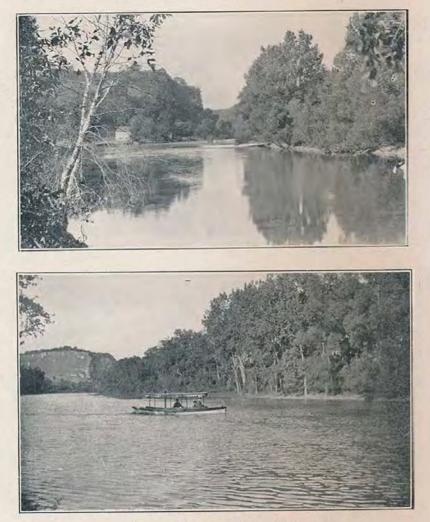


EVENING WISCONSIN CO., CATALOGUE PRINTERS, MILWATKER, WIS



Scenes at Mouth of Wisconsin River.



Timber Raft.



Pontoon Bridge Across the Mississippi at Mouth of Wisconsin.

Introductory.



O THE student of history, the Wisconsin River must appear to be the center of the most important events of primitive Wisconsin.

The object and purpose of this book is to promote the natural resources of the Wisconsin River Valley. Commercially, it is a new day in the North. The pine woods have

acquired an unlooked for importance.

The following pages will give in brief the new life in the new country, the swift passing of events, the possibility of advancement and pleasure. But over and above all the attractions of the newness and swiftness of northern things, is the attraction of the Wisconsin River. Its profit as a water power and its pleasure as a fishing ground. Its oldness as the lumberman's highway and its newness as the health-seeker's summer resort. Its opportunities to the dairyman, and its opening to the home-maker. The free rural mail box and the telephone pole are crowding the forest. The wolf and the wilderness are still retreating.

If this little publication receives the support and encouragement that is promised, it will be published quarterly for the coming year.

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UPPER WISCONSIN RIVER.

From the forest wilderness in the north to the broad fertile fields on the south, the Wisconsin River forms a connecting link between the fur trader and the farmer.

From the Dells to the network of lakes out of which the silver strand of the river is woven, is perhaps two hundred miles. It has been the battle ground of strong men with nature. The marks of the axe and the sound of the saw are still with us. The war of the wilderness is still on.

More than half a century ago the scout line of the woodsman was thrown out into the Wisconsin Valley. 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. The axe gave way to the plow and the saw to the seeder and harvester, and where all the activities of man had been devoted to destruction, all the energy of those who followed was expended in production.

The farmer has followed in close wake of the logger all the way; and as fast as the camps have been pulled up the settler has come in.

To subdue the wilderness, has taken the rude surgery of the rougher fiber.

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.

As the part which was played by the Wisconsin River in the early development of the Valley was of prime importance, so in the more permanent growth of these latter days she is a vital factor.

The undeveloped water-power of the river is an inexhaustible mine of wealth which can be drawn upon for all time.



First House Built on Wisconsin River, 1836. Close to Dells and Familiar to all River Men.



Slaughter of the Pines.

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 outlook is, that in the future, this will be largely increased.

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

The mineral deposits, in one form or another, especially graphite and granite, are being developed.

The agricultural resources of the Wisconsin Valley are considerable and substantial.

Its resources are diversified and well nigh inexhaustible, and its people have the force, push, and enterprise which is as essential to success as are the gifts of nature, without which it cannot be won.

At the south the Valley is flat, and in places almost uninteresting. Going north the land becomes hilly, and even rough and rugged. Mosinee Hill rises a massive mound sharp, clear, and round, shorn of the former glory, of its timber, and in its loneliness, a fitting burial place for the old Chief Mosinee, who gave his name to the village near by.

A little to the northwest of this stands Rib Mountain, the highest point of land in the state. Farther north the land is broken into ranges of low hills, where almost every depression becomes a lake fringed with timber, filled with fish and clear as crystal. 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 this regard will soon be largely increased by a system of dams.



A Big Fish Story without Words.



River Scene just above Grand Rapids.



Mrs. E. M. Pease, President Women's Federation of Clubs, Grand Rapids.

CITY FEDERATION OF LADIES' CLUBS, GRAND RAPIDS.

The Grand Rapids ladies, not content with clubs devoted to self-culture and sociability, organized in March, 1906, a City Federation of Clubs. Its altruistic purpose is evident from the committees through which it works.

These are City Improvement, Library, Art, School and Consumers' League.

