

TO THE HOMESEEKER.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT LINCOLN COUNTY'S RESOURCES.

Lumbering is not Lincoln county's only industry and resource. If it were, the future of the county and its trade centers might well look to a gloomy and unprosperous future. Pine trees do not grow as quickly as ~~corn~~ and it is only a question of time until the great lumber companies and the various classes of business and employment attendant and dependent upon the forests, will pass out of being or play a secondary part in the community.

Farming, stockraising, dairying and other industries connected with the soil will see great development and will more than make up for any decline in lumbering. A substantial start has already been made in that direction and marked growth marks the record of each year. East of Merrill in the direction of Antigo, for example, there is room for 500 farms. That number, alone, tributary to Lincoln county's metropolis would

warm and productive. Thousands of acres that a few years ago were known as stump lands, and considered worthless, are now cleared, fenced and cultivated, yielding excellent crops.

Wheat, rye, oats, barley, peas, potatoes and all kinds of root crops are the principal crops. Many kinds of fruit also do well. Corn is not raised to such an extent as in southern Wisconsin, but its place is taken by peas. Farmers have raised them for twenty years without a crop failure and never yet found a worm. Farmers say that one acre of peas will bring more than two acres of corn and it takes one-tenth the labor to raise the peas than it does to raise the corn.

As to corn Wm. Bessey in the town of Prairie River, has lost but one crop in twenty years. Carl Hibbard, two miles northwest of Merrill, raised twenty acres of fodder that stood twelve feet

that one unacquainted with the location, would hardly imagine. The latitude would indicate extreme cold; but such is not the case. While there are always a few days in winter when the thermometer marks thirty-six degrees below zero the air is so still and so dry that you scarcely notice the cold, and the men and teams continue their usual avocations. Indeed it is a fact that people suffer less from cold here than on the borders of the great lakes in latitudes several degrees south of here.

As a rule there is an abundance of snow for winter operations in hauling logs and wood to market and these commodities always find ready sale for cash.

The summers are delightful. From early in the spring till late in the fall, the balmy breezes invite to outdoor exercises and enjoyment. There is no malaria, no fever and ague, in fact, no dis-

color, reddish gray; grain, medium with little fine gravel.

2. Good farm land, 30 per cent. of area; drainage, good. Medium farm land, 45 per cent. of area; drainage good. Forest soils proper, 25 per cent. of area; drainage good.

Untouched by the hand of man, all of this county was timber land. The dense forests of pine, confined mostly to the vicinity of streams and always interspersed with hardwoods. Upland forests with county 4,000 acres, the state 19, 440 acres and the United States 11,200 acres.

The greater part of the land in the hands of private parties can be purchased at low rates on easy terms of payment. The state land can be purchased through the state land office at Madison at prices ranging from 75 cents to \$3.00 an acre. The usual regulations apply to the government land.

As to the method of clearing the wood land; the settler who understands his business will chop off all the trees under eight inches in diameter close to the ground, the others at the usual height. After the trees have been removed and the clearing has been freed of all superfluous wood by burning one can drive about easily among

abundant evidence of a fertile soil. A soil that under cultivation, must soon with happy results, reward with bounteous returns the industrious hands of sturdy farmers.

Every township in the county is more or less settled. Those who took the lead and opened up the farming lands, came here poor men with families, and commenced clearing up land; and now the majority of them are well-to-do, obtaining their means by the abundant products of the soil.

Within the borders of Lincoln county there are thousands of acres of land either unoccupied or in a primitive condition agriculturally, and when cleared it is the

residence and experience of 15 years as a farmer in Lincoln county.

Lincoln county has the reputation of being one of the pearls of the state. Conditions of the soil and climate, especially for farm and garden products, compare favorably with any county in this or in any adjoining state. As regards grain, grasses, vegetables and berries, where weight, quality and a fine flavor are especially desirable, Lincoln county takes first place. At our county fair outs were exhibited that weighed forty pounds per bushel, pumpkins that weighed 100 pounds, squashes that weighed 65 pounds, potatoes and tomatoes that weighed four pounds each and cabbage weighing 32 pounds per head. I myself received first prize at the state fair in Milwaukee for vegetables raised in Lincoln county. Mr. Valentine Henriets, my neighbor, received first prize at the World's fair in Chicago, for oats raised in Lincoln county. There is plenty of room here for many more families. For little money the father of a family can here build a home.

We have excellent schools. Followers of almost every religious belief can here get to heaven in their own way. The churches



D. Finn's Farm in the Town of Pine River.

give the merchants a wonderful backing.

The recent years of depression have turned the attention of the wage earners massed in misery in the large cities, towards the uncrowded rural districts. The tide is turning strongly towards the agricultural regions. Thrifty toilers from lands across the sea, to escape military service, taxation and lack of freedom in speech, and thought, are seeking homes in the United States in large numbers. There is room for them in Lincoln county and many already have found it out and taken advantage of the fact.

