

settlement, of males 295; females, 342; total, 637. A colony, chiefly French, is situated on the Missouri river.

One of the most important incidents, in both Wisconsin and Minnesota, is the lumber business. Extensive forests of white pine are on the waters of the Wisconsin, St. Croix, and other tributaries of the Mississippi, and mills are in extensive operation on the streams. The lumber manufactured on the St. Croix alone, in 1849, amounted to ten millions of feet, board measure. This business will be a vast source of wealth to the district.

## SECTION THIRD.

*Growth of Towns and Cities.*

CHICAGO is one of the important commercial centres of the great central valley, that illustrate the rapidity of progress in population, business, enterprise and wealth. In 1832, it contained five small stores, and 250 inhabitants. The preceding year there were four arrivals, two brigs and two schooners, from the lower lakes, which were sufficient for all the trade and business for North-Eastern Illinois and North-Western Indiana.

In 1835, there were 267 arrivals of brigs, ships and schooners, including nine steamboats. The merchandize imported amounted to 5015 tons, besides 9,400 barrels of salt. The exports of 1843, exceeded one million of dollars; the imports \$1,433, 886. It sustained great depression during the suspension of the canal operations, from 1841 to 1846, and yet its growth continued. A railroad across the State to connect Chicago with Galena, has been put in operation to Fox river, and the work is progressing. The population of Chicago is estimated at 25,000.

There are several important towns along the line, and at the termination of the canal, which we have now no room to particularize. The old village of *Peoria*, was situated one and a half miles above the outlet of the lake. As a French village, it commenced about 1779. and was called *La Ville de Maillet*. The people removed to the "new village" on the present site of *Peoria*, in 1797. After the war, *Fort Clark*, already noticed, was burnt. The situation of *Peoria* is beautiful beyond description, and is a place of business and commerce.

*Springfield*, the seat of government of Illinois, dates back to February, 1822. It is a handsome inland city, of 4000 inhabitants, surrounded with a rich agricultural district. It is connected with the Illinois river, by *Jacksonville*, at *Naples*, by a railroad, and will soon be with *Alton* with one to that place.

*Alton*, after a long period of depression, is now in progress, and bids fair soon to be a place of much commerce.