Each committee is responsible for one program during the year and provides the best available speaker conversant with its work. Further, the City Improvement Committee creates sentiment for or against such features as tend to beautify or mar the

picturesqueness and healthfulness of the city. Wire waste paper baskets, which stimulate tidiness, are placed on the street corners.

Unsightly and objectionable billboards and advertising are denounced. The river banks are being improved and their natural beauties guarded.

Through the efforts of the organization a Park Commission was appointed and a park system projected. The completion of a small city park, for which the ladies will furnish scats and shrubs, is an assured fact. The acquisition and development of a rural park and riverside drives is only a question of time.

The Library Committee co-operates with the Librarian, assisting her to bring about desired results. The mural decorations and the children's room have received special attention this year.

The School Committee visits all school buildings, noting sanitation, lighting, interior decoration and playgrounds. Unfavorable conditions are reported and corrected.

The Art Committee provides each year one or more exhibition of pictures, with accompanying lectures and musical program. With the proceeds pictures are purchased for the schools. It also strives to create an art atmosphere by bringing art not only into the homes and public buildings, but into the street, and urges a style of architecture suited to locality and in harmony with neighboring structures.

The Consumers' League seeks to arouse interest in the suppression of child labor and the sweat shops, and pleads for the wearing of the white label garments, which assures the making under healthful conditions.

An Entertainment Committee fills the Treasury and arranges for high-class lectures and musical entertainments.

With high ideals and faithful, competent workers, the organization should continue to be a public benefactor.



THE LATE J. D. WITTER OF GRAND RAPIDS.

The life of J. D. Witter reads like a romance. From the start it was one of success, and helpfulness. He was ever mindful of Grand Rapids, and the residents in return will ever revere his memory. His charities were large. A monument to his liberality is the new school building now being erected for the manual training and domestic science department. The name of Grand Rapids and Mr. Witter are inseparable.

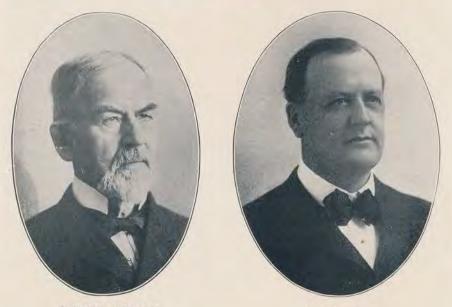
THE CRANBERRY INDUSTRY AT GRAND RAPIDS.

Not the least among the resources of the Wisconsin Valley is that of the cranberry industry. Its history reads something like fiction. Nowhere on the American continent, except in the choicest irrigated districts, has wild and worthless land been taken from the state of nature and developed, and made so valuable, as the cranberry marshes of the Wisconsin Valley. Twelve years ago this land was purchased for the back taxes at 50 cents per acre. Today, the best marshes are worth \$500.00 per acre. Ten years ago there were no roads, no telephone, no free rural delivery, no homes in this seemingly worthless marshy country. Today, it has all the modern improvements, splendid roads, and every cranberry grower has the telephone and the free rural delivery at his door. The Wisconsin Valley produces about twenty-five thousand barrels of cranberries a year, the state, forty thousand. The entire crop of this country, 500,000 barrels. An acre of good cranberries will produce 160 barrels, or a barrel of cranberries for every square rod. If the reader will visit the marshes at this season of the year, they will form the impression that the cranberries are growing, at least three deep; this, however, is not the case, as a floor sixteen and one-half feet square covered with a single layer of cranberries of the standard size, which is about five-eights of an inch, will make more than a barrel. This crop will average, one year with another, about \$6.00 per barrel. It costs about \$2.50 to pick and pack a barrel of cranberries.

At no place on the face of the earth, so far as known, was the wild cranberry grown in as great abundance as regular crop, and as good flavor as in northern Wisconsin before the coming of the white man. It was settlement and civilization that caused the forest fires, and this in turn, ruined the natural cranberry marshes of the North. About ninety years ago the first cranberries were planted and cultivated in the New England states. Before this an abundant supply was secured from the wild marshes. The gathering of the wild cranberries through Michigan and Wisconsin was done almost entirely by the Indians, and the noble red man plays no small part in the gathering of the cultivated crop of the present day. More and more each year as a nation we are learning the usefulness of the cranberry, so that today, it requires a barrel of this fruit to every one hundred and ninety people, and the demand each year is much greater than the supply. Our crop for this year is hardly up to the average, but seems to promise a good return to the growers, and enough to season the national bird for another Thanksgiving.

JUDGE CHARLES M. WEBB, SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, GRAND RAPIDS.