Right in southern Wisconsin there is a popular impression that this part of the state has nothing but pine stumps and barren rocks. There could be no greater mistake. A popular impression has been, too, that these same pine lands were not suited for cultivation. Experience has demonstrated that such lands are among the best that the soil is capable of

high. Henry Fuller, the dairyman, raised this season ten acres of fodder corn of splendid quality. Chris. Burns, in the town of Kinsell, has a record of 200 bushels of potatoes on half an acre of ground. Chas. Berkman, in the same town, has a record of three tons of clover hay to an acre. Timothy will average two tons to an acre. Oats yield from 40 to 60 bushels to an acre. Rye does unusually well—standing 5 feet high and yielding 40 bushel to the acre.

With such yield of grasses, cattle and other live stock do splendidly. The best of beef is made from the wild grasses in the woods, cattle diseases so common in most places, are rare here. Dairying can be done to advantage and is on the increase. There are creameries and at least a dozen cheese factories in the county.

It is scarcely necessary to tell our readers what the climate is; and yet, it has its peculiarities

that can be attributed to the climate. The utmost misapprehension exists, in more southern latitudes, in regard to our climate. Residents of southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, will talk of the "frozen north," apparently unmindful of the fact that people suffer far less with cold here, than in their own locality. Owing to the latitude and the distance from the lakes, the air is extremely dry in winter and there is so little wind that the coldest days are not as disagreeable as they are near the lakes, where the thermometer registers a higher temperature. Then after all is said about climate, that is best which produces the best results. The extraordinary development here should settle the question of climate in our favor.

In 1890 only 10,500 acres of land in Lincoln county were under actual cultivation. The general surface conditions, according to the latest report are: Forest and waste land, 553,000 acres;

the stamps with an ordinary wagon. In performing this clearing one can turn much of the work to profitable account. The largest trees can be sold to the nearest saw mill, and the smaller trees and limbs of the largest trees can be sold for firewood. It will not be necessary to use the plough for the first two or three years. All that is necessary to do is to go over it with a heavy spring tooth harrow, in this way covering the seed. Later grass seed must be sown and the clearing used as a pasture until the stumps begin to decay. Then comes the time to begin raising produce on the land.

The character of the soil and drainage are tersely described in an official report of 1895:

1. Strong clay, 20 per cent. of area; depth, great; color, gray; grain, fine, mixed with gravel and large stones. Loam, 60 per cent. of area; depth, great; color, gray; grain, fine, mixed with gravel and large stones. Loamy sand, 20 per cent. of area; depth, great;

best land in the world; it can be purchased now at a low figure, and once cleared, it will have advanced in value ten fold. With a few dollars for the first payment a man can come into possession of a piece of Lincoln county soil which he can hold without fear of any one. On this tract of land there are no days of idleness, and though progress may be slow at first, each close day will see something accomplished and the ideal home farm one day nearer realization. A home in the country means a sure heritage and a safe possession in old age. A hearty welcome awaits all industrious homeseekers who may come to our borders, and the fertile soil of Lincoln county will yield ample return for all labor expended.

None are wanted who come for speculation, but for the hardworking, industrious, law-abiding citizen, a home awaits.

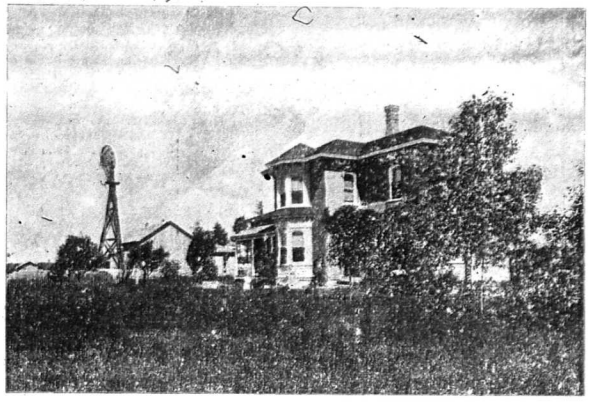
In a letter to the Lincoln county board of immigration over his signature, John S. Hitchler made the following statement based on

which dot the county testify as to the moral and religious nature of our inhabitants. The condition of our trade and industry is very flourishing, considering the general business depression which is now felt over the entire land. I should advise every workman who has a taste for work and possesses even a slight knowledge of farming to locate here with his family. The advantages of a creamery are unsurpassed in this county. It is to be wished that our farmers would be more interested in this pursuit. I am certain that if the products of a Lincoln county creamery would be placed on some of the large markets they would be the most sought after and consequently the best paid for.

I have resided in this county for fifteen years, and what I have stated is the truth. I would advise every laboring man who wishes to become a farmer and to throw off the yoke that he now bears, to locate here with us, where he can live cheaper and more comfortably than elsewhere."



C. Olson's Farm in the Town of Rock Falls.



Henry Sales' Farm in the Town of Merrill.

George Gibson's Farm in the Town of Merrill.