in a healthy district, with great natural resources, a fine climate and a friendly community. Goldsmith lines it truly as follows:

“Such is the patriot’s boast where’re we roam,

“His first, best country, ever is at home.”



LOOKING EAST FROM WITTER HOUSE.



"AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING."



JACKSON MILLING COMPANY.



GRAND RAPIDS TABLE COMPANY.



"NASH GATE,"



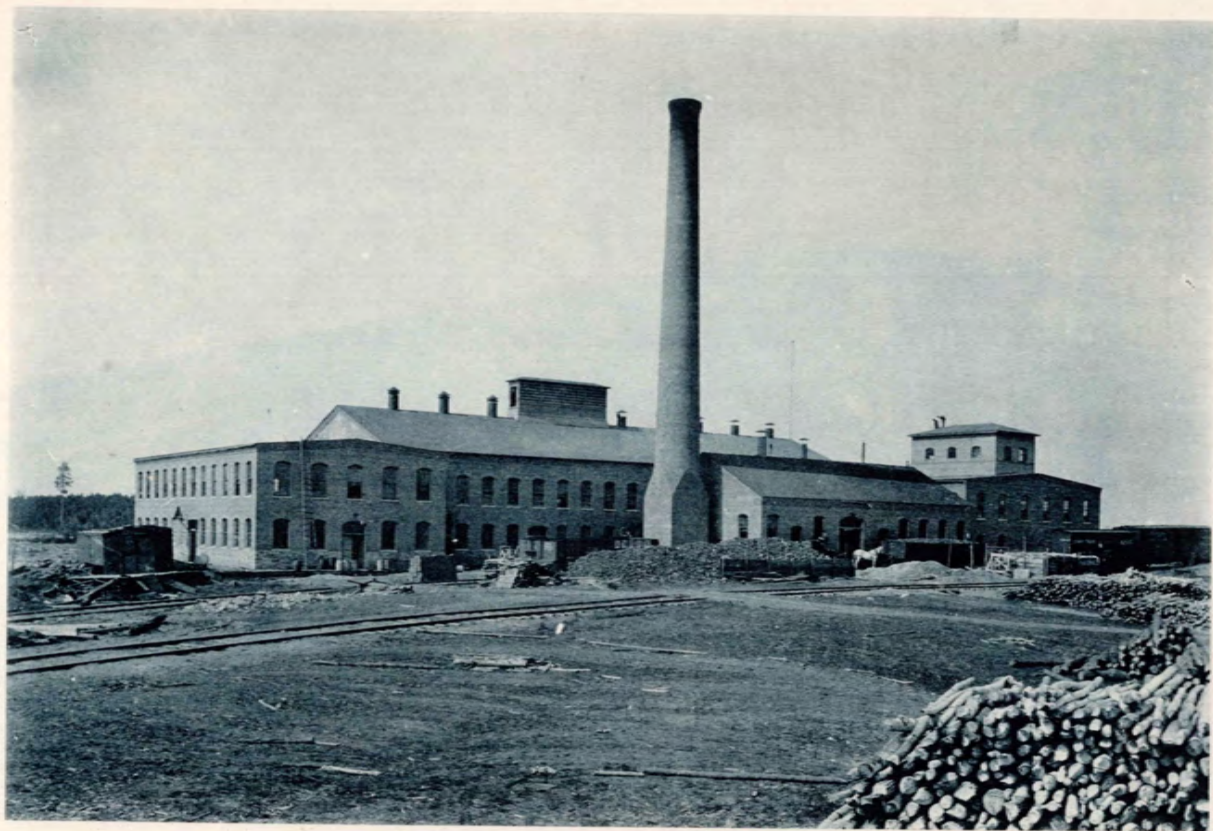
CENTRALIA PULP AND WATER POWER COMPANY.



GRAND RAPIDS FOUNDRY COMPANY.



"WISHING."



GRAND RAPIDS PULP AND PAPER COMPANY.



