THE STATE OF WISCONSIN,
ITS EARLY HISTORY, PROGRESS AND REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENT.

1634–1887.

The noble State of Wisconsin has a history that is of the deepest interest in illustrating how surely and rapidly and upon how broad a basis has American pinek, skill, industry and integrity reared from the wilderness one of the fairest and most prosperous States of the Union.

It was in 1634 that the first white man trod the primeval solitudes of the country now known as Wisconsin. His name was Jean Nicolet, a Frenchman, sent upon a diplomatic mission from the far distant colony of Quebec to the Winnebagoes, the powerful Indian tribe located to the west of Lake Michigan, to negotiate a treaty of peace between them and the Hurons. He subsequently visited Green Bay, floated down the Wisconsin River to near the Mississippi, and then retraced his steps. It was not till a quarter of a century afterward that white men again visited the territory—this time two French fur-traders, who were very successful, and returned to Canada laden with peltries. In 1660 Fathers Menard and Allouez established missions among the Indians, and ten years afterward the Canadian government sent out St. Lusson to place all the region under the protection of the French king. In 1689 Nicholas Perrot specifically took possession of the territory west of Lake Michigan as far as the River St. Peter. The French thus laid claim to, and maintained, their authority here until 1761, when the British conquered Canada, and under the treaty of 1763 this entire western territory was ceded to them. There was but a nominal military rule, and the only settlement was that of the French trading stations at the head of Green Bay.

The British did not long remain in possession of this region, for soon after the close of the Revolutionary War they evacuated all the western posts, and the United States entered into control, and by the ordinance of 1787 established a government over the territory northwest of the river Ohio, Arthur St. Clair being made the first governor. He created counties at different periods, and the settlement at Green Bay was included within an immense tract known as "Wayne County." The western portion of the existing State was not, however, organized. In 1800 Indiana Territory was formed, including the present State of Illinois, part of the present State of Indiana and all of Wisconsin, with part of Michigan. In 1805 Michigan Territory was created. In 1809 Illinois Territory was formed and included the greater part of the present State of Wisconsin. Upon the admission of Illinois into the Union in 1818, Michigan Territory was enlarged by the addition of the present State of Wisconsin, and the three counties of Michilimackinac, Brown and Crawford were organized; subsequently the Lake Superior region was formed into the county of Chippewa, Green Bay and Prairie du Chien were chosen as county seats, and James Duane Doty was appointed the first judge. The lead mines in the southwest began to attract attention and the influx of miners caused the war with the Winnebagoes in 1827. The region of southwestern Wis-
consin was soon after purchased from the Winnebagoes and Iowa County formed. In 1831-2 occurred the war with the Sac and Fox tribes under Black Hawk, who was routed, and peace secured on a permanent basis. Land surveys were now undertaken, and settlers began to come in, locating along the lake front and the rivers.

The admission of the State of Michigan into the Union in 1836 resulted in the formation of a new and vast territory to the west of Lake Michigan under the title of

"Wisconsin,"
derived from the Indian word "Ouisconsin," signifying a "wild rushing river." The territory included all of what now composes the States of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and a part of Dakota Territory. Henry Dodge was made the first governor. There were 22,314 inhabitants; and the

