

## LANDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOUSANDS.

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The State of Wisconsin offers to all industrious people desiring a home, opportunities that not only are unexcelled by any State on the continent, but, all things considered, are unequaled. The time was when cheap agricultural lands were common to almost all the States, but at the present time but few localities remain where the home-seeker can secure, practically without capital, the opportunity to make himself well-to-do by simply his labor. The State of Wisconsin has to-day two million people, yet within its borders there are at least two and one-half million acres of land which can be purchased by settlers at from \$1 to less than \$10 per acre, and sufficient time given for payment to allow any industrious family, no matter how limited their capital may be at the start, to take advantage of the opportunity. Aside from this great amount of land, there are yet thousands of acres which can be homesteaded under the general laws. The lands are such as will raise crops unexcelled in any locality, and for diversified farming they are the equal, if not the superior, of lands in some of the now richest agricultural sections of the country. The reasons for this condition of affairs are plain. Northern Wisconsin is a timbered country; the lands now offered so cheaply have been entered from the government for the value of the timber upon them solely, and those which did not contain timber enough to make it profitable for lumbering are as yet government lands. During the past twenty years billions of feet of timber have been taken from Northern Wisconsin, and many hundreds of thousands of acres have been left in the hands of those who bought them simply for the timber. While many counties in Wisconsin were in the same condition twenty years ago, some even ten years ago, and have since become rich agricultural

sections, there yet remain a score or more of counties which are now going through the transformation from a lumbering to a farming community. The manner in which the counties like Portage, Waupaca, Waushara and others have been changed from what was considered a worthless area when the timber was gone to a more prosperous section than they ever were before, is simply an illustration of what will take place in all of the counties in Northern Wisconsin, situated now as those named were ten years ago.

North of a line drawn east and west through the geographical center of the State is as yet a sparsely-settled country. Within this radius there are many large cities and hundreds of towns containing from three hundred to five thousand population, but nearly all of the population of the country is in these towns. The cutting of timber from this section will last for a generation to come, and the clearing of the lands has and will make opportunities for farmers that no prairie country can surpass, if equal. There are many advantageous features for farmers in the timber country which are not possessed by the prairies: one is fuel in abundance; another, building material from the clearings of one's own land. Anything that can be grown on a prairie can be grown in timber countries; and some things which can't be produced profitably elsewhere. The country is more particularly adapted to diversified farming, which is much better than the dependence upon any one kind of crop. The markets of Wisconsin offer to the farmer advantages that no other country at present possesses; the innumerable milling and mining towns make a market at the farmer's door, and the prices secured for the products are invariably better than those paid for the same products in localities where the farmer has to ship them to more populous centers.

The State of Wisconsin is desirous of adding to its population more of the same class who have done so much to develop the State to its present position of thrift and prosperity. To those people in the overcrowded centers of population who toil harder for a mere subsistence than would be necessary on their

own farm in Northern Wisconsin, it offers invitation to secure not only a living, but a home which will every year increase in value. To the renter who pays each year all that a farm of his own in Northern Wisconsin would cost him, it offers an opportunity to change from tenant to landlord. To the farmers' sons who are seeking a location, it offers the same chances that their own locality does, and the extra inducement of cheap land. The State does not seek to sell and locate people upon its own lands, although there are many thousand acres of good land owned by the State which can be purchased at from \$1.25 to \$3 per acre. What the State will do is to take all who desire to investigate the situation or purchase a farm, to the owners of the land, see that they are protected in their purchase thereof, and that they secure exactly what is represented at the price and upon the terms agreed upon.