VILLAGE OF MILACA....

Princeton's Lively Neighbor--Its Lumber Industry--Commercial Growth of the Village and Its Future Prospects.

The second town of importance in the county of Mille Lacs is the village of Milaca, located fifteen miles north of Princeton. Milaca is not as old a town as Princeton and was started at the time the St. Cloud and Hinckley branch of the Great Northern road was built, which was about twenty-one years ago. At that time the country around and tributary to Milaca was in a wild and unsubdued state. Much of it was covered with pine. The place offered a fine site for a lumber mill to utilize the vast amount of pine that grew tributary to Rum river, on which river Milaca is located. The lumber industry has been the backbone of Milaca ever since the place was started. The Mille Lacs Lumber Co. built the first saw mill and operated it for some time, when it was afterwards bought by the Foley-Bean Lumber Co., that succeeded to the lumber business of the Mille Lacs Lumber Co. The Foley-Bean company erected one of the finest saw mills in the state at this point. The company employs while the mill is running over three hundred men and its pay roll amounts to over $15,000 monthly. In April, 1901, the mill was destroyed by fire, but the company immediately set to work to rebuild it and the new mill was started up in August of the same year. The past season's run of the mill has been the best in the history of the plant. Since starting up last spring the mill has been operated steadily for thirty-two weeks, or a total of 3,309½ hours, the longest continuous run in the history of the mill. The complete cut in lumber, lath and shingles during the season is as follows: Lumber, 40,764,300; lath, 10,263,250; shingles, 18,814,250. The lumber cut made is larger than that of any other two-band mill in the state. The mill is equipped with a double edger and trimmer, with two single-block shingle machines and one lath machine and bolter. Manager M. K. Rudd and Superintendent C. W. Weeks certainly should be proud of the record made by this mill. Rum river pine has a reputation in the lumber markets of the country of being the soundest and best pine that grows, and the Foley-Bean company has an extensive lumber trade all over the country. The industry means much to Milaca.

portunity to get cheap lands in a section which is well adapted to general farming, as the soil is very productive and will sustain a large agricultural population. East and west and south of Milaca the country is settled up with a class of industrious farmers who are rapidly getting in a prosperous condition. To the north settlers have already commenced to locate in large numbers, as the country offers many inducements. Land around Milaca a few years ago was selling at $5 to $6 per acre, and much of it today could not be bought for five times that amount.

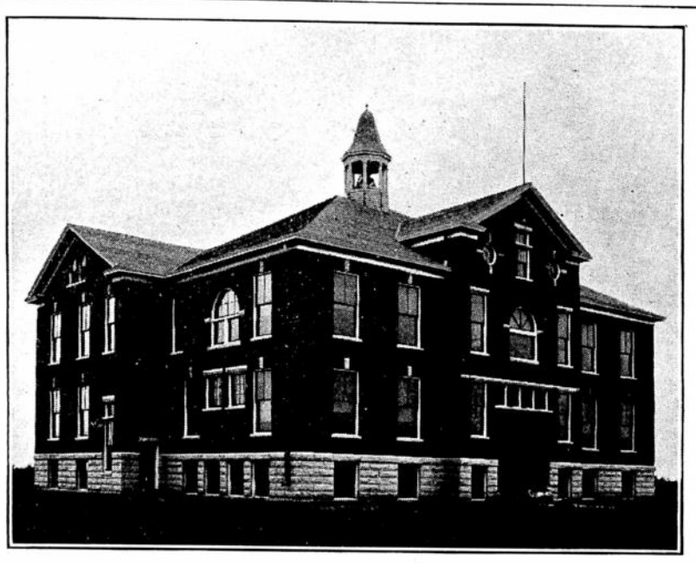
The village in its early days was called "Oak City," but the name was afterwards changed to the present one. The village has a population of 1,250 inhabitants, and the business interests of the place are made up of a lot of progressive and enterprising business men who spare no pains to keep constantly improving the place. While the lumber industry is the back bone of the place, it must be remembered that with the settlement of the country tributary to Milaca the trade with the farmers is fast getting to be an item of no small importance, and there are several large general stores and a good representation of all leading commercial interests that are enjoying a rapidly growing trade. The village does a large trade with the lake country, there being a stage each way every other day between Milaca and Onamia, Cove and Lawrence. The lake road is turnpiked as far as Page, and in another year the balance of the road will be put in the best of condition for travel. There are lots of heavy freighting over this road by parties who make Milaca headquarters for traffic.