first Territorial Legislature met in Belmont in the present County of Lafayette. The question of a suitable site for the capital evoked a most exciting contest, Madison eventually winning the day against Milwaukee, Racine, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, and other points. In 1836 all the territory west of the Mississippi River and of a line due north from the sources of the Mississippi was taken to form Iowa Territory. In the meantime the population steadily enlarged, including the valuable classes of frontiersmen and farmers; new counties were organized, judicial circuits established, schools provided for; a college endowment voted and a scheme for canal intercourse between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi endorsed. As early as 1846, so rapid had been the progress of Wisconsin, measures were taken to secure her admission into the Union, with a population of 255,277. An enabling act was passed by Congress in that year, and a State Constitution was framed at a convention held in October, and approved by Congress in 1847, but it was rejected.
by the people, because of certain obnoxious provisions as to banks. However, as the result of the second convention, in session from December 1847 to February 1848, the amended Constitution was ratified by the people on March 2d, the vote standing, 16,442 to 6,149. The new State was duly admitted on May 29, 1848, and the first Legislature assembled in Madison in June. Wisconsin was the seventeenth State admitted and extends from north latitude 42° 30' to 46° 58', and 87° 8' to 93° 54' west longitude, being bounded on the north by Lake Superior, northeast by Michigan, east by Lake Michigan, south by Illinois, and west by Iowa and Minnesota, having a total area of 53,924 square miles. The following were the first executive officers elected: Governor, Nelson Dewey; Lieutenant-Governor, John E. Holmes; Secretary of State, Thomas McHugh; Treasurer, Jairus C. Fairchild, and Attorney-General, James S. Brown. Governor Dewey in his inaugural message thus referred to the brilliant future before them: "Wisconsin possesses the natural elements, fostered by a judicious system of legislation, to become one of the most populous and prosperous States of the American Union. With a soil unequalled in fertility and productive of all the necessary comforts of life, rich in mineral wealth, with commercial advantages unsurpassed by any inland State, possessing extensive manufacturing facilities, with a salubrious climate, and people with a population enterprising, industrious and intelligent, the course of the State of Wisconsin must be onward, until she ranks among the first of the States of the great West." The governor thus happily alluded to a future which has in every respect become a gratifying and substantial reality. During the first year of its history, the lands of the Menominee Indians were thrown open to settlement, and a telegraph line was completed to Madison. In 1851 the location and erection of a State Prison were provided for. At this time the State had a population of 325,000, recruited from the best people of the Eastern States and Europe; with its wonderful fertility of soil, rich forests, and ease of access from Buffalo, Cleveland and Detroit, settlers came pouring in, and the question of railroad transportation pressed for solution. It is thus an interesting fact to record that in 1851 the first piece of railroad in the State was put in operation between Milwaukee and Waukesha. This road was finally completed to Prairie du Chien in 1856. The La Crosse and Milwaukee Railroad was another important line, now an integral part of the great "Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway."

Some idea of the material prosperity of the young State may be gathered from the fact that

The Wisconsin State Prison at Waupun.
in 1854 the exports exceeded thirteen million dollars in value. The commercial panic and depression of 1857 were severely felt in Wisconsin. The breaking out of the War of the Rebellion in 1861 found Wisconsin prosperous, progressive and contented. In answer to Governor Randall's proclamation, the patriotism of the people was overwhelmingly apparent, five times the number of men volunteered that could at first be accepted. On May 17, 1861, the first regiment was mustered into service; recruiting actively continued, and by the fall thirteen regiments had taken the field, beside one company of cavalry, one of sharpshooters, and seven artillery companies. The State furnished 11,000 men during 1861, and proportionately larger numbers during the three following years, until she had sent to the front 53 regiments of infantry, 4 regiments of cavalry, and 13 batteries of light artillery—in all, 96,118 men furnished in defending the Union against the desperate onslaughts of the rebels; nearly 11,000 of her sons were killed, died of wounds received in battle, or fell victims to disease while on duty. Nearly twelve millions of dollars were spent by the State and her citizens, and their noble patriotism adorns one of the brightest pages of American history. The recuperative powers of the State were evidenced by the prompt and satisfactory manner in which the war debt was taken up. The State issues of bonds during the war aggregated $2,728,000. It having been found impossible to float the bonds in New York, the first issue of bonds had been sold to the Wisconsin bank at what was called par, seventy per cent being paid on delivery of the bonds, and the remaining thirty per cent in semi-annual installments of one per cent. Eight hundred thousand dollars were disposed of on these terms. The next sale was made on similar terms, except that eighty per cent was paid on delivery. Subsequent sales were all made at par, the whole amount being paid on delivery of the bonds, and the aggregate receipts for all the bonds sold was over ninety-two per cent, a gratifying exhibit in view of the strain on the national finances during the period of the war. The tax assessment levied in Wisconsin in 1865 forcibly demonstrated the wealth and prosperity of her people, 17,563,316 acres of land were assessed at a valuation of $91,453,993. City and town lots were valued at $63,151,261, and personal estates at $32,811,313, the total taxes levied being $600,278. After all her disbursements in 1865, Wisconsin carried forward to the next year the handsome balance of $234,490, and each year thereafter her material progress was more rapid and substantial than the most sanguine could have anticipated.

In 1871 occurred the most awful calamity in the State's history, the prolonged drought, parch-
ing the vast forests in the northern sections of the State, so that when fire broke out nothing could stay its ravages. Oconto, Brown, Door, Kewaunee, and other counties suffered terribly. A roaring sea of flames destroyed everything before it, and it was estimated that over a thousand settlers perished, while three thousand more were beggared. The loss of property was estimated at four million dollars.

