

## A TIMELY MOVEMENT. (Milwaukee Sentinel March 16.)

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The Wisconsin Immigration and Development Association, which organization held a meeting in Milwaukee Wednesday last, has undertaken to fill a large contract. As The Sentinel understands the situation, no concerted effort has been made for several years to call attention to the natural resources of Wisconsin, while other states, less favorably situated as to markets and raw material, have employed publicity promoters and expended large sums of money in attracting immigrants and manufacturing industries to locate within their borders. It is this condition that confronts the new association. It is for the purpose of meeting competition on an equal footing that the association was organized.

One of the features of the situation that operated to induce the gentlemen who are responsible for the organization of the Wisconsin association to undertake this work is the discovery of the fact that the state of Wisconsin is being industriously canvassed by agents of railroads and land companies whose interests lie in other states and that many citizens have been induced to leave Wisconsin and seek to better their

condition by removing to the west, the northwest territory, the southwest, and even to the eastern states. But recently a large colony from Dane county, one of the most prosperous counties in the state, moved in a body to Virginia. Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Colorado, the Canadian provinces, Arizona, New Mexico, California, and other western and southwestern lands of promise have drawn liberally from Wisconsin. The traveler in all of those sections of the country finds a liberal sprinkling of former Badgers who have not reaped all the benefits they expected to follow as the result of migration.

While this exodus has been in progress, Wisconsin has offered better opportunities than any of the states and territories mentioned for the man of energy and ordinary business sagacity to secure a competency. No other state has so many and so valuable natural resources. On every hand opportunities are offered the man who wishes to engage in a profitable manufacturing industry and the diversified soil opens the door for any of the profitable branches of agriculture. There are the best reasons why thousands of immigrants should come to Wisconsin; there is no good reason why any man should move away to make his home elsewhere.

If the Wisconsin Immigration and Development Association shall so order its affairs that its work will benefit the entire state, it will be entitled to the support of local advancement organizations and industrial bodies. Each local association can continue to work for its own interests. There is nothing in the published program of the state association to interfere with the work of the local bodies. On the contrary, if the major organization shall succeed in securing the co-operation of the minor associations, the hands of the latter will be strengthened.

The time is ripe for a movement of this kind, and it is hoped the necessity for thorough organization and united effort will be recognized. The Wisconsin Immigration and Development Association will be independent of special interests and its labors will be directed to the development of the state at large. Each industry that may be benefited by its work will be expected to aid the association and accept in return such assistance as can be afforded without detriment to any other legitimate interest. This, as The Sentinel understands it, is the purpose of the association. It is a worthy one and entitled to encouragement.