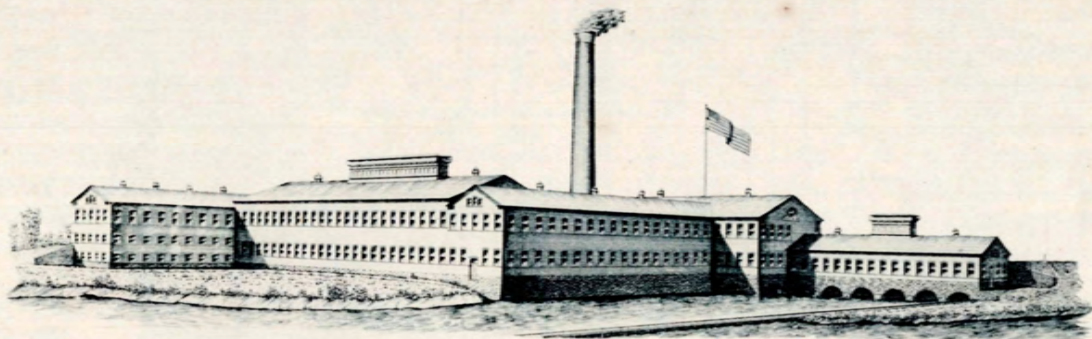
OBERBECK BRO'S MANUFACTURING COMPANY.



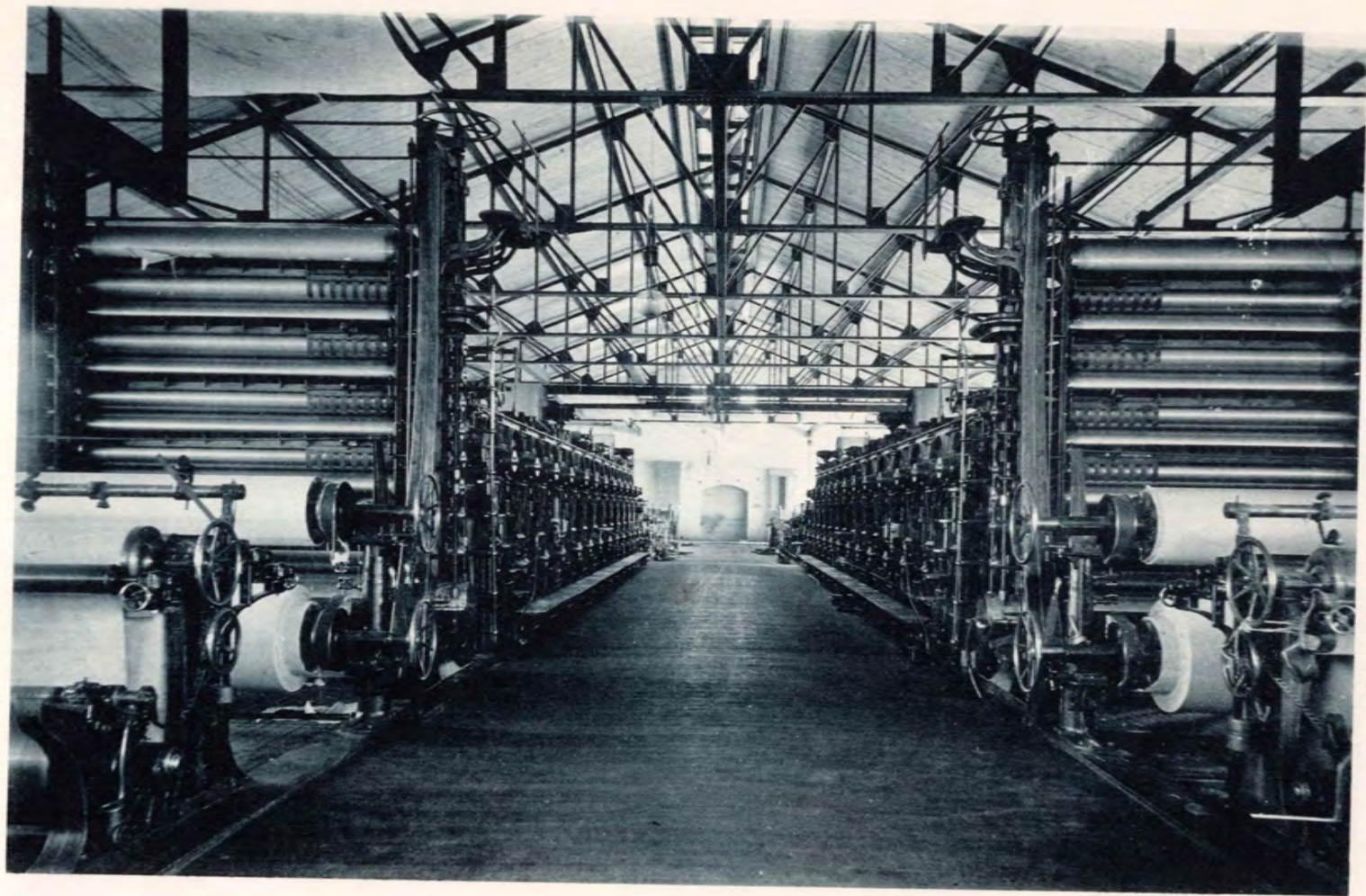
GRAND RAPIDS LUMBER COMPANY.