Judge Webb possesses in an eminent degree all those qualities which fit him for a judicial position. He has a wide acquaintance with law, reads human nature fluently and has the happy faculty of distinguishing truth from hypocrisy and fraud. For more than twenty-four years Judge Webb has never postponed his court on account of sickness. No man in the Valley is held in higher respect and esteem, and he stands in the front rank among those who deal out justice to their fellow men.



Judge Chas. M. Webb.

A. L. Fontaine.

A. L. FONTAINE, PUBLISHER GRAND RAPIDS REPORTER.

Mr. Fontaine left ball playing and entered journalism when a young man, and has followed that profession for many years. In this he has been signally successful, as he has acquired a reputation for exact fairness, especially in his political writings. He has the knack of condensation and presents much in a single paragraph, thus making the product of his pen and the columns of his paper interesting and instructing. He is first, last and all the time a republican, and as a reward is serving his second term as Postmaster.

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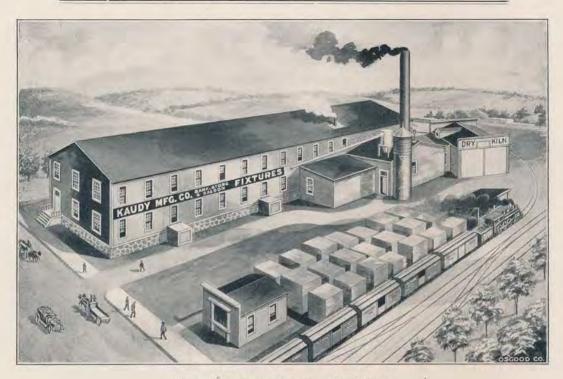
W. A. Brazeau, Merrill.

MR. W. A. BRAZEAU.

Mr. W. A. Brazeau of Merrill, Wisconsin, is a native of Wisconsin where he has resided since boyhood. He is an expert bookkeeper and accountant and occupied a position of trust for five years in one of the banks at Grand Rapids. Later he entered the employ of the John Edwards Manufacturing Company (paper makers) and remained with them for about ten years in the position of chief bookkeeper and assistant manager. About a year ago he entered his present employment, that of Superintendent and General Manager of the Grandfather Falls Paper Company of Merrill, which position he now holds, having the full confidence and esteem of his employers.



New Dam Nearing Completion at Grandfather Falls.



Kaudy Manufacturing Company, Grand Rapids.

KAUDY MANUFACTURING COMPANY, GRAND RAPIDS.

This company started in business at Colby in 1878 and for many years turned out some of the most artistic furniture made in the West, using many of the foreign woods such as Honduras, Brazilian, Cuban and South African mahoganies, curly birch and Southern quartered oak.

The business grew to such an extent and railroad facilities were so inadequate that it became necessary to remove to some railroad center.

After canvassing the state thoroughly, Mr. Kaudy became convinced that Grand Rapids was the most favorable factory city in the state.

He thereupon proceeded to organize a stock company which provided sufficient capital to more than double his previous output. This stock company was organized in June, 1906, and have been doing a thriving business since that time.

The factory is now employing from twenty-five to thirty skilled men, turning out from three to four complete sets of fixtures per week, and shipping them to all parts of the Middle and Western States.

Ladysmith, Wis., Jan. 29th, 1904.

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to introduce Mr. G. J. Kaudy, who has just placed "Bank Fixtures" in our office, and they are fine ones.

Mr. Kaudy is a fine type of a "Western Gentleman" done up wrong side out, as the interior far exceeds the exterior, his integrity being his religion. He does not always do as he agrees, for in our case he did better.

The above is as we have found him gentleman, and we deem him worthy of your confidence, respect and patronage.

Very respectfully,

STATE BANK OF LADYSMITH,

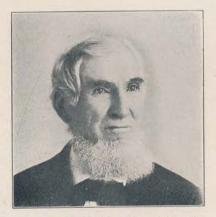
By R. O. Sinclair.



Arpin Brothers, Deceased, Grand Rapids. Antoine Arpin, Twin Brother of John Arpin. John Arpin, Founder of John Arpin Lumber Co. A Prominent Lumberman for Many Years.



The Late Nels Johnson of Grand Rapids. Founder of the Johnson & Hill Mercantile Co.



The Late John Rablin of Grand Rapids. A Pioneer of the Pioneers and Member of the Howe & Rablin Lumber Co.

GRAND RAPIDS BUSINESS COLLEGE.

