so called because the land is here chiefly underlaid by some variety of limestone. It is in this more southerly portion of the state, that the most dense population, and the greatest share of agricultural and other improvements are found. The decomposition of these rocks gives richness and durability to the soil. They afford building stone of good quality, at many places, and material for making quick lime.

Most of the rocks of the state however, are so covered with the remains of the "glacial" or "drift" period, consisting of the comminuted fragments of almost every known rock, transported from their original beds, often hundreds of miles towards the south, that they, (the underlying rocks) usually have but little direct effect upon the soils immediately above them. This glacial action has left soils of great uniformity of character over large portions of the state.

LEAD MINES.

In the counties of Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, and portions of Dane and Green, are found extensive deposits of lead and zinc, and some copper ores. The annual yield of lead is over half a million dollars in value, and is about one-eighth of all the lead produced in the world. As many as 24,000 tons have been shipped in one year, (mostly from Galena, the point at which a very large proportion of the lead is accumulated). This lead-producing region being within the limestone district affords one of those few instances where both mining and farming can be carried on together. The lead mines give employment to two or three thousand persons, and are now worked on a more regular and systematic plan than formerly; many of them being drained by horizontal drifts, as recommended by Prof. J. D. Whitney, in his geological report, are worked at greater depths, and at less expense.

ZINC.

Quite recently, works have been erected for the reduction of the ores of zinc, which exists in large quantities heretofore thrown away among the rubbish of the mines; thus another productive source of wealth is opened to the state.

IRON ORES.

Are now worked only at Iron Ridge, in Dodge county, and at Ironton in Sauk county, though very extensive beds are known to exist, and of the very best quality, as at the Penokee Iron Range, in Ashland county, the Black river falls in Jackson county, as well
as at other localities. Doubtless many more valuable beds or mines remain to be discovered when the country has been more thoroughly explored. These and many other valuable mineral products only await the coming of capital and labor, to yield rich results of future wealth.

**Clays.**

Suitable for pottery of the coarser kinds, are often found; and no state yields a better material for the manufacture of brick, of the very best and most beautiful kind.

**Peat and Marl.**

Under many of the larger marshes, vast beds of peat and marl have been found, both very valuable as fertilizers of the soil, and the former as an article of fuel. Though not now needed for these purposes, this peat and marl have great value; for they will be brought into use hereafter, when fuel becomes scarce and dear, and when the virgin strength and fertility of the soil becomes exhausted.

**Native Animals.**

In the uncultivated parts of the state the elk, deer, bear, beaver, fisher, wolf, otter, wild-cat, porcupine, rabbit, and many smaller animals are still to be found. Among the birds, the eagle, owl, quail, partridge, grouse, goose, duck, pelican, loon, &c., are found in greater or less abundance and variety; the wild pigeon is also found occasionally, in immense flocks. Prairie chicken in large quantities.

**Fishes.**

The lakes and rivers abound in various species of fish, some of them important articles of food. Large quantities of trout and white-fish are caught in the cool waters of the great lakes and enter into the commerce of the country; the white-fish is occasionally found in the smaller lakes. The rivers afford perch, bass, sunfish, catfish, mullet, suckers, muskalonge, pickerel, the speckled or brook trout, &c.

**Forests.**

A line drawn from Racine on Lake Michigan, in a northwesterly direction, will separate the prairies and openings, or thinly wooded