
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES, ON STATE AND ECONOMIC BETTERMENTS, COUNTRY LIVING CONDITIONS, AGRICULTURE, AND THE STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION.

GENTLEMEN:

As suggested at some of your Committee meetings, we herewith submit, a statement of the work that the Wisconsin Advancement Association has already done and proposes to do during the next two years, in co-operation with the State Board of Immigration and the Agricultural Schools of the State, to assist in the material development of Wisconsin.

Plan of the Association. This organization comprises about five hundred land owners of from 500 to 500,000 acres, and bankers, merchants, investors and public spirited men throughout the State; and will have available assets for the year's work of at least $50,000.00. This money was raised to be spent to exploit exclusively the resources of Wisconsin. The plan of the Association is to continue its work, raising a similar, if not a larger fund, each year for three years, and to place this money, or a large part of it, at the disposal of a joint committee of its own officers and that of the State Board of Immigration.

Resolutions to that affect were passed last fall by this Association, and joint conferences were held, before it was imagined, that the State Board of Immigration, which is the only Board that can do such work for a State, might be abolished.

In the last decade, the southern half of the State, excepting its larger manufacturing cities, has lost or remained stationary in population. During that time the Northern half has gained about 100,000 while the lumber towns of that section have remained stationary or lost in population, showing a decided change in economic conditions. The thousands of typical lumber jacks that filled the streets of Northern towns each Spring have disappeared. The pressure of civilization was too strong for them, and as