At the head of the educational institutions of the Wisconsin Valley is one of which the city of Grand Rapids is justly proud. It is the business college conducted by E. L. Hayward. This school is doing a grand work in preparing the young people to enter the arena of commercial life.

No one longer doubts the value of a business education. The person without it is constantly handicapped in after life. All other things equal, he is at a disadvantage in competition with the man or woman who has had a business training. There is not an educational institution in the valley that is doing better work than the Grand Rapids Business College. Everything that a young man or a young lady needs in practical business life is taught here, including penmanship, spelling, grammar, mathematics, commercial law, business forms, letter writing, book-keeping, short-hand and typewriting. Under the direction of its progressive principal, Mr. Hayward, the school has pushed its way to the front rank. The graduates of this school are in constant demand, and good positions are easily and quickly found for them after completing their course.

The desirability of any of the little cities of the valley as a permanent residence depends to a great degree upon the facilities for education. The productiveness of the soil, the healthfulness of the climate, the other material and natural blessings,—these are of moment, but none of them are so important as are the facilities for educating the young men and women, and helping them to help themselves. In this respect Grand Rapids stands high. The college itself is as comfortable, attractive and convenient as money and brains can make it, and is supplied with every modern facility. Mr. Hayward as well as the city of Grand Rapids have just reason to be proud of this school.



Grand Rapids Business College, Class of 1907.

THE WISCONSIN VALLEY IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.

From Kilbourn to Eagle River the Wisconsin River is a succession of valuable water powers. The principal powers are located at Kilbourn, Nekoosa, Grand Rapids, Whiting, Stevens Point, Mosinee, Wausau, Brokaw, Trap Rapids, Merrill, Grandfather, Rhinelander and Eagle River.

The lumbermen built dams in the Wisconsin River and tributaries, including lakes at their head waters, for two purposes—one to furnish floods for driving logs and transporting lumber, and the other, to a very limited extent, for furnishing power to run saw mills.

For hydraulic purposes a stream has little value beyond the power furnished by it in ordinary low water periods. In its natural state the Wisconsin River carried a fairly good stage of water at all seasons of the year, but the removal of the forests of the valley caused higher water in the river in times of floods and lower water in times of drought than in a state of nature. The 1,200 and more lakes at its head waters with their precipitous banks were designed by nature for reservoir purposes. At many of their outlets the lumbermen built dams for the purposes stated.



Upper Wisconsin River.

Mr. T. E. Nash of Grand Rapids, many years ago conceived the idea of acquiring, improving and preserving these dams and reservoirs for hydraulic purposes as the lumbermen ceased to use them, and many such were accordingly acquired, improved and operated by the hydraulic interests at Grand Rapids and Stevens Point. In aid of this project legislation was sought more than fourteen years ago and thence effort in that direction never ceased and finally culminated in the passage of the famous Bill No. 240 S., now Ch. 335 of the Laws of Wisconsin for 1907. In brief this law authorizes the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, a corporation organized for the purpose, to own all these dams and reservoirs and flooding rights and to add thereto as the authorities of the state named in said Act may hereafter authorize. This legislation does not authorize the corporation to own or operate any water power whatever. Its whole power and duties are confined to producing as even a flow of the water in the Wisconsin River as practicable by retaining the flood waters in said reservoirs during times of freshets and gradually letting them off during periods of low water. These improvements will do much to prevent destructive floods in the Valley and improve navigation and such are among its declared purposes. This legislation is regarded of the highest importance and is bound to add much to the general prosperity of the Valley and state at large and is sure to become a pattern for legislation in aid of the improvement of other streams in this and other states.



Lumber Camp near Grand Rapids, 1883. John Farrish Lumber Camp; Scene taken Twenty-three Years Ago, Close to Grand Rapids. The Following are some of the Party: Joseph Lavigne, Bill Palmer, Owen Love, Joseph Schabot, John Cardan.

An important feature of this legislation is that it will add to the beauty of the northern lakes, the river and its tributaries. The lakes are connected in chains by thoroughfares, which in times of low water, the summer resort season, are not navigable. Now during the summer resort season the water is to be held above its natural level, thus aiding navigation and making them more attractive and valuable. During other seasons of the year the summer resort interests have no use for the water.

The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company is now fully organized and the work of development is in full progress. Its revenues are limited to six per cent on the actual investment and are derived from the water powers in operation and benefited in proportion to the benefits. Geo. A. Whiting of Menasha is its President and G. D. Jones of Wausau its Secretary. It has a Board of seven Directors, at present made up of leading men of the Valley.



A Field of Corn and Pumpkins in Central Wisconsin, near Grand Rapids. 84