Wisconsin Legislatures have on the whole proved to be above the average, as regards high administrative capacity and the exercise of true, conservative foresight in providing for the wants of the people. It is one of the best governed States in the Union, and its law-makers have not hesitated to grapple with the most difficult problems, it being the first to enforce laws regulating railroad transportation, while in addition to the fine State House erected at Madison, due provision has been made for penal, hospital and educational requirements. The first charitable institution established by the State was that for the Education of the Blind, opened at Janesville in 1850. The Institute for the Deaf and Dumb was organized at Delavan in June 1852. The State Prison, located in Waukun in July, 1857, is one of the best conducted in the United States. The State Hospital for the insane, located near Madison, was opened for patients in July, 1860, and in the same year the Industrial School for Boys was opened at Waukesha. The Northern Hospital for the Insane was opened at Oshkosh thirteen years afterward, while not long after the close of the war the State erected a noble structure near Milwaukee for disabled volunteer soldiers, it being known as the National Home.

State University at Madison.

Educational

interests have ever had a prominent place in the discussions of the various legislatures. The first Territorial Legislature in 1836 passed an act to establish a State University, and in 1838 its site was finally fixed at Madison. Congress the same year set aside 72 sections of land for an endowment; but it was not till Wisconsin became a State that the Legislature in 1848 fully matured the undertaking, and the Regents were soon after appointed. John H. Lathrop, president of the University of Missouri, was its first chancellor, and John W. Sterling opened the preparatory department in February, 1849. The first University building erected was the north dormitory, 40 feet by 110 and four stories in height, completed in 1851. The south dormitory followed, and the main central edifice, known as University Hall, was finished in 1859. The Ladies College was completed in 1873. The legislature of 1875 appropriated $80,000 for the erection of Science Hall.
The growth of this institution since its reorganization in 1866, has been of a most gratifying character. It has a large endowment and a fine annual income, enabling it to maintain a staff of over 30 professors and instructors, while the law department, organized in 1808, has been equally successful. Ladies are admitted into all the departments and classes, while the department devoted to instruction in agriculture has an experimental farm attached. Normal schools were early talked of, and the work of educating teachers was for a time carried on by the University. In 1866, however, the decision was arrived to render this branch of education independent, and within the next ten years four splendid Normal Schools were opened in different parts of the State. The system rests upon a broader and more secure basis than that of any other State, and a permanent fund of over $1,000,000 is held for the all-important purpose of training teachers. As supplementary to the schools may be mentioned the Teachers’ Institutes. The State School system is admirable in its conception and faithfully carried out by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The foundation for securing the priceless benefits of education was laid deep and broad, and the results being achieved are of corresponding value. There are in addition in Wisconsin upwards of twenty denominational colleges, and numerous academies, seminaries and commercial colleges.

**TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL.**

Wisconsin, though not possessed of lofty mountain ranges, has an agreeably diversified surface, its plains and rolling lands having an elevation of from 600 to 1500 feet above the sea. The dividing ridges between the valleys attain but a slight elevation, the highest lands being along the sources of the tributaries of Lake Superior, in the neighborhood of Montreal River, being from 1700 to 1800 feet above sea level. From these elevations the land slopes rapidly to Lake Superior and more gradually toward the southern section of the State. In the southwest are numerous lofty mounds, the highest, West Blue mound being 1729 feet above the sea, while the Platte mound

![Angling for Catfish in the Rock River](image)

