

and would be forced to raft them, which would seem to be impossible.

#### WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

If the people of Chippewa Falls had joined with Eau Claire we could have got legislation to prohibit the driving of loose logs in that part of the river navigable for small boats, because at that time the United States government had not made an appropriation to improve the navigation of the river. That was the opinion of Chief Justice Dixon of our supreme court, and of Senator Vilas. They advised us to go to the legislature for such a law, but Chippewa and Eau Claire could not think alike. If they had done so, there would be millions of logs on the Chippewa river yet to be manufactured, and it would have required a railroad on each side of it to the Mississippi to carry the produce of the mills that would have been built along this river. We cut for twenty or twenty-five years on the Chippewa and its tributaries, above here, from five hundred millions to seven hundred twenty-five millions of feet of logs a year, and only a small portion of them was manufactured on the river, most of them being driven past here into Beef Slough to supply mills along the Mississippi, some of which as far down as St. Louis, were getting logs from the Chippewa. If we had got that legislation the Chippewa Valley would be one of the richest valleys in the whole Northwest country; yet, notwithstanding these mistakes, the Chippewa valley is a good valley, and when its agricultural possibilities are developed it will become still more important, as the lands north of us from which the timber has been cut will be among the best agricultural lands in any of the states. Some of us used to think that when the pine was cut off this region would not amount to much, but since it is gone the hardwood and hemlock growing on the same land are valuable. The northern part of this state has already become one of the best sections of our whole country for dairying because of the abundant

supply of good water. The hemlock and hardwood are now being cut and supply the territory which used to be supplied with the pine. Most of the timber being cut now is brought to the mills by rail, instead of driven down streams made navigable for logs by the many dams on the Chippewa, Wisconsin, and St. Croix rivers, where reservoirs were made by the dams, and the water held back, preventing floods when the snows were carried off with rains. Many of the dams are being used now and water is drawn from them in seasons of low water which supplies many of the water-powers used for electrical purposes. Several of the northern counties of Wisconsin are underlaid with iron ore which is likely to prove as valuable, or perhaps more valuable, than the vast amount of timber which has been removed therefrom.

#### IN "THE POOL" FOR SELF-PROTECTION

The only places on the Chippewa where logs could be stopped in high water in the spring for the mills at Chippewa Falls were at the dams erected before I came here. When the Mississippi Logging Company was organized by the down river lumbermen, who were cutting logs on a large scale on the headwaters and tributaries of the Chippewa, we were helpless to stop our logs, and it was necessary for the mills at Eau Claire to join with the Mississippi people to organize the Chippewa Logging Company. The expense of sorting such a large quantity of logs after we got our dam and booms at Eau Claire was so great that the only thing left for us here was to take stock in the Chippewa Logging Company, to be part owners of the logs that were run down the river. That left our people at Chippewa who had no stock in the Chippewa Logging Company comparatively helpless, as they could not afford to stop and sort the vast bodies of logs for what they could save of their own logs, and they sold their property, which by that time had been acquired by the Chippewa Lumber & Boom Company, and the Chippewa Logging Company bought the mill, water-