The village is equipped with a fine electric light and water plant and also has a good system of sewers. The pride of the place is its beautiful new $16,000 public school that was completed last year. The citizens of Milaca may well point with pride to this handsome seat of common school education. It is indeed a real temple of learning. The citizens of Milaca had to fight hard for this valuable institution, but they succeeded, and future generations will have cause to be very grateful to the loyal and public-spirited men who were instrumental in having the school erected. The school has a corps of eight teachers. Prof. A. P. Ritchie is superintendent. He is a graduate of the Chicago University and is a most efficient and capable instructor. At present the school has first and second year high school course, and the school board hopes in another year to get the school on the regular high school list. There are 382 pupils in the public school of Milaca, which speaks well for a place of its size.

Religious denominations are represented by an English Methodist church, a Norwegian Lutheran church, while the Swedish population have a Lutheran, Methodist and Free Methodist church. In civic orders there is a lodge of Masons, Knights of Pythias, I. O. O. F., Modern Woodmen, etc.

The business men of the village have taken steps to organize a commercial club, and intend to see that no stones are left unturned to make the place prosperous. During the past five years the business of the place has more than doubled, and the last three years has witnessed a very gratifying growth in the commercial business of Milaca.

Milaca certainly has a bright future before it. The lumber mill is an assured thing for quite a while to come, and the country being new and affording room for many settlers, the outlook for a prosperous future for the place is certainly good.



MILACA HIGH SCHOOL.

MILACA ROLLER MILLS.

MILLE LACS LAKE

Located in the northern part of Mille Lacs county is the southern half of Mille Lacs lake, one of the most beautiful and picturesque of all the Minnesota lakes. Mille Lacs lake has for long years been the abiding place of the Ojibways or Chippewas, who came into possession of this land in 1750, when they came down from the region of Lake Superior and gave battle to the Sioux Indians, who for a long time inhabited that part of the country, and who had built the great Indian village of Kathio. Prof. Winchell says that Kathio must have been the central settlement of the Sioux Indians, the seat of empire from which they radiated in all directions. It is said that at the time Radisson visited Kathio (1659), the Indians must have numbered fully 7,000. Du Luth came down from Superior in 1679, on the old Indian trail and the streams and portages then traveled by the red men, and the following year Father Hennepin in company with two French explorers or missionaries fell in with the Indians and went to Mille Lacs lake, Father Hennepin being made captive for a time at the lake.

The Ojibways proved themselves very friendly to the whites of this part of Minnesota, and to the early settlers of the state during the Civil War, when the Sioux Indians wanted the Ojibways to join them in massacreing the whites. The Ojibways remained faithful and did not molest the white settlers, and the government entered into a treaty with them and gave them possession of the land at Mille Lacs lake so long as they did not molest the whites, but the march of empire made sad inroads on the reservation of the faithful Chippewas, and as the country began to be opened up and the lumberman spotted the vast tract of beautiful pine the Indian had a hard time of it to hold on to what Uncle Sam said he might have. The government finally stipulated with the Mille Lacs band of Indians for their removal to White Earth reservation in northern Minnesota, and many of the Indians went, but many refused to go, and it was not until last August that the government succeeded in making a final treaty with the Indians, who have accepted the terms of the government and will move away to White Earth. The last of the Ojibways will leave the Mille Lacs lake in another year, and all that will remain of their former habitations at this romantic and beautiful lake will be the Indian burial grounds.

Mille Lacs lake is a large body of water 18 miles long and 15 miles wide, and is made picturesque by beautiful shore lines of sandy beach and woodlands. Explorations made by Professors Brower and Winchell have revealed many Indian mounds around the lake, which have been explored and the results of the researches made public.

In his memoirs of the explorations of the basin of the Mississippi river, Mr. Brower has issued two very interesting and valuable publications on the antiquities of the region of Mille Lacs lake. One of the works is entitled "Mille Lacs" and the other "Kathio." These memoirs contain the results of explorations by Mr. Brower in the region of the big lake, and are a valuable part of the history of northern Minnesota.

Kathio seems to have been the first recorded name in the history of the state, Father DuLuth having reported the discovery of the Indian village in the year 1679. The ancient village of Kathio was located in the region about the present outlet of Mille Lacs lake.