is 1281 feet high. The crest of Penokee range rises 1000 feet and over above Lake Michigan. The lacustrine character of the country is marked, hundreds of beautiful lakes, large and small, being scattered over the State, and among which may be mentioned Winnebago (the largest); St. Croix, Pepin, Poygan, Pewaukee, Geneva, Mendota, Green, etc. The river system of the State is very important and valuable. The Mississippi River forms the western boundary for 250 miles, while the Fox River, flowing from Lake Winnebago to Green Bay, has a descent of 162 feet, affording invaluable water-powers. Among the other principal rivers are the St. Croix, Chippewa, Black, Rock, and Wisconsin, tributary to the Mississippi; the St. Louis and Montreal flowing into Lake Superior; the Menomonee, Peshtigo, Oconto, Pensaukee, into Green Bay, and the Milwaukee, Sheboygan and Manitowoc into Lake Michigan.
The geological features of the State are well marked, the series of rocks extending from the Laurentian to the Devonian period. In the north central portion there is a large area of Archaean rocks, such as granite, gneiss, syenite, diorite, quartzite, porphyry, etc. The Huronian rocks have their most conspicuous development in the great Penokee range. The copper-bearing series extends across the northern portion of the State, occupying sections of Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Burnett, and Polk counties. The Potsdam sandstone, which can be reached in the southern counties, is the source of powerful artesian wells. The St. Peters sandstone found to a limited extent, is also a source for these wells, and is available both for mortar and the manufacture of glass. The Trenton limestone is highly metalliferous in certain portions of the lead region, containing zinc and considerable lead. The highly important Galena limestone receives its name from the sulphide of lead—galena, which is found in large quantities in the southwestern part of the State; zinc ore is also abundant, and the mining of this stratum has proved highly profitable in the past. The Cincinnati shales is a soft formation, in which ill-directed enterprise has made a fruitless search for coal. There is in fact no coal within the bounds of the State. The Clinton iron beds is a most important formation, chiefly known as Iron Ridge ore, from the development attained at that point. It is made up of little concretions known as "seed or shot ore," quarried with the greatest ease, and which at Iron Ridge attains a thickness of 25 feet, affording a readily accessible supply of ore, adequate to all demands for a lengthy time to come. This ore is in demand from far distant points for smelting purposes. The Niagara limestone formation is of immense thickness and very abundant. These strata are full of fossils. This limestone occupies a broad belt adjacent to Lake Michigan, and forms an excellent building stone, also being adapted for the making of lime. In the Devonian rocks Wisconsin has but a small section, but of great commercial value, being known as the Hamilton Cement Rock, occupying a limited area on the lake shore immediately north of Milwaukee, and which is manufactured into a hydraulic cement of the best quality. An incorporated company carries on operations upon an extensive scale, 250,000 barrels having been produced in 1885. The last geologic era or Glacial period is supposed to have produced Wisconsin's small lakes and many of the furrows and erosions of the surface. After that came vegetation, and by its aid and the action of the elements was produced the fertile drift soils so highly prized by the agriculturist.

MINERAL WEALTH.

Wisconsin has an enviable share of rich metalliferous ores, including those of lead and zinc, iron and copper. Le Sueur discovered the lead mines in the southwestern part of the State as early as 1700; with some minor exceptions, organized mining was not attempted till 1826, from which date up to 1845, the mines were worked upon an ever increasing scale of magnitude. From 1847, the production was gradually curtailed, and of recent years Wisconsin lead ores have largely given place in the commercial world to the silver lead ores of Colorado, Utah and other western
regions. Wisconsin lead ores, known as galena, contain an average of 86.6 per cent of lead, the balance being sulphur. The zinc ores are of two kinds, the most abundant being the ferruginous sulphide, the "black-jack" of the miners. The pure sulphide contains 67 per cent of zinc, but the iron-bearing variety contains an average of ten per cent of iron. Smithsonite, a ferruginous variety of the ore, known popularly as "dry-bone," has been largely mined, in 1873 as much as 27,000,000 pounds having been produced. One of the principal lead mining districts is in the vicinity of Mineral Point. The two smelting establishments located there produced, between 1862 and 1873, nearly twenty-four million pounds of metallic lead. The zinc ores did not come into commercial use until after 1860, and are largely shipped to La Salle, Ill., to be smelted.

Copper has also been found in a wide section of territory in the north of the State, there being valuable deposits in the counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, St. Croix, Barron and Chippewa counties. Mining on a small scale had been begun many years ago, but the recent discoveries prove convincingly that Wisconsin is yet to rival Michigan as regards a brilliant future in copper mining. E. B. Northrup, the old prospector, stated, in 1880, that he knew where loads of floating copper ore could be picked up on the surface of the ground, at a point not more than thirty miles from a railroad.

