we can safely predict an increase to Northern Wisconsin of at least 10,000 new settlers with their families in a few years.

It is the clear view of situations like the foregoing, based upon experience, that induces other states, and large real estate companies to spend hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars for publicity work, as a business investment.

A Wisconsin Legislature with the spirit of such Western or Southern men, would with earnestness, consider as a business proposition, and probably pass without much opposition, the bill pending before this Legislature to make the clearing of cut over lands in Northern Wisconsin, a State reclamation proposition, in the same manner that Western and Southern States have appropriated hundreds of thousands of dollars to reclaim their arid and swampy regions. It has been demonstrated that dead, non-producing property, when improved, will in time yield in taxes, besides the State’s charge and first lien for the cost of the improvement, more than the original charges.

It is respectfully submitted that the total State expenditure for 1900 for educational, penal and charitable institutions was $2,890,000 while in 1910, it was $7,258,000, making an increase of over 200 per cent in ten years. During that same period, the State increased only 13 per cent in population, showing that this increased burden of taxation, though cheerfully borne, was largely placed upon the same property that paid the 1900 taxes. It must be clear to men of public affairs that the people will not get relief from this ever increasing burden of taxation by retrenchment, such as proposed in the abolishment of the State Board of Immigration. The legislature must adopt a policy, if possible, that will turn dead property, into producing property and thereby increase for the owners, and for the purpose of taxation, the market value of such property.

NECESSITY OF PRIVATE LAND OWNERS CO-OPERATING WITH THE STATE.

When this Association was organized its promoters believed that the State would, for its development work, appropriate a sum equal to that privately subscribed, $50,000. The platform of the Republican party, before election, which refers to the opening up of Wisconsin’s undeveloped area, gave us reason to hope for that appropriation. Many members were induced to join the Association upon these representations. It took months to convince many Lumber Companies, and other large land owners, to join with their acreage upon an assessment basis of one cent an acre. These Companies thought that this association, like the other two that had been previously organized, for similar purposes, would fail. They realized, however, that their co-operation with their money
was absolutely necessary to such a movement and finally consented to try once more.

**State Appropriation Equalling Private Subscriptions.** When the State Board of Immigration was created four years ago, it was rightly suggested by the members of that Legislature that the land owners themselves should contribute part of the money needed for advertising Wisconsin.

These remarks, which were told and retold at the time of the organization of this association, caused the adoption of the assessment plan, by which the Association is able to raise at least $50,000 per year for publicity work. The men who attended that meeting were sincere and enthusiastic in their efforts to boom Wisconsin; and to that end were anxious to do everything that the State could ask, for better promotional work by its own Immigration Bureau.

If the work and offer of these men, through this Association, with their money, to assist in the colonization of Wisconsin, be rejected by the State, the plans of the Association will probably be carried on for the present year, but naturally will fail afterwards. The abolition of the State Board of Immigration at this time, or refusal, to allow it a fair appropriation, so that it can co-operate with the Association must necessarily be accepted by the people of Northern Wisconsin, as the end of all efforts to compete with the South and the West. The Wisconsin men, and especially the small holders that have held on to these tracts waiting for the new settlers will soon be forced to let go. It is impossible for the small holders to hold on to non-productive property very long. The larger owners, tax men, and the State, will again deal in these properties. If this movement fails now, it will necessarily be the last effort to develop Northern Wisconsin for years to come, and young men will have to go elsewhere. What else will there be for them to do? The old settler will stay, of course, but they with their developed property will have to bear the taxes. **Who wants to stay in a country that people are leaving?**

The members of this Association that had hoped for an appropriation from the State, equal to that privately subscribed by them, soon learned that economy and retrenchment was to be the slogan of this Legislature. After consulting with the Secretary of State, James A. Frear, and Dean Russel, as members of the State Board of Immigration, it was concluded that $15,000 was as much as could be asked from the State this year, for that board—and the officers of this Association reported to its members at the annual meeting, that the State Board of Immigration might not be able to obtain over ten or fifteen thousand dollars, this year and that it was not deemed proper, under the present conditions