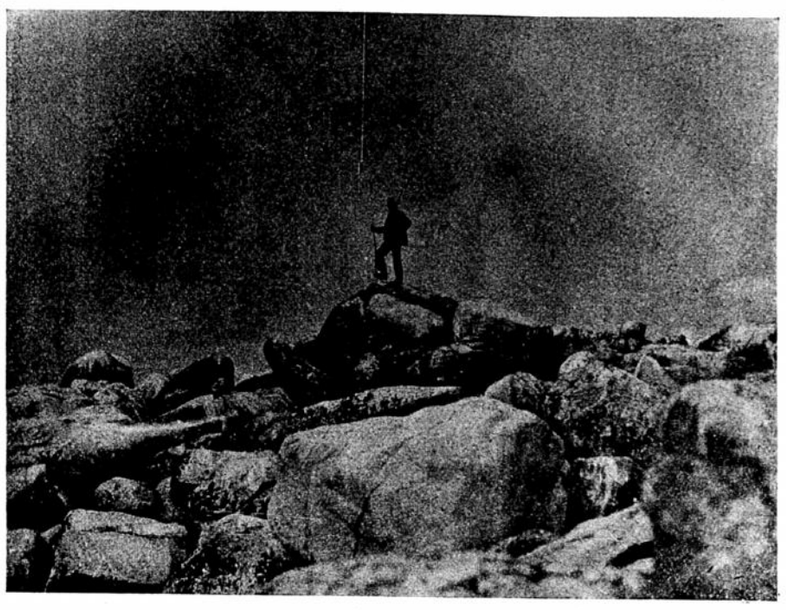
Spirit lake is the first name known to have been applied to Mille Lacs lake It is 1,254 feet above sea level, while the elevation at Aitkin on the Mississippi river is 1,200 feet, the surface of the land around the lake being quite a few feet higher than at the Mississippi river. Scientists say that about 7,000 or 8,000 years ago a vast ice cap rested over the place where Mille Lacs lake is, and that this ice cap must have been at least 3,000 feet in depth. It is said that the duration of this ice cap must have been at least 100,000 years, so that it will be seen that it took some time for nature to form the beautiful picture about Mille Lacs lake. When the ice cap started to recede by gradual melting it must have made an awful noise and caused a great change in the surface of the country about the lake. The island of solid rock known as Spirit island that stands out in the lake is the outcropping of a vast ledge that runs through this district. The Archean rocks that underlie the site of Kathio have a ratio to the surface drift of 30,000 to 1, so say the geologists.

But whatever the process of nature that converted the land about Mille Lacs lake into its present condition, the result has been that it has made of that section a beautiful and fertile country that is being rapidly settled up by a class of industrious people. Nature here has been most lavish in her distribution of those things that make a beautiful landscape, and that also makes a productive and fertile section for the settler and the husbandman. The land immediately around the lake has been pretty well all taken, but there is lots of land adjacent to the lake that still remains for the settler who wishes to go in and join hands with Nature. The soil is rich and productive, and there is a fine lot of hard and soft timber that to bring it on the market. All this to bring it on the market. Al lthis timber will be in great demand in only a few years, and present prices are indeed low for most of the land about Mille Lacs lake. Well has the country been named "the land of the big red clover," for in this section clover is king and grasses grow in great profusion. It is a stockman's paradise, and already there are many ranches and small stock farms located tributary to the lake. A railroad is needed to develop the country, but it is sure to come inside of a very few years, and there would be no surprise to see a railroad into the Mille Lacs lake country inside the next two years.

There are several trading points and settlements at the lake that are growing gradually and as the country develops will prove to be lively settlements. Lawrence on the southeast side of the lake, Cove on the south shore, and Onamia located south of the outlet a few miles on Rum river, will all develop into good points, while on the west side of the lake there is Vineland and Garrison and the new town of Midland that will be started in a short time.