Wisconsin has always been noted for her iron ores and production of pig-iron, merchant-iron, rails, etc. The recent discoveries in the Gogebic iron range are the most important of the century, and practically places this State in the front rank as an ore producer, the Gogebic ores being of extraordinary richness and ease of reduction, there being but traces of phosphorus, sulphur, etc. In 1884, the first year the Gogebic mines were worked, 1922 tons were shipped. In 1885 this amount had increased to 111,661 tons, and in 1886 it was estimated that over 450,000 tons had been mined and shipped. This rapid increase in development speaks eloquently for the quality of these ores, which are almost wholly shipped out of the State. The red hematite ores are largely mined under the name of Clinton iron ore. Bog iron ore or brown hematite is also mined in Sauk County. The specular and magnetic ores of greatest richness, are found in Ashland, Bayfield, Florence, and Lincoln counties, while good ore is available in the Menomonee district. In Florence County alone, in 1885, the value of the ores and iron produced amounted to $121,359. The total value of iron products and manufactured articles of iron for the State for 1885 was $10,900,506.35.
The following are official statistics of Wisconsin iron productions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pig Iron</th>
<th>Iron and Steel Rails</th>
<th>All Kinds of Rolled Iron</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tons.</td>
<td>Tons.</td>
<td>Tons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>96,842</td>
<td>30,207</td>
<td>64,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>132,029</td>
<td>41,165</td>
<td>88,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>55,859</td>
<td>24,688</td>
<td>64,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>51,093</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>40,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>52,815</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>33,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>24,632</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>38,959</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

162,851 kegs of cut nails of 100 lbs. each were produced in 1884, and 86,357 in 1885.

Kaolin, the best mineral for the production of porcelain, and fire-clay is found in large quantities in Wood County, near Grand Rapids. Mr. E. B. Northrup claims to know where there are thousands of acres of kaolin in this State, lying at a depth of fifteen feet, which if properly developed would prove very profitable. There are abundant deposits of clay suitable for brickmaking, and along Lake Michigan fully fifty million of splendid bricks are burned, many being of the famous "cream color," known as Milwaukee brick. There are inexhaustible deposits of limestone adapted to the manufacture of quicklime. The best lime in the world is obtained from the kilns near Madison, while at Pewaukee 12,000 barrels a week are made and shipped to Chicago and elsewhere, while Racine is a large producer. Peat and fertilizing marls are obtainable in large quantities, while no State has such splendid sandstone for building purposes. A quarry opened on the Apostles Islands has supplied the blocks for the finest structures in Chicago, Milwaukee and elsewhere. Other equally good building-stone has been extensively quarried near Madison, and at numerous other points. High class red granites are found along the Yellow River in the North.

A special feature of interest are the numerous mineral springs in Wisconsin. The following fifteen are used commercially, and several of those at Waukesha have attained an international reputation for their purity and medicinal properties. Glenn Spring, Waukesha; Shealtiel Spring, Waupaca; Mineral Rock Spring, Waukesha; Vesta Spring, Waukesha; Zenobia’s Fountain, Palmyra; Bethesda Spring, Waukesha; White Rock Spring, Waukesha; Sloam Spring, Waukesha; Horeb Spring, Waukesha; St. Croix Spring, Farmington; Gilson Spring, Delavan; Iodo-Magnesian Spring, Beloit; and the Prairie du Chien artesian well. The consumption of several of the above waters has attained proportions of enormous magnitude.

