MENASHA.

The city of Menasha was first settled about 1847. At that time the now famous Fox River Valley from Oshkosh to Green Bay was new, wild and picturesque, with but a few scattered families. It bore little promise of the thrift and enterprise that afterward developed. Since then the magnificent Cities of Oshkosh, Menasha, Neenah, Appleton and Kaukauna, with their grand manufacturing industries, have grown up and the great Valley of the lower Fox teems with life and thrill, a splendid example of what has been the possibilities of the West, and prophetic of the future. The product of the manufacturing of Menasha alone the past year was over five million of dollars. ($5,000,000.)

Menasha and Neenah are really one City as their corporate lines join each other on Doty Island, which lies between the business part of each City. They are about the same size and together have a population of about 12,000.

The people of Menasha are mostly American and German and generally intelligent and progressive. Most of them are employed in the various manufacturing establishments on the water power.

Menasha is located upon the high bank of the Fox River and lies between Lakes Winnebago and Butte des Morts. Surrounded by clear cool water, the air is always clear and of an average temperature of about 67°. It is cool in summer and not too cold in the winter. The streets are all lined with trees, and there are numerous beautiful parks and commons; while the swimming grounds at Brighton Beach, the Hotel accommodation, with the fine boating and sailing make the life of the stranger and resident more endurable in the summer season.

The city is lighted by gas and electric light; and in 1886 a Street car line was established between Menasha and Neenah. The fire department consists of three companies, with a splendid Silsby steamer and hook and ladder trucks.

Menasha had the first City Hall in the Fox River Valley. This grand structure was erected in 1886 and is a magnificent building. Its tower is 96 feet high and the building is 60 feet wide and 90 feet long. It has accommodations for the fire department, the city council, the police court, and the jail. It cost $20,000 and was paid for in cash.

The Navigation canal is spanned by two handsome iron swing bridges erected and paid for in 1886 and 1887 at a cost of $18,000. The United States land and receivers offices, and the telegraph and telephone offices are located here.

Menasha has the High school system and schools in each ward; the schools are under a public school Board. The teachers are all well fitted for the work and much pride is taken in efficient education. There are also two handsome Catholic church edifices and parochial schools in charge of the Sisters. These grand structures have been recently erected at a cost of about $40,000. We have no pictures of them, because the steeples are not completed. There are also churches and societies of all kinds.
The First National Bank of Menasha was organized last year (1887) with a capital stock of $85,000. The Bank of Menasha has been established for nearly 20 years and has a capital stock of $5,000 and a surplus of $1,000,000.

Menasha has no bonded debt; and taxation is very low, being 1½ per cent. on a low assessment.

Labor commands comparatively the same wages as at other places. A fine cream colored brick is made here and sold at $1.50 per M., and good blue limestone quarried and delivered at $4.00 per cord. Lumber is obtained in abundance on all the railroads and sold here cheaper than Chicago prices. All kinds of hard wood for manufacturing are brought here on an 8 cent rate. Iron is smelted within 30 miles and can be had by rail or water routes.

Transportation is unequalled by any other point. The Northwestern Railroad, the Wisconsin Central Railroad, and the Milwaukee and Northern Railroad run here, and boats are constantly passing for Oshkosh or Green Bay.

The Menasha Business Men’s Association have fine rooms and invite correspondence.

The magnificent water power made by a ten foot fall between Lakes Winnebago and Butte des Morts has been made effective by a stone dam 436 feet long, from which two canals are constructed, the so-called Government canal is 1½ miles in length, and the Lawson canal 1800 feet long. Along the banks of these canals are located the various manufacturing institutions that have made Menasha famous. The entire water power of Menasha is the property of P. V. Lawson.

Lake Winnebago the inexhaustible Reservoir for the Water Power at Menasha is 45 miles long and 17 miles wide, covering a space of over 600 square miles. It is fed by over 3000 miles of woodland stream and river, consisting of the Fox and Wolf Rivers and their tributary. Lake Butte des Morts is one mile wide and 5 miles long. The lakes have many islands and picturesque spots and high cliffs and deep glens upon the banks. In the summer time looking over the lakes and along the river, one sees the numerous pleasure and business yachts and boats presenting a lively contrast to the hazy green of the Clifton bluffs beyond.

Doty Island upon which is partly built the cities of Menasha and
Neenah is a most beautiful spot, abounding with romantic scenery and surrounded by the finest fishing in the country. Many handsome residences are built among its grand old elm and oak trees and some day in the near future the two cities will be built solidly together upon the Island and united under one name. Roberts Summer Resort is on this Island, and because of its handsome location, and its genial host, it has already become one of the leading summer resorts. Doty Island lies between the two great lakes like an emerald gem in the golden circle of industry. The surrounding country is celebrated for its beautiful cultivated farms and high rolling lands.

The mails arrive and depart fourteen times each day, and the great railroad lines operate out and in each day forty-eight trains.

Along Lake Butte des Morts are beds of as fine brick clay as can be found anywhere in the country. It is entirely free from pebbles or foreign matter and burns to a handsome cream color. 6,000,000 brick will be made this year. They are shipped to distant points as well as used here.

Artesian wells of the purest water are had by drilling from 40 to 400 feet. Also a fine medicinal water is obtained that is sure cure for diabetes and kidney complaints.

LAKE BUTTE DES MORTS, AT THE “NARROWS”
BELOW MENASHA.
CITY HALL, MENASHA.
THE ONLY CITY HALL IN FOX RIVER VALLEY, AND IS 60 X 90,
BUILT OF BRICK, STONE AND IRON.
SILSBY STEAMER, "P. V. LAWSON," NO. 1.

NATIONAL HOTEL, MENASHA.
THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICT OF MENASHA.