

approaches a tributary of Lake Winnebago, at which point are rapids. Around these a canal, soon to be opened, will afford unbroken navigation from the sea to the Mississippi. "The Rock river is sometimes, at high water, ascended by boats to within the limits of Wisconsin. The Bad Axe, Black, Chippewa and St. Croix are important channels for floating timber to market from the pine regions in the north-west of the state. The rivers flowing into Lake Superior are small; and though unfavorable for commerce, their rapid courses make them favorable for mill-sites."¹

Reference has been made, in the preface to this book, to the rapid growth of our north-western states and territories, and in no part of the region has the march of civilisation resulted in greater triumphs to the energy and industry of our race than in the state of Wisconsin. It is to be regretted that we must go back to the beginning of the present decade for figures with which to illustrate the wealth and prosperity of this busy, pushing people; but there are not any reliable statistics to go by, that we are aware of, of later date than those contained in the report of the U. S. census for 1870. Could the whole truth of Wisconsin's material growth to the present time be laid before us, it is not to be doubted that our pride in the development of the North-West would be largely and excusably increased. In 1870 the state had a population of 1,054,670, of which 1,051,351 were white, 2,113 of African extraction, and 1,206 Indians. The latter figure illustrates the extent to which, eight years ago, the red man had been squeezed out of the domain he held, practically undisputed, within the present century. At the present time the number of Indians is known to be considerably less than that given above. Of the total population given, 690,171 were native born; a flattering commentary upon the patriotic efforts of the young commonwealth.

In 1870 the total acreage of improved land amounted to 5,899,343. There was wood land 3,437,442 acres, and other unimproved land to the extent of 2,378,536 acres. The total cash value of farms was placed at \$300,414,064, and of farming implements and machinery \$14,239,364. The value of all farm productions for the year, including enhanced value and additions to stock, aggregated \$78,027,032. Orchards produced \$819,268, market gardens \$226,665, and forests \$1,327,618. The value of animals slaughtered and sold for slaughter was \$11,914,643, and the total valuation of all live stock \$45,310,882. There were within the state 252,019 horses, 308,377 milch cows, 53,615 working oxen, 1,069,282 sheep, 512,788 swine, besides many other kinds of domestic animals in great number. During the census year, Wisconsin produced 24,375,475 bushels of spring wheat, and 1,230,909 of winter wheat; 15,033,998 bushels of Indian corn; 813 pounds of tobacco, 4,090,670 of wool, 1,591,798 of cheese, and 4,630,155 of hops. Milk was sold to the amount of 2,059,105 gallons, and many other and important agricultural products might be mentioned. The manufacturing industries of the state produced results, for the year 1870, value

1 Hist. of Wisconsin.