

er they are able to develop and furnish for all sorts of manufacturing, for they will be in position to furnish power and light for different centers so much cheaper than these services can be rendered by creating power by the use of fuel, as many of our larger cities are obliged to do, where they have no water power.

POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

Nearly all of the electric power being used in Eau Claire for the street railway and the interurban lines, and the lighting of Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls and Menomonie is now brought from Cedar Falls dam, twenty-five miles west of here. A large number of motors are in use in Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls and Menomonie, for driving manufacturing concerns, and the demand for them is increasing all the time. The power the Chippewa Valley Railway, Light & Power Company has at the Dells dam is now being largely used by the paper mill, hence the power it is itself using here comes largely from Cedar Falls and Menomonie over a high tension line. Besides the power the company is bringing here, it is sending power to Red Wing, Minn., and it is about to close a contract to send enough more power over there to enable the Red Wing people to extend its lines to Lake City and Wabasha, where they have contracts with a few flour mills to drive them by electricity. They find it will be much cheaper for them to get electricity from here than to use fuel for steam to create power. The company is also figuring to run power to Altoona, and later on will probably build an interurban line to Altoona, and very likely another to Menomonie. It has now machinery installed at Cedar Falls to use only a quarter of the power available there. The dam is constructed for installing wheels as fast as power will be needed. The Chippewa Valley Railway, Light & Power Company has dam-sites on the Red Cedar river by which it can develop 25,000 to 30,000 horse-power whenever there is a market for it.

There is now being constructed on the Chippewa river, about twenty-five miles above Eau Claire, a concrete dam that

will furnish a large amount of electric power that can be brought here or taken to any place within reasonable distance. There is another dam being constructed at Brunot Falls that will furnish a large amount of power, and where they are preparing to manufacture paper for boxes; and there are many places above Brunot Falls (about forty miles from here), where a large amount of power can be developed by building dams and a system of reservoirs on the head waters of the Chippewa and its tributaries, that will insure steady power the year round.

A SECOND RETROSPECTIVE VIEW

If the lumbermen here and at other points on the Chippewa river had joined together and built railways on both sides of the river from the Mississippi to the head waters of the Chippewa, and to the Flambeau, instead of depending on the rivers to float their logs, by which from five hundred to seven hundred and twenty-five millions were floated to the Mississippi in the past twenty-five or thirty years, I believe Eau Claire would now be a city of 40,000 or 50,000 people, and that there would still be timber to keep the mills running at the different points where mills have been built on the river. And with such improvements as should have been made on the Chippewa for navigation, the freight rates from here to the markets for lumber and agricultural products would have made this one of the richest valleys in this or any other state; but, instead of what might have been, a large part of the timber, except the hardwoods and hemlock, has been run out of the State, except what was manufactured at a few places in the valley, and has been the means of building up a good many of the towns on the Mississippi, where mills were built for sawing the logs that should have been sawed here in the Chippewa valley; and the same thing holds good as to the valleys of the Red Cedar and the Wisconsin rivers.