**FORESTS AND LUMBER INTERESTS**

No State in the Union, Michigan not excepted, has greater natural resources in the line of the timber and lumber trade than Wisconsin. The white pine is the most valuable tree in the State and flourishes luxuriantly, vast tracts in the northern portions being covered with it. There are still many billion feet standing, in spite of the enormous annual consumption; the Norway and yellow pine are rapidly diminishing. Hemlock is largely sought for its bark; red cedar is another valuable tree for fence posts and manufacturing purposes. Among valuable hard-woods indigenous to this State are white oak, the best of woods for wagon-building, ship-building, etc., while tanners seek the bark; swamp oak, maple, black cherry, linden or basswood, white ash, black walnut, hickory, beech, sycamore, birch, etc. The lumbering industry readily takes front rank, aside from agriculture. Millions of capital have found safe investment and tens of thousands of
men have obtained steady employment in the pines and immense mills along the shores of Green Bay and elsewhere. Upwards of one-half of the State bears pine forests, commercially valuable. Seven rivers adapted for the "driving" of logs flow through the region, exclusive of the St. Croix, used by the lumbermen of both Minnesota and Wisconsin. The principal districts are Green Bay inclusive of the Peshtigo and Oconto Mills; Wolf River District; Wisconsin River and Yellow River District; the Black River; the Chippewa and Red Cedar, and the Wisconsin side of the St. Croix. The first saw-mill was built in 1809, in Brown County, by Jacob Franks. Arndt's mill, on the Peshtigo River, was put up in 1829, but not till mills were put up in the Peshtigo and Menomonie Districts, in 1834 and 1836, was lumber manufactured for shipment South. In 1847 William Lamb, of Green Bay, began the manufacture of shingles, the subsequent development of this trade being enormous. The Green Bay District is still prolific and ships upwards of 140,000,000 feet annually. Oshkosh and Fond du Lac are the sites of the great saw-mills supplied from the Wolf River District, now nearly exhausted, but which at one time produced 250,000,000 feet annually. The Wisconsin River region is also very valuable, from 150 to 200 million feet being annually shipped from it via the Mississippi River. The Black River District is the second oldest in the State, a small mill having been erected by Col. John Shaw in 1819. The Indians burned it, however, and it was twenty years afterward before another mill was put up by Wood Brothers. The annual product is now upwards of 150,000,000 feet. The Chippewa District has the finest body of white pine yet standing in the State. It was not till 1885 that it became prominent, and now has over twenty of the finest saw-mills in the world in operation, principally situated at the cities of Eau Claire and Chippewa. The Chippewa River, though the most difficult of any for logging purposes, yet is estimated to annually float from four to five hundred million feet of logs to market in the South and West via the Mississippi. In addition to the St. Croix District, access has been afforded by the numerous railroads to other valuable lumbering districts, where lumber, shingles, ties, and cooperage stock are produced.

The Wisconsin Central Railroad has developed an extensive lumber business and taps one of the finest regions in the State. Wisconsin probably has the largest supply of white pine still standing of any State in the Union. It has been estimated at approximately thirty-five billion feet and is being reduced at an average rate of over twelve hundred million feet per annum. Upwards of 18,000 men find employment in the pines and, mills, and in getting the logs and lumber...
to market, and it is estimated that each season's lumbering operations represents an expenditure of $6,000,000, largely in wages and to pay for the food consumed, thus affording the farmers an active market for their products.

AGRICULTURE.

Wisconsin is pre-eminently an agricultural State, and her most stable source of wealth and prosperity is in the soil. The growing of wheat, corn, etc., was from its first settlement the great industry, the fertile prairies in the southern tiers of counties invited settlement, and people rapidly poured in from the East and Europe, finding ready means of access via the Lakes, ere the advent of the iron horse. In 1850, two years after its admission into the Union, Wisconsin ranked ninth in the production of wheat, while in 1860, with 3,746,167 acres of land under cultivation, she had so rapidly ascended the scale as to rank third. The values of land steadily increased, rising from an average of $9.58 per acre in 1850 to $16.61 in 1860, while the total number of acres in farms increased during the same period from 2,976,658 acres to 7,893,588, or 265 per cent. Wheat was a staple commodity then as now. Improved methods of farming were also introduced and progress has been the order of the day, both as to increased number of farms, and the wider range of agricultural operations, including not only the cereal grains, but stock farming, dairying, fruit-culture, etc. The following statistical tables indicate the progress made by the State in grain production:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Wheat</th>
<th>Rye</th>
<th>Corn</th>
<th>Oats</th>
<th>Barley</th>
<th>Buckwheat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>4,286,131</td>
<td>81,233</td>
<td>1,988,970</td>
<td>3,414,672</td>
<td>209,672</td>
<td>79,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>15,657,458</td>
<td>888,544</td>
<td>7,517,380</td>
<td>11,059,260</td>
<td>707,307</td>
<td>38,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>25,606,344</td>
<td>1,325,294</td>
<td>15,083,988</td>
<td>20,180,016</td>
<td>1,645,019</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1875</td>
<td>25,300,000</td>
<td>1,340,000</td>
<td>15,200,000</td>
<td>26,000,000</td>
<td>2,300,000</td>
<td>275,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>24,984,680</td>
<td>2,298,513</td>
<td>34,250,678</td>
<td>32,905,320</td>
<td>5,049,118</td>
<td>299,107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Farmers Shipping Produce via the Wisconsin Central R. R.