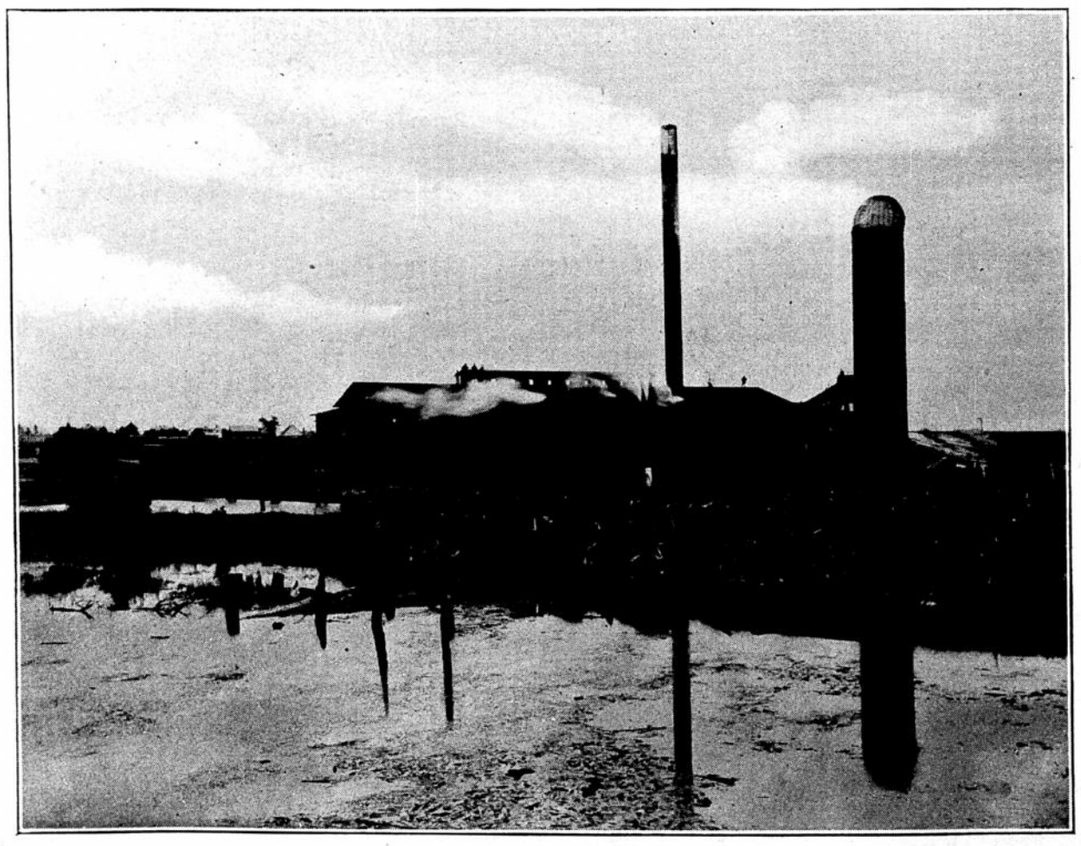
Onamia has grown very rapidly the past year, and with the Cundy & McClure mill at that place as the central industry, has given the place quite an impetus.

Land sales around the lake the past year have been heavy. Early in the season a large party of Iowa and southern Minnesota farmers went in a body to the lake and were shown the country in that section. A large number of those who looked over the country bought land at prices varying from $6 to $12 per acre, according to location. The sales of land the past year in the lake district have amounted to over eighty thousand acres. Much of the land bought is for actual settlement, and settlers are going in and clearing up the land and making new homes for themselves. These lands are bound to enhance in value rapidly, and the value of much of the land in that section has doubled in the last two years. Those who invest in land in the Mille Lacs lake region at the present time cannot fail to realize a handsome profit on the investment. The soil is rich and has a fertility that is permanent. There is lots of good timber, most of which will bring the investor good prices when it is put on the market. Good soil and plenty of good timber will prove valuable assets for the settlers who get in on the ground floor around Mille Lacs lake.

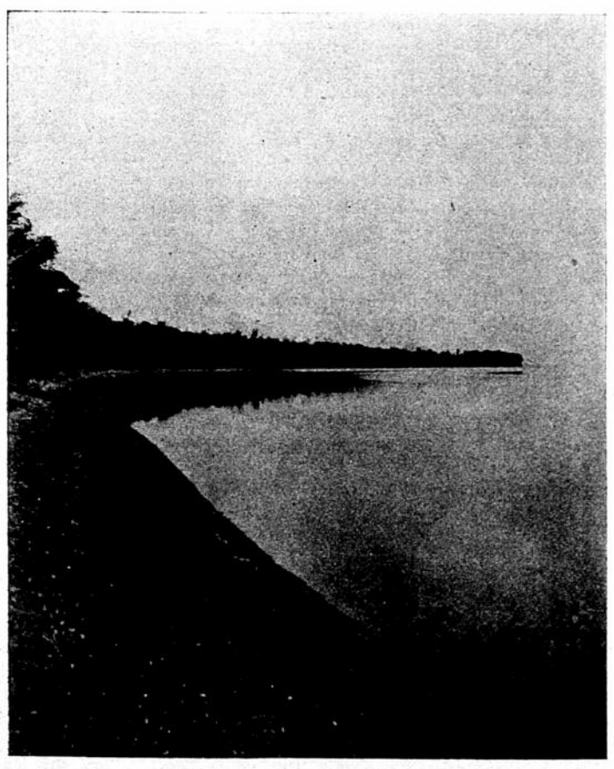


SPIRIT ISLANDS AND MOZOMANA POINTS.

FOLEY-BEAN LUMBER CO.'S DEPARTMENT STORE.



SAW MILL OF FOLEY-BEAN LUMBER CO.



BEACH AT SUNSET BAY.