

DAM OF GENERAL BENEFIT

The building of the dam has been the making of the city of Eau Claire. Had it not been built, it would have been impossible for any of the mills that have been running here for many years to have secured logs for manufacture here. They would after the Mississippi River Logging Company began to drive logs down river, have been obliged to move their mills to the Mississippi, where they could obtain their own logs, driven down the river. Many people in Eau Claire have felt that the lumbermen were the only persons benefitted by the \$95,000 issue of city water-works bonds towards the construction of the dam, but they were and are mistaken, for every one doing business in Eau Claire—merchants and manufacturers—has had part in the benefits, as well as have the lumber manufacturers. In fact those people have had greater benefit, because the lumbermen who had logs boomed in slack water paid 50c. per thousand boomage—the full price fixed by the legislature when the charter was granted. Other than the lumbermen who were manufacturing here, none have paid for the benefits they received by reason of the water power created by the dam, except in the small per cent. of taxes as interest on the bonds. Those who understand the conditions have ceased to find fault or regret the expenditure by the city to aid in the construction of the Dells dam. If the Dells Paper & Pulp Company does what I think will be for its best interests, it will put in a concrete dam and raise its head to an extent that will afford all the power they want for their paper and pulp mill, and also power to sell.

The lumbermen now operating here have ceased to drive logs and are bringing them in by rail. Had the lumbermen in the early days possessed such facilities for getting logs from the head waters of the river, it would have been more profitable to them to have brought them in by rail than to have float-

ed them down the river, and the dam or water power would not have been of any use except for power for driving machinery other than saw mill machinery. The offal when manufacturing logs into lumber would have furnished sufficient fuel for all the power needed; in fact, the saw dust and bark now furnish fuel enough for the saw mills, so that a large per cent. of the offal from a mill is sold for fuel. The water power was of no special benefit to the lumbermen except to create slack water above the dam for storing and sorting logs, when bringing them down by river.

VALUE OF WATER POWERS

Water power has come to be one of the most valuable assets, I think, in this country, and should be utilized at every possible point, in that way encouraging manufacturing. No place obliged to use fuel for power can compete with villages or cities that have water powers. Of late, water power is used very generally to generate electricity for driving street railways, and interurban lines, and for lighting cities and running motors for all kinds of manufacturing. Eau Claire is especially well situated on account of the many places on the Eau Claire and Chippewa and Red Cedar rivers for storing water for power. There should be more dams for reservoirs on these rivers, to check the floods caused by melting snows and the extraordinary rains, so that the power-plants may have use of the stored water in the summer, when needed, and in the winter, when the streams are frozen by the severe weather we have. Reservoirs would supply the necessary water to maintain the power required for any and all kinds of manufacturing, and to a great extent prevent the low lands during flood-times from being submerged, and many times doing great damage. The benefits from improvements of our water power will be better appreciated in years to come. I am strongly of the opinion that Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls and Menomonie will become large manufacturing centers because of the cheap pow-