The crops for the census year of 1880 were raised on 3,327,294 acres of land. Special attention is directed to the fact that while the yield of wheat remained about stationary, a vast increase is noted in corn and barley, two crops for which an enormous and an annually increasing demand exists. Wisconsin barley is more than ever in demand among leading malsters. Stock, dairy and mixed farming have rapidly increased. Among other staples which largely engage attention may be mentioned hops and tobacco. In the latter line, the introduction of Connecticut Seed Leaf has proved successful and a large acreage in Rock and Dane counties was early devoted to this crop.
Flax is also a staple crop in Kenosha, Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette counties. Several attempts have been made to manufacture beet-root sugar. Wisconsin’s hay crop is an important item. Clover and other grasses grow luxuriantly in the limestone soils, thus promoting a widening interest in stock-raising. There are numerous herds of pure breed cattle, also sheep and swine, while the State is famous for blooded horses, much attention being given to the improvement of draught and farm horses, such prominent citizens as Hon. J. I. Case having achieved an international reputation for introducing the finest trotting and racing stock that money can procure. A sure indication of the solid basis of the farmers’ prosperity is afforded by the growth of the dairy interests. In cheese, the product, only a little over 400,000 pounds in 1850, had increased in 1876 to no less than 17,000,000 pounds. The production of butter increased from 3,633,000 pounds to 22,500,000 inside of twenty years. The quality of Wisconsin dairy products is unsurpassed. Its cheese received 20 awards at the Centennial Exposition, a larger number than any other State obtained, except New York, while she received five awards for butter; no State received more, and only New York and Illinois as many. The raising of fruit, begun under many discouragements, owing to Eastern trees not being adapted to the climate, has gradually extended and there are now many fine orchards and grapevines, while cranberries and small fruits are a sure and abundant crop. The Wisconsin State Agricultural Society and the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society are both ably conducted bodies, doing an excellent work, and having the hearty support of the various local agricultural organizations and of the patrons of husbandry.

COMMERCIALS AND MANUFACTURES.

While the lumber trade, as previously referred to, has attained proportions of such enormous magnitude, Wisconsin’s grain trade is fully as important. Up to 1841 no grain had been exported, but in the winter of 1840 and 1841, E. D. Holton, of Milwaukee, purchased a small cargo of wheat (some 4,000 bushels), and in the spring of 1841 shipped it to Buffalo. This was the small beginning of a trade which has since attained the most colossal proportions, and securing to Milwaukee
by its far-reaching connections a large share of the total shipments East. Only 95,000 bushels of wheat were shipped in 1845; twenty years after ten millions and a half were shipped, besides vast quantities of barley, oats, corn, and rye. Up to 1856 the shipments were almost wholly State products, but since then Iowa and Minnesota have largely shipped through Milwaukee. Dairy products, pork and beef are the other leading commercial exports.

The facilities afforded by Wisconsin for manufacturing have no superior elsewhere. In the matter of numerous water-powers she is exceptionally favored and their utilization is supplemented by hundreds of factories run by steam-powers. Such cities as Milwaukee, Racine, Appleton, Grand Rapids, Beloit, Eau Claire, Wausau, etc., etc., produce annually in enormous quantity all descriptions of machinery and implements, tools, furniture, carriages and wagons, clothing, sash, doors and blinds, leather, breweries, brick, cement, while there are large flouring-mills, shipyards, iron-works, and the thousand and one varied ramifications of industrial enterprise, whose products find a market not only in the State, but throughout the country at large.

POPULATION.

The following table will show the almost marvellous increase of population within the comparative short period of less than half a century:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>30,945</td>
<td>1863</td>
<td>868,325</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>1,315,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>805,391</td>
<td>1870</td>
<td>1,654,670</td>
<td>1881</td>
<td>1,532,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>532,109</td>
<td>1875</td>
<td>1,286,729</td>
<td>1882</td>
<td>1,673,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>775,881</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1883</td>
<td>(Estimated)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The present value of agricultural lands and products, as per the latest official report, is $568,187,288. Value of manufacturing establishments and their products, $193,700,167. Value of lots in cities and villages, as returned by the assessors, $107,909,875, representing a grand total of $869,797,280. The area of the State in acres is 34,359,246, of which 16,359,246 are farm lands. Of pine and hardwood lands, there are 16,080,000 acres. There are about 3000 square miles of clear-water lakes in the State, covering 1,920,000 acres. In addition to over ten million dollars’ worth of iron products, the State produced, in 1885, lead to the value of $70,000; leather to the value of $8,629,519; paper to the value of $3,894,394; woolen fabrics worth 613,902; and cotton fabrics worth $555,610. So that it will be seen the State of Wisconsin ranks prominently as a great manufacturing centre as well as an agricultural section of the Union.