"RECREATION."



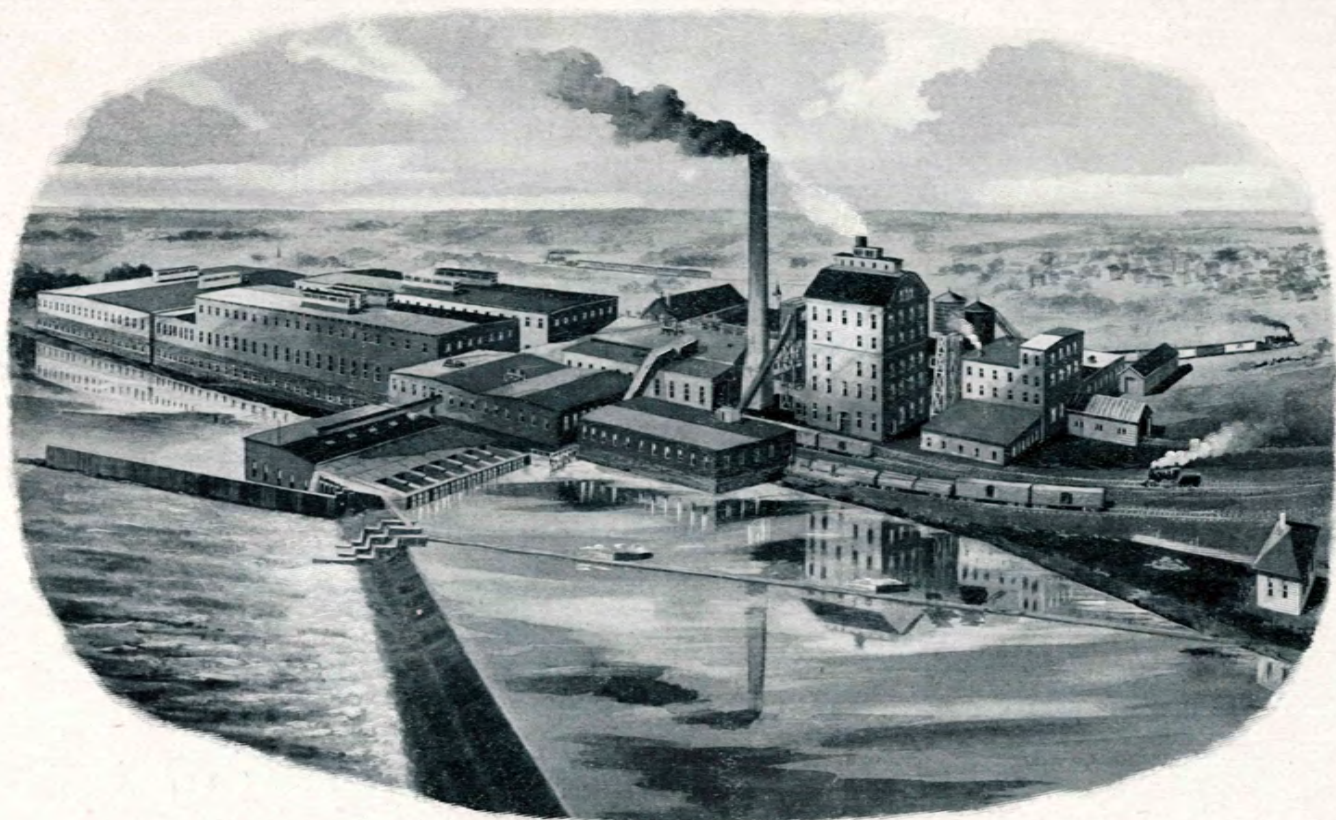
JOHN EDWARDS MANUFACTURING COMPANY.



INTERIOR MACHINE ROOM "PORT EDWARDS" MILL.



F. MACKINNON MANUFACTURING COMPANY.



THE NEKOOSA PAPER CO.,
NEKOOSA, WIS.



WARM MORNING.



LOOKING WEST FROM WOOD BLOCK.