

of this town is something over 5,000, and it justly claims no mean commercial importance, as its lumber interest has for many years supported an extensive commerce with the leading markets of the country. Steamers and barges are in constant movement between this point and Green Bay and the traffic in the lumber and other lines of trade supports this thriving community in a manner justifying the increase of population which has been noticeable during the past years.

A very fine water power is derived from the Fox river canal, which has a fall of seven feet, and this is utilised by a number of manufacturing establishments. It may be interesting to note that the water level at this place is 773 feet higher than the Atlantic ocean, 195 feet higher than Lake Michigan, and 173 feet higher than the Mississippi at the mouth of the Wisconsin river. Portage is the northern terminus of the Madison and Portage line of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad.

### FOX LAKE.

Fox Lake, in Dodge county, Wisconsin, is a pretty and prosperous town of 2,000 inhabitants, located on Beaver Dam river, at the foot of Fox lake. It has an excellent water power, and contains a number of large manufacturing establishments. The lake is a beautiful body of water, nearly circular in form and in the neighborhood of three miles in diameter. It is studded with romantic islands, and is a favorite resort of anglers. Forty thousand young Mackinaw trout are planted here annually, and these, with the numerous game fish indigenous to the waters, give this locality a deservedly high reputation for its piscatorial allurements.

The only public institution of note in the vicinity is the Fox Lake Seminary, a mixed school, very highly esteemed throughout Dodge and adjoining counties of the state. The land in this locality is high and rolling, and a good deal of prairie is encountered. The soil is a rich black loam, with clay sub-soil. Like all that part of the state, the country here is finely wooded, red and white oak, hickory, poplar, white and black basswood, white and red elm, black cherry, and a limited amount of hard and soft maple, being the leading timbers. The agricultural products are principally wheat, the leading crop; corn, oats, barley and potatoes. Railroad connection is maintained with all christendom by way of Fox Lake Junction, two miles distant, on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. With this station the town is directly connected by a line of street cars. Fishing parties who visit Fox Lake will find reasonable facilities for obtaining boats and tackle, but those who desire to be prepared for the fullest enjoyment of the sport will find it to their advantage to procure "Audubon" canvas folding boat in Chicago, with which portages may be made with no more trouble than carrying a hand-valise across a field without entail.