

dairy section finds a good market at Beaver Dam, whence the crops are shipped to Milwaukee or Chicago, the latter point being only 149 miles distant. The means of communication with all parts of the country are ample, as the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul R. R. system touches this point, offering a highway in every direction through its numerous radiating branches and connections. Beaver lake is well stocked with game fish, the pickerel being especially notable for their immense size and superior flavor. Last spring the state fish commission planted 140,000 young Mackinac trout in its waters, which in a few years will arrive at sufficient maturity to delight the angler and adorn his camp larder.

RIPON.

A number of natural beauties, combining with advantages of situation and historical associations of no little interest, render the little city of Ripon, Wisconsin, a point of more than ordinary attraction, even among the many interesting places in this favored state. The city is situated in the western part of Fond du Lac county, 83 miles from Milwaukee, at the point where the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul road diverges to Oshkosh, the crossing of the Sheboygan and Fond du Lac R. R. On the latter line, six miles west of Ripon, is Green Lake station, on the lake of the same name, long celebrated among the disciples of Izaak Walton for its magnificent fishing, and popular with the sportsmen of the country as well for the excellent duck and other shooting its neighborhood affords in season. The lake is irregular in form, and is about fifteen miles in length, with an average width of three miles. Facilities for reaching this inviting spot from Ripon, are ample, by stage or by the trains over the Sheboygan and Fond du Lac road.

Ripon was incorporated a city in 1838, and has at the present time a population of about 4,000. A considerable manufacturing interest has sprung up and the local industries are in a thriving condition. There are flouring mills, wind mills, saw mills, carriage works, and a large pickerel factory in successful operation. The Ripon college, the result of local enterprise on the part of Captain Mapes and other pioneers of the place is located here, and is a flourishing and popular educational institution. The locality of Ripon will ever prove interesting to the student of sociology inasmuch as it was at this spot that one of the most earnest and comprehensive, and for a time successful, efforts in history was made to establish a social community in accordance with the theories of Fourier and other philosophers of that ilk. Harmony Colony was established in 1834 or 1835 and prospered so well that within a couple of years it had over three hundred and fifty members. The families possessed everything in common and their united efforts in the field of agriculture soon gave the community an accumulation of property regarded in those days as considerable. The people were frugal, industrious, temperate, law-abiding and religious, and so long as their position remained isolated they got on very well together.